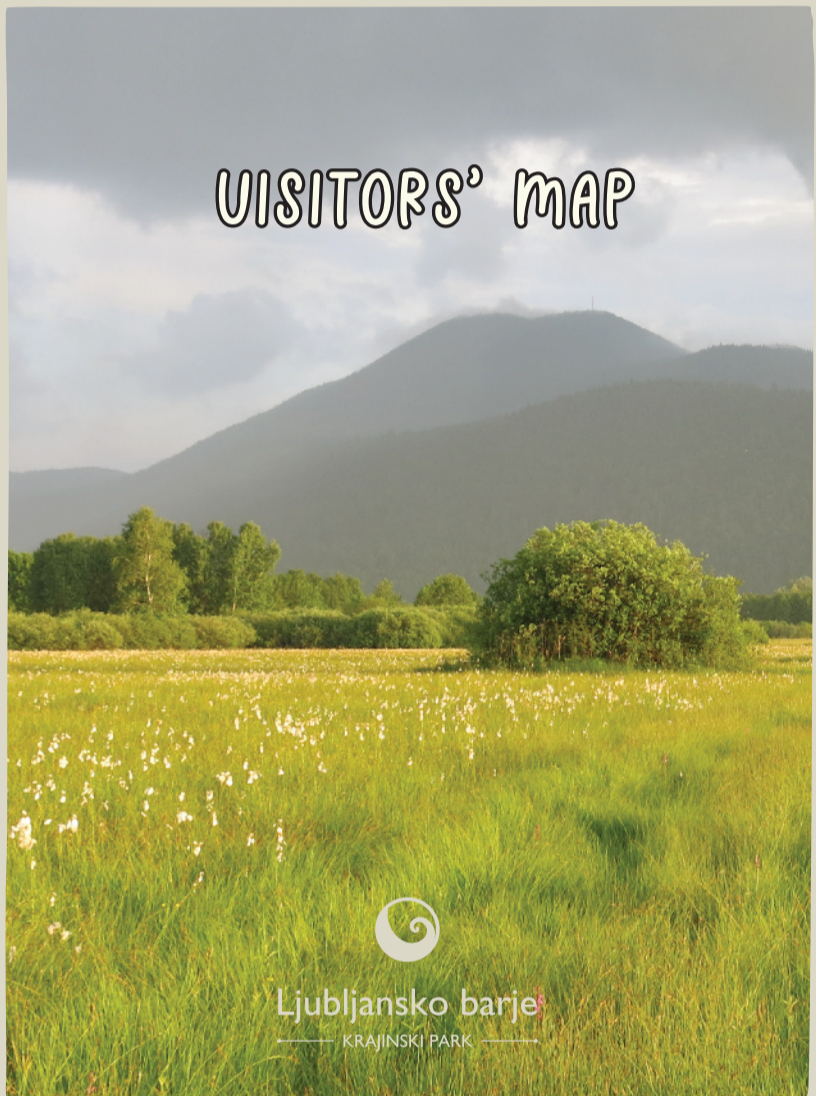


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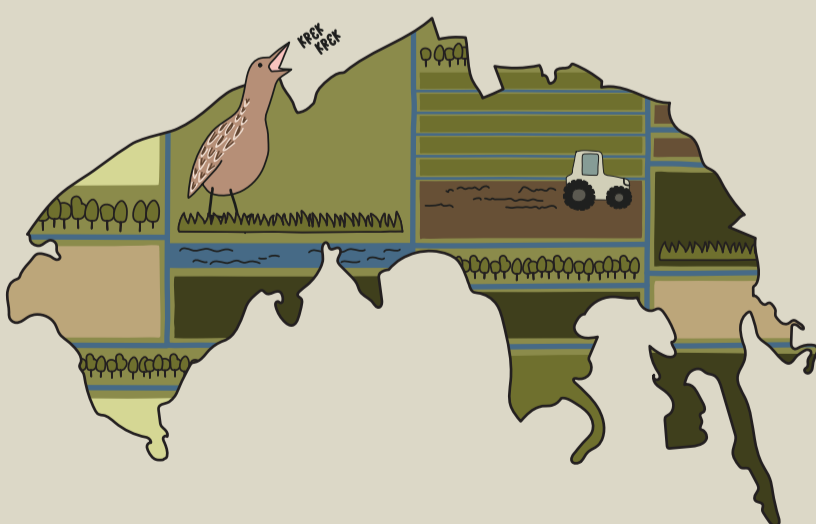
Ljubljansko barje



AT HOME ON THE Ljubljansko BARJE



THE LJUBLJANSKO BARJE IS ...



... A PLACE OF CONSTANT CHANGE.

Thousands of years ago, there was a lake in the area of today's floodplain, which later became a marsh, then a bog; significant drainage works and farming drastically changed its appearance.

... A UNIQUE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE.

The mosaic of meadows, fields, hedgerows, woodlands, and water holds within it an interplay of natural processes and human activity. Increasingly intensive use, along with the abandonment of traditional activities, is changing the landscape of the Ljubljansko barje.

... OUR COMMON TREASURE.

The management of the Ljubljansko barje Nature Park has been entrusted to the Ljubljansko barje Nature Park Public Institute since 2009. We will be able to preserve the valuable natural and cultural heritage of this area through the active cooperation of the public institute with local residents, farmers, local communities, and you, the visitors.



PREHISTORIC LAKE

Floods in the Ljubljansko barje (photo by D.Veranici)

Two million years ago, a tectonic depression formed in the area of today's Ljubljansko barje. Surrounding rivers filled the depression with large quantities of gravel and sand. During interglacial periods, this area was repeatedly transformed into a lake. Above the lake's surface rose numerous hillocks of the Ljubljansko barje, which also give names to the villages beside them.

The last lake was formed at the end of the last Ice Age, along the edge of which pile dwellers settled around 6600 years ago. The rich cultural heritage of pile dwellings, now hidden in the deep marshy soil, has been included in the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List since 2011. In 2022, a reconstruction of a pile-dwelling settlement was opened in the Ljubljansko barje, providing an insight into the way of life of the first permanent settlers of this area.



Reconstruction of pile-dwellers' houses (photo by A. Brancelj)



Replica of a pile dweller's vessel (photo by MPA, S. Švigelj)

When the pile-dwelling lake became marshy, the inhabitants moved to the nearby hills. The water level in the marsh then dropped, and a raised bog with characteristic sphagnum peat mosses developed. Due to extensive drainage works that took place in the Ljubljansko barje, only a few remnants of the raised bogs have been preserved, which today constitute the core protected area of the park.



Since Roman times, humans have been shaping the image of the Ljubljansko barje hand in hand with nature. The Ancient Romans thus built a road from the hillock of Babna Gorica to Ig. It is believed that, in order to make it easier to transport stone, the course of the Ljubljana River was moved closer to the quarry in Podpeč. Today, alongside a larger section of the dry old bed of the Ljubljana, there is a maintained gravel trail that takes you to the Bevke educational trail. The major drainage works in the Ljubljansko barje began at the end of the 18th century with the construction of the Gruber's Canal. With the newly constructed Ig Road in 1829, the settlement of the central parts of the Barje began, with the aim of exploiting this area for agriculture. This was followed by the digging of a dense network of drainage channels, which today measures around 5,000 kilometres.

The former raised bog with several-metre-thick layers of sphagnum peat has thus been transformed into a mosaic landscape of meadows, fields, hedgerows, and channels. People who settled in the central part of the Barje had to adapt their construction to the unstable marshy ground. Similar to the pile dwellers, the settlers of this area built houses and farm buildings on piles.



Cutting peat (photo by SEM)



Also the construction of Plečnik's Church of St. Michael in Črna vas, which has been part of the UNESCO World Heritage List since 2021, was founded on piles, which contributed to its unique architectural design.

Church of St. Michael (photo by I. Majc)

THE MOSAIC OF HABITATS

Today, the Ljubljansko barje is a splendid blend of natural and cultural heritage, a true landscape mosaic that inspires in every season.



Photo by D. Mladenović



Photo by D. Tome



Photo by M. Vranič



Photo by I. Majc

Winter mists and the dormant landscape in the coldest part of the year are not without their charm. The water on the Karst edge of the Ljubljansko barje isn't sleepy at all at this time of year, coming from numerous sources. Especially picturesque are the sources of the Mala and Velika Ljubljana in Močlinik and Retovje.

The spring awakening of nature captivates us with the harbingers of spring, the snake's head fritillary, which can be admired in some wet meadows. Occasional floods, especially at this time, remind us of the former lake. The wonderfully newly formed landscape can be admired by climbing the Hill of St. Anne near Podpeč.

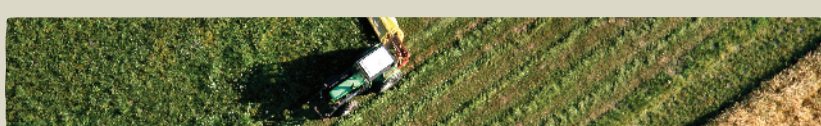
In the summer, you can escape from the scorching heat to the refreshing shade offered by the Nature Reserve Ponds in the Draga Valley near Ig, the springs of the Ljubljana River near Vrhnika, and the upper part of the Iška River Nature Trail.

In autumn, you are invited for walks by numerous field trails winding between cultivated fields and meadows, which farmers are already preparing for their annual rest.



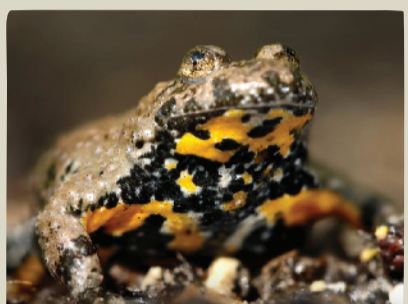
PRESERVE

On a walk through the Ljubljansko barje, the animal and plant diversity of the rich mosaic of habitats slowly reveals itself to the observant visitor.

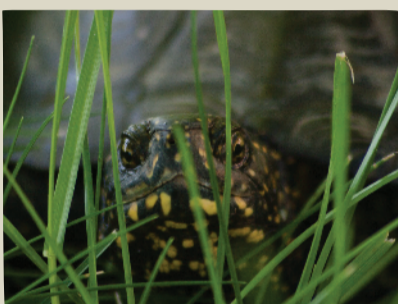


Conservation mowing (photo by D. Mladenović)

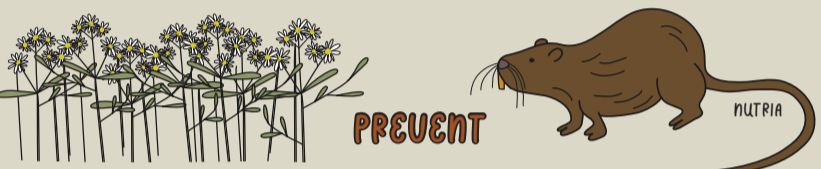
By preserving, maintaining, and establishing suitable habitats in the Ljubljansko barje Nature Park Public Institute, the successful settlement and reproduction of rare and endangered animal and plant species are ensured. Perhaps our efforts will be rewarded when we hear the song of the barred warbler in the newly planted hedgerows, the characteristic "u-u-u" of the yellow-bellied toad in the new ponds, or perhaps even spot the shy European pond turtle basking by the pond. The measures implemented in the Ljubljansko barje Nature Park help preserve the biodiversity of this valuable area.



Yellow-bellied toad (photo by D. Tome)

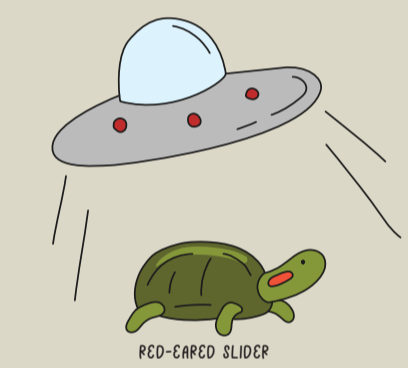


European pond turtle (photo by D. Veranici)



PREVENT

Invasive alien species, both plant and animal, have been introduced into our environment, intentionally or unintentionally, by humans.

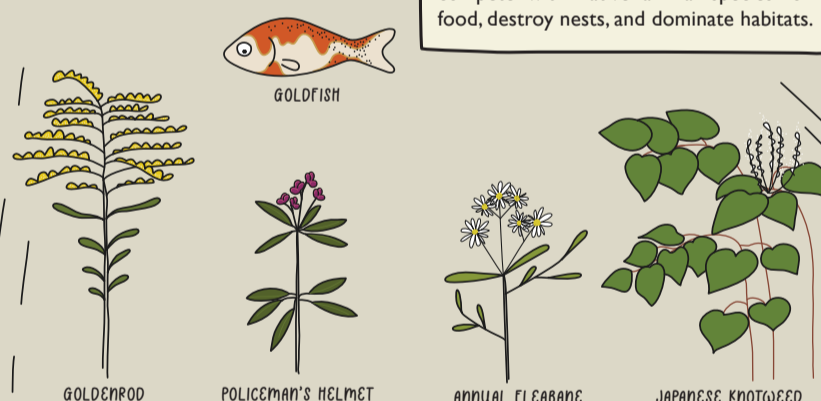


RED-EARED SLIDER

Ornamental species that escape from containers, gardens, domestic ponds, or terrariums, quickly reproduce in the natural environment, posing overwhelming competition to native species and threatening their existence.

Japanese knotweed, Canadian and giant goldenrod, policeman's helmet, tree of heaven, and other invasive alien plant species grow in dense structures that prevent the growth of native plant species.

Pond sliders, pumpkinseed, and nutria compete with native animal species for food, destroy nests, and dominate habitats.



GOLDENPOD

POLICEMAN'S HELMET

RIPIAN FLEABANE

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

PROTECT

By planning a sustainable visit, visitors themselves also contribute to the preservation of the rich heritage of the Ljubljansko barje Nature Park. Arriving by bus or train and visiting on foot or by bicycle along well-maintained paths is a small but significant contribution and responsible conduct. The detailed protection regime in the Ljubljansko barje Nature Park is defined in the Regulation on the Ljubljansko barje Nature Park.



For a more immersive visit to the nature park, a selection of thematic trails has been set up in cooperation with locals, local communities, and experts, which present the area's natural and cultural heritage to individual visitors.



Photo by B. Vidmar

THE MAH TRAIL – LET'S HEAD TO THE MAH

The trail offers a playful discovery of the natural attractions of the Ljubljansko barje. On a walk along the Goriški mah (moss) nature reserve, you encounter a remnant of a raised bog with well-preserved layers of peat, the habitat of endangered plant species, and the habitat of rare species of butterflies. In the bird observatory, many species of birds are presented, and if you watch quietly and attentively, you might even spot or hear one. For most of the journey, you explore the mysterious world of amphibians.



Photo by J. Tarman



Photo by J. Tarman

STARTING POINT: At the fire station of PGD Prevalje-Goričica pod Krimom.

THE TRAIL: 3.8 km circular gravel trail

DURATION: visit on foot (1 h 15 mins) or by bike (25 mins)

INFO: 7 information signboards

FACILITIES: bicycle stands, benches, bird observatory, open-air classroom



The trail is located in an area that experiences annual floods, therefore parts of it are flooded several times a year. Stop at the viewpoint near Goričica, admire the newly formed flooded landscape, and then return for a walk in a few days when the floodwaters have receded.

THE IŠKA RIVER NATURE TRAIL – DISCOVER THE RIVER OF THREE FACES!

The Iška River flows on its thrilling course through the wild Iški Vintgar Gorge, then along the edge of the fertile Iška fan, and in the final part through the flat Barje. On the Iška River Meander Nature Trail, in the company of the charming Oljulec, you discover how the river has changed over space and time, and you also learn about the life along it in the past and today.



A prize game awaits you on the information signboards along the trail. Each correct answer to the given question contributes one letter to the final password. Send it to us at info@ljubljanakobarje.si and you will be in the running for an attractive prize! Each correct answer is rewarded.

On the www.ljubljanskobarje.si website, you can also find e-lessons tailored to different age groups. All you need is a phone with an internet connection and a bit of curiosity!

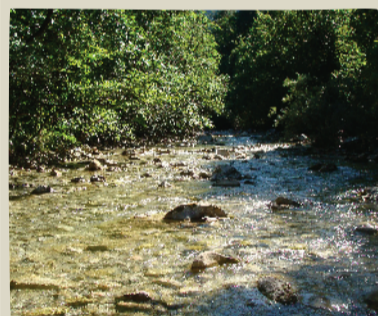
STARTING POINT: Lipa (Refreshment Stop Kolišče) - LPP bus 19B or Iški Vintgar (in front of the Iški Vintgar inn) - LPP bus 19I takes you to Iška vas.

THE TRAIL: 13 km asphalt and gravel trail

DURATION: by bike (1 h)

INFO: 11 information signboards

FACILITIES: bicycle stands



Iški Vintgar (photo by M. Bratina)



Iška alluvial fan (photo by A. Smrekar)



The Barje (photo by D. Veranici)

THE MARSH SPRINGS TRAIL – MYSTERIOUS SPRINGS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BARJE

The trail offers insight into the springs at the border between the alluvial fan and the Barje. At the viewing platform by the Strahomer Marsh Springs, soil profiles of the alluvial fan and the Barje are presented, along with illustrations that explain why and how the marsh springs were formed. Observe the water surface carefully, you will see an interesting natural phenomenon.

STARTING POINT: Podkraj or The Iška River Nature Trail.

THE TRAIL: 1.7 km predominantly gravel trail

DURATION: visit on foot (30 mins) or by bike (10 mins)

INFO: 4 information signboards

FACILITIES: bicycle stands, benches

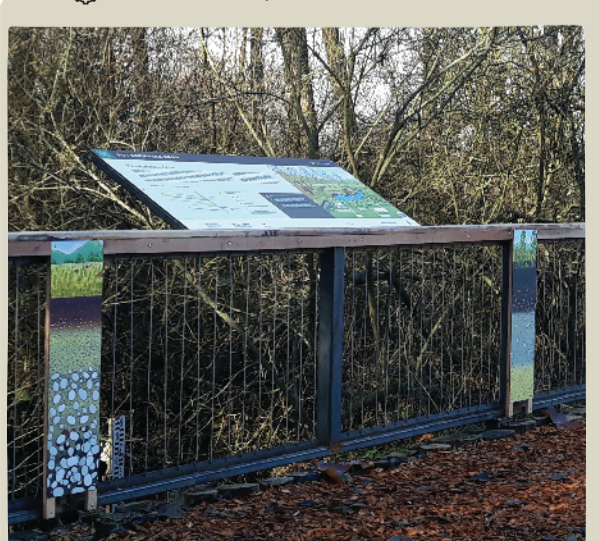


Photo by M. Bratina

On the fence of the viewing platform, there are also puzzles waiting for you, through which you travel through the seasons, discover the composition of the soil, and explore selected animal species.



Photo by M. Bratina



Photo by J. Tarman

THE ALDER TRAIL – TAKE A PEEK INTO MY WORLD!



The trail at the threshold of the Slovenian capital offers a glimpse into the life of six endangered animal species – the European pond turtle, the ornate bluet dragonfly, the hermit beetle, the yellow-bellied toad amphibian, the scarce large blue butterfly, and the corn crane bird. On this trail, you also learn about the impact of humans on the transformation of the Ljubljansko barje and the challenges of preserving suitable habitats for endangered animal and plant species.

STARTING POINT: P+R Barje, LPP bus 9, by car or by bike (Bicikelj).

THE TRAIL: 3 km circular gravel and field trail

DURATION: visit on foot (1 h) or by bike (20 mins)

INFO: 8 information signboards

FACILITIES: bicycle stands, benches, peep holes



A part of the trail is in poor condition, where puddles and mud form during rain. In certain places, despite our efforts, you can still see just how serious the problem of illegal waste dumping is. Only together can we preserve the Ljubljansko barje, so please report any observed irregularities to nadzornik@ljubljanakobarje.si.



Photo by J. Tarman



Photo by J. Tarman

THE MOROSTIG TRAIL – WELCOME TO AN AREA MARKED BY CONSTANT CHANGE AND EVER-NEW DISCOVERIES!



How long is the road to prehistory? In the Ljubljansko barje, it is entertaining and interesting. The discovery of a precious yet fragile mosaic landscape of meadows, hedgerows, and waters, where traces of the millennia-old heritage of the pile dwellers can still be found.



Photo by G. Lipovec



Photo by M. Bratina

STARTING POINT: Morostig Interpretation Centre or Ig Petrol Bus Stop - LPP bus 19I.

THE TRAIL: 1.5 km along a gravel trail, field trail and a wooden board walk

DURATION: visit on foot (1 h) or by bike (20 mins)

INFO: 7 information signboards

FACILITIES: bicycle stands, benches, peep holes, board walk

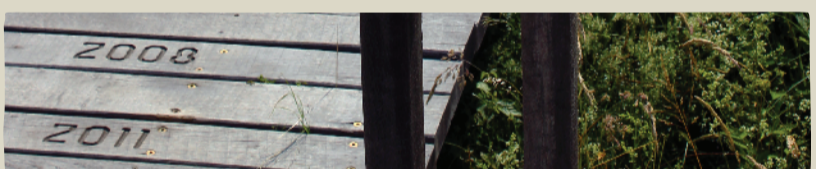


Photo by M. Bratina

Complete your visit by exploring the Morostig Interpretation Centre and the reconstruction of the pile dwellers' village. For more information on visiting schedules, please visit the website: www.morostig.si.



Bevke Educational Trail during the Floods (photo by M. Bratina)

After rainfall, the path along the old Ljubljana riverbed is muddy, so we recommend caution and appropriate equipment. The trail is only partially passable or navigable during floods.

THE BEVKE EDUCATIONAL TRAIL – INTERWEAVING OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Between the Gradišče hillock and the Ljubljana, south of Bevke, lies a mosaic of meadows, hedgerows, and canals, guided by the curious boy Barjanko. Discover the animal and plant world of the marsh meadows, the rich cultural heritage of this area, the secrets of the Ljubljana River, and life in the Ljubljansko barje in the past.

STARTING POINT: Parking at the Gradišče hillock in Bevke.

THE TRAIL: 6.5 km circular gravel trail and cart track

DURATION: visit on foot (2 h) or by bike (40 mins)

INFO: 10 information points

NATURAL MONUMENTS

The Ljubljana natural and cultural monument

Known as the river of seven names, the Ljubljana springs for the seventh and final time in the Ljubljansko barje. It flows slowly through the central part of the Ljubljansko barje to Ljubljana. In its embrace, it cradles the precious treasures of millennia-old history.

Sources of Ljubljana (the Močlinik natural monument, the Retovje natural monument, the Ljubija natural monument)

The sources of the Mala and Velika Ljubljana and Ljubija between Vrhnika and Verd bring water from the extensive Karst hinterland to the Ljubljansko barje.

Source of Bistra (Castle Source, Zupan's Source, Gale's Source)

The water springs of the Bistra River overpowered the castle mills and sawmills, which are still preserved today and on display at the Technical Museum of Slovenia in Bistra.

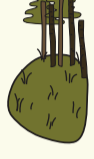
The Jezero pri Podpeču natural monument

The Karst lake is one of the deepest natural lakes in Slovenia. During floods, water inundates the surrounding meadows, which serve as a common habitat for many endangered plant species. Swimming in the lake is at your own risk.

The Jurčovo sotočišče natural monument

One of the last areas in the Ljubljansko barje where we get an idea of how the raised bog grew above the ground surface.

NATURE RESERVES



The Mali plac nature reserve

A remnant of a raised bog, captured in the Kozanjevica hillock. The Marsh Pixies Fairy Tale Trail to Mali Plac passes by this nature reserve.

The Kozlerjeva gošča nature reserve

The oldest protected area and at the same time the largest forested remnant of raised bog in the Ljubljansko barje.



The Goriški mah nature reserve

The remnant of the raised bog, which also serves as an important habitat for some endangered species of butterflies. In autumn, the purple autumn heather blooms abundantly here.

The Iški morost nature reserve

The largest continuous area of wet meadows in the Ljubljansko barje, along which The Corncrake Nature Trail also runs.

The Strajanov breg nature reserve

The only remaining true fen in the Ljubljansko barje, which serves as an important habitat for wild orchids and a habitat for endangered species of butterflies.

The Ponds in the Draga Valley nature reserve

Former clay pits, which have become a refuge for many rare and protected plant and animal species, especially waterbirds, migratory birds, and the European pond turtle, after industrial activity was discontinued.

UNESCO HERITAGE



Church of St. Michael in Črna vas

Impressive, lightweight architecture, which was adapted with technical solutions to unstable marshy ground, has been entered on the UNESCO World Heritage List along with some other works by Jože Plečnik since 2021.



Pile dwellings at Ig

The exceptionally expressive and excellently preserved organic remains in the moist marshland soil are important for understanding the lives of the first permanent inhabitants on the fringes of the Alps. For this reason, in 2011, they were entered on the UNESCO World Heritage List along with other prehistoric pile dwellings around the Alps.



OTHER INTERESTING LOCATIONS

The Technical Museum of Slovenia in Bistra

The once important Carthusian monastery became a castle in the 19th century, and since 1951 it has housed the Technical Museum of Slovenia, the largest museum in Slovenia, with extensive natural science and technical collections.



The old riverbed of the Ljubljana River

A 6-kilometre long water channel, the origin of which a precise answer is yet to be established. Based on archaeological findings of Roman canal digging tools, it has been concluded that the bed of the Ljubljana River was moved closer to the quarry in Podpeč during the Roman period.

The Vrhnika Ponds

They originated from clay excavation for the needs of Vrhnika brickworks in the 19th century, in the 1960s they were flooded due