

## THE WALK OF PEACE FROM THE ALPS TO THE ADRIATIC

A Story of War and Peace

The peace you will experience on the long-distance hiking trail between Slovenia and Italy was not always so natural in these places. The course of history and the course of the Soča/Isonzo, which ranks among the most beautiful alpine rivers worldwide, are turbulent and unpredictable. A century after World War I that raged across the world, historical heritage has been linked into the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic trail. All the way from the Julian Alps, across the Brda and Collio Hills, the Vipava Valley, the Kras and Carso to the Adriatic Sea we strive to slow down the pace of time and invite visitors to active holidays, relaxation, remembrance or reflection.

In addition to the central cross-border story of the Isonzo Front, which visitors experience while hiking along the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic trail, there are other interesting places that are crucial for understanding this front and are part of the "Walk of Peace spirit", such as the area of Pivka, Ragogna, San Donà di Piave and Cavallino Trep.

More than 500 kilometres of uniformly marked hiking trail runs through the territories of Slovenia and Italy. Major points of interest can be reached by car or bus. While enjoying the panoramic views, from the highest peaks to the sea, you can remember your ancestors and their battles. Whether as explorers of history or as active travellers and cyclists, you are inspired by natural beauty and the heritage of global interest.



### OUTDOOR MUSEUM KOLOVRAT

Each of the outdoor museums depicting the remains of the Isonzo Front testifies to the important role of nature during the war. The Kolo vrat Ridge is one of the most frequently visited points of World War I. It extends from Kobarid to the Brda and offers unique views of the Julian Alps and emerald green Soča River on one side, and on Slavia Veneta, the Friuli Plain and Adriatic on the other. The ridge is also attractive for cyclists. Here ran the Italian line of defence whose command posts, shooting positions, a system of trenches and caves are still preserved. The museum is also attractive due to its location which stretches into two countries, Slovenia and Italy.



Kobarid Museum



Kolo vrat

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#### KOBARID MUSEUM

You are invited to learn about why the Twelfth Isonzo Battle was so special, that it enjoys a global reputation in terms of history. The story of the breakthrough near Kobarid attracts more and more visitors from all over the world. The Kobarid Museum tells the story about the life of soldiers of all nationalities that fought on the Isonzo Front. Since 1990 it has been the central point where the heritage of World War I is presented in Slovenia. It developed from a private collection into a museum that won the Council of Europe Museum Prize. It has organized more than forty acclaimed exhibitions at home and in major European capitals. It is open all day throughout the year.



Log pod Mangartom



Sabotin

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#### OUTDOOR MUSEUM SABOTIN – THE PARK OF PEACE

Almost every stone in the Mt. Sabotin Park of Peace could tell a story about the Austro-Hungarian and Italian soldiers, fortifying their battle positions. During World War I the mountain was drilled from all sides and criss-crossed by galleries, trenches and caves. Due to its strategic position over the Soča River it was first an important Austro-Hungarian bridgehead on the right bank, but during the Sixth Isonzo Battle in August 1916 it was conquered, together with Gorizia/Gorica, by the Italian army. The ascent up Mt. Sabotin is rewarded by a panoramic view stretching from the Julian Alps, Sveta Gora Hill, the Vipava Valley, Brda Hills and the Kras Region, all the way to the Friuli Plain. Come and visit the museum collection in the old Yugoslavian guardhouse, with an information point and snack bar, offering the delicious local jota stew and other delicacies.

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#### AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN MILITARY CEMETERY GORJANSKO

Gorjansko is the largest and one of the most well preserved military cemeteries from WWI in Slovenia. It is the last resting place for soldiers of different nationalities of the monarchy, as during 1915-1917 soldiers of more than twenty different nationalities and ethnicities fought for the Emperor. According to the data of the Italian authorities, which led extensive excavations in the 1930s with the intention of moving the remains of the soldiers into memorial parks and tombs, here lie more than 6,000 Austro-Hungarian soldiers. The cemetery is embraced by the wavy Karst landscape.

## THE WALK OF PEACE FOR EVERYONE

You can begin on the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic trail at several entry points. However, the optimal starting points are those with Visitor Centres, where experienced guides can also be hired.

### THE WALK OF PEACE ON FOOT

The Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic trail is ideal for hikers because it runs past picturesque villages where you can stay for the night, to enjoy the local cuisine and experience today's vibe. High-mountain trails, macadam roads along the Soča River, former military supply tracks, trails crossing meadows in the Karst Region and winding among the vineyards in the Brda & Collio Region, offer a great variety of hiking challenges and it rewards hikers with wonderful views from the Alps to the Adriatic.

### THE WALK OF PEACE FOR FAMILIES

Visiting the less demanding stages of the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic trail is an excellent idea for a family rambling through history and in nature. Outdoor museums and well-kept caves offer children exciting explorations and time travels. At several locations along the Walk it is still possible to find alpine pastures with grazing livestock and hospitable tourist farms which are perfectly suited for active family holidays.

### THE WALK OF PEACE BY BIKE

The Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic trail is in many sections greatly admired by cyclists because it offers challenging ascending and dynamic distance trails. Demanding ascents and adrenaline descents at the beginning of the route and joyful winding among the vineyards of the Brda & Collio Region at the end are a challenge for anyone who enjoys the wind in their hair.

### THE WALK OF PEACE FOR HISTORY LOVERS AND SOLDIERS' RELATIVES

For all those who were marked by World War I through their ancestors, The Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic trail offers an opportunity to understand their forefathers' fate. At special sites of remembrance one can find peace and reconciliation. The Walk renders possible in-depth research for both to enthusiasts and experts.

### THE WALK OF PEACE FOR ORGANISED GROUPS

Attractive guided tours of selected locations are organised for school and other closed groups that offer interesting experiences. The stories of World War I are intertwined with the exploration of the flora and fauna, local gastronomy and other particularities.

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#### AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN MILITARY CEMETERY

##### LOG POD MANGARTOM

One of the most well preserved cemeteries from WWI in Slovenia was built in the first year of the war, on the furthest most line of the Isonzo Front. Over 800 soldiers are buried here. Most of them belonged to the 4th Bosnian-Herzegovinian Infantry Regiment. Today the graves are marked with crosses or traditional Muslim headstones on which plaques with names of the fallen soldiers are placed. In the centre of the cemetery stands a magnificent monument dedicated to the defenders of Mt. Rombon, on the slopes of which the majority of the buried lost their lives.

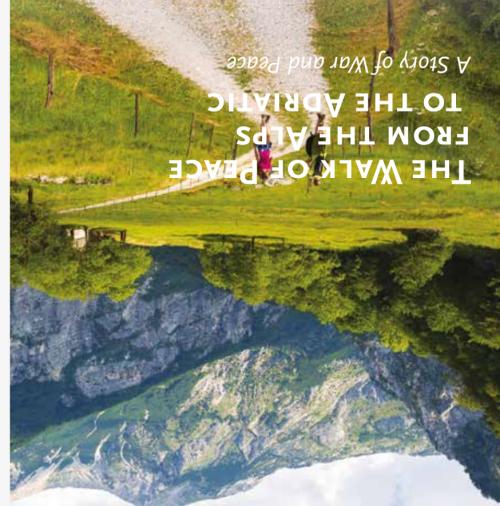
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#### MEMORIAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN JAVORCA

Ascend to the incredible spot among mountain peaks in the heart of the Triglav National Park. The peace here can be felt with all the senses. This might be due to the fact that Javorca was a peaceful shelter already during the Isonzo Front. Soldiers of different nationalities from the Austro-Hungarian monarchy built it themselves in merely eight months, with their own donations, following the plans of the architect Remigius Geyling of Vienna and under the supervision of the Hungarian first lieutenant Geza Jablonski. They burnt the names of more than 2,500 fallen comrades onto oak panels, which open like book covers, and are hinged on the interior walls. Soldiers of different confessions would come to the church from the nearby military positions to pray. The Javorca Church bears the European Heritage Label.



Javorca



THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF FIRST WORLD WAR HERITAGE BETWEEN THE ALPS AND THE ADRIATIC

[www.ita-slo.eu/WALKofPEACE](http://www.ita-slo.eu/WALKofPEACE)

LEADING PARTNER: Posilski razvojni center; PARTNERS: Regione del Veneto, Ustanova "Fundacija Poti mislu u Posočju", GAL Venezia Orientale, Znanstvenoraziskovalni center Slovenske akademije znanosti in umetnosti, PromoTurismoFVG, Mestna občina Nova Gorica, Ente Regionale per il Patrimonio Culturale della Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia, Javni zavod za upravljanje dediščine in turizmu Pivka, Comune di Ragogna

The project is supported by the Interreg V-A Italia-Slovenia programme, funded by the ERDF. It aims to preserve, research and promote tangible and intangible heritage of World War I which has a profound historical value and the heritage, combined under the trademark destination Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic. Furthermore, its goal is to promote collaboration and development of a new sustainable cultural tourist offer, based on attractive demonstration of the WWI heritage and thematic trails.

WALK OF PEACE

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TURIZEM BOHINJ, KRASNA VODA, Dolina Soče, Vipavska dolina, Pivka, MIREN KRAS, GO! 2025, REGIIONE DEL VENETO

The Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic - A Story of War and Peace; Posilski razvojni center; Comune Pinerolo; Ustanova "Fundacija Poti mislu u Posočju"; GAL Venezia Orientale; Znanstvenoraziskovalni center Slovenske akademije znanosti in umetnosti; PromoTurismoFVG; Mestna občina Nova Gorica; Ente Regionale per il Patrimonio Culturale della Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia; Javni zavod za upravljanje dediščine in turizmu Pivka; Comune di Ragogna



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#### GUIDED TOURS & TOUR PACKAGES

Welcome to our guided tours with our skilled guides who will help you explore the historical heritage and natural attractions. Easy hikes will enrich your experience from the Alps to the Adriatic.

We also offer personalized guided tours, specially tailored to suit your wishes!

Visit our site [www.thewalkofpeace.com](http://www.thewalkofpeace.com) and [www.visit-goodplace.com/tours/walk-of-peace-hiking-tour](http://www.visit-goodplace.com/tours/walk-of-peace-hiking-tour) for more information on our offer.

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#### THE WALK OF PEACE VISITOR CENTRES

There are seven Visitor Centres on the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic trail:

- The Walk of Peace Visitor Centre, Kobarid
- The Park of Peace, Sabotin
- The Monument of Peace, Cerje
- SMO, San Pietro al Natissone/Spietar
- IAT Fogliano Redipuglia
- Trieste Infopoint, Trieste/Trst
- Museo della Bonifica (MUB), San Donà di Piave



Pečinka Cave

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#### OUTDOOR MUSEUM PEČINKA CAVE

Soldiers on the front tried to find a safe haven wherever they could, even underground. In some places these underground shelters were dug into hard rock. In the Karst Region, on the other hand, these shelters were not hard to find. Many caves have been arranged into military quarters, weapons and ammunition stores and food stores, of which there was always a lack of. One of the most famous Karst caves used during WWI is the 150 m long Pečinka Cave, that was used as sleeping quarters and cabins for the officers. The cave was under Austro-Hungarian control until the end of 1916 when it came into Italian hands. A man-made tunnel connected the cave to the top of Mt. Pečina, also known as the Eye of Karst, where there was an observation point with a searchlight.

UNESCO HERITAGE

With its World War I heritage in the Republic of Slovenia and due to its peace mission the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic is included in the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List.

November with the German capitulation.

aged to defeat the Austro-Hungarian units in the battle on the left of French army and the disposition of Austria-Hungary. It meant the battle, however, was not enough to win the war. The Italian army suffered great losses but, with the help of the British and German soldiers, employing special tactics in the Soča Region, the Austro-Hungarian Empire or "Disaster of Caporetto" for the Italian army, it was the last battle fought on the banks of the Soča River. The battle, however, was not enough to win the war. The Italian army succeeded to penetrate into the Friuli plain and further on to the Piave River. Eileen of them were started by the Italian army, whereas the last took place between the Kingdom of Italy and Austria-Hungary. German soldiers, employing special tactics in the Soča Region, the Austro-Hungarian Empire or "Disaster of Caporetto" for the Italian army, it was the last battle fought on the banks of the Soča River. The battle, however, was not enough to win the war. 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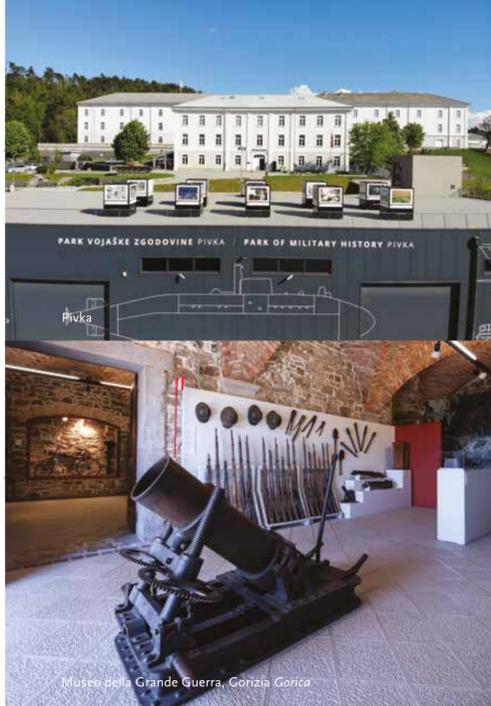
### PARK OF MILITARY HISTORY PIVKA

The Park of Military History Pivka is not only the biggest museum complex in Slovenia but also the only military museum in Europe that offers its visitors an overall insight into military equipment from the oldest bows to the impressive collection of tanks and military planes, a German military locomotive from World War II and a submarine, onto which you can even embark. Moreover, you can try your flying skills on two flying simulators, the supersonic aircraft MiG-21 and the legendary British aircraft, Supermarine Spitfire from World War II. This modern museum hub offers a restaurant, well stocked gift shop and a rest area for motorhomes plus a number of nice walking and trekking paths in the vicinity.



### MUSEUM OF THE GREAT WAR, GORIZIA GORIZA

The Museo della Grande Guerra (Museum of the Great War) in Gorizia/Gorica is located in the cellar of the mediaeval palace on the castle hill (Borgo Castello). It depicts the events in Gorizia and the nearby hills during WWI. You can see many different objects and historic artefacts, for example Austro-Hungarian and Italian military uniforms, a model of the town and surrounding hills Calvario/Karvarija and Sabotin, a room dedicated to general Armando Diaz and a life-size shooting trench in which you can experience the deafening sound of grenades which gives you a glimpse into the lives of the soldiers on the front.



Museo della Grande Guerra, Gorizia Gorica



Redipuglia Redipuglia



### ITALIAN CHARNEL HOUSE, REDIPUGLIA REDIPUGLIA

The biggest and the most magnificent Italian war monument of all time stands on the slope of Monte Sei Busi Hill in Redipuglia and is dedicated to more than 100,000 fallen Italian soldiers that were moved here from the cemetery on the nearby Colle di Sant'Elia Hill. It was designed by the architect Giovanni Greppi and the sculptor Giannino Castiglioni. There remains evidence that in the past battles were fought on the Western slope of Mt. San Michele/Debela griza from where the Italian troops could control the access to the battlefields in the Karst Region. The charnel house is designed in three levels. The tomb that stands out the most is the sepulchre of Duke d'Aosta, the supreme commander of the Italian Third Army. Behind it, granite tombs of his five generals are set. The major part of the charnel house is composed of twenty-two magnificent stairs in whose grave niches the mortal remains of 40,000 identified fallen soldiers are kept in alphabetical order. In two large graves 60,000 unidentified soldiers are buried.



Lido di Venezia



### VOTIVE TEMPLE AND A MILITARY CHARNEL HOUSE, LIDO DI VENEZIA

In 1917 the Venetian Patriarch Cardinal La Fontaine made a promise to build a charnel house for the fallen soldiers. The construction that was supervised by the architect Giuseppe Torres was partly finished in 1930. The mortal remains of soldiers lie in two common tombs in the wall behind the main altar. On the 10th of July 1928 the first soldier who died while defending the City of Venice was buried here. The works on the charnel house continued until 1942 when a statue of St. Mary Mother of God was placed on the top of the central dome. Not long ago a crypt with burial niches in its walls was constructed following the original architectural plans and the entire charnel house was renovated.



### BATTERY PISANI, CAVALLINO TREPORTI

The artillery battery bears the name of a Venetian commander Vettor Pisani that conquered the Genoese Fleet in the naval battle during the War of Chioggia in 1380. It is a special military building in the Italian network of forts. A concrete one-level construction with two towers with flat roofs and two side wings, where telemetric and surveillance devices were located. Not long ago the artillery fort was renovated and is now equipped with modern didactic tools accessible to the public.



Trieste Trst



Pisani, Cavallino Treporti



### MT. CUM HUM

The hill was an important part of the Italian third defence line in WWI. It was transformed into a strong military base with a network of supply routes (mulatjera), shooting trenches and caves. A group of barracks and living quarters were set up in the South-western part. Its altitude and strategic position was well used and a number of artillery positions were arranged from where they could fire on Mt. Mrzli vrh, Mengore Hill and the area of Tolmin, and the opponent's positions on the battlefield near Kanal. During the Twelfth Isonzo Battle, Mt. Cum was one of the last points from where the Italian units defended their position.



Mt. Cum Hum



### OUTDOOR MUSEUM MONTE SAN MICHELE DEBELA GRIZA AND MUSEO DEL SAN MICHELE MUSEUM

During WWI, Mt. San Michele was, together with Mt. Sabotin, one of the key points in the defence of Gorizia/Gorica. The Austro-Hungarian army built an extensive network of caves and shelters here which were equipped with large calibre guns. After several months of warfare, the Italian army managed to conquer the hill in the Sixth Isonzo Battle. Today, it is possible to take a walk around the renovated caves and shelters and have a look at the museum of World War I (Museo del San Michele) which was entirely renovated in 2018 and offers a unique experience with its interactive multimedia content.



Museo del San Michele Museum Debela Griza



### MT. RAGOGNA

The strategically important, 512 metre high Mt. Ragogna, stands on the left bank of the Tagliamento River. The Italian forces started to fortify the hill in 1909. After the breakthrough at Kobarid and with the approaching of the Austro-Hungarian and German army towards Tagliamento, the Italian army managed to stop the advancements over the river bridges from their positions on Mt. Ragogna for some time. Today, a footpath runs along the ridge of the hill. From the starting point in Tabine, the path continues past the Reunia Castle, Ragogna Bassa artillery positions, to the top where there are Ragogna Alta artillery positions and the Forte del Cavallino Fort. Continuing on along the fortified positions you come to the church of St. John the Hermit (San Giovanni Eremita) and the observation and fortified positions Cret dal Louf (which in Friulian means the wolf's stone) and Spice (in Friulian "the top"). A perfect conclusion to the circular road is the visit to the WWI museum, Museo della Grande Guerra di Ragogna in San Giacomo.



Mt. Ragogna



### EXPLORE THE HISTORY OF THE ISONZO FRONT LIKE NEVER BEFORE WITH THE AR AND VR APPS:

- Walk of Peace – Kobarid during WWI in AR\*
- Experience the story of the Russian Chapel in AR\*
- The Walk of Peace: Bohinj during WWI
- San Michele in VR\* in the museum of WWI Museo del San Michele
- MUB – Museo della Bonifica

\* AR Augmented Reality

\* VR Virtual Reality