

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, Nova Gorica and Gorizia, the Karst 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 also 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, Cerkno, Idrija, Logatec, Ragogna, Val Canale, Val Resia, Carnia, Veneto.

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.

THE WALK OF PEACE FOR EVERYONE

You can start your journey along the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic at any point. Although, we recommend starting your exploration at one of the Walk of Peace Visitor Centres. They offer interactive content, information, promotional material, history and tourist literature, and experienced local guides are available to ensure you have a perfect start to your journey in the amazing and diverse landscape, which was marked by World War I over a century ago.

- FOR HIKERS
- FOR FAMILIES
- FOR CYCLISTS
- FOR HISTORY ENTHUSIASTS AND SOLDIER'S RELATIVES
- ORGANISED VISITS FOR GROUPS

EXPERIENCE THE WALK OF PEACE WITH A LOCAL GUIDE

Guided tours of the most interesting World War I sites are organised throughout the Walk of Peace. Outdoor museums, war memorials, monuments etc. can be visited with local guides, specialists who can tell you not only the history of these places but also interesting stories and anecdotes. Guided tours are either carried out on pre-determined dates or can be personalised upon request, specially tailored to suit your wishes!

For more information, please visit the web page [www.thewalkofpeace.com](http://www.thewalkofpeace.com) (Experiences)

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
- Sabotin – The Park of Peace
- The Monument of Peace Cerje
- IAT Fogliano Redipuglia
- IAT Valli del Natisone, San Pietro al Natisone/Spietar
- Trieste Infopoint
- MUB Museo della Bonifica, San Donà di Piave
- IAT Cavallino Treponti

OUTDOOR MUSEUM KOLOVRAT

Each of the outdoor museums with the remains of the Isonzo Front testifies of the important role of nature during the war. The Kolovrat Ridge is one of the most frequently visited points of World War I. It offers unique views of the Julian Alps and emerald green Soča River on one side, and Natisone Valleys, 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, gun 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



Kolovrat

KOBARID MUSEUM

You are invited to learn about why the Twelfth Isonzo Battle was so important, 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 is open all day throughout the year.



Log pod Mangartom



German Charnel House, Tolmin

GERMAN CHARNEL HOUSE, TOLMIN

In the years 1936–1938 the German state built a charnel house on the location of the former military cemetery with 931 graves. The building received the mortal remains of about 1,000 German soldiers who were killed on the battlefields along the Soča in the Twelfth Isonzo Battle. The charnel house is enclosed within a stone wall; however, the chapel is divided into two parts. In the first part, the names of the fallen soldiers are inscribed on oak slabs, and in the other, in a gilded mosaic. In the centre of the room, there is a tomb for the Unknown Soldier and below the relics of the fallen.



Gorjansko



Pečinka Cave

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, food stores, weapons and ammunition stores. One of the most famous Karst caves 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 where there was an observation point with a searchlight.

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. 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 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.

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 the church of the Holy Spirit in merely eight months, with their own donations, following the plans of the architect Remigius Geyling and under the supervision of the first lieutenant Geza Jablonski. The names of more than 2,500 fallen comrades were burnt 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 Church bears the European Heritage Label.



Javorca

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.

OUTDOOR MUSEUM SABOTIN – THE PARK OF PEACE

Mt. Sabotin was drilled from all sides and criss-crossed by galleries, trenches and caves. Due to its strategic position over the Soča River it was an important Austro-Hungarian point, but during the Sixth Isonzo Battle in August 1916 it was conquered, together with Gorizia, 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. At the info point on Mt. Sabotin visitors can learn more about the cultural, historical and natural interests of the area.



Sabotin



ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CONNECTING THE HERITAGE OF THE GREAT WAR BETWEEN ITALY AND SLOVENIA

[www.ita-slo.eu/en/walk-of-peace](http://www.ita-slo.eu/en/walk-of-peace)

LEADING PARTNER: PromoTurismoFVG; PARTNERS: Ustanova "Fundacija Poti miru v Posočju", Posoški razvojni center, Občina Komen, Comune di Duino Aurisina - Občina Devin Nabrežina

WALKOFPEACE+ project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund as part of the Interreg VI-A Italy-Slovenia 2021-2027. The WALKOFPEACE+ strategic project yields important results by preserving and investing in World War I heritage and organising different activities aimed in developing sustainable tourism and a cross-border cultural product. With capitalisation project wishes to upgrade the gained experiences and results in view of the SO 4.6. MAIN OBJECTIVES: build on the cultural-touristic product, organisation of the WWI heritage and the path on Mt. Ermada/Grmada into a cross-border outdoor museum, setting up a cross-border management on multiple levels for a sustainable development of the Walk of Peace brand, improve the awareness and promotion of cross-border tourism.

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Logos: I FEEL LOVE IIA, IO SONO FUGITO VENEZIA 2019, GGI 2025 NOVA GORICA-GORIZIA, Trieste, Italy, etc.

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.

1918 with the German capitulation.

In October 1918, WWI officially ended on the 11th of November.

French Armies and the crisis of Austria-Hungary, it managed to defeat the Austro-Hungarian units in the battle on the Piave River.

into the Friuli plain and further on to the Piave River. The Italian Army suffered great losses but with the help of the British and Austro-Hungarian and the German Armies succeeded to penetrate it was the last battle fought on the banks of the Soča River, as the Italian Army is considered one of the most famous WWI battles.

the Austro-Hungarian Empire or "Reich of Emperor" for the Twelfth Isonzo battle, known also as the "Miracle of Kobarid" for German soldiers, employing special tactics of blitzkrieg. The Eleven of them were started by the Italian Army whereas the last took place between the Kingdom of Italy and Austria-Hungary, worked to supply one single soldier on the front. Twelve battles and stationary warfare began. At least five people in the hinterland level. After the initial Italian conquests, the front line stabilized points the front rose to a height of over 2,000 metres above sea level. The Karst Region lasted from May 1915 to October 1917. At some on the Isonzo front. Combats along the Soča River (Isonzo) and in gasp for breath can give an indication of how hard the battles were. Ascents that make professional athletes, let alone recreationists, MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA

A STORY OF BATTLES FROM HIGH – THE HERITAGE OF THE ISONZO FRONT –





#### Park of Military History Pivka

The area of the Park, which during World War I served as a training polygon for the Austro-Hungarian Army, is the largest museum complex in Slovenia. Here you can find everything from the oldest bows, to the astonishing collection of tanks, army planes, German military locomotives from World War II and a Yugoslav submarine, onto which you can even embark. Moreover, you can test your skills in two flight simulators and visit various exhibitions, including the exhibition “Fighting Behind the Trenches: Military Transport on the Isonzo Front”.



Pivka

#### Gorizia Gorica

The town of Gorizia, through which the Isonzo River flows, played an important role during the Isonzo Front. Between 1915 and August 1916 the town witnessed fierce battles and in the Sixth Isonzo Battle the Austro-Hungarian Army had to retreat from the town. In the Twelfth Isonzo Battle, in October 1917, the town was reclaimed by the Habsburg Monarchy and it remained under its control until the end of the war. There are several monuments which remind the passersby of the time of war, like the ones at Ponte del Torrione Bridge, in the *Giardini pubblici* town park, in the *Parco della Rimembranza* park and in the Museum of the Great War on the castle hill. There is also a charnel house just outside the town in Oslavia and the monuments on Mt. Calvario.



Gorizia Gorica



Redipuglia Redipulja



#### Italian Charnel House, Redipuglia Redipulja

The biggest and the most magnificent Italian war monument of all time stands on the slope of Sei Busi Hill in Redipuglia and is dedicated to more than 100,000 fallen soldiers, of which 20,000 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. At the foot of the charnel house, a fortified defence system can be seen, reminiscent of the battles on the Kras battlefield in the summer of 1915. Further on, 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 tombs 60,000 unidentified soldiers are buried.



MUB, San Donà di Piave



#### MUSEO DELLA BONIFICA (MUB)

MUB unites the history of the city and its territory in a comprehensive collection: archaeological, ethnographic, First and Second World War, and Land Reclamation. The section dedicated to World War I addresses the issue of the military conflict on the reclaimed land. Part of the exhibition offers additional multimedia content that the visitors can access via an app, making the visit even more interesting.



#### AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN MILITARY CEMETERY, AURISINA NABREŽINA

The Austro-Hungarian Military Cemetery Aurisina in the Šišček sinkhole was built in 1916. Soldiers who died in the nearby field hospital, set up in 1915, were first buried at the local cemetery and one year later their remains were moved to the current location. 1,934 Austro-Hungarian soldiers who were killed in this area during World War I are buried here. There are 1,000 stone crosses, placed in organised lines, with the names of the fallen soldiers. Thanks to several renovation works carried out by the association OÖ Jugendfeuerwehrverband and later by the organization of Schwarzes Kreuz the cemetery is well preserved.



Aurisina Nabrežina



#### TRIESTE TRST

The cultural, artistic and historical centre of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region still radiates the charm of the past periods. The city was the focal point of commercial and cultural exchange between the Mediterranean, the Balkans and the Germanic world. The conquest of Trieste was one of the main goals of the Italians in World War I, but the powerful Austro-Hungarian line of defence Mt. Fajti hrib–Monte Ermada/Grmada hindered any attack on the city. The Italians occupied Trieste only after the capitulation of Austria-Hungary at the end of WWI. Numerous museums, monuments and names of streets and squares nowadays call attention to the events of over a hundred years ago.



Karst



Ermada Grmada



#### OUTDOOR MUSEUM ERMADA GRMADA

Mt. Ermada is located in the Municipality of Duino Aurisina and offers a view of the Austro-Hungarian defence positions fortified in 1916 after the Sixth Isonzo Battle when the Imperial Army had to retreat from the hills in the vicinity of Monfalcone. Mt. Ermada and the surrounding hills were ideal for controlling the valley of Vallone di Brestovizza and the passage towards Trieste. The Kras plateau’s specific landscape with numerous sinkholes and natural caves was suitable for building trenches, defence positions, passages and shelters for soldiers. Today, many paths lead to the top of Mt. Ermada, enabling hikers to observe some of the positions, the bunker on Hill 280 (Monte Cocco) and caves (Grotta del Motore Cave, Mt. Ermada Cave, Karl in Zita Cave).



#### BATTERY PISANI, CAVALLINO TREPONTI

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. The concrete military building consists of a central body on a single level 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.



Pisani, Cavallino Treponti



#### 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 (mule tracks), trenches, caves, barracks and living quarters. A number of artillery positions were arranged from where they could fire on Mt. Mrzli vrh, the area of Tolmin and the opponent’s positions on the Kanalski Kolovrat ridge. During the Twelfth Isonzo Battle, Mt. Cum was one of the last points from where the Italian units defended their position in an organised manner.



Monte San Michele Debela griza



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

During WWI, Mt. San Michele was one of the key points in the defence of Gorizia. 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 WWI museum “Museo del San Michele” which offers a unique experience with its interactive multimedia content.



#### MT. RAGOGNA

The strategically important Mt. Ragogna (512 m) stands on the left bank of the Tagliamento River between Cornino and Pinzano bridges. 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 Armies 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 thematic 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 path is the visit to the WWI museum, Museo della Grande Guerra di Ragogna in San Giacomo.



Mt. Ragogna



#### MILITARY NARROW-GAUGE RAILWAY FELDBAN

In August 1916, the Italian Army pushed the Austro-Hungarian Army to the left bank of the Soča (Isonzo) river, cutting its supply route via the Bohinj Railway. As the remaining railways failed to provide sufficient supplies, they prioritised the construction of new sections of narrow-gauge railway – feldban (Feldbahn). They connected the battlefield with the railway station at Logatec. From here, the feldban ran along the road to Godovič and then towards Crni Vrh and Lokve, the second part branched off towards Idrija. On the section from Godovič to Idrija many remains are still visible.



Feldban