

## THE WALK OF PEACE FROM THE ALPS TO THE ADRIATIC

The peace has not always been so natural in these places. The wheel of history and the course of the Soča, which ranks among the most beautiful alpine rivers worldwide, were turbulent and unpredictable. A century after the First World War we have linked the historical heritage into the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic. From the Triglav National Park to the Adriatic Sea we strive to slow down the pace of life and embrace visitors with peace – a hundred years after the Isonzo Front, one of the most extensive warfare in the high mountains.

There are ideal terrains here for active holidays which become even more exciting with the discovering of the history of the first total war. Here, among high mountains, narrow gorges, karst caves and vineyards, the light and darkness interplay with nature and your thoughts. The heritage of the war that left a deep mark on the people and the land cannot be overlooked.

The Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic spreads the message of friendship among nations. The places that were marked by war a century ago are now messengers of peace, left with the legacy of the preserved memorials, trenches, caves and other shadows of the war.

The Walk is uniformly marked; major points of interest are also accessible by car or bus. While enjoying panoramic views, from the highest peaks of Slovenia to the sea, you can remember your ancestors and their battles. Whether as explorers of history or as active tourists or cyclists, you are inspired by natural beauties and the heritage of global interest.



Mrzli vrh



### OUTDOOR MUSEUMS

Sixteen outdoor museums offer an overview of the First World War in the Soča Valley. These are the most fascinating points along the Walk of Peace, presenting the heritage preserved in situ, amidst the historical military positions and supply routes. The WWI remains in outdoor museums have been restored and maintained mainly with authentic materials and are easily accessible along the former Italian or Austro-Hungarian front line. Through a narrow slit of a trench it is possible to view the former battlefield, while in caves one can learn about the organization of life on the front which did not allow soldiers to rest.



Museum collection



### MUSEUMS AND MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

The heritage of the Isonzo Front could not have been presented to visitors without the efforts of enthusiasts who passionately collected and listed the remains they found in places where a hundred years ago the famous battles were fought. For several decades the locals used to come upon what had remained from the Great War. Many of them were curious about where and how their forefathers had fought. The collectors' endeavours grew into valuable museum collections that stimulated the care for preservation and renovation of the Isonzo Front heritage. Together they present stories about soldiers of many nationalities, about their combat and daily life in war.



Fort Kluže



### FORTIFICATIONS

The story of some of the fortifications reaches back to the period of the Ottoman incursions and the time of Napoleonic campaigns. Although their image changed in the course of history, their basic purpose – safeguarding important strategic passes – remained the same. The most important during the Isonzo Front were Fort Kluže and Fort Herman. The former, below the steep slopes of Mt. Rombon, was safe from Italian shelling and ideal for commands and rear units, and also for a dressing station. The upper fortification, Fort Herman, was totally exposed and was soon abandoned. Today, Fort Kluže hosts various exhibitions; an illuminated tunnel above it leads to Fort Herman.



### MILITARY CEMETERIES AND CHARNEL HOUSES

In the 29 months of its duration, the Isonzo Front took a terrible toll, since about 300,000 lives were lost in battles. Military cemeteries and charnel houses are places of reverence and remembrance of the fallen soldiers. A visit to a grave, although anonymous, was of some consolation to many relatives who were among the first visitors to the Walk of Peace already decades ago. The tranquillity of the places where the soldiers had found their final rest is so eloquent that everyone who visits the areas along the Soča is enticed into consideration. Preserved and maintained are about seventy Austro-Hungarian cemeteries from the First World War, three Italian charnel houses and a German one.



### MONUMENTS

First World War monuments tell stories about the entire century, since they were erected during the war, after it and even nowadays. At the time of commemorating the centenary of the Great War, a monument to Slovenian soldiers at Doberdo del Lago and the one to General Svetozar Boroević, or the 'Isonzo Lion', were erected. Numerous memorials are dedicated to military regiments and their commanders of all nationalities and ethnic groups, therefore they represent a specific story of testimony and symbols. Among the most interesting are the monument to the defenders of Mt. Rombon on the military cemetery at Log pod Mangartom and the General Gonzaga Mausoleum within the outdoor museum Vodice.



### MEMORIAL CHURCH AND CHAPELS

With their own hands and through hard toil soldiers and POWs had to build military infrastructure. They constructed roads, supply routes, shelters, caves and trenches. In the rare moments of breaks they retreated to one of the sanctuaries, where for a short moment they could forget about the war. At Log pod Mangartom even a mosque used to stand. Preserved until today are Italian chapels, a Hungarian one and a Russian one as well as the memorial Church of the Holy Spirit at Javorca plateau, the most beautiful monument from the wartime in Slovenia that was built by Austro-Hungarian soldiers of different nationalities and confessions.



The Soča Valley



### THE WALK OF PEACE FOR YOU

The Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic can be started at several entry points. However, the optimal point of departure is Kobarid with its Walk of Peace Visitor Centre where experienced guides can also be hired.

### THE WALK OF PEACE ON FOOT

The Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic is ideal for hikers because it runs past picturesque places where it is possible to stay for the night, to relish local cuisine and experience today's vibe. High-mountain trails, macadam roads along the River Soča, former mule tracks, trails crossing meadows on the Kras and winding among the vineyards in the Brda Hills offer a great variety of hiking challenges and reward hikers with wonderful views from the Alps to the Adriatic.

### THE WALK OF PEACE FOR FAMILIES

Visiting the less demanding sections of the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic is an excellent idea for family rambling through history and in nature. Outdoor museums and well-kept caves offer children exciting explorations and time travels. At several locations along the Walk it is still possible to find alpine pastures with grazing livestock and hospitable tourist farms which are perfectly suited for active family holidays.

### THE WALK OF PEACE BY BIKE

The Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic is in many sections greatly admired by cyclists because it offers challenging ascending and dynamic distance trails. Demanding ascents and adrenaline descents at the beginning of the route and comfortable winding among the vineyards of the Brda Hills at the end are an award for everyone who enjoys wind in the hair.

### THE WALK OF PEACE FOR HISTORY LOVERS AND SOLDIERS' RELATIVES

The Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic is a real treat for lovers of military history. For all those who were marked by the Great War through their ancestors it offers an opportunity to understand their forefathers' fate. At special sites of remembrance one can find peace and reconciliation. The Walk renders possible in-depth research both to enthusiasts and experts.



The Soča Valley



### GUIDED TOURS

Welcome to our guided tours with our skilled guides who will help you pilot through historical heritage and natural attractions. Easy hikes will enrich your experience of the Soča Valley.

#### Outdoor Museum Kolovrat

Each Friday in July and August at 10 a.m. and 12 a.m.

#### Outdoor Museum Ravelnik

Each Wednesday in July and August at 10 a.m.

#### Outdoor Museum Sabotin

On Saturdays, Sundays and holidays at 10 a.m., 12 a.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m.

#### Personalized guided tours

You are invited to book an individual tour which we prepare according to your wishes and style of travelling.

FOR BOOKING INFO SEE (I) ON THE COVER PAGE.



Jama Pečinka cave



### KARST CAVES

Soldiers on the front would look for safe shelters everywhere, even underground. They had to provide for the entire infrastructure themselves. In some areas they dug shelters into bedrock, while on the Kras area such hiding places were already available. Numerous natural karst caves were arranged to serve military purposes, mainly dwellings, weapons and ammunition magazines and stores of soldiers' victuals which were always lacking. The Jama Pečinka cave was one of the best-known karst caves that were used during the First World War. It is 150 metres long and was equipped with bunks for soldiers and furnished cubicles for officers.



THE WALK OF PEACE FROM THE ALPS TO THE ADRIATIC  
The heritage of history and nature



WALK OF PEACE

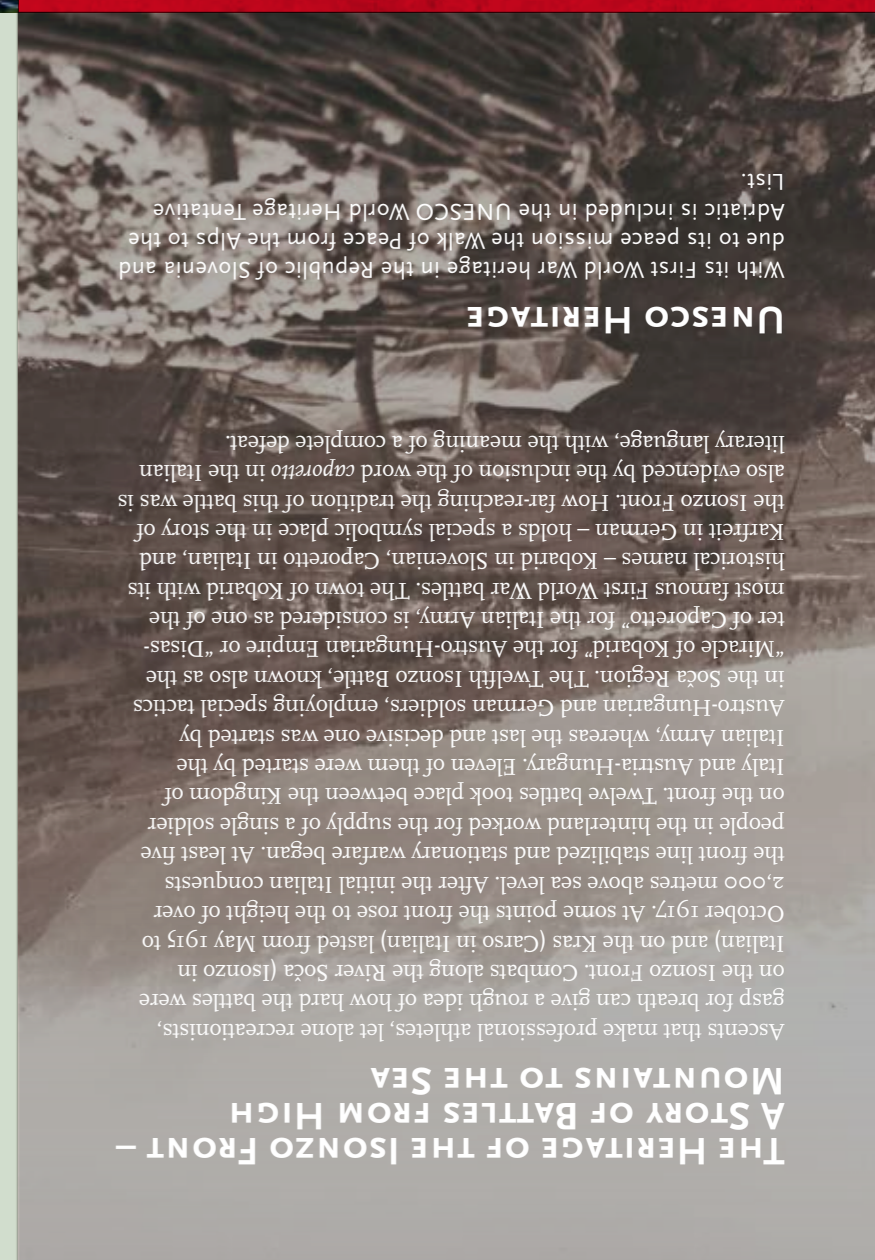


WALK OF PEACE

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THE HERITAGE OF THE ISONZO FRONT – A STORY OF BATTLES FROM HIGH MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA  
Ascends that make professional athletes, let alone recreationalists, gasps for breath can give a rough idea of how hard the battles were (Italian) and on the Kras (Carnio in Italian) lasted from May 1915 to October 1917. At some points the front rose to the height of over 2,000 metres above sea level. After the initial Italian conquests on the front line stabilized and stationary warfare began. At least the Austro-Hungarian and German soldiers, employing special tactics of Caporetto for the Italian Army. The town of Kobarid with its historical names – Kobarid in Slovenian, Caporetto in Italian, and Kartner in German – holds a special symbolic place in the story of the Isonzo Front. How far-reaching the tradition of this battle was is also evidenced by the inclusion of the word *caporetto* in the Italian literary language, with the meaning of a complete defeat.  
With its First World War 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.



### OUTDOOR MUSEUM MONTE SAN MICHELE

During the First World War, Monte San Michele was, together with Mt. Sabotin, one of the key points in the defence of Gorizia. The Austro-Hungarian Army built an extensive system 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 to renovated caves and shelters and have a look at the museum of the Great War (Museo del San Michele).

### MEMORIAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AT JAVORCA PLATEAU

Come and ascend to the unique vantage point among mountain peaks in the heart of the Triglav National Park, where the Church of the Holy Spirit is situated. The peace here can be experienced with all senses. Javorca was a peace resort already during the Isonzo Front. Soldiers of different nationalities of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy built it themselves in merely eight months, with their own donations, to the plans of architect Remigius Geyling of Vienna and under the supervision of the Hungarian first lieutenant Geza Jablonski. They burnt the names of more than 2,500 fallen comrades onto oak panels that are hinged on the walls in the interior and open like book covers. On Sundays, soldiers of different confessions would come to the church from the nearby military positions in the mountains to pray there. The Javorca church bears the European Heritage Label and is a unique multicultural monument to peace.

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Redipuglia Redipuglia

### ITALIAN CHARNEL HOUSE, REDIPUGLIA

The biggest Italian war monument of all time, the one at Redipuglia, is dedicated to more than 100,000 fallen Italian soldiers. It was designed by the same men as the charnel house at Kobarid: architect Giovanni Greppi and sculptor Giannino Castiglioni. Several remains of military constructions in the neighbourhood evidence that battles were fought here in the past. In the centre of the monument complex there 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 mortal remains of 40,000 identified fallen soldiers are kept in alphabetical order. In two big common graves 60,000 unidentified soldiers are buried.

### OUTDOOR MUSEUM SABOTIN – THE PARK OF PEACE

Almost each stone in the Mt. Sabotin Park of Peace could tell a story about the Austro-Hungarian and Italian soldiers, fortifying their battle positions. During the First World War the mountain was drilled from all sides and criss-crossed by galleries, trenches and caves. Due to its strategic position over the River Soča it was first an important Austro-Hungarian bridgehead on the right bank, but in 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 from the Vipava Valley and the Brda Hills, to the Kras, the Friuli Lowland and the Julian Alps. Come and visit the museum collection, the info-point and the snack-bar offering the tasty local jota stew and other delicacies.

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Italian Charnel House

### ITALIAN CHARNEL HOUSE, KOBARID

The charnel house on the hill of Gradč above Kobarid is dedicated to more than 7,000 fallen Italian soldiers. It was built in the 1930s and was opened by the fascist dictator, Benito Mussolini, himself. Three octagonal concentric terraces, with niches for soldiers' remains in the walls, rise uphill to the Church of St. Anthony of Padua on the top. Names of more than 4,000 identified soldiers who fell in the surroundings of Kobarid, Tolmin and Bovec are engraved on the grave niches. Soldiers' presence is symbolized by the inscription 'Presente' (meaning 'Here!') on each niche. The unidentified are indicated as 'militi ignoti' (unknown soldiers). Stations of the Cross lead up to the top of Gradč, and at the end visitors behold the inscription 'Onore a voi che qui cadeste valorosamente combattendo' (Honour to all of you who fell here in a brave fight).

### OUTDOOR MUSEUM KOLOVRAT

Each of the outdoor museums with the remains of the Isonzo Front testifies to the important role of nature during the war. The Kolovrat ridge is one of the most frequently visited and most easily accessible points of the Great War. This outdoor museum is attractive due to its location which reaches into two countries, Slovenia and Italy. Kolovrat extends from Kobarid to the Brda Hills and affords unique views of the Julian Alps and the emerald green Soča River on the one side and of Veneto, the Friuli Lowland and the Adriatic on the other side. The ridge is also attractive for cyclists. Here ran the Italian line of defence whose command posts, shooting positions, a system of trenches and caves have been preserved until today.

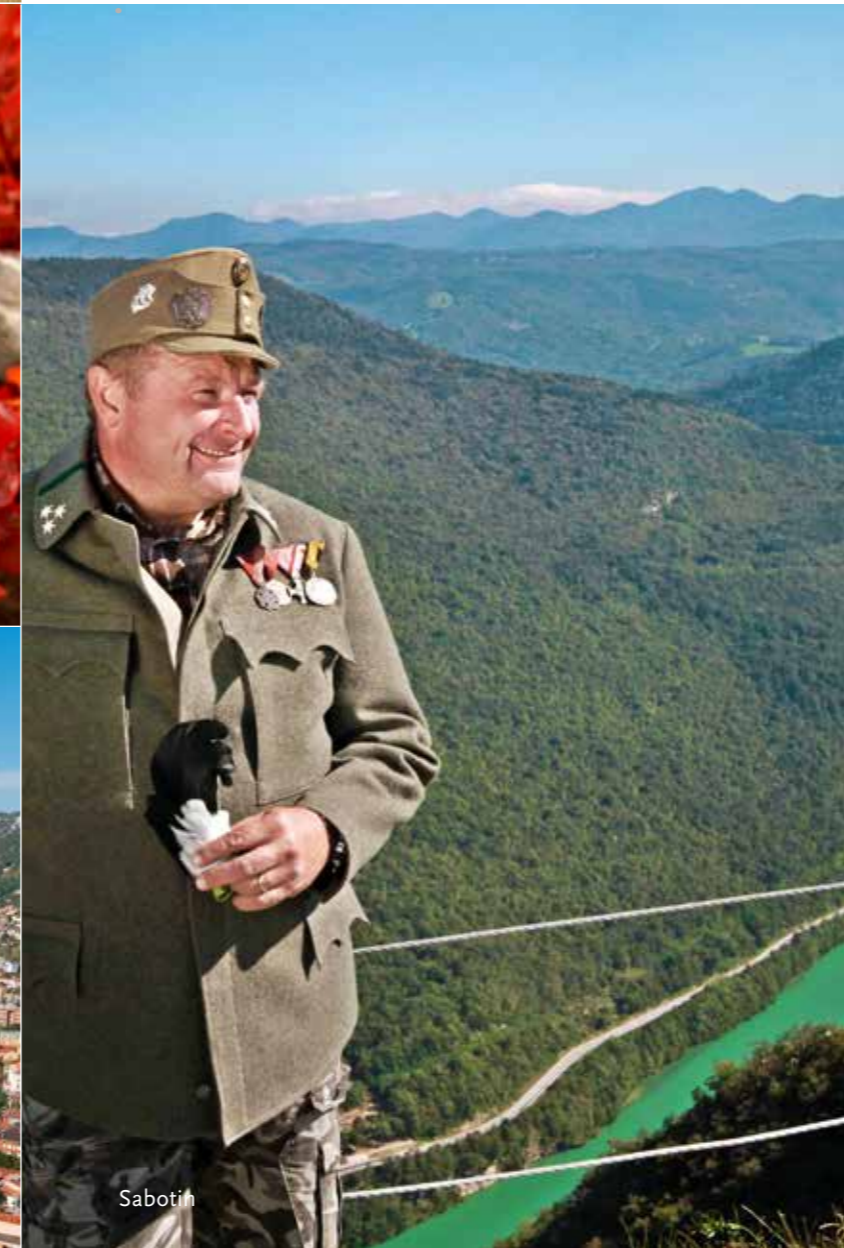
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The Church at Javorca



The Kras



Sabotin



Kolovrat

### KOBARID MUSEUM

You are invited to learn about why the Twelfth Isonzo Battle was so special that it enjoys a global reputation in terms of history. The story of the breakthrough near Kobarid attracts ever more numerous visitors from all over the world. The Kobarid Museum communicates 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 the First World War is presented in Slovenia. It developed from a private collection into a museum that won the Council of Europe Museum Prize. It has organized more than forty acclaimed exhibitions at home and in major European capitals. It is open all days throughout the year.



Kobarid Museum



Trieste Trieste



Gorjansko

### RUSSIAN CHAPEL

At the picturesque wooden Orthodox chapel by the road which leads across the highest Slovenian road pass, Vršič, one cannot but notice the inscription 'To the Sons of Russia' on the pyramid over the grave. It is dedicated to Russian POWs who were captured on the Eastern Front and brought to the Julian Alps. In very difficult circumstances they had to construct, in a mere half of the year 1915, the urgently needed road connection from Kranjska Gora over the pass of Vršič (1,611 m) to Trenta. The road was essential for supplying Austro-Hungarian units on the Isonzo Front and for transporting the wounded away. Because of the huge masses of snow, an avalanche was triggered from the slopes of Mt. Mojstrovka early in 1916 and engulfed several hundreds of men.



Russian Chapel

### TRIESTE

The cultural, artistic and historical centre of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region still radiates the charm of the past periods even today. The city was the centre 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 Italian Army in the First World War, but the powerful Austro-Hungarian line of defence Fajti Hrib-Monte Ermada hindered any attack on the city. The Italian Army occupied Trieste only after the capitulation of Austria-Hungary at the end of the Great War. Numerous museums, monuments and names of streets and squares nowadays call attention to the events of a hundred years ago.

### AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN MILITARY CEMETERY, GORJANSKO

Gorjansko is the biggest and one of the best preserved First World War military cemeteries in Slovenia. Soldiers of different nationalities of the monarchy are buried here, since more than twenty nationalities and ethnic groups fought for the Emperor between 1915 and 1917. According to the data of the Italian authorities, which led extensive excavations of military cemeteries in the 1930s to transfer mortal remains to memorial parks and tombs, more than 6,000 Austro-Hungarian soldiers are buried here. The cemetery is integrated in a natural way into the undulating karst landscape.



German Charnel House

### EXPLORE KOBARID WITH THE APP



WALK OF PEACE – KOBARID DURING WWI IN AR?

Walk around the historic town of Kobarid and experience the past overlaid on top of your present view like never before.

AR® = Augmented Reality

### GERMAN CHARNEL HOUSE, TOLMIN

On the site where a military cemetery was originally situated the German state erected a charnel house in 1938 as the final resting place for about a thousand German soldiers who had fallen in the last Isonzo battle. The German charnel house is the only preserved location within the wider area of the Isonzo Front where a greater number of German soldiers are buried. The central part of the monument consists of a chapel containing a grave of the Unknown Soldier and the names of the fallen, and it is surrounded by a mighty stone wall. The building material for the construction of this impressive monument was brought from south Tyrol.