

Kratko putovanje kroz prošlost / A short Journey through the Past

Pješačko - biciklistička staza

Pred vama je pješačko-biciklistička staza koja spaja mesta Starigrad-Paklenicu i Seline, morsku obalu s planinskim zaleđem, prošlost s današnjicom.

Ako krećete iz središta Starigrada-Paklenice, očekuje Vas lagana vožnja (šetnja) starigradskim ulicama, koju možete upotpuniti obilaskom planinarske poučne staze MIRILA. Na taj način upoznati jedinstveno hrvatsko kulturno dobro - kamena spomen-znamenja smještena uz velebitske puteve koja svjedoče o nekadašnjem načinu življenja i umiranja na velebitskim obroncima.

U zaseoku Marasovići preporučamo posjet malom etnografskom muzeju i dalmatinskoj konobi u novouređenoj etno-kući. Odavde se možete zaputiti u Nacionalni park Paklenicu ili nastaviti stazom koja vodi kroz živopisne stare zaseoke smještene u pitomom planinskom zaledu, s prekrasnim vidicima na Velebitski kanal.

Iz svakog od starih zaseoka na našoj stazi možete se spustiti do obale, te se okrijepiti u nekom od simpatičnih restorana i kafića ili pak osvježiti u kristalno čistom moru. Oduševit će vas raskošna ljepota prirodnih plaža Pisak i Kulina, na čijem krajnjem rtu Večka kula skriva tajnu kralja Pasoglava.... a u neposrednoj blizini nalazi se i starohrvatska crkva sv. Petra (10.st) koja je zasigurno vrijedna vašeg posjeta.

Obogaćeni dojmovima i novim saznanjima o životu i običajima podvelebitskog kraja, vraćate se u Starigrad – Paklenicu, otkud je i započelo ovo kratko putovanje kroz prošlost.

Dužina staze: Starigrad - Reljani 8 km

Težina staze: lagano, osim dionice Matkovača - Mirila (900 m, srednje teško), te prelaska potočnog korita u kanjonu Male Paklenice (200 m, srednje teško);

Podloga: asfalt-makadam-zemlja-kamen;

Visinska razlika: 100 m



Cycle and footpath

You are looking at the walking and cycling path, which connects the villages Starigrad-Paklenica and Seline, the coast with the mountainous region, the past with the present. If you start your tour from the centre of Starigrad-Paklenica, you will first have an easy ride (walk) through the streets of Starigrad that can be enriched with the visit of an informative hiking trail MIRILA. This will give you the opportunity to get acquainted with the unique Croatian cultural resources - stone memorials located along the paths of Velebit, providing evidence of the former way of life and death on the slopes of Velebit.

We recommend you to visit a small ethnographic museum and Dalmatian tavern in the newly renovated ethno-house in a small village called Marasovići. From here you can set off to the National Park of Paklenica or stick to the path going through picturesque old villages located on gentle slopes with wonderful views of the Velebit Channel.

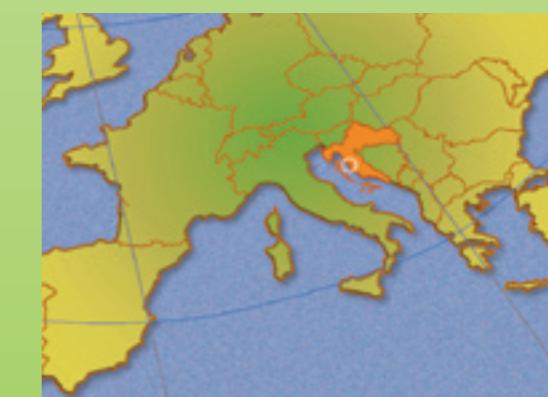
You can reach the cost from each village on our path, and have refreshment in one of many nice restaurants and coffee bars or take a swim in crystal clear sea. You will enjoy immensely the breathtaking beauty of natural beaches of Pisak and Kulina, with its final Cape of Večka Kula, which hides the secret of Pasoglavlja.... And in the closest vicinity there is an old Croatian church - the Church of St. Peter (10th century) absolutely worth visiting.

Full of impressions and new information on life and habits of the region lying at the foot of Velebit, you can go back to Starigrad-Paklenica, where this short journey through the past has started.

nacionalni park **PAKLENICA** national park



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Izdavač: Javna ustanova "Nacionalni park Paklenica"
Za izdavača: Josipa Marasović



KRATKO PUTOVANJE KROZ PROŠLOST

Poučna staza

Primorska padina Velebita na prvi pogled izgleda kao kama pustinja, nepodesna za život ljudi. No, taj izgled varia, jer ovaj je kraj naseljen već najmanje desetak tisuća godina. Pradavni stanovnici ostavili su za sobom mnoštvo tragova koji svjedoče o njihovom prisustvu, povijesti i pretpovijesti. Naše putovanje kroz prošlost podijeljeno je u pet kratkih poglavljiva. Prva tri odnose se na pretpovijest, od vremena lovaca-sakupljača s kraja ledenog doba, preko neoličkih pastira do liburnskih moćnika koji su dočekali osvit povijesti. Posljednja dva pokrivaju povijesna razdoblja rimske vladavine i nemirna stoljeća srednjeg vijeka.



Educational Path

A SHORT JOURNEY THROUGH THE PAST

Brončano i željezno doba (oko 2000-100 godina prije Krista)

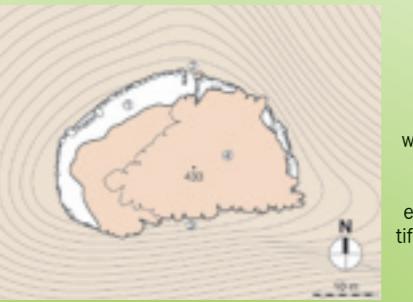
Društveno raslojavanje i monumentalne građevine

Brončano doba donosi život u većim zajednicama, raslojavanje društva i podizanje prvih monumentalnih građevina. Mnogi strateški važni položaji na krševitim glavicama i istaknutim grebenima utvrđuju se i opasuju bedemima. Takve pretpovijesne utvrdre na uzvisinama nazivaju se gradinama.

Gradine su očito imale obrambenu ulogu. Mogle su poslužiti kao zaklon stanovnicima okolnih zaselaka u slučaju opasnosti, a neku su možda bile i trajna naselja u kojima su stolovali lokalni moćnici. Njihovi suhodlidi bedemi, sagradeni od krupnog kamenja, danas su razrušeni i razvuceni. Nalikuju na prstane nasispe koji su još u vječi mjestimice visoki po nekoliko metara. Gradine nad Modrićem, Selinama, Starigradom i Milovcem štite su najveći prostor plodnih polja u ovom dijelu priobalja. Ujedno su nadzirale važne stocarske i trgovачke puteve koji su kroz Paklenicu ili preko Rujna vodili u Velebit i preko njega u Liku.

Najživljiji promet ipak se odvijao morem, naročito za željezno doba kada je sjeverni Jadranom gospodario pomorski narod Liburna. Malena gradina na Velikom Vitreniku, istaknutom vrhu koji se uzdiže nad ulazom u Veliku Paklenicu, vjerojatno je podignuta upravo zbog nadziranja plovidbe. S gradine se otvara pogled na velik dio Velebitskog kanala pa se odatle moglo blagovremeno upozoriti na približavanje neprijateljskih lada ili najaviti povratak vlastitih.

Okomogih gradina nalaze se grobovi brončanodobnih i željeznobodnih moćnika koji su gospodarili ovim krajem. Pokopani su pod velikim, okruglim kamenim gomilama, u grobnim škrinjama od kamenih ploča. Većina gomila davno je raskopana, a grobovi su opljačkani. Nekoliko takvih grobnih gomila nalazi se na sjevernom rubu Starigrada, u predjelu zvanom Matkovača.



Plan of the hillfort on the summit of Veliki Vitrenik: 1 stone wall, 2 entrance, 3 edge of the steep slope, 4 bedrock



Pretpovjesna grobna gomila.
A prehistoric burial cairn.

Bronze Age and Iron Age (c. 2000-100 years B.C.)

Social hierarchies and monumental structures

Communities grew during the Bronze Age, when first monumental structures were erected under the leadership of the emerging elites. Many strategic hilltops and prominent ridges were fortified by enclosing ramparts. Such prehistoric fortifications, usually occupying high ground, are known as hillforts.

Hillforts clearly had a defensive purpose. In dangerous times, they could serve as shelter to inhabitants of the surrounding villages. Some of them may have been permanent settlements, seats of power of the local chiefs. Their ramparts, built without mortar or large undressed stones, today lie in ruins. Resembling large, ring-shaped cairns, their remains can be several meters high. Hillforts overlooking Modrić, Selina, Starigrad and Milovac protected the largest tract of arable land in the area. They also controlled the important shepherds' trails and trade routes that led into Velebit and across the mountain range into Lika.

The sea was the most important avenue of travel and trade, especially during the Iron Age, when Liburnian seafarers controlled the northern Adriatic. The probable purpose of a small hillfort on Veliki Vitrenik was navigation control. Located on a prominent peak above the entrance to Velika Paklenica gorge, this hillfort overlooks a large stretch of Velebit Channel. From it, timely warning could have been issued about approaching enemy ships, or return of friends and relatives announced.

Most of the hillforts are surrounded by burials of Bronze Age and Iron Age chiefs who held power over the area. They were buried under large, circular stone cairns, in rectangular tombs made of stone slabs. Most of the cairns have been dug up in antiquity and the burials plundered. At the northern edge of Starigrad, in the area called Matkovača, there are several prehistoric burial cairns.

3.

Antičko razdoblje (oko 100 godina prije Krista - 600 godina po Kristu)

Uspon i pad rimske vlasti

Tijekom posljednja dva stoljeća prije Krista, istočnu obalu Jadra postepeno osvajaju rimske legije. Osnivanjem rimske provincije Dalmacije na samom početku 1. stoljeća po Kristu uspostavlja se trajna rimska vlast. Na području kojim su do tada gospodari Liburni započinje razdoblje pismenosti, pa time i povijesti. Slijede stoljeća "rimskog mira" koji su sobom donosi novčano gospodarstvo i nastanak prvih gradova.

U to je vrijeme osnovan i Starigrad, rimski Argyruntum. Smjestio se na malenom poluotoku, površine tek oko 3,5 hektara. Zamuljivanjem i zaspivanjem plitkog zaljeva taj je poluotok u novije vrijeme posve srastao s kopnom. Argyruntum se ubrzo razvio u prilično važno trgoviste. U četvrtom desetjeću po Kristu, rimski car Tiberije dao ga je opasati bedemima i kulama. Uz cestu koja je iz grada vodila prema jugozapadu nalazio se gradsko groblje. Iz otrpilike 400 istraženih grobova prikupljeni su bogati i raznoliki arheološki nalazi: nakit od srebra, bronce i jantara, keramičko, stakleno i metalno posude, oružje i alati. Oni svjedoče o relativnom blagostanju stanovnika grada i živim trgovackim vezama s čitavim Sredozemljem.

Sudeći po nalazima iz groblja, život u Argyruntumu zamrlo je početkom 4. stoljeća po Kristu. Razdoblje mira nema poremetiti su provale "barbarskih" naroda koje su na kraju dovele do propasti nekade moćne rimske države. Posljednji pokušaj da se jadranska obala vrati u sastav Carstva prijeplođe je istočnornjemačkim caru Justinijanu. Sredinom 6. stoljeća po Kristu on je da sagradio sustav utvrda za osiguranje plovidbe i zaštitu obalnog stanovništva. Ruševine bedema i kula nad Modrićem istočno od Selina, te kod Svetе Trojice (near Tribanj) bili su deo sistema obrane, koji je tek nakratko odgođen i iseljeno, a velačko podgorje posve

Mezolitik (oko 10000-6000 godina prije Krista)

1.

Mesolitic (c. 10000-6000 years B.C.)

2.

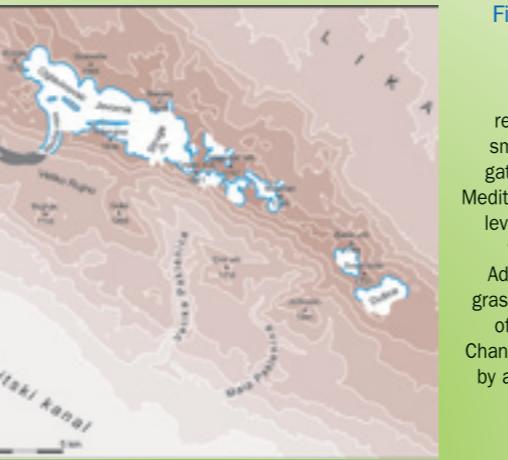
Neolitik i bakreno doba
(oko 6000-2000 godina prije Krista)

Dolazak stočara

Prije otrpilike osam tisuća godina, u Jadran s jugoistoka prišli su najraniji stočari i poljodjelci. Dolaze morem, u malim grupama, donoseći sa sobom pšenicu, udomacene ovce i koze, kao i temeljna znanja o njihovu uzgoju. Lovno-sakupljačko gospodarstvo ubrzano gubi na značaju, a smjenjuje ga stočarstvo i zemljoradnja.

Na Velebitu započinje pastirska život koji će sve do nedavna ostati jedan od najvažnijih gospodarskih djelatnosti. Krševiti krajolik ne pruža puno prikljuka ratarima, ali je relativno pogodan za uzgoj sitne stoke. Pašnjaci su razasuti po planini na različitim visinama, pa pružaju mogućnost sezonskog korištenja. Kad se u kasno proljeće sasusodi travu u podgorju, stada se izdižu na još uvijek zelene dolce i zaravni skriveni medu krševitim glavicomama. Ljetno provode na vršnom dijelu gorja, gdje se nalaze najveći i najboljegatiji pašnjaci, a najesen, kad zahladiti padinu prve kiše, ponovo se spuštaju sve niže prema obalama.

Paleolitički lovci-sakupljači zadržavali su se u blizini svojih izvora hrane, a to su se uglavnom nalazili u dolinama koje su danas pod morem. Zbog toga ne čudi da za sada nismo našli da su na njihove tragove. Tek kada se razina mora stala podizati krajem ledenog doba, ljudi su morali potražiti nove načine opstanja u višim, brdovitim predjelima. I dalje su se bavili lovom i sakupljanjem, no umjesto goveda i konja, nestalih zajedno s jadranskim ravnicom, sada su lovili divokozu i različitu drugu divljač koja je nastanjivala Velebitske vrte. Iz toga vremena potječu i najraniji tragovi prisutstva ljudi na Velebitu, neugledne mezolitičke kremene alatke iz najdubljih slojeva Vaganacke pećine pod Velikim Rujnom.



Najviši dijelovi južnog Velebita bili su za posljednje oledbe okovani ledenjacima. Rujanska kosa između Velikog i Malog Rujna ostatak je čeone morene kojom je završavao najveći velebitski ledenjak. Pod Velebitom se tada umjesto mora prostirala široka dolina.

During the last Ice Age, glaciers covered the highest reaches of Velebit range. Rujanska Kosa between Veliko and Malo Rujno is a remnant of the largest glacier's terminal moraine. At that time, Velebit did not rise from the sea, but overlooked a wide valley.



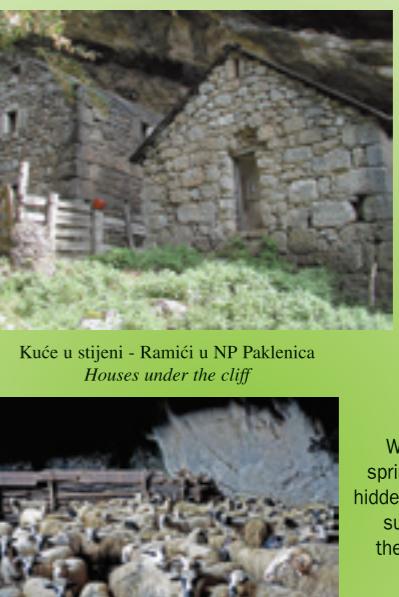
Mesolitičke kremene alatke iz najdubljih slojeva Vaganacke pećine. Mesolithic flint artifacts from the deepest layers of Vaganacka Cave.

First evidence of people in Velebit

During the last Ice Age, this region probably was inhabited by small bands of Paleolithic hunter-gatherers, just like the rest of the Mediterranean. At that time, the sea level was some 120 meters lower than today. The entire northern Adriatic was dry land, a sprawling grassy plain supporting large herds of wild cattle and horses. Velebit Channel was a wide valley traversed by a river, while Velebit range itself was cold and uninhabited, its highest reaches covered by glaciers.

Paleolithic hunter-gatherers kept close to their food sources, mostly located in valleys that were later flooded by the sea. Therefore, it is not surprising that we have not found any trace of them so far.

It was only at the end of the Ice Age, when the sea levels began to rise, that the people had to seek out new ways of subsistence in higher, mountainous ground. They still hunted and gathered wild foods, but instead of cattle and horses, which disappeared together with the Adriatic plain, they hunted mountain goats and other animals inhabiting the rugged mountain terrain. The earliest evidence of human presence in the Velebit range, the unremarkable Mesolithic flint artifacts from the deepest layers of Vaganacka Cave near Veliko Rujno, belong to that period.



Kuće u stijeni - Ramići u NP Paklenica
Houses under the cliff

During the last Ice Age, the sea level was some 120 meters lower than today. The entire northern Adriatic was dry land, a sprawling grassy plain supporting large herds of wild cattle and horses. Velebit Channel was a wide valley traversed by a river, while Velebit range itself was cold and uninhabited, its highest reaches covered by glaciers.

This seasonal movement of herds and shepherds has been going on for thousands of years, since the beginning of the Neolithic. Time and erosion

removed all traces of the modest prehistoric shepherd's huts and sheepfolds, but there are many caves in the karst that also served as shelter for people and their animals. About two dozen such caves are located in the National Park and its immediate neighborhood. Often they are walled off by drystone walls. The largest among them could have accommodated substantial herds of sheep and goats. Archaeological layers that accumulated inside those caves contain informative material remains - numerous bones of domestic animals, as well as discarded tools and accessories of the shepherds. Broken clay pots, variously shaped and decorated, are of particular interest. Pottery styles changed in time and, thanks to that, we can approximately determine the periods during which some of the caves were being used.

The Early Middle Ages were marked by turmoil known as "the Great Migrations". That was the time when Croats arrived to Dalmatia. The earliest preserved evidence of their presence in the neighborhood is the Early Medieval church of St. George in Rovinjska, built in 9th or 10th century A.D.

The medieval church of St. Peter shows that Starigrad was again inhabited. The cemetery around the church was used since 13th century, while the most impressive burial monuments - massive stone slabs, sometimes decorated by simple, shallow reliefs - date from the very end of the Middle Ages (14th to 16th century).

Two forts were probably built at that time: Večka Tower, on a cape just east of Starigrad, and Paklaric, on top of a long-abandoned prehistoric hillfort, overlooking the entrance to Velika Paklenica gorge. Wars with the Turks that followed lasted for two centuries, devastating the coast and the maritime slope of Velebit. In 1527, Turks occupied Starigrad and Paklaric, on top of a long-abandoned prehistoric hillfort, overlooking the entrance to Velika Paklenica gorge.

Lika and the hinterland of Dalmatia, including the near-by Obrovac on the river Krka, were occupied by the Republic of Ragusa. Three decades later they occupied a large part of the northern Adriatic. They reached the bay of Novigrad, severing the link between northern and southern parts of Croatia. Velebit's maritime slope became a "no man's land", the scene of action of frequent clashes and raids. Its inhabitants fled and emigrated, leaving the area deserted.

Desolation lasted for some 150 years.

With the decline of the Turkish might, Venetian authorities began repopulating Starigrad in 1671. By the end of 17th century, almost the entire maritime slope was settled once again. The settlers were Bunjevcii, a Croatian population from the neighboring areas that were still under Turkish occupation. When the Turks finally withdrew in year 1700, the area was reunited with the rest of Dalmatia under Venetian rule.

Some eight thousand years ago, the earliest farmers entered the Adriatic from the southeast. They arrived by boats, in small groups, bringing wheat, domesticated sheep and goats, and the basic knowledge of cultivation and herding. Hunting and gathering soon ceased to be important and was replaced by farming. Since then, and until quite recently, pastoral life has remained one of the most important economic activities in Velebit. The karstic environment offers little cultivable soil, but pastures are scattered across the mountain at different altitudes, allowing seasonal use. When grass near the coast dries out in the late spring, herds move up to the still green meadows hidden among the limestone crags. They spend the summer in the highest part of the mountain, on the largest and most abundant pasture grounds. With the coming of autumn rains, as the weather gets colder, the herds descend once again towards the coast.

This seasonal movement of herds and shepherds has been going on for thousands of years, since the beginning of the Neolithic. Time and erosion

4.

Classical Antiquity (c. 100 years B.C. - 600 years A.D.)

4.

Raise and fall of the Roman rule

During the last two centuries B.C., Roman legions gradually conquered the eastern Adriatic coast. Lasting Roman authority arrived with the creation of the province of Dalmatia at the beginning of the 1st century A.D. With the Romans came literacy, bringing the area previously controlled by Liburnians into the folds of history. Centuries of "Roman peace" followed, characterized by monetary economy and foundation of the earliest towns.

Starigrad, roman Argyruntum, was founded at that time. It was located on a small peninsula, covering an area of only 3,5 hectares. Due to natural and artificial filling, the peninsula is today completely incorporated with the mainland. Argyruntum soon developed into a fairly important market town. The Roman Emperor Tiberius had it fortified by walls and towers in the fourth decade of the 1st century A.D. The town's cemetery stretched along the road that led from the town towards the southeast. About 400 graves were excavated, yielding rich and variable archaeological finds: jewelry made of silver, bronze and amber, pottery, glass and metal vessels, tools and weapons.

They show that the community was relatively affluent and kept lively trade links with many parts of the Mediterranean. Judging by the finds from the cemetery, Argyruntum was abandoned early in the 4th century A.D. Peace was shattered by incursions of the "barbaric peoples" who eventually brought down the once-powerful Roman state. The last attempt to reintegrate the Adriatic coast with the remains of the Empire was made by the Eastern Roman emperor Justinian. In mid-sixth century A.D., Justinian built a system of fortifications in order to secure shipping routes and protect the coastal population. Ruined walls and towers above Modrić (east of Selina) and Sveta Trojica (near Tribanj) were a part of that defense system, which only briefly postponed the final collapse of the Classical civilization in the Adriatic.

Rimsko staklo
Ancient glass



Rimsko staklo
Ancient glass

5.

5.

Middle Ages and Modern Age (after c. 600 A.D.)

5.

Srednji i novi vijek (nakon 600. godine po Kristu)

5.

Hrvati, Turci, Mlečani i Bunjevcii

5.

Rani srednji vijek obilježila su

5.

previrjana poznata pod imenom

5.

"velika seoba naroda". To je