

 THERMANA *Laško*

# EXPLORE LAŠKO AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Green, active  
unforgettable experiences





# Welcome!

Laško is a place of very personal stories. Find yours between rivers and hills, spas and mansions, towns and villages. Write it with an abundance of healing waters, brewing traditions and paths to health and well-being. All experienced alongside people who give hospitality its true name and meaning.



## WHY EVERYONE SEES LAŠKO DIFFERENTLY

### #myLaško

Because it is easily accessible. Because it is an excellent starting point for exploring the towns and countryside, nature and culture of the Savinja region. Because it keeps the mysterious stories of the Land of Celje. Because it has all the beautiful features of Thermal Pannonian Slovenia. Because it is a European destination of excellence thanks to its accessible tourism. Because it is developing as a green destination. Because it provides new experiences every time!

## LAŠKO IN THE HEART OF SLOVENIA

### Access

Laško is only 12km from Celje, the first nearby major town, to which cycling connections are provided. It is connected to the rest of Slovenia and the world with roads and rail routes.

### Distances:

Ljubljana – 90km  
Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport – 93km  
Maribor – 65km  
Venice, Italy – 333km  
Vienna, Austria – 320km  
Zagreb, Croatia – 103km

### Location

Laško is located right next to the Savinja River. Here, the Savinja Valley Here meets the diverse pre-Alpine Sava Hills and the Celje Basin. Laško is part of Thermal Pannonian Slovenia, which is known for the springs of thermal-mineral waters.

GPS coordinates of Laško:

46.154095, 15.235272

Altitude of Laško: 259.9m

## ABOUT THE DESTINATION

### Climate

The Laško area is characterised by a temperate continental climate. The winter months are cold, summer brings high temperatures, and the spring and autumn months are moderately warm. The average January temperature in Laško is around 2°C, while the average July temperature is 19°C. The average annual rainfall is between 1,000 and 1,300mm; the majority of the rain falls in the months of July and November. Climatic conditions allow for pleasant walks in nature in all seasons!

## LAŠKO – EXPERIENCE OF THERMAL PANNONIAN SLOVENIA

### Special features of healing waters

Thermal Pannonian Slovenia is an area of healing water springs, excellent spas and wellness centres. There are two verified health resorts in the area of Laško with an exceptional tradition and with the most up-to-date accommodation, bathing, health and wellness facilities. The healing water on which Thermana Laško services are based springs from a depth of 160 metres and has a temperature between 32 and 35°C. In addition to minerals, it is characterised by exceptional biofields. The healing water of the Roman baths with temperatures between 36 and 39°C comes from a depth of as much as 1,000 metres. The waters of Laško have been a source of health and well-being for centuries.

### Water and beer

In addition to thermal mineral waters, the area also has exceptional sources of drinking water.





Spring water from unspoiled nature is an important ingredient of beer, which has been brewed in Laško since 1825! A trip to the hospitable countryside leads to rivers, streams and waterfalls, which are the living environment of many plant and animal species due to their purity.

#### **Bee-keeping and herbalism**

Laško is an area of many wild and cultivated herbs. Traditional knowledge is also associated with bee-keeping. Laško is one of the most bee-friendly areas in Slovenia.

#### **LAŠKO IN THE LAND OF CELJE**

##### **The grandeur of history and mysteries of the Counts of Celje**

The Land of Celje is a broad area consisting of 21 municipalities spreading from the Savinja Valley to the Obsotelje and Kozjansko regions. This is also an area of castles, associated with the Counts of Celje, the most powerful noble family from Slovenia. A castle

above Laško near their home town of Celje was their hunting mansion, meanwhile the mysterious valley of the Gračnica creek and the Jurklošter Monastery keep the secrets of a love story between Frederick of Celje and Veronica of Desenice.

These stories give a special charm to the area, which was already settled before our times. Here, the Celts and the Romans lived, and at the time of migration of the nations, the Vlachs or Lahi resided here in addition to the Slavs, and this presumably influenced the name of the place. The medieval Laško market was probably founded as early as in the 11th century. It became a large noble location with the seat of the oldest ancient parish in Slovenia.

Laško, which developed in the Middle Ages, gained momentum with the arrival of the railway. In addition to the crafts and industry, and previously mining, both of the spas and a brewery developed. In 1927, on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of the first mention of Laško, Laško was proclaimed a town was under the command of King Alexander I.

#### **THREE LILIES OF THE LAŠKO COAT OF ARMS**

The Laško coat of arms depicts three silver or white lilies on a blue background and is one of the most interesting coats of arms in Slovenia. Laško received the coat of arms based on a privilege at the end of the 16th century, however its origin and significance remain unclear.

The estate in Laško was owned by the family of Vetter von der Lilie, whose coat of arms depicted three lilies on a blue background, but probably the family took both their coat of arms and the name after Laško. Namely, they bought the estate almost 70 years after Laško received its coat of arms.

Lilies in the Laško coat of arms are reminiscent of the coat of arms of the Bourbons, the French family, which cannot be associated with Laško. In the Middle Ages, lilies were a symbol of purity and chastity, a sign of royal dignity and symbol of the Virgin Mary, in honour of whom several important features were erected in Laško in the Middle Ages. It is possible that the coat of arms is connected with the origin of the parish patron saint, St Martin of Tours, but it can also be only a variation of the coat of arms of the Counts of Celje – three stars on a blue background.

#### **LAŠKO, AN AREA OF ACCESSIBLE AND GREEN TOURISM**

Today, Laško is an attractive tourist area with a health resort and brewery traditions. In 2013, Laško was named a European Destination of Excellence. It won the title with its development of accessible tourism. It is developing according to the principles of sustainable tourism and carries the Slovenia Green Destination Bronze label.

#### **LAŠKO FACE-TO-FACE**

The Municipality of Laško has approximately 14,000 inhabitants. Hospitable locals are traditionally connected to guests visiting this area. They participate in the lively tourist, cultural and sports pulse of the city with its rich natural and cultural heritage. When you want to experience Laško and not only see it, talk to the locals face-to-face.

## **APPLICATION**

#### **LAŠKO MOBILE APPLICATION**

On holidays or walks around Laško, your mobile can be the most convenient guide. With the free Laško application, you always have information about current events, excursions, outdoor activities, sights, gastronomy and accommodation.

#### **#myLaško**

##### **TIC Laško**

Valvasorjev trg 1, SI-3270 Laško

T: +386 (0)3 733 89 50

E: [tic@stik-lasko.si](mailto:tic@stik-lasko.si)

I: [www.lasko.info](http://www.lasko.info)







# OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



Hiking, cycling or equestrian trips around Laško and its green surroundings, fishing experiences on rivers and ponds or paragliding from the Laško hills, training in the wellness park and recreation in various playgrounds turn every usual holiday day into the experience of #myLaško.



## HIKING

Mountaineers, hikers, fans of Nordic walking and ramblers are certainly able to discover the right path for themselves in Laško. Sports and recreational trails, themed tourist trails, science and learning paths give the choice of appropriate length and difficulty of routes for individuals and families, for young as well as elderly fans of hiking. Organised group hikes are also a special experience!

**Tip:** Use the Laško app (Google Play and App Store)

Use the publication "Hiking Trails in Laško and Its Surroundings", as well as the maps that can be obtained from TIC Laško.

## THEMED HIKING TRAILS

- A1 – Mountain trail to Šmohor
- A2 – Rečica circular mountain trail
- A3 – Mountain trail to Kopitnik I and II
- A4 – Mountain trail to Veliko Kozje I and II
- A7 – Trail to Hum
- A8 – Spa trail
- B1 – The three churches trail
- B2 – The trail along former square borders in Laško
- B3 – The Aškerc trail
- B4 – Iz Slog v Log trail
- B5 – Holy Trinity trail
- C1 – Orion trail
- C2 – Perkmandeljč educational forest trail
- 2km test walk

## HIKING & CYCLING

### CYCLING

Lovers of bicycle trips to interesting areas and area attractions, and those who seek challenges for their mountain and trekking bikes have the opportunity to discover their favourite kilometres in the area of Laško. With their bicycles, they can visit sightseeing spots, friendly farms and inns.

### SUITABLE TRAILS FOR CYCLING

1. JUNIOR BIKE PATH
2. VRH NAD LAŠKIM
3. TROBNI DOL
4. ŠMOHOR
5. LISCA
6. GOVCE
7. CELJSKA KOČA
8. ŠENTRUPERT
9. LAŠKI KROG



# FISHING

**Cyprinids and predatory fish in the Savinja river and the Marof pond attract fisherman from near and far. Fly fishing lovers can enjoy catching salmonids in the mysterious valley of the Gračnica creek. In addition to fishery in the area of Laško, they will be able to enjoy the unspoilt nature and culinary delights, such as trout prepared in the unique Jurklošter fashion.**

## **Sales agents for fishing licences:**

- TIC Laško, Valvasorjev trg 1, Laško, T: +386 (0)3 733 89 50
- Fish & Fun store, M: +386 (0)41 784 559 I: [www.fishandfun.si](http://www.fishandfun.si)
- Ribiški dom na Marofu; Babič Anton, M: +386 (0)51 458 933 and Savič Vlado, M: +386 (0)31 236 019

## **Fishing waters manager:**

Ribiška družina Laško  
Trubarjeva ulica 3, SI-3270 Laško  
Working hours: every Wednesday from 5 to 6pm.  
T: +386 (0)3 620 55 19  
M: +386 (0)51 458 931  
(responsible person Vlado Savič)  
E: [druzina.lasko@amis.net](mailto:druzina.lasko@amis.net)  
[www.rdlasko.si](http://www.rdlasko.si)

## **On-line purchase of fishing licences and additional information:**

**[www.ribiskekarte.si/rd-lasko](http://www.ribiskekarte.si/rd-lasko)**



## **FISHING ON THE SAVINJA RIVER**

**Fishing season:** all year round.

**Fishing options:** huchen, brown trout, pike, zander, catfish, asp, tench, common nase, cactus roach, common chub, common barbel, Danube barbel, vimba bream, common bream, common roach, European perch, common minnow, common bleak, common carp, grass carp, Prussian carp

**Type of fishing:** float fishing, bottom fishing, spin fishing, fly fishing

**Fishing licences:** cyprinids licence, predatory fish licence and huchen licence



### **ATTENTION!**

*Huchen fishing is only allowed when accompanied by a member of RD Laško. Only artificial baits are allowed. Maximum daily catch is 1 fish. Maximum catch during the season in the Savinja river basin is 5 fish. In the event of catching a huchen, RD Laško must be notified immediately.*

## **FISHING AT THE MAROF POND**

**Fishing season:** during weekends and holidays from 1 April to 31 October

**Fishing options:** common carp, grass carp, bighead carp, common nase, common bream, Prussian carp, common chub, common bleak, common roach, pike, zander

**Type of fishing:** float fishing, bottom fishing, spin fishing, fly fishing

**Fishing licences:** special licence for the Marof pond; cyprinids licence, predatory fish licence

**HINT:** next to the pond, there is a fishing cabin and restaurant where they also serve fish; their speciality is trout prepared in the unique Jurklošter fashion.

## **FISHING IN THE GRAČNICA CREEK**

**Fishing season:** from 1 March to 31 August

**Fishing options:** grown trout, common chub, grayling (seldom)

**Type of fishing:** fly fishing

**Fishing licences:** special licence for the Marof pond; cyprinids licence, predatory fish licence



### **ATTENTION!**

*The Gračnica creek is an exceptional ecosystem, which is protected by abiding to the fishing rules. Only artificial flies (wet fly, artificial bait dry fly) with bent barb. It is prohibited to use baits such as spinners and bubble floats, and all types of live animals, animals and animal ingredients, which are endangered and protected based on the natural conservation decrees, and any baits that contain toxic chemicals.*

## **More info:**

**[www.ribiskekarte.si/rd-lasko/savinja-9](http://www.ribiskekarte.si/rd-lasko/savinja-9)**

# PARAGLIDING

Fans of adrenaline and high-altitude views may opt for a tandem paragliding flight or enter paragliding school. Experienced paragliders may go to launch sites on Lisca, Kopitnik and Malič.

## **Društvo za jadralno padalstvo Metulj**

Globoko 8, SI-3272 Rimske Toplice  
Contact person: Jože Senica  
M: +386 (0)41 504 716 and +386 (0)40 745 754  
**[www.metuljmania.com](http://www.metuljmania.com)**





# NATURAL LANDMARKS



The markets and medieval buildings of the spa and brewery town tell great stories about local life. Churches and chapels around the area invite you to viewpoints in the countryside and the vicinity of mining traditions. A Charterhouse in the hidden valley of the Gračnica creek awes with the stories about the stars above it and the ancient beliefs of the Celts.

It is worthwhile coming back to Laško in the spring, summer, autumn and winter. All seasons impress with a variety of activities and events with a metropolitan yet authentically local feel.

**Find your inspiration and write your own story #myLaško.**



## LAŠKO MUSEUM

Laško – A Trip through Time, Brewery Industry and Spa Tourism, and the Geology of the Laško Surroundings are the themes of permanent exhibitions of the museum, located in the old town square. The museum also prepares occasional and thematic exhibitions.

**Working hours:** Tuesday to Saturday, from 9am to 5pm

**Muzej Laško,**

Aškerčev trg 5, 3270 Laško

T: 03 734 02 36

E: tomaz@stik-lasko.si

## “FALA-LAŠKO” MUSEUM OF ELECTRIC POWER TRANSMISSION

The museum shows the history and development of electric power transmission in Slovenia. Numerous external exhibits are completed with collections of various machines and devices as well as demonstration of maintenance work on electric wires. It offers almost 5 thousand exhibits of technical heritage.

**Working hours:** Monday to Friday, from 8am to 3pm and based on prior arrangement

**Muzej elektroprenosa »Fala – Laško«,**

Celjska cesta 50, SI-3270 Laško

T: +386 (0)3 703 51 22

[www.eles.si/muzej-elektroprenosa-fala-lasko](http://www.eles.si/muzej-elektroprenosa-fala-lasko)



## THE AŠKERC HOMESTEAD

The literary-ethnological collection at the homestead in the hamlet of Senožete presents the life and work of Slovenia's most famous ballad poet, Anton Aškerc. The more than 500-year-old building with black kitchen, the straw-thatched granary and a toplar hayrack uncover the ethnological and architectural heritage of the area. The active homestead also offers home-made sheep cheese tastings.

**Working hours:** every day based on prior arrangement

**August Aškerc,**

Senožete 1, SI-3272 Rimske Toplice,

T: +386 (0)3 573 62 98, M: +386 (0)31 207 291

## ST MARTIN'S PARISH CHURCH

The bell-tower, the main nave and a specially ribbed vault bear witness to the original design of the church, which began to emerge in the 12th or 13th century. Due to its architectural style known as "the Laško Group", which was first featured in the Carthusian church in Jurklošter, the church, in which ten altars were built during the Baroque period, is one of the most important Romanesque monuments in Slovenia.





# TOURS AND DAY TRIPS



Town and countryside, beer and water, monastery and mine, bee-keeping and herbalism become a truly unforgettable sight only when experienced to their fullest. Connoisseurs, local guides and hospitable locals will present to you the originality, history and creativity of local culture, and turn your activities into experiences worthy of the #myLaško trademark.



## ŠOLAR BEEKEEPING AND GINGERBREAD

On the sunny side of Laško in midst of the orchards of old varieties of pears and apples, the šolar family have been making their honey fairytale for more than 35 years. Learn about bee-keeping in a bee-friendly municipality while tasting high quality honey, creamy honeys of various floral varieties, pollen, propolis, royal jelly, honey beverages and other products.

**Working hours:** every day based on prior arrangement

### Čebelarstvo, lectorstvo in apiturizem Šolar

Strmca 81a, SI-3270 Laško

T: +386 (0)3 573 16 36 | M: +386 (0)40 759 357

E: darja.solar@siol.net | FB: Čebelarstvo, lectorstvo in apiturizem Šolar

## BLAGOTINŠEK BEEKEEPING

Visit a beehive with painted beehive panels, learn about the development and life of bees, take part in the extraction of honey, enjoy a tasting, and treat yourself with the purchase of different types

of honey and products made of beeswax. The Blagotinšek family will show you the importance of bees in Slovenian culture.

**Working hours:** from May to September, based on prior arrangement

### Čebelarstvo Blagotinšek

Jože Blagotinšek

Jagoče 13c, SI-3270 Laško

T: +386 (0)3 734 02 50



## DORMOUSE CAVE AT SLAPŠAK FARM

The dormouse cave is the only remains of a former mine. During a guided tour of the tunnel, you will get to know the life and work of past miners, as well as taste home-made delicacies. The area also allows you to discover peculiar karstic phenomena, uncommon for this area.

**Working hours:** based on prior arrangement – min. 4 persons

### Kmetija Slapšak

Padež 5, SI-3270 Laško

T: +386 (0)3 573 91 61 | M: +386 (0)31 336 431

E: slapsak.jernej@gmail.com





### TABOR CASTLE – PAVUS RESTAURANT

The castle at the foot of Hum hill holds stories that date back to the 11th century. It was originally an administrative seat and court of justice, hunting base for the famed Counts of Celje and refuge fortress for locals during the time of Turkish invasions. Its name Tabor (camp) originates from those times. Nowadays, the restored castle hosts an exquisite restaurant with remarkable chef Marko Pavčnik.

**Working hours:** Tuesday to Saturday, from 12 noon to 10pm and based on prior arrangement for groups

#### Marko Pavčnik s.p.

Cesta na Svetino 23, SI-3270 Laško  
T: +386 (0)3 620 07 23 | M: +386 (0)41 264 478  
E: info@pavus.si | www.pavus.si



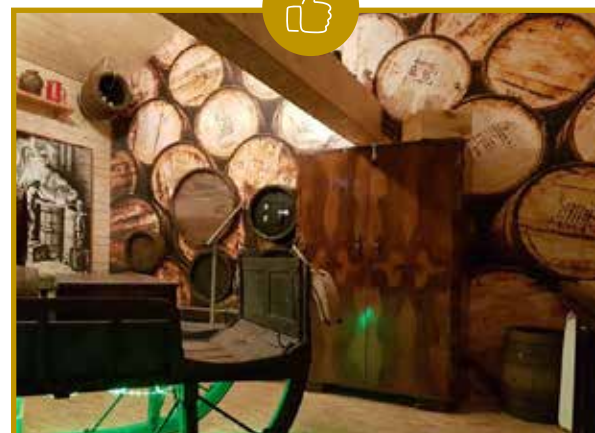
### WORTH VISITING! JURKLOŠTER CARTHUSIAN MONASTERY

The remains of a once majestic monastery and the Church of St Maurice with an octagonal stone bell tower, all situated in the mysterious Gračnica Valley, will present the secret life of monks and the undying love story between Frederick II, Count of Celje, and Veronica of Desenice. The Carthusian monastery, which was settled by the monks around 1170, is one of the three oldest Carthusian monasteries in Central Europe.

**Working hours:** guided tours based on prior arrangement – min. 8 persons

#### Zavod Odon Jurklošter,

Jurklošter 24, SI-2373 Jurklošter,  
T: +386 (0)3 734 08 61  
E: info@odon.si | www.odon.si



### WORTH TRYING! ESCAPE ROOM & UNLOCK LAŠKO

The most exhilarating experiences are the ones spent in good company. Form a team and discover the story of brewing in a unique escape room or go treasure hunting in the old town centre. A captivating experience that is unique for every member of your team #myLaško.

#### ESCAPE ROOM ENIGMARIUM LAŠKO

Escape Room Enigmarius Laško is set in the same house that the first barrel of beer was brewed in. The world's first brewery-themed escape room challenges your team to find the Brewer's Gold in under one hour. Get ready for an incredibly fun, original and unique challenge connected to the history of beer-brewing. The only way to escape is to work collaboratively and use all of your senses!

#### UNLOCK LAŠKO

Laško is not only a place for brewing and thermal springs but also a town of long-lost medieval mysteries and treasures. There is an enchanted princess living in a cavern above the ruins of a castle previously owned by the Counts of Celje as well as a cursed treasure hidden below. This fun and captivating game filled with clues and legends will lead you to discover the town in the best possible way.

Book your adventure and unlocking experience at [www.lasko.escape-room.si](http://www.lasko.escape-room.si)  
Escape Room Enigmarius®

Valvasorjev trg 1, Laško  
T: +386 (0)51 35 54 17  
enigmarius.lasko@escape-room.si  
[www.lasko.escape-room.si](http://www.lasko.escape-room.si)



### LAŠKO BREWERY

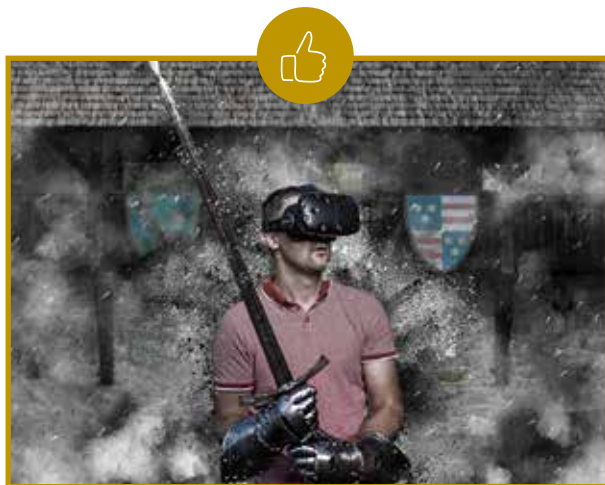
Besides the production facility, the tour of Laško Brewery includes a visit to the museum and a beer tasting at a town restaurant accompanied by savoury pastries. Don't let your visit to Laško pass without discovering its famed brewing tradition!

**Working hours:** guided tours based on prior arrangement – min. 10 persons

#### Information and reservations:

TIC Laško  
Valvasorjev trg 1, SI-3270 Laško  
T: +386 (0)3 733 89 50  
E: tic@stik-lasko.si





#### WORTH TRYING

#### CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY...

Enter the colourful medieval times and chivalry, and get acquainted with the tragic story between the influential Count of Celje Frederick II, the son of Hermann II, who imprisoned his son in Frederick's Tower at Celje Castle due to his forbidden love for Veronica. His Veronica is to be drowned, so Frederick must save himself in order to be able to save his love... Do you dare to become Frederick?

Book your VR experience at the reception of Hotel Thermana Park Laško.

**+386 (0)3 423 20 00**



#### PLAHTICA HERB FARM

The herbal garden at the more than 160 years old farm is located at the highest point of the mystic Orion trail, which reveals the ancient Megalithic temples in the valley of the Gračnica creek. In the Celtic circle of medicine near the herbal garden on the sunny slope, you can relax with the help of energy points and the scents of the herbs. In the Celtic herbal garden and at the guided workshops, you will learn about the power of the three stars in Orion's belt. At the farm, not far away from the renowned Jurklošter Carthusian monastery, the elixir for a long life has been prepared following the original recipe of Carthusian monks. The herbs are also used for teas, herbal salts, extracts and preparations using the maceration method. Extend both your day and life at Blatni vrh hill!

#### **Ekološka Zeliščna kmetija Plahtica**

Blatni vrh 39, SI-3273 Jurklošter

M: +386 (0)31 342 809

E: [plahtica@gmail.com](mailto:plahtica@gmail.com)

**[eko-trgovina.moja-kosarica.si](http://eko-trgovina.moja-kosarica.si)**





# TRIPS AROUND THE SAVINJA VALLEY

Celje, Žalec, Šentjur, Sevnica

Laško is an excellent starting point for discovering other beauties and attractions of Slovenia. Laško lies in the Lower Savinja Valley, so you are very welcome to explore the areas upwards of the Savinja river bed, up to its spring in the beautiful Logar Valley; there time stops, your spirit calms and your heart sings. But first go to the city where the story of the great Counts of Celje is hidden. To the town which was inhabited even by the ancient Romans.



## TRIPS AROUND CELJE



Today, Celje is the third largest Slovenian town. Visit the historic city centre, get to know the history of the Counts of Celje and visit the Old Castle on the hill above the city.

**There are romantic streets, architecture that shows the richness and liveliness of the past, magnificent building façades, welcoming markets and a wild selection of museum, galleries and theatres.**

**Distance from Laško:** 11 km

**How to reach Celje:**

- **By car:** 15 minutes
- **By bike:** 1 h (predominately plain route along the Savinja River, appropriate also for families)
- **By train:** 10 minutes
- **By bus:** 20 minutes







### CELJE CASTLE

The Old Castle Celje invites you to discover the rich historical heritage of our city and the famous myth of its founders. Bold ancestors, strong personalities marked by an uncompromising desire for power and extraordinary abilities, which enabled them to rise among the most important noble families of their time and finally the decline of a dynasty, broken by a single event — all of this stimulated people's imagination and represented an excellent basis for the creation of a European legend. And it's a true story! In addition to the fact that the Counts of Celje are known throughout Central Europe, a special multi-layered myth about the Counts of Celje developed locally over time, which was impossible to extinguish by even the most critical historical period.

**More Information:** [www.grad-celje.com](http://www.grad-celje.com)



### CITY OF CELJE

Celje is a city of experiences! It opens up a magnificent vault of historical, cultural, tourist, recreational and culinary riches. It is a magnet that draws and attracts with ancient stories, myths and legends, and overwhelms with its contemporary urban pulse. It takes you places where the impact of our ancestors and contemporaries can be felt; or to places where a vast expanse of natural beauty offers tranquility, relaxation or adventure.



### CELJE KOČA

The Celjska koča (Celje Cottage) ski resort and mountain hut that lays at 650m above sea levels offers recreational activities in natural environment in all seasons. The area around Celje koča is rich with small areas denoted by special natural aspects or cultural heritage: Hudičev Graben Gorge, Grmada nad Pečovnikom with three peaks, Douglas fir groves in Pečovnik, Vipota forest reserve, Trobiš's beech tree (around 200 years old) and the Church of Our Lady of the Snows on Svetina.

**Winter activities:** skiing, cross-country skiing,

**Summer activities:** downhill course for mountain bikers, adrenaline park, summer sledge

**More information at** [www.celjska-koca.si](http://www.celjska-koca.si).



### ŠMARTINSKO LAKE

Šmartinsko Lake represents an excellent starting point for pleasant walks and fun in nature.

There are many possibilities to take a break and relax: you can go walking, running or cycling on a circular path along the lake or rowing on a boat or paddle board, and kayaking on the lake.

Šmartinsko Lake is also a popular fishing destination in the wider region. Due to the formation of approximately 113ha of closed water system, the structure of fish in standing water has changed significantly, and today the predominant fish are from families of esox, cypriniformes, percoidei, freshwater crayfish, frogs and freshwater mussels.

**More information at** [www.smartinsko-jezero.com](http://www.smartinsko-jezero.com)





# TRIPS AROUND ŽALEC



Welcome to Žalec, where green gold surrounds you! Žalec is full of stories told by nature, and written by man. Set out on their learning paths with a curious mind and visit the dreamy nooks, either alone or in the company. Get to know the karstic jewel in the middle of the Štajerska region – Pekel Cave, or enjoy the oasis of Vrbje Pond, which is a haven for more than 170 species of birds. Due to its position, Žalec has always been an important post, which is reflected in the variety of cultural and historical sights. You can find one of the most important monuments of the Roman period in Slovenia, namely the Roman necropolis in nearby Šempeter. A house in the centre of Žalec that bears the venerable year of 1669 its portal is the birth house of the general and composer Risto Savin. Here, surrounded by green gold and between the hop plantations, there are many opportunities for active leisure time: hiking, climbing, biking, riding horses, fishing, exploring themed and walking routes.

**Distance from Laško:** 18 km

**How to get to Žalec:**

- **By car:** 30 minutes
- **By bike:** 2 h
- **By train:** 20 minutes







#### WORTH VISITING! ŽALEC BEER FOUNTAIN

The Green Gold Fountain is a tribute to the hop-growing heritage of the Lower Savinja Valley and Žalec, which is the hop-growing centre of Slovenia. Slovenia is also the fifth largest producer of hops in the world and hops is the "spice" that gives beer its distinctive flavour.

The beer fountain is positioned in the town park, in the town centre, next to the marketplace. The architectural design is a symbolic hop flower, which is expressed as two semi-circles; one a beer fountain and the other a water fountain. The semi-circles are clad in copper lace, symbolising beer foam.



#### ECO-MUSEUM OF HOP-GROWING AND THE BREWING INDUSTRY IN SLOVENIA

The tradition of hop-growing and brewing has been ongoing in this region since 1876.

The central museum, located on the premises of a former hop-drying facility, has four floors. There, visitors can learn about the food, garments, traditions, and numerous hop-related products and tools for the growing and processing hops.

Various events accompany and illustrate the hop-growing tradition and local folklore: the setting up of hop poles, hop-growers' day, the election of the hop princess and the hop elder, the hop trail hike, and the hop-growers' feast. You can visit the Eco-Museum individually or in a group, buy a souvenir in the museum shop, and later visit the beer tasting room to taste the house beer Kuček – Savinja Valley Beer or taste the customary hop-pickers' lunch.



#### PEKEL CAVE

Pekel Cave is a karstic jewel in the heart of the Štajerska region. For millions of years, the Ponikvica creek seeped through the calciferous ground and created a magical underground karstic cave in the middle of the Lower Savinja Valley. With a bit of imagination, an image of the Devil himself can be seen above the entrance. In winter, when the external temperature is lower than the temperature in the cave, steam sometimes comes out of the entrance. That is why our ancestors used to be afraid of the cave and named it Pekel (Hell).

A well-protected path past numerous stalactite formations and side tunnels rises all the way towards the 4m high underground waterfall on the Peklenščica creek, which is also the highest underground waterfall in Slovenia. The stairs take us to the upper, dry part, which contains more stalactite formations. The visitor exits the cave through the artificially made exit 42m higher.

Temperature in the cave: 10°C.

Appropriate clothing and shoes are recommended. Visit duration: approximately one hour. You can visit the cave during working hours or based on prior arrangement for groups.

**More information on tourist experiences in Žalec at [www.turizem-zalec.si](http://www.turizem-zalec.si).**



#### VRBJE POND

Vrbje pond is a sanctuary for birds – over 170 species have been spotted in the area. The south part of the pond is a Natura 2000 site.

It stretches over 13 hectares and is the largest stagnant water body in this part of the valley. Around Vrbje pond there is an interesting, 3km long Eco-Learning Trail, which can be enjoyed all year round. There are also several other theme trails close to the pond that to partly or all the way along the pond, such as the Hop Trail. You can also admire the open-air gallery with wooden sculptures.





# TRIPS AROUND ŠENTJUR



Šentjur is the home of renowned composers, namely the Ipavec brothers, of the blessed Anton Martin Slomšek, and it is the place of many cultural and natural sights, such as the Rifnik archaeological site, the Museum of the Southern Railway, as well as the European pasqueflower that attracts the attention of every visitor with its silky velvet stalk and incredible purple flowers. It blooms in February, March or April – depending on the weather. It is an endangered and protected species in Slovenia, and here, in Boletina, is one of its few habitats in Europe. There is also the “Kozjansko see” just a few kilometres away, namely the Slivnica Lake, which is a true paradise for nature, fishing and peace lovers.

**Distance from Laško:** 21 km

**How to get to Šentjur:**

- **By car:** 30 minutes
- **By bike:** 2 h
- **By train:** 30 minutes



## THE IPAVEC FAMILY HOUSE

In the old market town centre, there is the house of the Ipavec family, built in 1760. This legendary lineage from Šentjur went down in history mainly because of their contributions to music and medicine. Today their house holds a permanent exhibition on their life and work. There is a wine cellar with selected wines in the basement and the garden boasts an old lime tree and a well made by the architect Jože Plečnik. In the house there is also a wedding hall and at the entrance portal there is a special vine, 'bleu de Cologne' ("modra kavčina"), which is a graft of the oldest vine in Europe that grows in Lent, Maribor. The Ipavec composers left their mark on music from the 19th and early 20th century. The most famous are the brothers Gustav and Benjamin; the first brother is known for his nationalism-awakening songs, 'Slovenec sem' ("I am a Slovenian"), 'Vse mine' ("Everything Passes"), 'Domovini' ("To Homeland") etc., and the second brother is known for his historical opera, 'Teharski plemiči' ("The Noblemen of Teharje") and a stage work, 'Tičnik' ("The Aviary"). Josip Ipavec is known among the musicians as the author of the first Slovene ballet with pantomime, 'Možiček' ("The Little Man") and the operetta, 'Princesa Vrtoglavka' ("The Dizzy Princess").



## BIRTHPLACE OF ANTON MARTIN SLOMŠEK

The blessed Anton Martin Slomšek was born in 1800 in the village Uniše near Ponikva. His place of birth has been restored and can be visited all year round. The exhibition follows the life of the great priest, tutor and national awakener from his early childhood up to the point when he decided to become a priest, followed by episcopacy and eventually beatification in 1999.







# TRIPS AROUND ZASAVJE AND OBSOTELJE



Laško is an excellent starting point for exploring the rich mining heritage offered by the Zasavje region or other parts of our small, but extremely diverse Slovenia.

## SEVNICA

Distance from Laško: 30 km

How to reach Sevnica:

- By car: 30 minutes
- By train: 40 minutes

## TRBOVLJE

Distance from Laško: 26 km

How to reach Trbovlje:

- By car: 30 minutes
- By train: 40 minutes



## SEVNICA AND SEVNICA CASTLE

The birthplace of the current first lady of the USA Melania Trump offers you a beautiful castle, which is one of the most important and best-preserved castles on our territory. On the castle slope, there is a neat vineyard, and in the castle's premises a wine cellar, in which you can taste the famous Blaufränkisch wine.

In Sevnica, "First Lady" also means a delicious apple dessert, to which you can treat yourself after a relaxing stroll in the castle park.

More information at [www.visit-sevnica.com](http://www.visit-sevnica.com)

## WALKING TOUR OF STEKLARNA HRASTNIK

Have you ever wondered how glass is made? What is it made from and how is it formed into so many beautiful products? You can go and see the 160-year-old tradition of making top-quality glass in the Steklarna Hrastnik glass factory. The tour is available for organised groups.



## 4TH DRITL

4th DRITL is a Virtual Museum of Coal Mining that uses virtual and augmented reality to present the world of miners as it was a hundred years ago. This incredible and unforgettable experience is appropriate for all generations!

More information at [4dritl.si](http://4dritl.si).





# I FEEL SLOVENIA



## PTUJ

Ptuj is an old town of new experiences. The castle above the town with the oldest wine cellars watches over the streets with one of the most colourful carnivals in the world and the Kurenti masks, the exceptional character of which has also been recognised by UNESCO. The mighty Drava River and the curvy wine-growing hills create a unique backdrop of the oldest city in Slovenia. On the castle hill, centuries of history are intertwined with the most valuable plant, the vine.



## MARIBOR

Maribor, capital of the Štajerska region and second largest city in Slovenia, offers many sights and attractions that can turn your visit to the city into an experience rich in culture and heritage, an exceptional wine tradition, a cheerful and relaxed pace of events and sporting euphoria. Welcome to the city of the oldest vine in the world and the European Capital of Culture 2012! It is a meeting point for wine and culinary paths, where wine and good food are an important part of urban everyday life.

## THE ŽIČE CHARTERHOUSE

Where time stands still and nature speaks to us and the cultural heritage is revived. The ground floor of Gastuž was part of the Žiče Charterhouse as early as in 1467. There, they served monastery wine to travellers and today, this is considered to be the oldest inn in Slovenia. In the arched cellars of the Žiče Carthusian monastery, founded by the margrave Ottokar in the 12th century, 60,000 bottles of white and rosé sparkling wine are being matured. In the Žiče Charterhouse, you can feel the peace that the Carthusian monks once lived in...



## ZLATI GRIČ

Boasting one of the most modern wineries in the Štajerska region, a golf course and apartments in the Winegrowers's Mansion from the 15th century, Zlati Grič is truly one of its hidden gems. In the heart of the vineyards lies one of the most modern wine cellar in the region. The building with an area of 3,500 square metres and a capacity of 1.3mio. litres is fully underground. Not far from here, you can find...

## TIMBER RAFT CRUISES ON THE SAVA RIVER

Lively river traffic always took place on the Sava River and Radeče was the main port on this route. Therefore, the town's history has always been closely linked to timber rafting. For 500 years, the activity provided many locals the opportunity to lead decent lives. And even though the profession itself was demanding, it was a highly respected one. Since they sailed down the rivers Savinja, Sava and Danube all the way to Belgrade and even further to the Black Sea, their work was of course dangerous. With the arrival of the railways rafting slowly started to die out, but despite that the rafters' tradition, habits and customs left an indelible mark on the region.

You are very welcome to join us in the period from April to October.

We will take you on a two-hour timber raft experience on the Sava river. Stories, local music and dances will reveal what harsh lives the raftsmen led and which merry habits they had. You will also take part in an authentic rafters' christening.



## LOGAR VALLEY

It is one of the most beautiful alpine glacial valleys in Europe. You can relax in the peaceful surroundings of the landscape park and enjoy in hiking, cycling, and riding.

## EXPERIENCE THE DOLENJSKA REGION

This land of a special wine called cviček is also famous for its romantic hills, vineyards, castles, warm rivers and excellent culinary delicacies. Nowhere else will you find so many vineyard cottages, vineyard sheds and cellars in such a small area as in the Dolenjska region and Bela krajina region in the south of Slovenia. According to some records, there are around 15,000 of them.



## VELIKA PLANINA

This magical plateau with one of the largest herdsmen's settlements in Europe invites you to learn about the fascinating life on the mountain pasture and sample the dairy goodies they will prepare for you.



## VINARIUM LENDAVA

Sightseeing in the Prekmurje region starts with Vinarium Lendava. When was the last time you were able to see the landscapes of four different countries at once? The watchtower Vinarium Lendava, standing 53.5 metres tall, offers an incredible 360° view of the colourful landscape that stretches from the settlement of Lendavske gorice, where the tower proudly stands, all the way to the river basin of Mura, and encompasses a wonderful view of the plains and hills of Slovenia, Hungary, Croatia, and Austria. You can reach the highest platform of the tower by a comfortable ride with the elevator or by climbing 240 steps, where you will then experience the most beautiful vantage point.





**THERMANA**  
*Laško*

.....

**Zdraviliška cesta 6, SI-3270 Laško**  
**+386 (0)3 423 21 00**  
**[www.thermana.si/en](http://www.thermana.si/en) | [info@thermana.si](mailto:info@thermana.si)**