

Triglav National Park and the Tolmin Gorges

TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK, named after Triglav, the highest mountain in Slovenia, is the only Slovenian national park. It is situated in the area of **JULIAN ALPS** in the northwest of Slovenia. Its primary purpose is the **PROTECTION OF NATURE**, keeping it as pristine as possible, while at the same time enabling its visitors to enjoy its beauty. Its dynamic terrain presents many opportunities for various outdoor activities, while learning about nature, cultural landscapes and the people in the park is an amazing experience for all.

The **TOLMIN GORGES** are situated at the lowest and the southernmost entry point into Triglav National Park and are the most important natural attraction found in the Tolmin municipality. The tourist trails in the area of the gorges were created half a century ago by the Tolmin Tourist Association, while today the upkeep of the trails is the responsibility of the Turizem Dolina Soče in close cooperation with Triglav National Park.



Thermal Spring

There is a thermal spring in the short horizontal **CAVE UNDER THE DEVIL'S BRIDGE**, with an average temperature of between **18.8** and **20.8 °C** (the temperature of the Tolminka River is 5 to 9 °C). The surface water penetrates underground where it is heated by the geothermal energy and then it resurfaces through the crevasses and cracks. There are quite a few such springs in Slovenia, but they are quite rare in the Julian Alps.

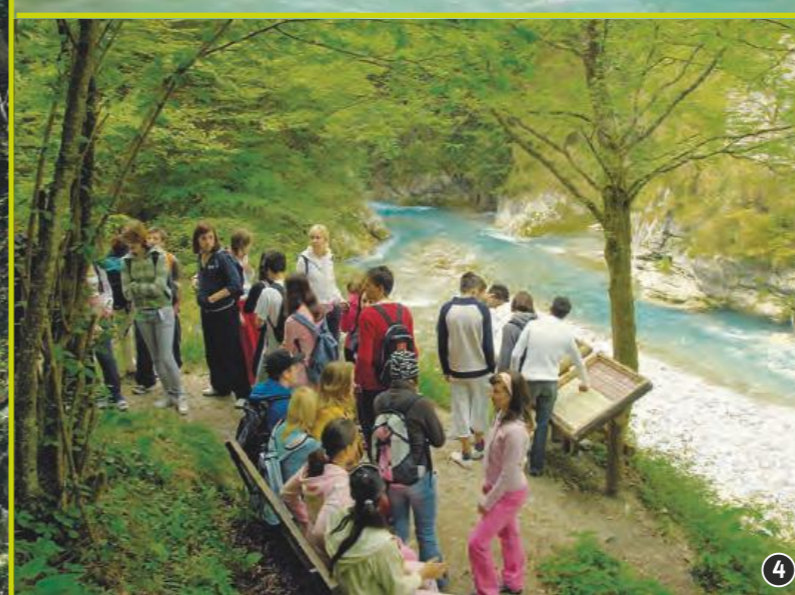
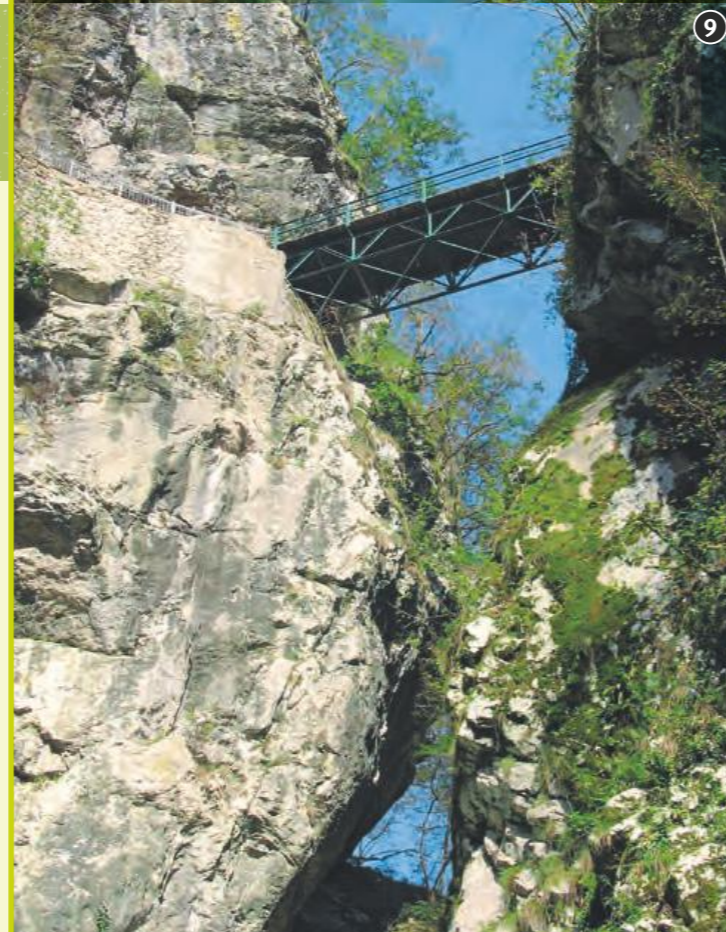
Because of the rock fall under the bridge, which created a barrier and raised the riverbed of the Tolminka River, the cave can no longer be entered. The thermal spring which flows into the gorge can be seen when the water level of the Tolminka is low enough.



Hudičev most (The Devil's Bridge)

Devil's Bridge and the road leading to the village of Zadláz-Čadrag were commissioned in 1907 by the Tolmin mayor's office. The road was built by locals, together with workers from the Bohinj Railway at the beginning of the twentieth century. Before that only a narrow path led to the village crossing the bridge in the lower level of the riverbeds. The bridge was originally made of wood, and was later, under the Italian government, replaced with iron. At that time the bridge was given its name that is still used today. Devil's Bridge is a common name for bridges in Slovenia that cross narrow, deep gorges.

Only a horse trail led to the village of Čadrag. In 1966, the villagers widened the path for carts and cars. The first car (an old Fiat) arrived in the village on 15 Nov. 1966.



The Confluence of the Tolminka and the Zadlaščica

As the Tolminka carved its path into the limestone, it created a **WILD GORGE** with typical joints that appear as smooth vertical plates. We can find similar ones in the Julian Alps at just one other location, namely the Mlinarica gorge in the Trenta Valley. Going further towards the East, the Zadlaščica carved its gorge with deep erosion. The two rivers then widen and merge into, what is in fact the **ONLY CONFLUENCE OF GORGES** in Slovenia.

This confluence ("Sotočje") lies at approximately 180 m above sea-level and is the **LOWEST POINT OF THE TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK**.

The Marble Trout in the Zadlaščica

The Zadlaščica is a sanctuary for **MARBLE TROUT**. The existence of marble trout was seriously threatened by the introduction of the brown trout. The natural barriers formed by the pools of the cascades prevented the brown trout from inhabiting the water in a natural way, while difficult access prevented stocking, hence the marble trout was able to survive in its original genotype here. This fish inhabits the Zadlaščica all the way to the Skalnik farm and its affluent Jelovšček.

The marble trout is famous for its large marble pattern, absence of red spots in full-grown fish and a specific archaic genotype.



Entry Point

Visitors can purchase **TICKETS**, get **INFORMATION** and write comments, both favorable and critical, in the book of complaints and suggestions at the entrance.

Rules of conduct in the Triglav National Park:

- When in the Triglav National Park please respect the habits and way of life of people living in it.
- Admire the plants, but do not pick them.
- Keep quiet and don't disturb the animals.
- Take any rubbish with you before you leave.
- Keep dogs on a leash.
- Trails in the park are intended for walking – cycling is not allowed.
- Follow the trails, as marked by the poles.
- Park your car in the car park.

More on the website: www.tnp.si

6 Flora and Vegetation in the Tolmin Gorges

The depths of Tolminka and Zadlaščica gorges are covered with Alpine and Sub Mediterranean vegetation and growth, comfortable with warmth and cold, dryness and humidity. The gorges are home to **THREE SLOVENE ENDEMIC**, *Aconitum angustifolium* (narrow-leaved monkshood),



Cerastium subtriflorum



Tephrosia pseudocrispa

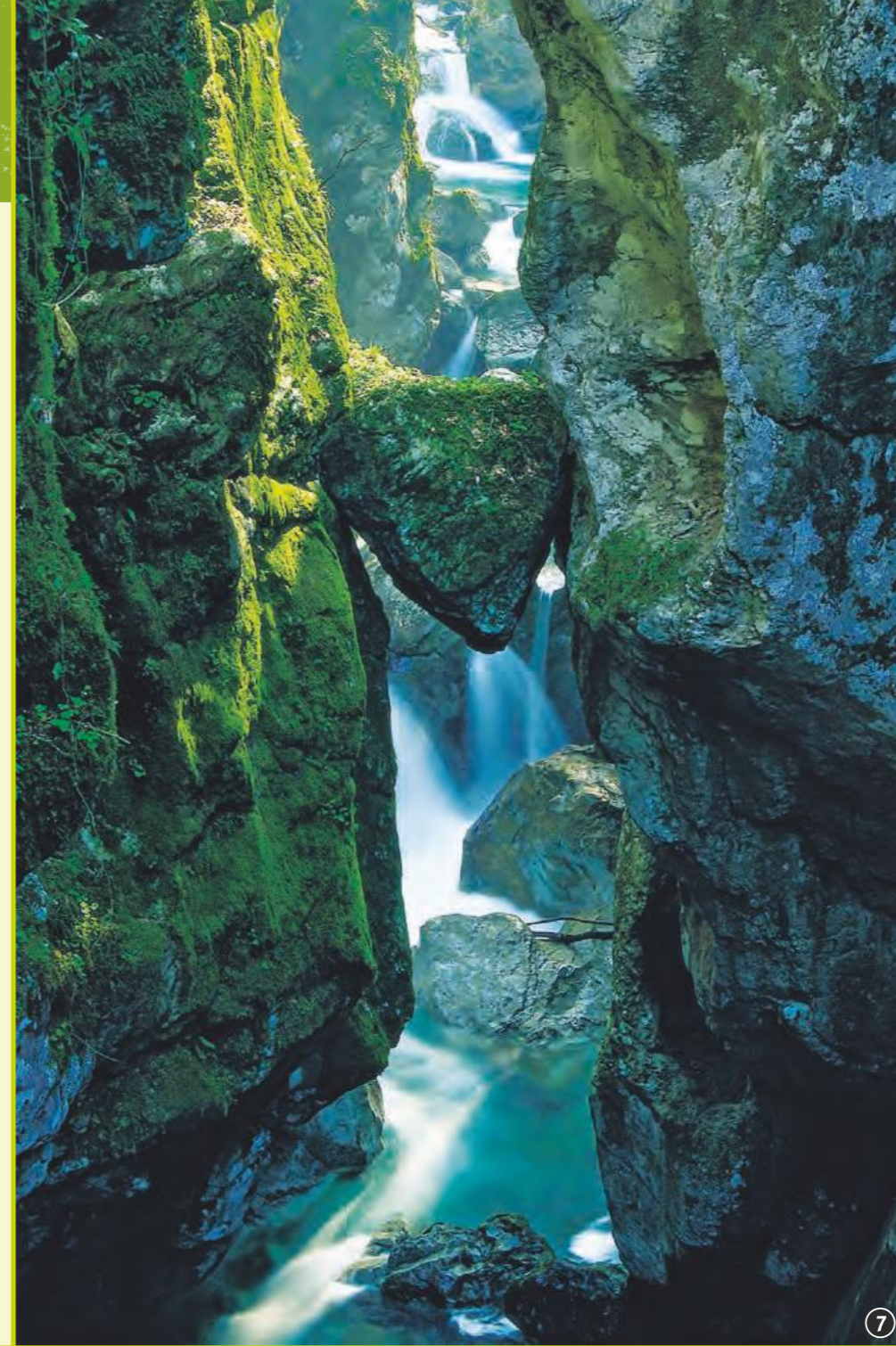


Geranium nodosum

Cerastium subtriflorum and *Athamanta turbit*. Also *Tephrosia pseudocrispa*, endemic of the Carnian and Julian Alps and their foothills, is quite common and typical here.

Humid rocks are covered with *Saxifraga petraeae* and *Tilietum platyphylli*. Precipice edges are overgrown with black pine and small ash tree shrubbery (*Fraxino ornis-Ostryetum carpiniifoliae*). Yew (*Taxus baccata*) grows in both communities, one of the protected types of Slovene flora.

Vast moss-grown rocks that rise above the river beds are a distinctive feature. *Thamnobryum alopecurum* and *Plagiomnium undulatum* are very common species.



7 Medvedova glava (The Bear's Head) and Skakalce

MEDVEDOVA GLAVA is the name of a natural bridge – a large rock which got stuck, who knows when, between the walls of the **ZADLAŠČICA CANYON**. Because of excessive moisture and warmer Mediterranean climate throughout the year, the gorge boasts rich vegetation. The rock covered with moss aroused the imagination of human beings long, long ago – indeed, it looks like a hairy bear's head. Since the water of the Zadlaščica literally jumps from one pool to another, it creates picturesque cascades flowing through the gorge which is why the locals started calling it **SKAKALCE** or in English "the Jumps".

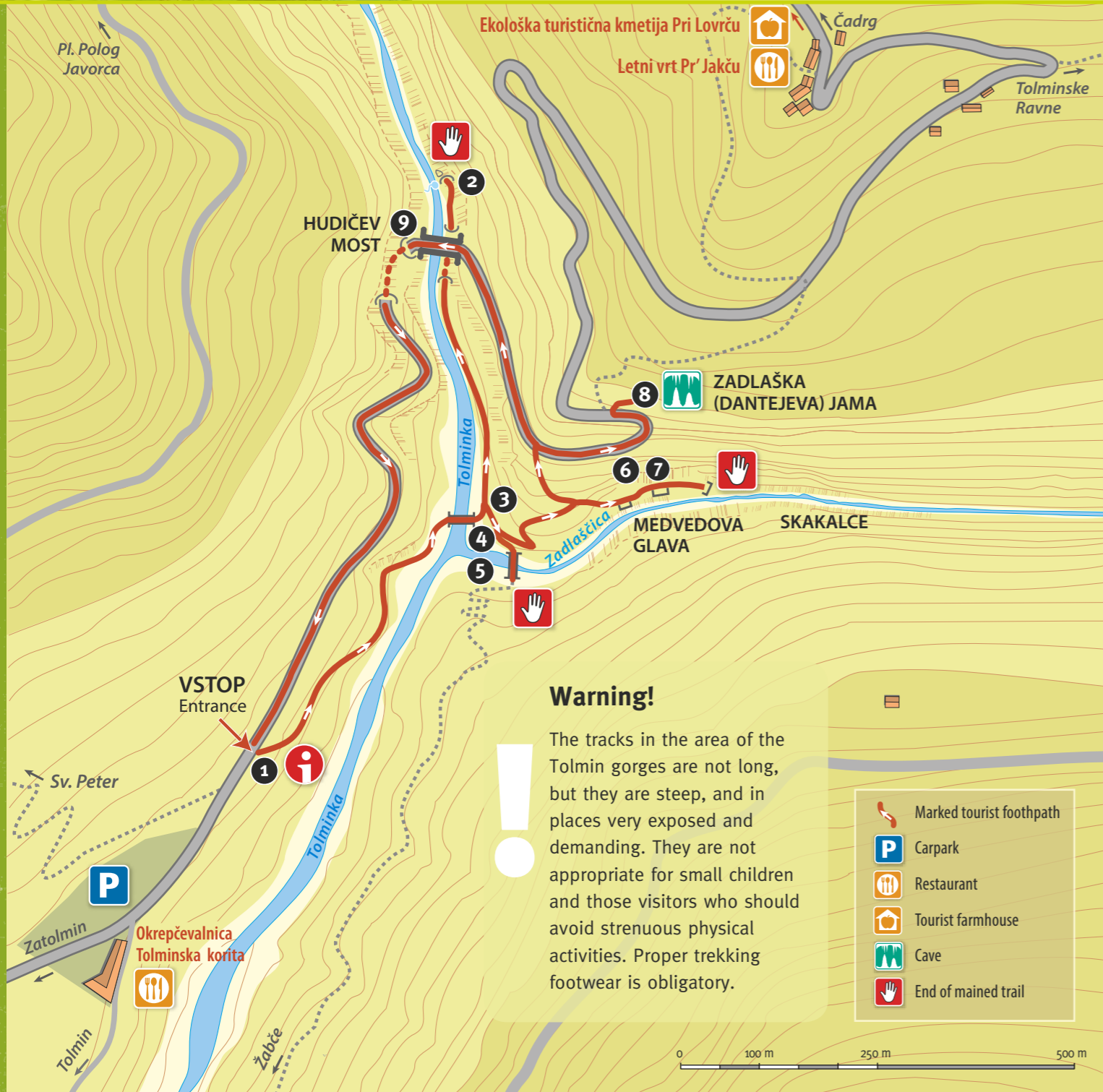
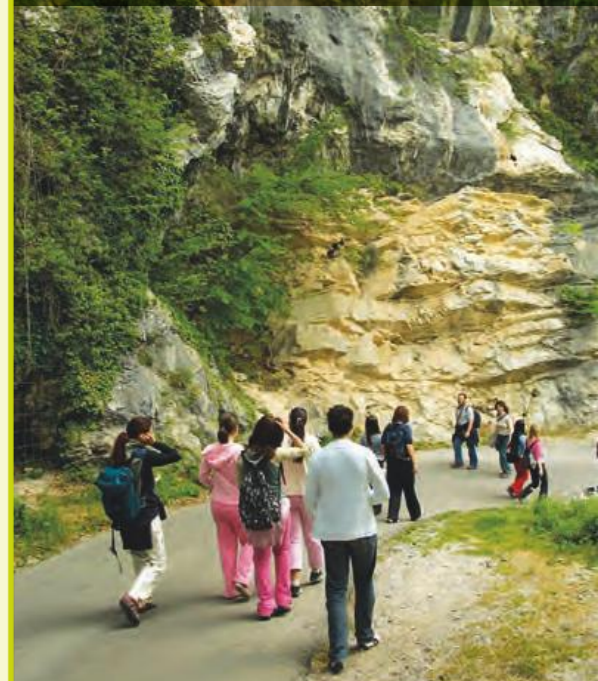


8 The Cave of Zadlaška jama (Dante's Cave)

The cave of Zadlaška jama, named after the village Zadlaz, is one of several caves through which the waters of the Soča glacier flowed. This cave complex is 1.140 m long, 41 m deep and boasts three halls. It is said that at the beginning of the 14th century, the patriarch Pagano della Torre hosted the poet Dante Alighieri in Tolmin. At that time, he is said to have visited the cave, which inspired him to create the Hell of the Divine Comedy. The cave was later named after the poet. In 1922 it was explored and mapped for the first time by the members of the Krpelj Tourist Association and it was later made suitable for visitors – stairs have been carved in and passages deepened. It was fully explored and mapped by the Speleology section of the Tolmin Mountaineering Society in 1977.

There are two types of cave bugs living there – namely, *Anophtalmus ravanii sontiacus*; Muller 1935 and *Anophtalmus Tolminensis*; Muller 1922, Pretnar 1970, as well as the bat, known as the *Rhindolophus hipposideros*.

Zadlaška jama is among the most difficult tourist caves, which is why it is only possible to visit it in the company of a competent guide and with appropriate equipment.



OKREPČEVALNICA TOLMINSKA KORITA

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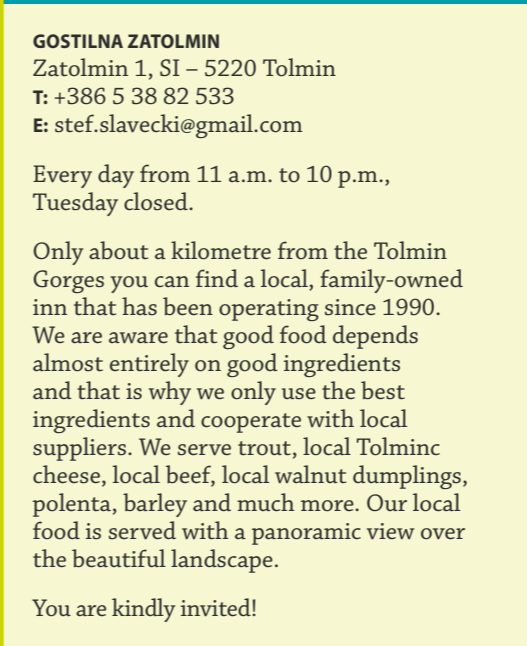


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Surrounded by nature, just before entering the Tolmin gorges, restaurant 'Okrepčevalnica Tolminska korita' invites you to enjoy one of the traditional dishes from the region, like grilled trout, frika, a speciality made with potatoes and cheese, ajdovi žganci (buckwheat spoonbread) or locally caught game, and, if you have a sweet tooth, you should try homemade štruklji (rolled and cooked dumplings with cheese curd or walnut filling). The restaurant can cater for up to a hundred people inside and along with the terrace can host up to 150 guests. In addition to culinary delights and specialities, we also offer guest rooms and van transportation.

GOSTILNA ZATOLMIN

GPS: N 46.1938, E 13.7277



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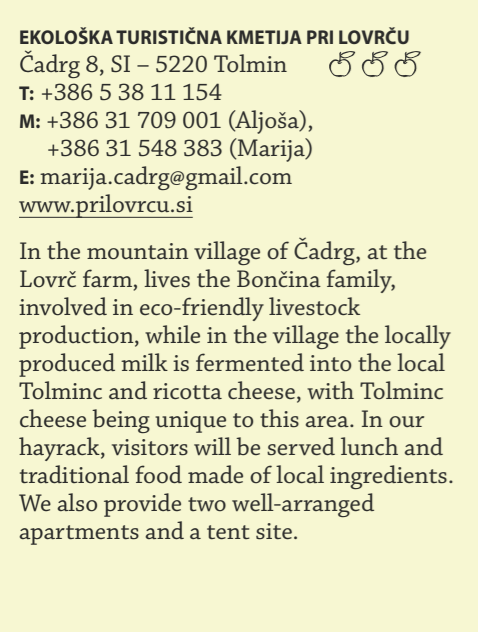
Every day from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Tuesday closed.

Only about a kilometre from the Tolmin Gorges you can find a local, family-owned inn that has been operating since 1990. We are aware that good food depends almost entirely on good ingredients and that is why we only use the best ingredients and cooperate with local suppliers. We serve trout, local Tolminc cheese, local beef, local walnut dumplings, polenta, barley and much more. Our local food is served with a panoramic view over the beautiful landscape.

You are kindly invited!

EKOLOŠKA TURISTIČNA KMETIJA

PRI LOVRČU GPS: N 46.2221 E 13.7342



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In the mountain village of Čadrg, at the Lovrč farm, lives the Bončina family, involved in eco-friendly livestock production, while in the village the locally produced milk is fermented into the local Tolminc and ricotta cheese, with Tolminc cheese being unique to this area. In our hayrack, visitors will be served lunch and traditional food made of local ingredients. We also provide two well-arranged apartments and a tent site.

LETNI VRT PR' JAKČU

GPS: N 46.2027 E 13.7451



LETNI VRT PR' JAKČU
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Only 2 kilometres further on from the Devil's bridge, in a peaceful atmosphere, you can be served homemade specialities like cold cuts, potatoes and cheese curd, frika, a speciality made with potatoes and cheese and served with polenta, and strudel.

All are welcome!

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