

# VOJSKO

the highest lying village  
in the Primorska region

4

The friendly and gentle world of the Vojsko plateau reigns over the steep slopes of the Kanomljica Stream and the Idrijca River. It offers breathtaking views from Mt. Triglav all the way to Snežnik.



Organizacija Združenih narodov za izobraževanje, znanost in kulturo

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## Let's go for a walk across the plateau

Before reaching the village of Vojsko, we admire the breathtaking views of the Julian Alps at the Gnezda homestead. From the lookout point and antenna tower, we gaze across the ridges to the Julian Alps from Krn to Črna prst and Mt. Triglav, as well as the Karavanke mountains and the Kamnik-Savinja Alps. We are enthralled by the blossoming meadows in summer, and our gaze stops at the solitary rocks.



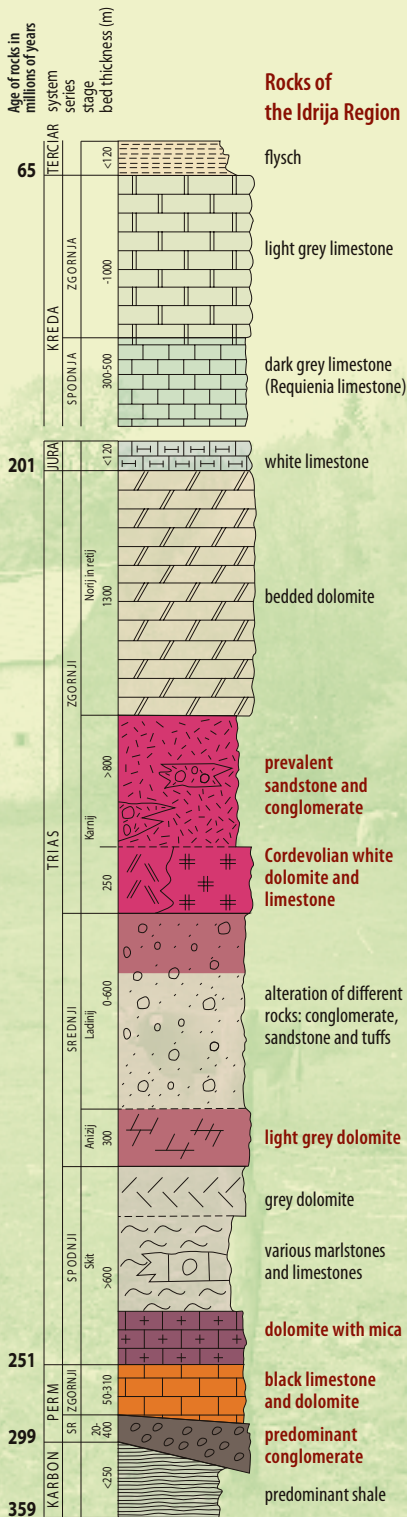
Carniolan Lily (*Lilium carnioolicum*)

## Bedrock

The Vojsko plateau has an interesting geological structure. The majority of the plateau is built of Anisian dolomite with inclusions of dolomite conglomerate and patches of Ladinian tuff. These rocks are covered with white Cordevolian dolomite, which develops into Carnian dolomite and sandstone (Razori). The oldest rocks on the plateau are visible between Škratovec and Krpcija, in the Vojsko tectonic half-window. Here one finds Palaeozoic Gröden sandstones and Upper Permian carbonatic rocks, which pass into Scythian dolomite.



*Waagenophyllum indicum* Corals in Upper Permian limestone



## Summer carpets of blossoming meadows

The unspoiled, high-lying meadows of Vojsko are rich in flora. Several species of protected orchids (*Orchidaceae*) thrive here. Alongside St. John's Chapel beneath the parish church one can admire the Cowslip Primrose (*Primula veris* subsp. *veris*), which is rarely found in these parts, and the Globe Flowers (*Trollius europaeus*). Also to be found here are all three Slovenian lilies: Carniolan, Martagon and Orange Lily (*Lilium carniolicum*, *L. martagon*, *L. bulbiferum*). In the steep slopes descending into the Kanomlja Stream and towards the Idrijca and Trebušiča rivers, one can also find the European Yew (*Taxus baccata*), European Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), and the Horse Tongue Lily (*Ruscus hypoglossum*). For herb connoisseurs, the plateau offers an abundance of medicinal plants: Mountain Arnica (*Arnica montana*), Astramontana or, more correctly, the Downy Elecampane (*Inula hirta*), Mountain Thyme (*Thymus pulegioides* subsp. *montanus*), Common St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), Common Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), and other herbs from nature's pharmacy.



The Downy Elecampane (*Inula hirta*), a mysterious plant, has numerous healing effects on the individual. It grows in many sites across Slovenia, and is especially popular on Vojsko. The physician Mathioli mentioned it in his writings (1501–1577).



On the other side of the Kočevše plain is a remarkable lookout spot on the top of Vodonos. Here we can indulge in some incredible views of the upper Idrijca River, Poslušanje, the southern edge of Trnovo forest, Idrijski Log, Javornik, and all the way to Snežnik.

## Solitary Rocks in Kočevše

In the broader surroundings of Kočevše, a large number of several metre-high rock columns, chunks and blocks were formed at numerous locations. Even a small 'rock forest' was found in the vicinity of Miklajč (Alič). Particularly impressive are two several metre-high, self-standing rock boulders in the meadow beneath the road in Kočevše. The boulders lie in an open area in the midst of a karst depression. All these morphological phenomena were formed in Anisian dolomite or dolomite conglomerate.



Spring Gentian (*Gentiana verna subsp. verna*)





## Trohova plain

The Trohova plain was named after the »Pri Trohu« farm, which lies along its eastern edge. Considering the conditions on Vojsko, the Trohova plain is a true »plain«, as its central part is almost entirely level. To the west it extends into a distinct frost hollow along the route towards Tabrovš, where the snowcover lasts late into spring. Just above the Pri Trohu farm, a small, rounded hill with a picturesque group of birch trees rises above the farm.

Most of the Trohova plain is covered by typical, almost white and unbedded Upper Triassic Cordevolian dolomite. Several intermittent swallow-holes, some of which have already been filled, are scattered across the middle of the level area and are linked to the underground outflow of water from the Vojsko sinkholes of Poncale towards the Vovk Cave. Such an unusual water flow is due to specific geological conditions.



Each spring, the meadows of Trohova plain and those above the Kanomlja River, west of Škratovec, are adorned by the Stemless Trumpet Gentian (*Gentiana clusii*) and the Elder-flowered Orchid (*Dactylorhiza sambucina*). And if we look carefully, we will also find the Frog Orchid (*Coeloglossum viride*), Small White Orchid (*Pseudorchis albida*), Spring Gentian (*Gentiana verna subsp. verna*), and a small fern, the Moonwort (*Botrychium lunaria*).



Frog Orchid  
(*Coeloglossum viride*)



Small White Orchid  
(*Pseudorchis albida*)



## Vojsko – an ancient village

Rising above the central part of the plateau is the peak of Školj (1129 m), below which is the centre of the village with St. Joseph's Church. There are three inns on the plateau offering excellent home-made dishes and accommodation, as well as a Centre for School and Extracurricular Activities.

Paths lead from the middle of the village to nearby hamlets: Rovtarjev vrh, Log, Ogalce, Vojščica, Gačnik, Mrzla Rupa ...

The heart and soul of the plateau are its friendly and hospitable inhabitants. In the past, the Vojsko locals were reputed blacksmiths. Almost every house had a blacksmith's workshop where they made nails, while the wives made lace during the long winter evenings. Even today, each patch of land is carefully cultivated, and the most developed activities are in particular livestock breeding and forestry.

Standing in the middle of the village is the parish Church of St. Joseph dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century and its relief stations of the cross.





Pr' Smodin homestead



Ogalce homestead with well dating from 1861.

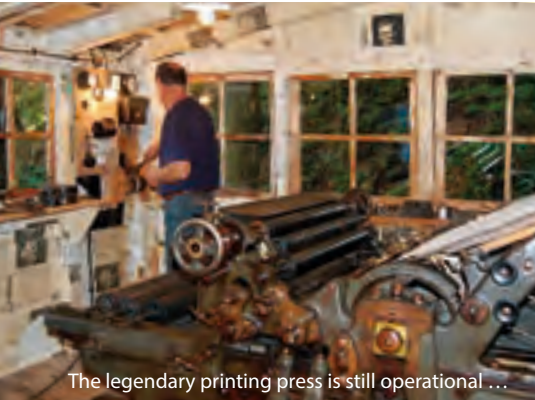
## Snow Cave

The cave is of tectonic origin, with a narrow, steep entrance. Snow and ice from this cave were once used to store foods.

Magnificent homesteads (Pr' Smodin, v Humu, na Ogalcah, na Brd ...) made of stone are still preserved. Most of them have been vacated and replaced with new ones.

The plateau has a typical mountain climate, with fresh summers and long winters. The inhabitants of Vojsko like to joke that the only time when they don't fuel their stoves is from St. Jakob's to St. Ann's day, i.e. from 25 to 26 July.





The legendary printing press is still operational ...



Due to its remoteness and the national awareness of its inhabitants, the plateau was throughout a stronghold of the liberation struggle during World War II. The Slovenia Partisan Printing Shop operated in the Studenca ravine and, not far away, the Pavla Partisan Hospital operated in the upper part of the Belca Stream.

## Slovenia Partisan Printing workshop

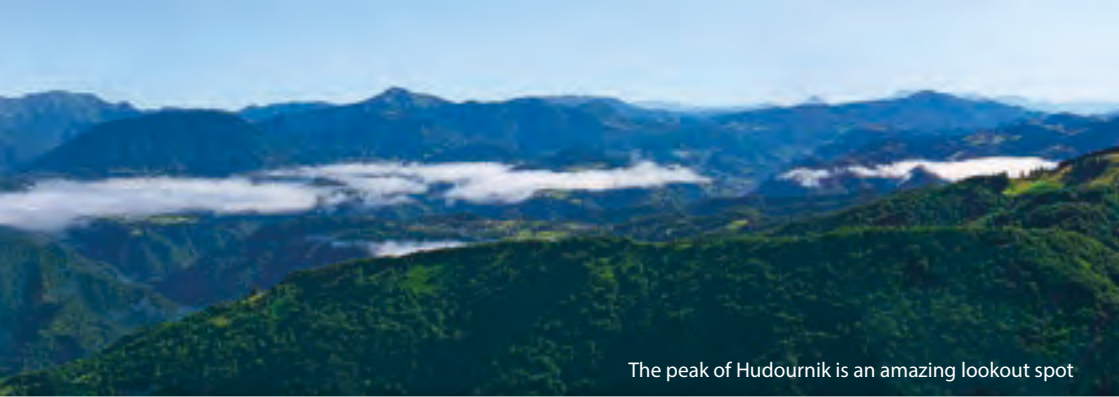
dating from 1944 is the largest and best equipped, authentically preserved partisan printing workshop in the Primorska region. It was here that the Partisan Daily was printed, the only daily newspaper to be printed by a resistance movement in occupied Europe. The extremely heavy printing press was brought from Italy and still operates today.

## Partisan cemetery at Vojščica

This is the burial ground of 305 combattants who fell in April 1945, when the enemy's last and most deadly offensive ravaged the area. Originally designed tombstones in the shape of lead bullets and a heart-shaped stone wall are a remembrance of combattants who fell at freedom's door.







The peak of Hudournik is an amazing lookout spot

## Hudournik

At an altitude of 1148 m, the peak of Hudournik is the most beautiful lookout spot of the Vojsko plateau. Its friendly, gentle, and flat grass-covered peak is closed off on the northeastern side by a sharp rock prominence built of Cordevolian dolomite, which reigns over the extensive, steep slope. Far below is the Oblakov Vrh pass (721 m). It is here that the deeply cut valleys of the Kanomljica and Hotenja streams meet in the Idrija hills. Both are nestled in the fault zone of the Idrija fault, which extends from Kanomeljsko Razpotje across Oblakov vrh towards Dolenja Trebuša. The view of both valleys and the Idrija fault zone from Hudournik is truly breathtaking. On the other side of the 'fault trough', the ridges of Uter and Krnice with Lokvarski vrh (1079 m) are clearly visible. On a clear day, the eye can see as far as Kanin and Krn on the west all the way to Mt. Triglav, which glitters directly before us, past Porezen and Blegoš all the way to the Kamnik-Savinja Alps. Turning to the south, our gaze stops at the mighty barriers of the Trnovo forest and their extensions across Javorniki all the way to Snežnik.



Hudournik is not only known for its remarkable views, but also for its botanical diversity. This is the home of several species of orchids (*Orchidaceae*): Globe Orchid (*Traunsteinera globosa*), Frog Orchid (*Coeloglossum viride*), Small White Orchid (*Pseudorchis albida*), Yellow Coralroot (*Corallorrhiza trifida*), Lilies-of-the-Valley (*Convallaria majalis*), and Great Meadow Rues (*Thalictrum aquilegiifolium*). In the vicinity is the site of the Carniolan Primrose (*Primula carniolica*), which thrives in a meadow, a rare occurrence for this plant. Growing in the shady cliffs above Oblakov vrh is a mixture of alpine and submediterranean plants: Dwarf Alpine Rose (*Rhodothamnus chamaecistus*), Hairy Alpenrose (*Rhododendron hirsutum*), Bearberry (*Artostaphylos uva-ursi*), Alpine Clematis (*Clematis alpina*), Mountain Avens (*Dryas octopetala*), and the Least Snowbell (*Soldanella minima*). The higher, exposed prominences are the home of the Alpine Daphne (*Daphne alpina*), which loves warmth. Below Hudournik are also natural habitats of the Mountain Pine (*Pinus mugo*) and the European Larch (*Larix decidua*), which are rarely found outside the Alps.



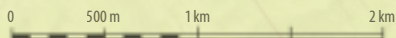
Alpine Daphne  
(*Daphne alpina*)



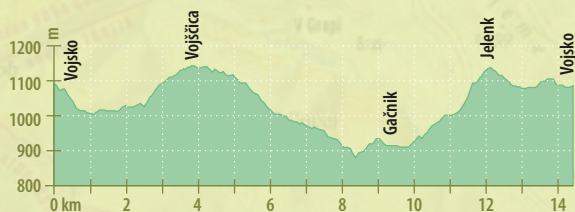
Hairy Alpenrose  
(*Rhododendron hirsutum*)



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|--|--|--|-------------------|
|  | Viewpoint                                |  | Fishing lodge     |
|  | Inn with lodging                         |  | Natural heritage  |
|  | Lodging                                  |  | Cultural heritage |
|  | Craftsmen and producers of local produce |  | Museum collection |
|  | Ski-run                                  |  | Church            |
|  | Cycling path                             |  | Hiking path       |



Merilo 1 : 40 000







At the Brdar farm in Gačnik, a collection of domestic tools and an old blacksmith's workshop are on display. In the direct vicinity is the picturesque Brdar waterfall.



## Gačnik gorge

Rich historical tradition and natural beauties can be found in one spot at the Brdar farm in **Gačnik**.

The gorge of the Gačnik River, which, after a neck-breaking descent (800 m altitude difference) discharges into the Trebuščica River, is extremely rich in waterfalls, ravines, pools and rapids. Due to steep terrain and overhanging cliffs, the waterfalls are barely accessible and require good physical condition and alpinistic skills.

The only easily accessible waterfall is the highest lying **Brdar waterfall**. It is named after the Brdar farm, located on an exceptional saddle ridge between Bendija and Brdarski vrh (985 m). The foot of the waterfall is accessible along a steep cart track. Gačnik is artificially dammed on this spot, so that its narrow riverbed is filled with a multitude of colourful gravel. The gravel bank extends to the foot of the waterfall, which is 6 metres high, probably a metre or so higher. The water descends



on two levels. After a steeply overhanging upper part, it falls directly onto a narrow, middle shelf, where it »dawdles« for a while in dry weather, afterwards pouring across the lower part into a sizeable pool on the bottom, alongside which the remains of the Brdar mill were still visible some years ago. During high water levels, the water drops directly into the bottom pool. The waterfall is extremely picturesque, especially when adequately illuminated. It was shaped by water in Cordevolian dolomite along several weak fault planes running approximately in the direction north-south.







Bare sandy hills and ridges. Extending below them are wetlands with solitary pine, birch, larch and juniper trees.



Common Butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*)



English Sundew (*Drosera anglica*)



Three faces – gardens of orchids in July; in summer a multitude of Marsh Helleborines whitens the meadows; in fall a humid orange colour prevails in the shade of dark firs, pines and larch trees.



Three Slovenian carnivorous plants thrive in the wetlands: Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), Alpine Butterwort and Common Butterwort (*Pinguicula alpina*, *P. vulgaris*). The marshy meadows abound in orchids (*Orchidaceae*): Lapland Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza lapponica*), Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza majalis*), Narrow-leaved Marsh Orchid (*D. traunsteineri*), and the Early Marsh Orchid (*D. incarnata*), the Marsh Helleborine and the Broad-leaved Helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*, *E. helleborine*), as well as the Broad-leaved Bog Cotton (*Eriophorum latifolium*). In addition to the above-mentioned, which are all protected in Slovenia, this is also the home of the protected Lemon Day Lily (*Heimerocallis lilioasphodelus*) and Peat Moss (*Sphagnum sp.*). An unusual find in this area was the Lungwort (*Pulmonaria stiriaca*).



Pr' Smodin homestead with seismic station.



## Solitary rock below the Pri Čarju farm

Along the path near the Pri Čarju farm, a beautifully shaped 4-5 metre-high **solitary rock** catches our eye. It is built of hard dolomite with conglomerate inclusions, and has for centuries resisted mechanical deterioration and chemical weathering.

## Jelenji vrh

Jelenji vrh (1147 m) above the Jelenk farm is not particularly exposed, and is actually the highest part of the ridge stretching between the Kotlar and Jelenk farms. It is one of the highest slopes on the Vojsko plateau. The famous Hudournik is only one metre higher. Just as Hudournik offers views of the territory north of the Vojsko plateau, so does Jelenji vrh offer views of the territory to the south and west. Far below us lies the Trebuša valley. Past Gorenja Trebuša and Hudo polje one can see all the way to Govci and Bukov vrh (1314 m – primeval forest). Rising upward directly in front of us are the almost upright, hardly accessible north walls of Poldanovec and neighbouring peaks. To the northwest, our view stops at the wild ravines of Kozje stene above Dolenja Trebuša. On clear days one can see past Matajur to the Western





Julian Alps and the entire Tolminsko – Bohinjska Gora ridge with Mt. Triglav. And in front of this magnificent scenery lies the entire western part of the Vojsko plateau with Ogalce and Planinica (1170 m), and Hudournik in the background. Before arriving by circular path in the middle of the village, we pay a visit to the Pr' Bončin homestead, where our forefathers carefully cleaned every inch of land and placed one stone upon another into the wall.



## Preserved wall of the Pr' Bončin homestead

Legend says that the landowner once gave his labourers part of the unused land. Over the years, these workers cleaned the land of rocks and so the wall was formed, which still encircles the homestead today.



## Excursion tip

A path leads from Vojsko into the heart of the Trnovo forest. The **Bukov vrh** primeval forest, which lies in a sinkhole on the northern edge of the Trnovo forest at an altitude of 1314 m, is part of the primordial nature that has managed to avoid man's 400-year management.

**Smrekova draga** is a deep doline with a frost hollow at its bottom (vegetation inversion), where dwarf pine thrives along with some other types of alpine vegetation that is otherwise typical on the highest alpine peaks, including the well known Iceland lichen.

A special attraction is the **Great Ice Cave in Paradana**, from where ice was transported in previous centuries to such distant countries as Egypt.

Vojsko is known for its exceptional **cross-country trails** extending across the variegated landscape. For lovers of alpine skiing, short ski runs are maintained for beginners and family skiing.

Nature offers an unforgettable experience to **cyclists** and **hikers**.





## SPORTS activities

**Vojsko Cross-Country Ski Centre**  
(cross-country skiing)  
p.p. 138, Idrija • t: +386 (0)31 703 517

## VISITS

**Slovenija Partisan Printing Shop**  
(Idrija Municipal Museum) • t: +386 (0)41 479 652

## Organic/HOME-MADE products

»Na kupčku« homestead  
Čekovnik 22, Idrija • t: +386 (0)31 616 411



## CULINARY OFFER and ACCOMODATION

**Alpski vrt lodging**  
Vojsko 25, Idrija • t: +386 (0)5 374 20 35

»Na kupčku« homestead  
Čekovnik 22, Idrija • t: +386 (0)31 616 411

**Pri Belem kamnu Inn**  
Vojsko 1a, Idrija • t: +386 (0)31 307 214

**Hleviška planina mountain hut**  
Čekovnik 34 a, Idrija  
[www.planinsko-drustvo-idrija.si](http://www.planinsko-drustvo-idrija.si)

**CŠOD** (Centre for School and Outdoor Education)  
**Dom Vojsko**, Vojsko 21, Idrija  
t: +386 (0)5 374 20 30 (*prior booking*)

## TRADITIONAL events

- Local festival with a firefighters' party (*June*)
- Jacob's Sunday (*July*)
- Wounded Veterans Memorial Hike (*last Saturday in August*)
- »Pri nas je pesem doma« – music event (*September*)

## Area of the Vojsko plateau

**Length:** 10 km between Kočevše and Stržnikar

**Width:** 2 km

**Area:** 39.5 sq,km

**Average altitude:** 1024 m

**Settlement:** Vojsko, 218 inhabitants (according to CPR data)

Prevalent rocks: dolomite and limestone

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

**Botanic curiosity:** Downy Elecampane (*Inula hirta*)

**Lookout peaks:** Planinca (1270 m), Hudournik (1148 m), Jelenji vrh (1147 m), Školj (1129 m)

**Watercourses:** Gačnik, along the edge of the plateau: Kanomljica, Trebuščica, Idrija



The **Vojsko plateau** is a flat, yet variegated world lying at an average altitude above 1000 m between Kočevše to the southeast, Gačnik and Stržnikar to the northwest, and between the Idrija River valley to the southwest and the valley of the Kanomlja Stream to the northeast. High peaks rise above the plateau, offering panorama views far and wide. The only village in the area, Vojsko, is accessible from Idrija along a narrow, steep road (15 km). Access is also possible from the direction of Tolmin – along the Trebuša valley past Razazije or Mrzla Rupa, from Predmeja – through the Trnovo forest, and from Kanomlja – across Oblakov vrh.

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