

The ČRNI VRH PLATEAU

Part of the Alpine-Dinaric Transition Zone



18

19

20

21

22

To the north the plateau rises steeply above the Idrijca river valley with its southern slopes offering magnificent panoramic views far and wide. Join us as we discover the beauty of nature, numerous karst features and the way people live on the plateau.



Organizacija • Idrija
Združenih narodov • UNESCO
za izobraževanje, • Globalni
znanost in kulturo • Geopark





The "square" with a park and the parish church of St. Jost represents the centre of Črni Vrh.

The Črni Vrh plateau is famous especially for:

traditional winter and summer tourism

~

the marathon Trnovski maraton

~

mountain biking

~

the Javornik hill (1240 m) –

the highest peak of the municipality

~

the chasm Habečkovno brezno

~

the astronomical observatory Javornik

~

its singing tradition

~

famous fellow countrymen:

Matej Cigale

a linguist and the founder of the Slovenian legal terminology

~

Ivan Tominec

a linguist, a lexicographer and a translator

~

Frančišek Lampe

Doctor of Theology and Philosophical Sciences

~

and a vicar **Marko Ivan Rupnik**

a master of mosaics


For ages, the **Črni Vrh plateau** has offered its inhabitants harsh but unique living conditions. Since the Middle Ages, **Črni Vrh** has been experiencing a gradual flowering thanks to its location next to an important road connecting the inland with the Vipavska dolina valley, Gorizia, Trieste and other coastal towns. In the middle of the 19th century, there was a rapid progress in the social and cultural aspects of life, but it came to a halt with World War I and World War II. All sorts of cottage industry could be found here in the past, from joinery, the production of pails, basketry, rake making, production of linen, shoemaking and lace-making. Between the wars, tourism flourished as well.

Enthusiasts have in June 2013 sown flax with the purpose of reviving the growing and processing of flax.

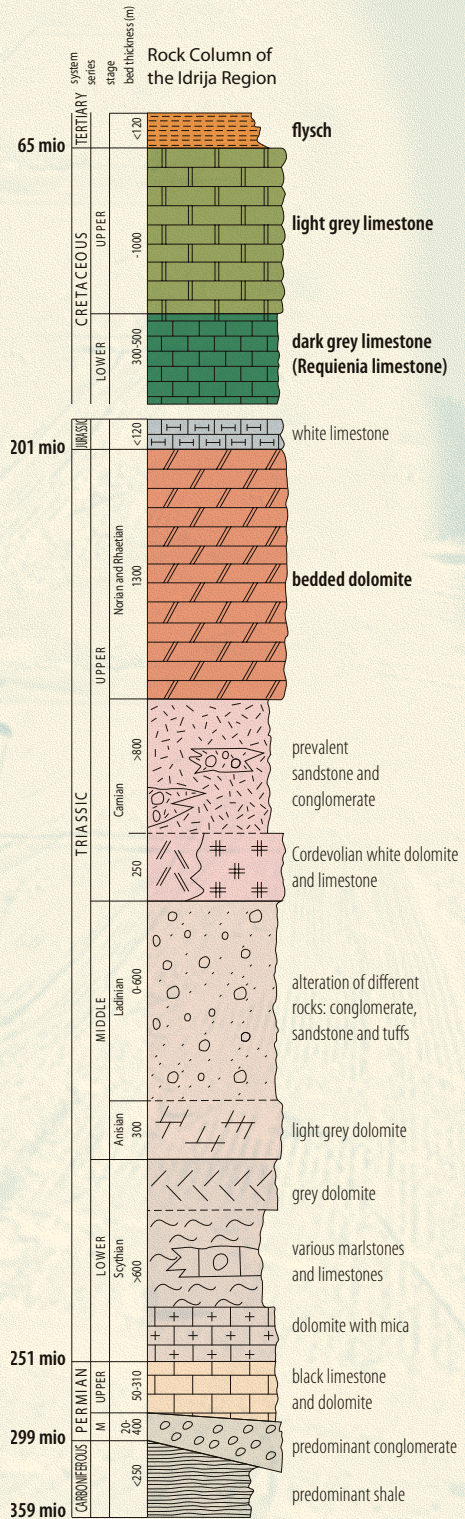
You are most welcome to come and experience our landscape, our way of life, our customs and habits.



The Črni Vrh plateau is part of the so-called holokarst, represented also by the high karst plateaus Trnovski gozd and Hrušica. The geological structure consists of the **Norian-Rhetian dolomite of the Upper Triassic (bedded dolomite)**, covering the Črni Vrh and Zadlog karst fields, a part of the Predgrize plain and the settlement Idrijski Log, along with the hills over Črni Vrh. Under the dolomite cover, there is a **Lower Cretaceous limestone** with remains of Requienia. To the southwest it traverses into the Upper Cretaceous limestone with rudist remains (**the rudist limestone**). The Cretaceous limestone reaches from Predgrize over the hill Brinov grič and the peak Pevc to the Idrija river valley. The youngest are the **Paleocene-Eocene flysch deposits** in the area of the village Lome. The terrain consists of several overthrusts, which represent the geological structure of western Slovenia as a whole. The Cretaceous limestones are strongly karstified, with water flowing from the hillsides and vanishing into the ground. Poorly permeable rocks on the edges of the overthrusts result in damp meadows and occasional flooding on both karst fields.

 The prevailing type of climate is continental with some Sub-Mediterranean influence from the south and Alpine from the north. Here, the forest Trnovski gozd draws the final line of the Dinaric world and the white of the Alps already shows in the near distance. The result of all these factors is the intertwining variety of vegetation. The most exquisite are the Koševnik and the Idrijski Log swamps along with the dry rocky mountain meadows. Also typical of the Črni Vrh forests are the animals of Trnovski gozd.

The Great Yellow Gentian (*Gentiana lutea subsp. symphyandra*)



18

The trail Matuckarjeva pot

The karst field Zadloško polje as seen from the peak Špičasti vrh

Starting point: Tourist farm Pr' Mark

Length: 12.4 km

Altitude difference: 54.8 m

Cycling time: 1 hour 30 min

Difficulty: easy

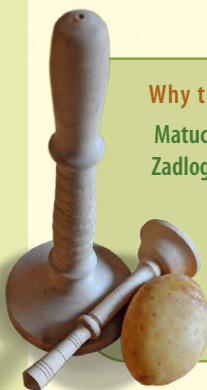
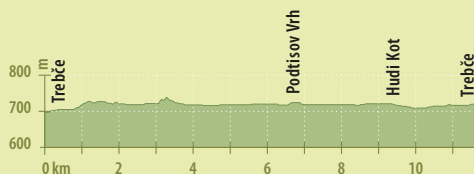
This easy, flat-country cycling trail takes you through the entire Zadlog plain, past homesteads, pastures and shrines. On your way you will get acquainted with the typical karst landscape and its natural features, the distinctive Zadlog architecture, present and past life of the Zadlog people, and learn about the life and work of the Zadlog native Frančišek Lampe, PhD.

1 The settlement Zadlog

Zadlog is a widespread settlement, rising 720 metres above sea level on the Zadlog karst field in the western part of the Črni Vrh plateau. Supposedly, it was originally inhabited in the 15th century. Characteristic of the settlement are individually scattered farms, located safely away from the flooded areas at the edge of the field. Zadlog represents the most important livestock farming area of the Črni Vrh plateau. In the past it was also known for its cottage industry.

Why the Matuckarjeva pot trail?

Matuckar is the name given to the Zadlog residents by people from the surrounding settlements. The Zadlog symbol, the "matuck", is a wooden tool shaped as a mallet, used for making mashed potatoes.



2 Lanena Jama Structure

Until the middle of the 20th century, people in Zadlog grew flax, which was used to produce linen. People dealt with flax throughout the entire year. In May they sowed it and in September they rooted it and tied it in sheaves. After the drying period in lanena jama structure, the scutching started in October. The dried stalks were used by the scutchers to shell the woody parts, leaving them with yarn, which was weaved in the winter and tied into hanks. These were washed, dried and curled into bundles for the weaver to weave the linen. Until today its remains have been preserved.



The Lanena Jama Structure

3 The linden tree Ivajnskova lipa

The linden tree (*Tilia platyphyllos Scop*) boasts a venerable age since it has been a “part” of the homestead Pr' Ivajnsk for more than 500 years. Similar to this one are other mighty linden trees at other homesteads in Zadlog and in the surrounding areas. In the past, linden trees were the focal point of the political, legal and social life in villages.

4 The pond Ivanjškova lokev

Due to the lack of waters on the karstified surface, people in the past collected water in ponds, which were called “lokev”. Water was used for livestock, drinking and to put out fires. The ponds were either natural or artificial. The natural ones collected water in hollows with impermeable bottoms, whereas the artificial ones were made with several layers of thoroughly trodden clay covering the walls and the bottoms of the hollows.

The linden tree tea cleanses the blood and strengthens the immune system. Linden tree charcoal can be used for treating people and animals, and the soft linden tree wood is excellent for wood carving.





5 The homestead Tomincova domačija

The homestead is a typical example of a Zadlog homestead, which encompasses the residential areas (the house), a stable, a shed, a well ("štirna") and a partly preserved smithy. To this day, the residential areas have preserved their characteristic look. The side facade is painted with a sundial and two frescoes, which are not very well preserved.



Frančišek Lampe PhD (1859–1900)
Doctor of theology and philosophical sciences was born in Zadlog. He was the founder of the magazine *Dom in svet* and the author of the first Slovene psychological handbook *Dušeslovje* ("Soul-psychology"), published in 1889. He was a pioneer of Slovene philosophical terminology.



In Zadlog, wells in the shape of small houses were called "štirna na kalaunk". Kalaunk was a jug made of laburnum wood, which was weighted on one side and used to ladle water.

6 Monument of Frančišek Lampe, PhD

The monument set up on the centenary of Frančišek Lampe's death is the work of academic sculptor Zlatko Rudolf. It is made of stones from Lampe's demolished birth-house and is designed as the house's corner with a window. On the inner side of the monument there is a special corner called "bohkov kot" and in the centre there is a stony table.



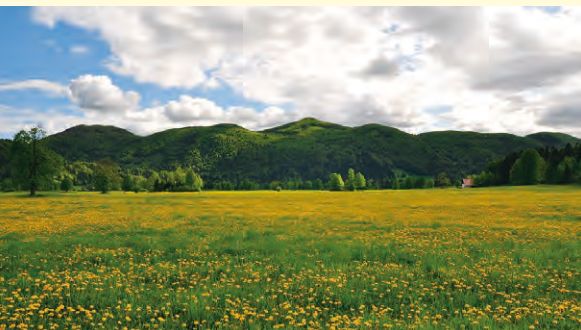
7 The hollows Štefkove rupe

On the Zadlog karst field there are a lot of sinkholes, where water disappears in the underground. Among them, the most extensive ones are the hollows Štefkove rupe, which contain a dry bed between the small hollows. They are named after the homestead Štefkova domačija and they gather the waters from the southern fringe of the Zadlog karst field. The blind valley is full of sinkholes. During the heavy rains in the spring, the sinkholes are not able to swallow all the water due to the frozen ground and consequently the water floods the field.

The parish chronicle from 1923 reads: "In the first days of December, the downpours and the torrents from the mountains filled up the Zadlog plain and turned it into a lake. Some of the farmers had water in the stables and they had to empty them of livestock, while people were forced to use rafts."



We can follow the thrust fault on the surface on the fringe of the Zadlog field, past Trebče and over Črni Vrh, and along the fringe of the Črni Vrh field, under the hilly fringes of Velika peč, Čelkov Vrh and Javornik.



8 Tectonic contact

The Trebče quarry is entirely comprised of the bedded dolomite which was formed a good 200 million years ago. The dolomite belongs to two different thrust plate units, namely to the **Čekovnik thrust slice**, which constitutes the entire area of the Črni Vrh plateau, and to the **Trnovo nappe**, which was thrust upon the plateau at the time of the severe tectonic shifts in the Eocene epoch (57 million years ago).

19

The educational trail karst forest

Starting point: Crossroads of Zgornje Lome and Spodnje Lome

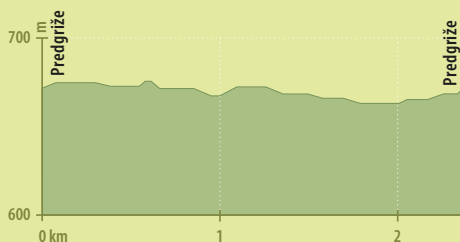
Length: 2.4 km

Altitude difference: 12 m

Hiking time: 1 h 30 min

Difficulty: easy

The straight educational trail through the karst forest offers a pleasant walk where you can enjoy the fresh air and relax in the intact nature at the fringe of Trnovski gozd. Along the way you can observe the karstified surface and its features, the typical karst rocks with fossils, the forest vegetation, and get acquainted with the characteristics and the role of the forest ecosystem within the environment.



1 Rules of behaviour in the forest

As we enter the forest we should always think of ourselves as merely visitors to the forest who need to respect its residents.

How to respect the forest:

- forest vegetation is part of the animate nature, which is why we do not destroy it, cut it or pick it;
- the use of fire in the forest is only allowed in the intended places;
- you may drive and park your car in the forest only where it is permitted;
- do not damage bridges, fences and other infrastructure;
- the forest is home to peace, silence and bird singing, so do not scream, scare the animals and do not disturb their offspring;
- throw the trash in a dustbin.

2 Karst features

The area of the trail is comprised of rudist limestone, which is clearly visible along the way. It is strongly karstified and constitutes the so-called deep karst. On the surface as well as underground visitors can notice karst features such as corrosion gutters, škraplje (limestone cracks), sinkholes and karst caves.

Not far away, there is a thrust edge, where the bedded dolomite is thrust onto the limestone. In the area of the thrust fringe "reproduced sinkholes" are formed, when the dolomite gravel falls into the voids of limestone in the ground.

3 Vegetation cover

Indigenous forest tree species are the fir and the beech tree (the Dinaric fir-beech forest or *Abieti-Fagetum dinaricum*). Due to past forestation the fir tree began to be supplanted by the spruce tree but the fir tree keeps coming back due to sustainable management. Maple and ash trees are also pervasive among the deciduous trees.



Both sorts of snowdrops, the hellebores, the blue-eyed Mary, the Hacquetia, the henbane bell and other ferns, mosses, lichen and fungi all represent typical Dinaric-forest vegetation.



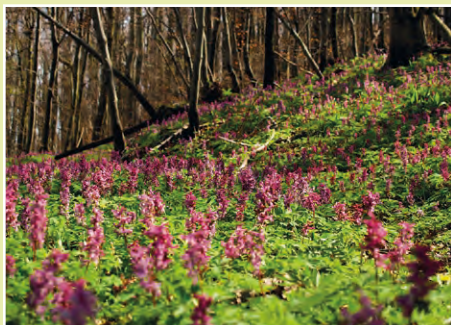
The Black Hellebore (*Helleborus niger*)



The Upper Cretaceous Rudist Limestone

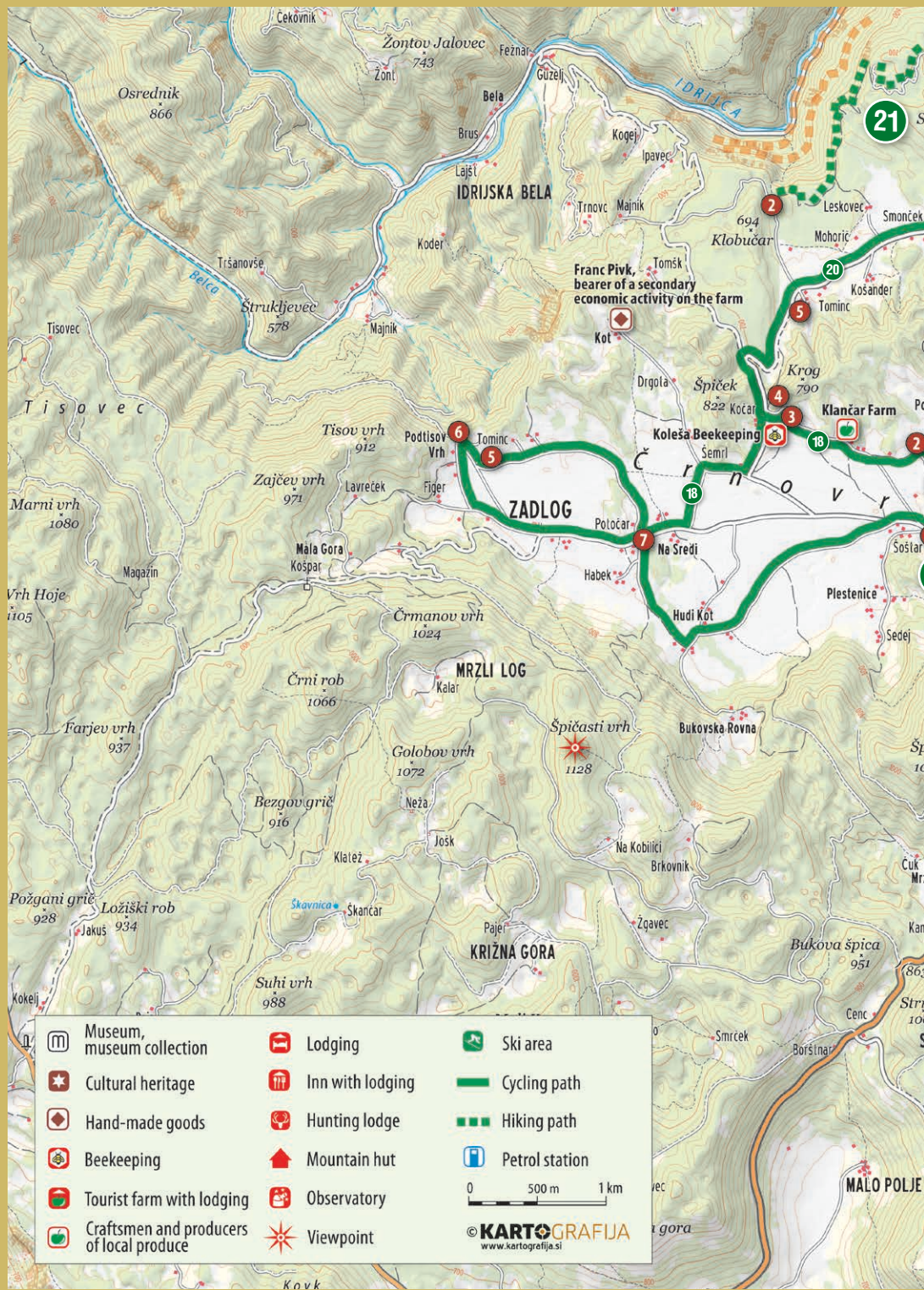


The Blue-eyed Mary (*Omphalodes verna*)



The Hollowroot (*Corydalis cava*)

The forest retains moisture, reduces air temperature oscillation, and has a productive role. It is a water system regulator, an air refiner, and it protects the environment from soil erosion and the wind. It is a source of energy, it has a psycho-aesthetic role and has a calming effect on people. Open your heart and your eyes will see, your ears will hear.







4 The cave Hrvatova jama

This limestone karst cave was formed where water seeped through a crack and dissolved the bedrock. At the beginning of the tunnel which leads deeper underground, there is a speleothem column.

According to legend, the cave was named after a man who took refuge in the cave and supposedly also died there. The locals called him "Hrvat".

5 Forest care

The forest has always been a source of goods used by man in everyday life. To ensure its survival, we must preserve it and manage it thoughtfully, in accordance with natural laws, always careful not to disturb the naturally established flows. In maintaining equilibrium, the importance of foresters, who extract wood and make sure that the forest renews itself, is not to be overlooked. Hunters take care that the numbers of animal species which are part of the forest ecosystem are kept in balance.

The most common beast roaming Slovene forests is the bear, the lynx and the wolf are rare. Other mammals include foxes, martens, rabbits, dormice, wild boars, deer, stags, etc. The forest is also home to birds, reptiles, amphibians and various insects.

Bear with her cubs (*Ursus arctos*)



20

The High karst trail

Starting point: Predgrize

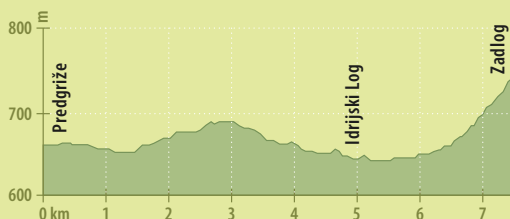
Length: 7.5 km

Altitude difference: 98.5 m

Cycling time: 1 h

Difficulty: easy

This trail, which you can preface with the Educational trail karst forest, makes a wonderful cycling trip through the high karst region, which opens up views onto karst fields with sinking rivers and sinkholes, uvalas and swallow holes, and the deepest chasm in the area.



In front of the entrance to Habečkovno brezno, the rock has formed a natural bridge. In different caving expeditions, the chasm was measured to 336 m in depth in 1954, and 400 m in 1997.

1 The chasm Habečkovno brezno

Habečkovno brezno is the deepest measured chasm in the area. By colouring the waters, it has been established that it flows from springs near Podroteja and Divje jezero. It was formed in the thrust edge of the bedded dolomite on rudist limestone, forming the entrance into the chasm. In the deep, the chasm continues into Lower Cretaceous limestone.



The Broad-leaved
cotton-grass
(*Eriophorum latifolium*)



Pyramidal Orchid
(*Anacamptis pyramidalis*)



5 Čuk's Lanena Jama Structure

It was used for drying flax during scutching operation. There is a tunnel in which fire was lit. The heat spread into the structure and the flax was dried. The bundles were laid on a net of wooden poles - *gajtre*.

2 The Marshes



Due to the impermeable fractured zone next to the thrust edge of the bedded dolomite on Upper Cretaceous limestone, there emerged moist and marshy meadows. Here we can find some interesting and rare plants: many species of the protected orchids and irises, the bog bean, species of rare marsh grasses and sedges, peat moss etc. The clear brook is a habitat to many aquatic non-vertebrates.

3 The chasm Andrejčkovo brezno

Above the chasm Andrejčkovo brezno there is a memorial to those who died in the killings following World War II.

4 Confirmation

"Here was the confirmation in the year 1717 J.B.F". This engraving can be found on a rock right next to the road. More than one story describes its origin. Allegedly, for some reason (according to folk tradition the poor commitment of the parishioners to repairing the church and the priest's quarters, or an illicit relationship between the parish priest and the cook), the bishop left the village and made for Idrija. The children and the locals caught up with him and at their request the bishop confirmed them. Later, someone carved this inscription into the rock.



21

The trail Kamparetova pot

Starting point: Pevc

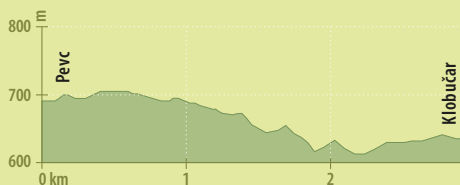
Length: 3 km

Altitude difference: 92.1 m

Cycling time: 1 h

Difficulty: easy

This trail is suitable for hikers, who want to explore the area above the Idrijca valley. It runs from Klobučani in Idrijski Log towards Pevc and along the cliffs above the lake Divje jezero. You can extend the trip by going on the High karst trail or the Matuckarjeva pot trail.



The trail is named after the forest warden and superintendent of the railroad construction Kampare, who lived in the eponymous part of the village Lokavec near Ajdovščina.

With all its secrets, the trail Kamparetova pot positively invites to exploration. Opinions differ even on matters of its origin. The most likely explanation seems to be the one endorsed especially by older foresters, which is that the trail was built to meet the needs of the forest railroad, which helped foresters transport wood from barely accessible terrain. When felling ceased, the railroad was dismantled and moved to another location. Later the trail was used to transport wood with waggons to the location where it was loaded onto trucks.

22

Lookout peaks above Črni Vrh

Starting point: Šajsna Ravan

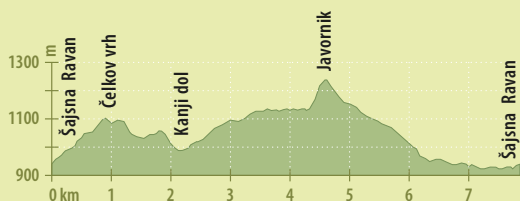
Length: 6.3 km

Altitude difference: 297.5 m

Hiking time: 3 h

Difficulty: hard

The trail along the lookout peaks above Črni Vrh is part of the marked hiking trail ICPP (the Idrija-Cerklje hiking trail), which proceeds round Velika Peč, Čelkov vrh and Javornik. The charming hiking trail displays different faces of nature in different seasons, while beautiful vistas, which reach from the Adriatic sea to Triglav, are to be admired all year long. In general, the area offers various possibilities for spending some free time in unspoiled nature.



On the rocky alpine meadows of Javornik, Mrzli Log and Križna Gora, true alpine plants mingle with representatives of the warm south. In spring, the meadows are crowned with orchids, e.g. the Elder-flowered Orchid, the Long-Bracted Green Orchid, and the Small White Orchid, while in summer time, the meadows and forest edges are full with lillies (e.g. the Tiger Lily, the Turk's Cap Lily, and the Carniolan Lily) and other colourful meadow flowers. Until recently, even the Edelweiss grew here but has moved to higher places due to climate change and pollution.



The Mountain Clover
(*Trifolium montanum*)



Globe Orchid
(*Traunsteinera globosa*)



EXCURSION TIP

The peak Špičasti vrh (1128 m)

The forested peak with the belvedere tower south of and above Zadlog is a popular excursion point frequented by locals, hikers and mountaineers.

The hill Brinov grič

Excursion point which paints the picture of World War II cruelty. During WWII, since September 1942, Brinov grič was the base camp of the battalion Trnovska četa, a part of which was also the Slovene national hero, Janko Premrl – Vojko, who died in February 1943 due to fatal gunshot wounds.

Feldban

Feldban is the former narrow-gauge track, which was established during WWI for the needs of the Austrian-Hungarian army battling on the Isonzo Front. The former railway track between Godovič and Zadlog is today hardly visible in nature. The most picturesque and technically most demanding part of the track was the 12 km long section from Godovič to Idrija. From the crossing with the road Francoska cesta the track runs along the embankments and cuttings in the steep slopes above the gorges of Zala and Idrija, above which there is a preserved 25-metre-long tunnel carved in bedrock. The track is accessible only on foot.





EXCURSION TIP

Astronomical observatory Javornik

The Astronomical observatory Javornik is located on the hill Kresov grič under Javornik. During the day, visitors get acquainted with orienteering in nature, followed by a safe observation of the Sun. During the night, visitors are able to observe certain constellations (Big Bear, Cassiopeia, Orion), enjoy the presentation of distances in Space, types of stars and some of the mists and star clusters, mainly those part of the Milky Way. Observation is only possible when weather permits (visibility factor) and upon previous notice.

Address: Javornik 3a, 5274 Črni Vrh nad Idrijo
t: +386 (0)41 418 289 (*dr. Borut Jurčič Zlobec*)
www.adj.si • **e:** info@adj.si



Military Museum of warfare and personal items from WWI and WWII – the collection *May we never forget*

In this day and age, when children get acquainted with wars by playing computer games, the museum lays bare the gruesome truth of weaponry. The exhibited items relate to the time of the Isonzo front, and include many personal items from the Črni Vrh area. The purpose of the exhibited collection is to educate the visitors about war in general.

Address: WWI Museum, Črni Vrh 36, 5274 Črni Vrh nad Idrijo; **t:** +386 (0)41 739 544 (*upon previous notice*)

SPORT activities

With its beneficial climatic characteristics and the diverse terrain, the plateau has a lot to offer to its visitors, especially mountain bikers and hikers. In the winter, the ski slopes offer great recreation to skiers, snowboarders and cross-country runners.



Ski center Javornik d. o. o.

Črni Vrh 106, 5274 Črni Vrh nad Idrijo
www.ski-javornik.si

Rent-a-bike BIKEWAYS točka Zadlog

Zadlog 75a, 5274 Črni Vrh nad Idrijo
e: stin.zadlog@gmail.com

Ski resort Ski Bor Črni Vrh nad Idrijo

www.smucisce-skibor.si





BOARD and LODGING

Guest house Metka

Črni Vrh 78, 5274 Črni Vrh nad Idrijo
t: +386 (0)5 377 70 15

Tourist farm Turistična kmetija Pr' Mark

Črni Vrh 32, 5274 Črni Vrh nad Idrijo
t: +386 (0)41 961 053

Mountain lodge Pirnatova koča na Javorniku

t: +386 (0)41 403 224 or +386 (0)51 440 504
(open on weekends and holidays)

Homovec Apartment and Lili house

Predgrize 39, 5274 Črni Vrh nad Idrijo
t: 031 697 669

Lida Holiday Cottage

Črni Vrh 160, 5274 Črni Vrh nad Idrijo
t: 041 424 324

Sale of CROPS AND DOMESTIC products

Beekeeping Alojz Rupnik

Črni Vrh 27a, 5274 Črni Vrh nad Idrijo
t: +386 (0)5 37 77 132

Koleša Beekeeping

Zadlog 12a, 5274 Črni Vrh nad Idrijo
t: +386 (0)41 663 858

Klančar Farm, Zadlog 9, 5274 Črni Vrh nad Idrijo

t: +386(0)5 37 78 743

Smrekar Eco Farm

Črni Vrh 53, 5274 Črni Vrh nad Idrijo
t: +386 (0)5 37 77 235

Franc Pivk

bearer of a secondary economic activity on the farm
Zadlog 73, 5274 Črni Vrh nad Idrijo
t: +386 (0)5 37 78 636



TRADITIONAL events

- Marathon Trnovski maraton (februar)
- Night hike to Javornik (the first full Moon in February)
- Mountain run to Špičasti vrh (June)
- Local event Marjetna nedelja (July)
- Hike to Javornik (December)

The ČRNI VRH PLATEAU AREA

Area: 61.6 km²

Highest point: 1240 m (Javornik)

Lowest point: 600 m

Settlements: Črni Vrh, Lome, Predgrize, Idrijski Log, Zadlog, Kanji Dol, Strmec, Javornik, Mrzli Log

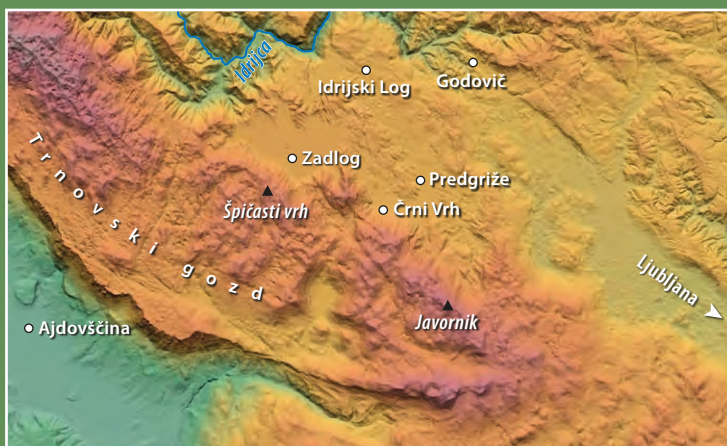
Population (2012): Črni Vrh (654), entire area (1250)

Prevalent rocks: dolomite, limestone and flysch

Forest association: Dinaric fir-beech forest (*Abieti-Fagetum dinaricum*)

Botanic curiosity: the Great Yellow Gentian (*Gentiana lutea* subsp. *symphyandra*)

Lookout peaks: Javornik (1240 m), Čelkov vrh (1106 m), Velika peč (1050 m), Špičasti vrh (1128 m)



As the eastern edge of the high Trnovski gozd karst plateau, the Črni Vrh plateau covers the southern part of the Municipality of Idrija. To the north, the Črni Vrh plateau steeply slopes downwards to the river Idrija gorge, to the west it touches the slopes of Trnovski gozd, to the south it is bound by arch-shaped hills, while to the east the plateau mildly slopes downwards towards Hotenjski ravnik. The plateau covers several karst fields (Črnovrško polje, Zadloško polje, Predgriško polje, Koševniško polje and Idrijski Log polje), sinkholes and forested mountain ridges.

Črni Vrh is accessible from two directions: from Ljubljana: the road branches off at Godovič, from where there are only 7 km to the village; from the Primorska region: the road leads from the 18 km distant Ajdovščina over the pass Vrh Gore (860 m) to Črni Vrh.

Published by: Center za idrijsko dediščino • Publisher: Občina Idrija • Conceptual design: Mojca Gorjup Kavčič, David Bole, Mateja Šmid Hribar, Primož Pipan • Assembled and edited by: Mojca Gorjup Kavčič • Texts by: Mojca Gorjup Kavčič, Urška Bajec Rupnik, Ivan Rudolf, Lilijana Homovec, Jože Čar, Anka Vončina, Primož Pipan, Roman Rupnik • Translated to English by: Mamlblin - prevajanje in izobraževanje, d.o.o. • Design by: Ivana Kadivec • Photographs by: Bojan Erhartič, Iztok Bončina, Anka Vončina, Urška Bajec Rupnik, Mojca Gorjup Kavčič, Matjaž Milharčič, Roman Rupnik, Jošt Rupnik, Miha Krofel, Cveto Poljšak, Blaž Petrič, Janko Kosmač, Niko Rupnik, PD Javornik-Črni Vrh archive, Geopark Idrija archive • Illustration of lithologic column by: Jaka Modic • Map: Kartografija • Illustration of relief maps and profiles by: Rafael Bizjak, Jaka Modic • Printed by: A-media d.o.o. • Edition: 3000 • December 2018

