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Kanin Mountain Range



This brochure includes a presentation of the north-western part of the **BOVEC BASIN** in the upper Soča Valley, which includes the Kanin Mountain range, its southern slopes and foothills, and the town of **BOVEC** as the centre of the municipality.

All of the right-hand tributaries of the Soča River spring in this 20-kilometre-long area beneath the karst mountain range of Mt. Kanin, which receives

plentiful precipitation throughout the year and which is deeply covered in snow during the winter. The largest tributaries are the **BOKA** and **GLIJUN STREAMS**.

Our main destination in this area is the picturesque **VIRJE WATERFALL** just beneath the source of the Glijun Stream. You can reach it along the road from Bovec, however, it is even more charming to visit it by hiking along the circular trail (approx. 2 h) routed through the shady forests and along gently sloping terraces of the lowest part of the foothills of Mt. Kanin. All along the trail you can admire the slopes of the Kanin Mountain range and picturesque vertical walls, or the mountain chains to all other directions.

1

Village of Plužna

Besides the town of Bovec, the village of Plužna, with interesting Bovec-style houses constructed around the central square, is the only large densely populated settlement located at the foothills of the Kanin Mountain range. From Bovec, you can reach it along the road past the hamlet of Zavrzelnò whose homesteads above the road look like nests built along the sunny foothills of Mt. Kanin. Plužna has stood on these sunny terraces since medieval times, however, the population has been decimated over the last decades by the decline in farming and raising of sheep and goats, and earlier by emigration abroad due to the economic crisis between the two World Wars. The future of the village probably depends mainly on tourism.



1

3

Glijun Stream

The karst source of the Glijun Stream springs to the surface at an altitude of 450 m (average temperature 6°C) in a small gable end of the valley in the vicinity of the foothills of the steep walls called Peči. In order to reach this source, you have to pass the Virje Waterfall, descend to the bridge across the Glijun Stream, and continue along the cover of the concrete canal past the Srnica adventure park. In the end, you have a chance to enjoy in the views of the intact natural environment of the source area and of the moss-covered rocks. The Glijun Stream never goes dry because of the vast karst hinterland of Mt. Kanin.



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Plužna Lake

When visiting the area surrounding the Virje Waterfall, you can't miss the Plužna Lake into which the majority of the Glijun Stream flows along a 170-metre-long canal. The Plužna Lake is an artificial lake constructed for the needs of the small hydroelectric power plant Plužna, which was built when this area belonged to the Kingdom of Italy (1927–1931) and which was intended to supply the power for the construction site of the planned, but never constructed, railway along the Soča Valley. The hydroelectric power plant Plužna, which you can reach along a 1-kilometre-long sightseeing water canal, is equipped with Francis turbines.



2

2

Virje Waterfall

Apart from the nearby karst spring of the Glijun Stream, which is the source of water for this waterfall, the Virje Waterfall represents the central attraction of this area. Just before it reaches the waterfall, the stream flows along a short and shallow rocky gorge from which it falls into a pool over a wide rocky slope, forming a fan-shaped waterfall. It is well worth to visit this 15-metre-high waterfall in all seasons, either when the water level is high and you can feel all the power of the falling water, or when the water level is the lowest and the gentle narrow jets and curtains sparkle in the sun. A gently ascending trail will take you to an emerald pool beneath the waterfall where you can find pleasant refreshment during hot summer days.



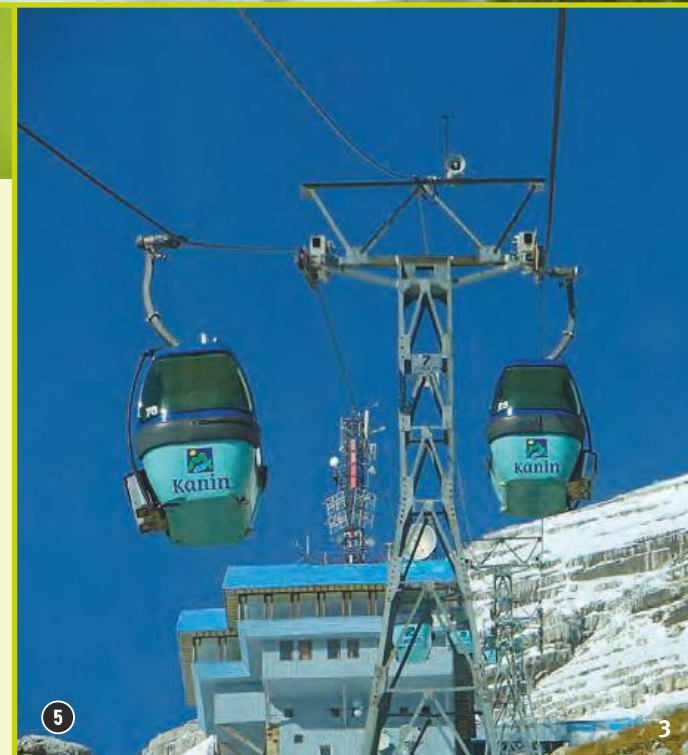
At the sightseeing point above the Virje Waterfall, you can let your imagination roam freely into the distant geological past. Here, you will stand in front of a landscape, which was gradually created over

the last few hundreds of millennia. External forces, such as water and ice, have carved a deep gorge of the Glijun Stream below, whilst the gable end of the valley continues even above the source of the Glijun Stream. During the cold ice age periods, a glacier descended from the Kaninski podi Plateau and carved its way into this area. During the interglacial periods, such as the period we are currently living in, there are huge amounts of underground water gushing from the karst depths beneath Mt. Kanin.

5

Kanin Cableway

The Kanin circular cableway covering a distance of approximately 6 kilometres and an altitude difference of 1766 metres was built in 1974. The machinery for the cableway was constructed by a French company POMA from Grenoble. The cableway was used to open ski slopes called Prestreljeniški podi, Skripi and Krnica and includes four stations: Station A (Dvor: 436 m), Station B (Čela: 979 m), Station C (Skripi: 1640 m) and Station D (Prestreljeniški podi: 2202 m). In 2005, a new chairlift was installed across the Prestreljeniško sedlo Mountain pass in order to establish a connection between Prestreljeniški podi and Prevala (2067) and further with the Italian cableway system and ski slopes above Sella Nevea.



5

Bovec Sheep

The Bovec sheep is an authentic sheep breed of the upper Soča Valley with a long history. There used to be many of sheep mountain pastures from Mt. Kanin to the Trenta Valley where sheep and goats traditionally grazed, however, only a few are still in use today. Nowadays, sheep mostly graze at the bottom of the valley and provide milk for the valued Bovec sheep cheese with the Protected Designation of Origin label. The culinary speciality *Čompe in skuta* (potatoes and curd cheese) also owes its origins to this Bovec cheese-making tradition.



4



6

Boka Waterfall

The 106-metre-high Boka Waterfall is one of the greatest sights of the Bovec Basin and the mightiest waterfall in Slovenia. The water for the waterfall comes from an inaccessible water-filled cave located just before the waterfall at an altitude of 730 m. The water gushes from the karst underground whose branched cave tunnels reach the highest parts of the Kanin Mountain range. There are two proofs for that: the first proof is that the temperature of this water is lower than the temperature of water in the Glijun Stream; the second proof is that the waterfall dries out during the winter because all of the high-altitude karst headwaters are covered with snow and ice at that time. At the right-hand side of the ravine (facing upstream), there is an entrance into the famous Mala Boka Cave.



7

Soča River Boat Ride

Soča River is not just one of the nicest Slovenian rivers, but is also globally renowned for its unusual emerald colour, diverse river flow, the shape of the riverbed and banks, and the Soča trout. Slovenian poet Simon Gregorčič dedicated one of his most excellent poems to this river. The mystery of its natural beauty lies in the rocky riverbed (limestone and dolomite) along which it runs, whilst the mystery of its attractiveness for waters sports lies in the heavy rainfall in the Soča valley.



7



Bovec

8

Chronicles of Narnia

During the summer of 2007, the key scenes of the fierce battle for the movie **CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN** were filmed on the Soča River, not far from its confluence with the Glijun Stream. Shooting of the magnificent scene with the river deity and the final confrontation with the Telmarine Army required a construction of a magnificent timber bridge across the Soča River. In one of the scenes, the bridge is collapsed into thousand pieces when the river deity releases its wild waters. The load capacity of this bridge, which was constructed out of 300 m³ of timber by SG Primorje, had to be able to withstand the weight of the army of more than 300 fully armed men, 30 horseman and a few dozens of film crew members.



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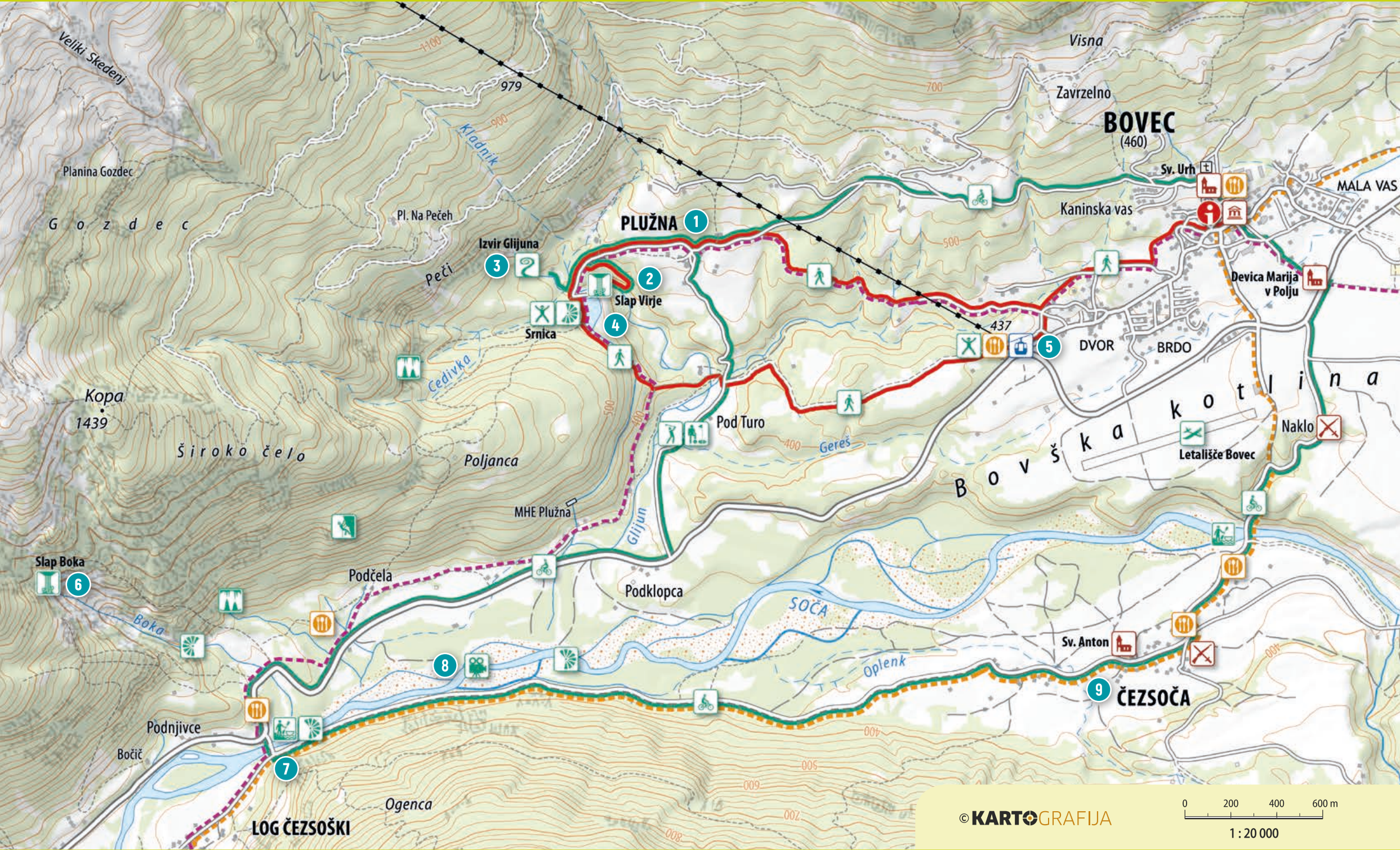
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Village of Čezsoča

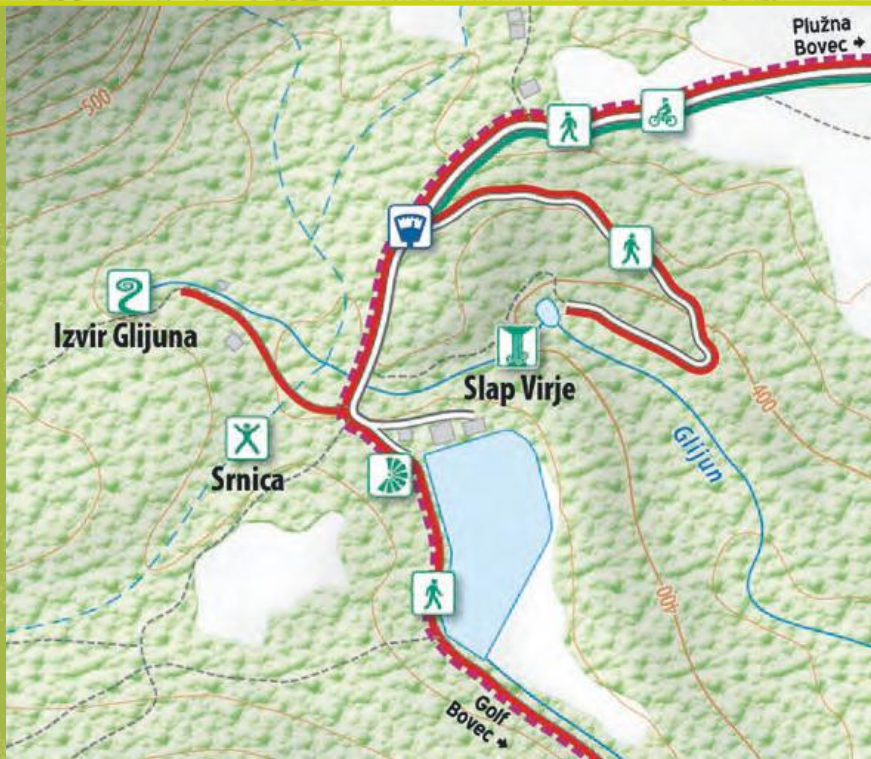
The village of Čezsoča is unique amongst the settlements of the Bovec area because it is located on a gravel terrace just above the left bank of the Soča River. There are three separate parts of Čezsoča, Gorenja, Srednja and Dolenja vas, which are tightly connected with each other. During the winter, the sun never shines on this village because of the high slopes of Mt. Polovnik towering to the south. It is surrounded by vast flat gravel terraces providing enough soil for the locals to survive. The village went through difficult times during World War I and World War II: firstly because of the vicinity of the front, and secondly because of German bombing raids.



9



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0 200 400 600 m
1:20 000

Trail lenght: 9,5 km • Duration: 2 hours

— VIRJE HIKING TRAIL

— BIKING TRAIL

— ALPE ADRIA TRAIL

— JULIANA TRAIL

EASY CYCLING TRAIL

EASY HIKING TRAIL

WATERFALL

SIGHTSEEING POINT

ADVENTURE PARK

SOURCE

SPORTS AIRPORT

ENTRY/EXIT POINT

GOLF

FOOTGOLF

MOVIE SHOOTING SITE

CLIMBING AREA

CAVE

RESTAURANT

CHURCH

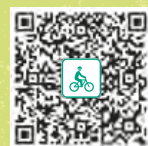
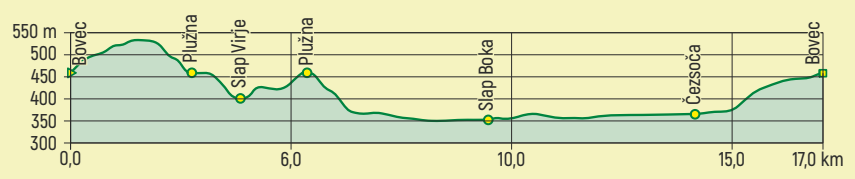
MUSEUM

INFO ON WORLD WAR I

CIRCULAR CABLEWAY

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

Biking trail



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