Loška Dolina
and
Babno Polje
If you visit the Loška Dolina in the summer, you will certainly bring photographs of the numerous haystacks (»ostrnice«) scattered across the mowed meadows. Ostrnice are made of the lopped-off tops of pine or fir trees, skilfully covered with semi-dried clover, hay or sheaves of wheat. They are most beautiful in the morning, when their silhouettes rise up from the mist ...

Ostrnice are witnesses of close connection of a man with nature, which is also characterized by products and services that carry the collective trade mark of the region of Loška Dolina Municipality »DEŽELA OSTRNIC« (THE LAND OF OSTRNICE).
Two Karst fields emerge from the embrace of the hilly world boasting majestic forests – the Loško Polje and the smaller Babno Polje. They were created through thousands of years by the persevering waters which carved through the lime and dolomite, cold winter winds from the snow-blanketed Snežnik and not least, by the enduring and diligent hands of the local people, who for centuries adapted themselves to the difficult conditions of nature in these areas. A string of 21 villages is located along the edges, each boasting its own church and tales of the past. Nature’s opulence, drawing visitors during all seasons with its pure and distinctive colours, hides a surplus of awe-inspiring images and phenomena.

Due to the novel characteristics of these areas the visitors like to call them «undiscovered pearls». Researchers of natural and cultural beauty will not leave here stoically. Proverbially, you will always find the namely reserved Inner Karst locals to be extremely hospitable, friendly and sometimes somewhat stubborn hosts.
Snežnik Castle
The origins of the Snežnik Castle reach back to the times of the Aquileian patriarchs who were its first known owners between the 10th and 11th centuries. It was built on a rock ledge alongside the foothills of the Snežnik forests with the intention of protecting important commerce paths which once connected Carniola with Istria and Kvarner.

The owners changed throughout the centuries as did also the castle’s interior and exterior. It acquired its Renaissance appearance in the 16th century. It obtained its current appearance through additions carried out by the last owners, the princely Saxon family in the second half of the 19th century. The princely family Schönburg-Waldenburg purchased the castle and grounds at an auction, completely restoring it during the period 1860-1864. The interior was refurbished and luxuriously furnished with all the comforts as dictated by the times necessary for a provincial hunting manor. At the same time, the agricultural buildings of the castle farm were built and the surroundings landscaped in the English park fashion. Following an extensive three-year restoration, the castle once again shines in all its glory, bearing witness to the rich history and lives of the former inhabitants. In the castle’s interior, one can view the originally furnished daily salons, bedrooms of family members, guest rooms, two dining rooms, a music room, an evening salon, the castle library, servant quarters, castle cellar and Egyptian room which ranks as an ambient novelty. In addition to the furniture, works of art, books, ceramic stoves, lamps, carpets, numerous useful and decorative objects and a beautiful collection of hunting trophies from the period of the last owners are also located in the castle. Cultural events and civil wedding services are also held at the castle in addition to activities of the museum.

Tour Timetable
From 1 April to 30 September
• Every day: 10.00-19.00
  (castle gate is opened every full hour; the last tour starts at 18.00).

From 1 October to 31 March
• Every day (except on Mondays): 10.00-17.00
  (castle gate is opened every full hour; the last tour starts at 16.00)
Closed 1 January, 1 November and 25 December.
Organized groups of 10 or more people require previous booking.
The Agricultural Military Museum in Podgora offers a display of military equipment and weapons from the First and Second World War and agricultural tools used in previous times. Visits are available upon previous appointment.

Stanislav Pucelj
Podgora 26
1386 Stari trg pri Ložu
T: +386 (0)1 70 57 814
E: stanislavpucelj@gmail.com

Narodni muzej Slovenije
Grad Snežnik
Kozarišče 67, 1386 Stari trg pri Ložu
T: +386 (0)1 70 57 543
E: grad.sneznik@nms.si
www.nms.si

Snežnik Castle is a unique museum depicting residential culture of the 19th century and is one of the few castles in Slovenia that can boast of original furnishings. The castle is managed by the National Museum of Slovenia.

The Hunting Collection and Dormouse Museum at the Snežnik Castle were opened to the public in 1980. The collection comprises the trophies of indigenous game of the Snežnik-Javornik massif and Lake Cerknica. The Dormouse Museum boasts an original display of the life and the hunt for dormice and their use for commercial and food purposes long ago and today. At the museum, one can learn about the traditional hunt for dormice, an activity first mentioned in this region back in the 13th century and still carried out today.

Tour Timetable
From 1 May to 30 October
• Sunday, holidays: 10.00-13.00 and 15.00-18.00
Visits are also possible outside the specified periods upon previous appointment. In case of larger groups previous booking is welcome.

Turistično društvo
Loška dolina
Loška Dolina Tourist Society
Kozarišče 70
1386 Stari trg pri Ložu
T: +386 (0)1 70 57 516
M: +386 (0)31 288 470

The Agricultural Military Museum
in Podgora offers a display of military equipment and weapons from the First and Second World War and agricultural tools used in previous times.

Visits are available upon previous appointment.
**Golobina Cave**

Golobina is a Karst sinkhole water cave, which is situated in the north-west side of Loško Polje at the Dane settlement. During the high-water mark the flood waters of Obrh stream flow into this cave, so it is inaccessible during floods. For visitors the cave is in most cases accessible all year round and during prolonged dry weather conditions throughout entire known length. *Tour is possible upon previous booking.*

**Guided Tours**

**Križna Cave** is a world famous water-filled Karst cave. It is distinguished by numerous underground lakes separated by the calcareous sinter barriers, exceptional archaeological site of cave bear bones and natural conservation. The cave conveys water from the southern edge of the Bloke Plateau towards the eastern edge of the Cerknica Field. Bats hibernate in the cave during the winter. With its biological diversity Križna Cave is the fourth largest cave ecosystem in the world.

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**Tour Timetable**

1. **ONE-HOUR GUIDED TOUR**
   - in the dry part of the cave with a ride through the I. lake
   - **Every day upon previous booking**
   - **From 1 April to 30 June**
     - Saturdays, Sundays and holidays at 15.00
   - **From 1 July to 31 August**
     - Every day at 11.00, 13.00, 15.00 and 17.00
   - **From 1 September to 30 September**
     - Every day at 11.00, 13.00 and 15.00
   - This tour is suitable for groups up to 60 people. *Keep long trousers, jacket with long sleeve and an extra pair of warm socks with you. All the visitors are provided with rubber boots and a flashlight for the tour.*

2. **LONGER 4-HOUR GUIDED TOUR**
   - in the water part of the cave and other
   - **ALTERNATIVE TOURS**
     - Only upon previous appointment and booking.
     - The tour is possible for groups of up to 4 people.

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**Društvo ljubiteljev Križne jame**

Association of Križna Cave

Bloška Polica 7
1384 Grahovo, Slovenia
M: +386 (0)41 632 153
E: krizna_jama@yahoo.com
www.krizna-jama.si
The Forest Learning Centre (GUC) offers the programs of professional guidance for groups and individuals following the bear traces. The Centre is located in the immediate vicinity of the mighty forests which provide shelter for many animals, including the largest carnivores such as wolves, lynx and bears. The tour in this area takes place for 3 hours or upon previous agreement. The content of the tours is adjusted to the age of the visitors and their needs and it also includes video projection of the Loška Dolina sights, instructional games and tasks for individual age group of children, a program designed for families and the paths which are also suitable for older visitors. At the appropriate weather conditions the tours are possible in all seasons. 

Previous bookings and appointments are required.

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Thematic route of natural and cultural heritage
Thematic hiking route on Gornje Poljane allows you to discover the unique play of nature and a portion of history of rural mountain hamlet. Many naturally occurring phenomena disappear with time but can be preserved with a special touch of nature. This 2.5 km long thematic route presents just a few attractions. You will be taken on this route by a qualified interpreter of natural heritage. Tour guide upon previous arrangement.

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Institute Rihtarjeva domačija
At Rihtarjeva domačija, Institute, Institute of education, culture, entertainment and recreational activities and tourism they offer a local and touristic guide tour through the Inner Primorsko-Notranjska Region. They are distinguished by knowledge enriched with kindness and ear for different groups. Languages: Slovenian, Croatian, English.

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Zavod Rihtarjeva domačija
Institute Rihtarjeva domačija
Babno Polje 67
1386 Stari trg pri Ložu
M: +386 (0)41 260 985
E: alenka.veber@rihtarjeva-domacija.si
www.rihtarjeva-domacija.si

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Turizem Jure
Dolenje Poljane 3
1386 Stari trg pri Ložu
T: +386 (0)1 70 57 606
M: +386 (0)41 810 596
E: turizem.jure@gmail.com

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Gozdni učni center
Forest Learning Centre
Iga vas 3
1386 Stari trg pri Ložu
M: +386 (0)31 389 855
E: mlakar1maja@gmail.com
Brown bear watching from hide in natural environment and photo hunting

The Mlakar Guest House pays special attention to guests who want to watch and photograph the greatest beast of Slovenian forests, the brown bear. The bear watching takes place from the high hides near the feeding sites in the evening hours. You will be accompanied to the hide and from the hide by a hunter. The watching lasts until the dusk (about 3 hours). At the light of the full moon the watching can last also during the night. For professional photographers the special bear photo hides with good lighting conditions and several openings are available. The hides are placed in carefully selected locations in intact karst forest and allow taking the face-to-face photos. *Previous booking and appointments are required.*

Miha Mlakar,
Mlakar Markovec d. o. o.
Markovec 15a
1386 Stari trg pri Ložu
M: +386 (0)41 582 081
E: mlakar.markovec@gmail.com
www.slovenianbears.com

Brown bear watching in its natural environment

Loška Dolina is a valley situated in the middle of vast forests in southern Slovenia, which has always been famous for their exceptional animal species - including wolves, lynx and brown bear. Accompanied by a guide you can now watch the brown bear (Ursus arctos), an animal that fills with admiration and respect, in its natural environment. The watching takes place mainly in the evening from the high, closed hides. It is possible from the middle of April to the middle of October. *Previous booking and appointments are required.*

TIC Lož / Tourist Information Centre Lož
Lož, Cesta 19. oktobra 49
1386 Stari trg pri Ložu
T: +386 (0)81 602 853
E: tic.loz@kabelnet.net
www.loskadolina.info
Tourism Jure
Tourism Jure in Gornje Poljane, the highest settlement in southern Slovenia provides overnight stays with breakfast, half board or the leasing of premises for festivities for up to 35 persons. They also organize hiking, cycling and horse-back riding trips. During autumn the dormice hunting is organized and you can also view the ethnological museum. The house can comfortably accommodate 15 guests. An area for tents is available to open-air fans. Larger groups and all those desiring to get a taste of old-fashioned farm life can sleep in the spacious hayloft which greets guests with the fresh smell of hay.

Homestead Pri Antonovih
On the homestead ‘Pri Antonovih’ they say: »If you don’t know where to go, come to us!« They offer riding with hay wagon and sleigh, horse riding (also at full moon and morning dawn), demonstration of farm chores depending on the season, working with horses and Ostrnice - traditional way of hay drying.

Bajer Estate
Bajer Estate is a farm with centuries-old tradition as their history is 300 years old. They are known by the mill and Venetian saw-mill which both have an enviable age and are protected as a cultural monument of local heritage. They are a tourist, eco-subsistence farm and their motto is to grow healthy food. They wish to present the wonderful location of the farm near a small lake Bajer also to the visitors. You are welcome on their estate where they will show you the farm and prepare something to eat. You will not be bored, trust it! Previous bookings and appointments are welcome.

Tourist and excursion farms
Cultural heritage and natural wealth

Mansion estate Snežnik – is a cultural monument of national importance which includes the Renaissance castle and the castle park.

Lož – was the smallest Slovenian town which got its town rights in 1477; Lož castle ruins extend on the hill above the town.

Archaeological excavations - show population of these places since prehistoric times.

Karst caves - are one of the most recognizable phenomena of the Karst world.

Church of St. Jedrtn in Nadlesk is a part of rich sacral heritage of Loška Dolina.
Obrh is a karst stream which wells up among numerous walks between underground and surface as the source of Ljubljanica, »the river of seven names«.

**Babno Polje** – the coldest inhabited town in Slovenia (-39.6°C, in 1929).

**The extensive forests of Notranjska region** - have always been famous for its rare wildlife, lynx and wolf and in particular brown bear.

**Monument of Slovenian partisan hospitals Snežnik** on Županov laz.

**Polhanje** refers to hunting of dormouse and has centuries-old tradition in Loška Dolina.
Mlakar Guest House
The Mlakar Guest House has welcomed guests for four decades. It is known for its home-made Slovenian cuisine. In addition to classic dishes, it also offers typical Inner Karst dishes by prior order. The premises can accommodate up to 110 guests. The guest house also offers 5 comfortably furnished rooms with the view to idyllic countryside. During warm days the tents, caravans or camper vans can be set-up on the grounds.

Restaurant and Pizzeria Škriban
In the centre of Stari trg pri Ložu, next to the House of Culture, you can find the Škriban Inn and Pizzeria. In addition to a variegated offer of pizzas, cuisine, lunches and desserts the offer also comprises several house specialties bearing the flavour of the Inner Karst region. Prior reservation is mandatory for larger groups. The inn can accommodate up to 60 people. The summer garden terrace can accommodate an additional 40 people in the summer.

Accommodation Amalija Kandare
In the centre of Stari trg a beautifully-furnished spacious apartment with three double bedrooms and optional additional beds is available. The apartment is completely furnished, with a computer and Internet connection. Various honey products can also be purchased.
Steles Apartment
In the hamlet Siga in the village Iga vas we rent a new, luxuriously furnished apartment with three rooms (2, 2 + 1, 3), a kitchen, a living room with dining area and two bathrooms. There is free internet, Wi-Fi and TV, while breakfast or half board is available for an extra charge. In fine weather you are welcome to use the garden barbecue, table and benches, while nature and recreation lovers can rent bikes. In the vicinity of the Apartment there is also a possibility of riding.

Youth hostel Ars Viva
The Ars Viva Institute is located in the village Podcerkev in Loška Dolina. The Ars Viva Youth hostel offers 3 double bedrooms with bathroom, 4 double bedrooms with shared bathroom, 1 triple bedroom with shared bathroom and two Dormi rooms with 6 beds. In total, there are 29 beds in the hostel. There is also a spacious four room apartment (2 / 2, 1 / 2 + 2, 6) available. In total, there are 14 beds in the apartment. On the idyllic location along the Veliki Obrh brook you can rent a place to celebrate special events for up to 200 people. The location is also suitable for placing a tent, camper or a caravan. In addition to accommodation they offer a variety of activities in the nature (driving a hay wagon, horse riding) as well as on their own homestead (creative, motivational and training workshops).

Accommodation Ars Palada
In the centre of village Markovec three lovely furnished apartments (2+1) are available. Communication is possible in several foreign languages. Free Wi-Fi internet connection and bicycle rental available.
Society of Countryside Women and Girls OSTRNICE
The home-made culinary delicacies of the Society of Countryside Women and Girls will entice even the most demanding guests. They prepare feasts of baked goods for special occasions such as weddings, cultural, touristic, sports and charity events. They also organize courses for culinary, gardening, florists, handicrafts and other interesting themes.

Fish Farming Obrh is located in the village Vrhnika along the Great Obrh brook and is intended solely for breeding of salmonids. Farmed fish species are grayling, salmon, trout and brook trout. These are native species primarily intended for repopulation of water and are rarely used for food purposes. Brook trout, which came from Canada more than hundred years ago, is considered as one of the most delicious fish in the market.

Apicultural Society Loška dolina are a completely natural food, a direct gift from nature. Bee articles such as honey, honey brandy, pollen, propolis and wax are available from the members of the Loška Dolina Apicultural Society.

Društvo žena in deklet na podeželju OSTRNICE Loška dolina
Society of Countryside Women and Girls OSTRNICE
Rožnik 4
1386 Stari trg pri Ložu
Contact person: Janez Žnidaršič
M: +386 (0)40 737 952
E: janez.znidarsic@tusmobil.club

Čebelarsko društvo Loška dolina/Apicultural Society Loška Dolina
Rožnik 4
1386 Stari trg pri Ložu
Contact person: Janez Žnidaršič
M: +386 (0)40 737 952
E: janez.znidarsic@tusmobil.club

Fish Farming Obrh
Vrhnika pri Ložu 6
1386 Stari trg pri Ložu
M: +386 (0)40 352 791
E: kristof.istinic@zzrs.si

Opened for fish sale:
- From Monday to Saturday 8.00-9.30 and 10.00-12.00, Sundays 8.00-9.00
Adolf Košmrlj Unique Wood Turning,
Turned wood products

Unikatno lesostrugarstvo
Adolf Košmrlj s. p.
Vrhnika pri Ložu 44
1386 Stari trg pri Ložu
T: +386 (0)1 70 58 235
F: +386 (0)1 70 58 235
M: +386 (0)41 979 023
E: naturan@siol.net

Timajana, Unique jewelry

Tina Sterle
Ulica Bračičeve brigade 22
1386 Stari trg pri Ložu
M: +386 (0)41 217 865
E: timajana@gmail.com

T.R.F, Decorative products

Rajka Truden s. p.
Nadlesk 14
1386 Stari trg pri Ložu
M: +386 (0)31 894 118
E: rajka.truden@gmail.com

Sandi Ravšelj Handicrafts, Wood products

Sandi Ravšelj
Markovec 38
1386 Stari trg pri Ložu
T: +386 (0)1 70 57 843
M: +386 (0)41 337 637
E: sandi.ravselj@gmail.com

Bojan Štefančič Handicrafts, Wood products

Bojan Štefančič
Pudob 38a
1386 Stari trg pri Ložu
T: +386 (0)1 70 57 644
M: +386 (0)41 337 582
E: stefancic.b@gmail.com
• Winter Climb to Gornje Poljane
  last Sunday in January

• Easter Fair
  a week before Easter

• Race to Križna gora
  April

• In the Land of Ostrnice
  a set of summer events

• Ex-tempore The Land of Ostrnice
  June

• International Archery Tournament AH 12+12
  June

• Ethnological event Ob košnji (At the Mowing)

• The Floating Castle International Festival
  July

• International Archery Tournament for the 3D Trophy
  August

• SKI skating Lož
  September

• Dormouse Night
  first Saturday in October

• Race along the Trails of Dormice
  first Saturday in October

• Hike - The Loška Dolina Heritage Route
  October

• New Year Fair
  December

• Charity New Year’s Run and Walk
  December
• Hiking
  Snežnik 1796 m
  Križna gora 857 m
  Racna gora 1140 m
  Dolenje Poljane 875 m
  Gornje Poljane 1065 m
  Lož Castle 698 m

  The Loška Dolina Heritage Route
  The Notranjska Mountain Route
  The Great Krpan Route
  The Route of Couriers and Midfielders
  The European Walking Route E6

• Recreation
  Football
  Basketball
  Waterball

• Fishing
  Obhr

• Tennis

• Para gliding and hang gliding
  Racna gora runway

• Archery

• Nordic skiing and biathlon

• Alpine skiing
  Ulaka ski slope

• Cycling

• Horse-back riding

• Caving
Emergency call, Tel.: 112

Police, tel.: 113
Police station Cerknica
Cesta v Dolenjo vas 3, 1380 Cerknica, T: +386 (0)1 70 90 670

Dr. Božidar Lavrič Medical Centre
Branch Stari trg, Cesta Notranjskega odreda 36, 1386 Stari trg pri Ložu T: +386 (0)1 70 50 163
Branch Cerknica, Cesta 4. maja 17, 1380 Cerknica
T: +386 (0)1 70 50 100

Ljubljana Pharmacy, Stari trg Pharmacy
Cesta Notranjskega odreda 36a, 1386 Stari trg pri Ložu
T: +386 (0)1 70 71
Opened: from Monday to Thursday 8.00-17.00, Fridays 8.00-15.30
During summer from Monday to Friday 8.00-15.30, Wednesdays 11.00-18.00

Cerknica Bus Station
Čabranska ulica 8, 1380 Cerknica, T: +386 (0)1 70 96 220

Gas station OMW
Cesta Notranjskega odreda 5, 1386 Stari trg pri Ložu
T: +386 (0)1 70 71 700
Opened: from Monday to Friday 7.00-20.00, Saturdays 7.00-15.00, Sundays 7.00-13.00
During summer on Saturdays until 20.00

AMZS pomoč na cesti
(Automobile Association of Slovenia – roadside assistance), Tel.: 1987

Bank Nova Ljubljanska banka, Branch Stari trg
Cesta Notranjskega odreda 24, 1386 Stari trg pri Ložu,
T: +386 (0)1 70 58 258
Opened: Mondays to Fridays 8.00-12.00 and 14.30-17.00
ATM: Stari trg

Post Office Stari trg
Cesta Notranjskega odreda 28, 1386 Stari trg pri Ložu,
T: +386 (0)1 70 50 060
Opened: from Monday to Friday 8.00-18.00
Saturdays 8.00-12.00

Jože Udovič Library, Branch Marička Žnidaršič Stari trg pri Ložu
Cesta Notranjskega odreda 32, 1386 Stari trg pri Ložu,
T: +386 (0)1 70 57 566
Opened: Mondays 9.00-15.00, Thursdays 12.00-18.00, Fridays 14.00-19.00
Tourist Information Centre Lož
Cesta 19. oktobra 49, 1386 Stari trg pri Ložu
T: +386 (0)81 602 853
E: tic.loz@kabelnet.net
www.loskadolina.info

Opened:
From 1 May to 30 September
• every day 10.00 - 18.00
From 1 October to 30 April
• from Monday to Friday 10.00 - 16.00

Services
• Tourist information.
• Sale of unique souvenirs of Loška Valley.
• Local tourist guide.
• Serving as an agent in organizing tours, trips and excursions in the area of Loška Dolina and Notranjska region.
• Presentation of cultural and natural heritage of Loška Dolina.
• Free access to internet.
• Premises of tourism office are suitable for organizing lectures and workshops.

You are kindly welcome to visit us!
Loška Dolina Municipality

Founded in 1994, in its current form and scope since 1998.
It is a part of – Primorsko-Notranjska statistic Region

Size: 166.8 km²
Altitude: 570 m – 1796 m (Snežnik)
No. of inhabitants: 3,930
Number of settlements: 21

Administrative, educational and cultural centre of the current municipality is Stari trg pri Ložu.
A municipal holiday is October 19.

OBČINA LOŠKA DOLINA
Loška Dolina Municipality
Cesta Notranjskega odreda 2
1386 Stari trg pri Ložu, Slovenia

T: +386 (0)1 70 50 670
Fax: +386 (0)1 70 50 680
E: obcina@loskadolina.si
www.loskadolina.si

JAVNI ZAVOD SNEŽNIK
Public Institute Snežnik
Lož, Cesta 19. oktobra 49
1386 Stari trg pri Ložu, Slovenia
T: +386 (0)81 602 853
Fax: +386 (0)81 602 854
E: zavod.sneznik@gmail.com
www.loskadolina.info