

CROSS-BORDER THEMATIC ROUTES ITALY-SLOVENIA



INTRODUCTION

Before you is a catalogue that presents five diligently designed **cross-border thematic routes**. They connect diverse natural, cultural, historical, and tourist points in the area along the border between Slovenia and Italy, and are also promoted and supported by the **Interreg Italy-Slovenia** programme.

Cohesion policy is the main investment policy of the European Union, aimed at reducing economic, social, and territorial disparities between EU Member States. One of its key objective is **European territorial cooperation**, which facilitates the joint resolution of cross-border challenges and the development of potentials in different areas. The Interreg Italy-Slovenia programme is one

of the cross-border programmes of European territorial cooperation. On the territories of Italy and Slovenia¹, it strives to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants, protect and promote cultural and natural heritage, achieve climate neutrality, and build sustainable, innovative, and inclusive growth.

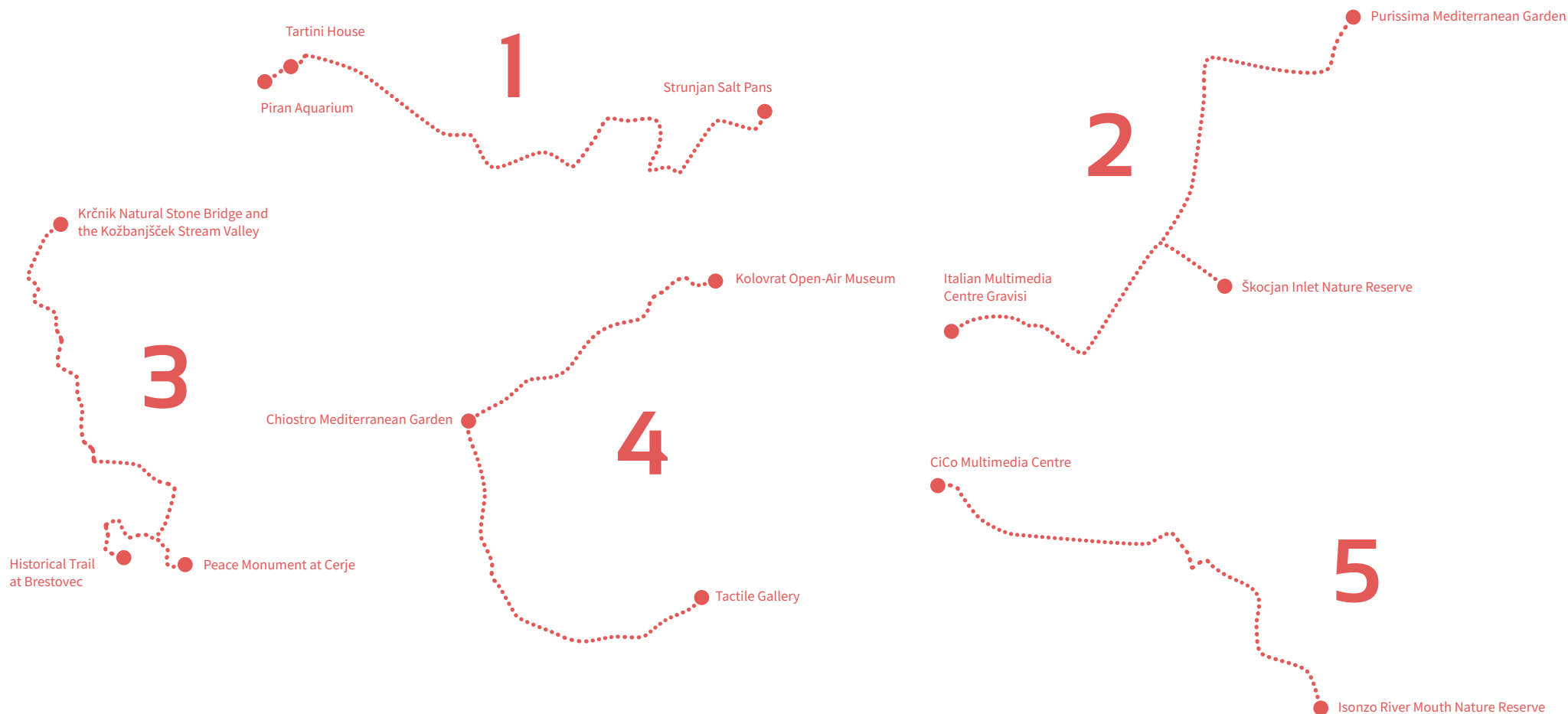
With this catalogue, we aim to bring the tangible results of European cohesion policy and cross-border cooperation between Italy and Slovenia closer to the general public, particularly secondary schools. We offer inspiration and practical tools for planning excursions that follow the paths of cooperation between the two countries.

All routes were tested together with students and teachers from various secondary schools in the programme area as part of the **Cohesion for All: Without Borders project**. The result is a collection of verified and inspiring routes, intended not only for schools, but also for families, excursionists, groups, and individuals who wish to explore the richness of the cross-border area.

Each route in the catalogue includes a brief description, an introduction of the suggested points along the way, and useful information that will help you plan your visit.

¹ The Italy-Slovenia programme area covers an area of 19,841 km² and includes five statistical regions in Italy: the provinces of Udine, Pordenone, Gorizia, and Trieste in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region and the province of Venice in the Veneto region; and five statistical regions in Slovenia: Primorsko-Notranjska, Central Slovenia, Upper Carniola, Coastal-Karst and Gorizia statistical regions. Approximately 3 million people live in the area.

CROSS-BORDER ROUTES



1. ROUTE:

STRUNJAN SALT PANS – PIRAN AQUARIUM – TARTINI HOUSE

This cross-border route combines experiences of nature, sea, and culture. In the Strunjan salt pans, visitors can learn about the tradition of salt production and admire the rich biodiversity; in the Piran Aquarium, they can explore the underwater world of the Northern Adriatic; and, in the Tartini House, they can discover the heritage of the renowned violinist Giuseppe Tartini.

STRUNJAN SALT PANS



The Strunjan salt pans are the northernmost and smallest salt pans in the Mediterranean, where salt has been traditionally extracted for over 700 years. Together with the Stjuža lagoon, they constitute the most important wetland in the Strunjan Landscape Park. They were created with the construction of embankments, channels, and shallow pools, which transformed the shallows of the Strunjan Bay into today's salt pans. Today, they form an invaluable part of cultural heritage and at the same time an important nature conservation area, providing a habitat for numerous plant and animal species adapted to specific salt pan conditions.

Although the salt pans are a closed extraction area, they can be observed from designated paths and viewpoints. Visitors can also visit the Visitor Centre in the former salt worker's house (Strunjan 152), where the Sea Park exhibition and a documentary film about the park are available.

Point supported by projects of the Interreg Italy-Slovenia programme: Climaparks (2010–2013), Saltworks (2011–2013)

ADDRESS: Strunjan 152, 6320 Portorož, Slovenia

OUTDOORS/INDOORS: outdoors

DURATION OF YOUR VISIT: 1–2 hours

GUIDED TOUR OPTION: YES

ENTRANCE FEE NO

BOOKING CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tel: +386 (0)8 205 1880

E-mail address: info@parkstrunjan.si

More information: <https://parkstrunjan.si/>

PIRAN AQUARIUM



The Piran Aquarium offers a unique opportunity to discover the diverse marine biodiversity of the Northern Adriatic. It is home to about 140 species of organisms, including as many as 60 different species of fish. In larger aquariums, we can admire schools of open sea fish, such as sea bass, grey mullets, and gilthead sea breams, as well as species that prefer to stay in coastal waters, such as black seabreams, salema porgies, horse mackerels, two-banded seabreams, and common pandoras. Groupers, moray eels, and curious conger eels hide among the rock crevices, while the smaller aquariums reveal a colourful world of shallow coastal inhabitants, such as blennies, painted combers, gobies, and clingfish.

The Piran Aquarium forms part of the Science Centre of the University of Primorska, which is responsible for presenting scientific research work to the wider public, education, research, and the protection of the marine environment.

Point supported by projects of the Interreg Italy-Slovenia programme: TRECap (2023–2025)

ADDRESS: Kidričevo nabrežje 4, 6330 Piran, Slovenia

OUTDOORS/INDOORS: indoors

DURATION OF YOUR VISIT: 1 hour

GUIDED TOUR OPTION: YES

ENTRANCE FEE YES

BOOKING CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tel: +386 (0)51 215 702

E-mail address: akvarij@upr.si

More information: <https://aquariumpiran.si/>

TARTINI HOUSE



The birthplace of Giuseppe Tartini stands in the Tartini Square in Piran.

It is a cultural and architectural monument of urban architecture and a modern museum where visitors can learn about the life and work of one of the most famous European violinists of his time. Giuseppe Tartini is also considered one of the most important composers in the history of world music and an exceptional teacher with a pioneering vision of music education. A museum route is designed in the Tartini House with new equipment, modern infrastructure, and technology. In the collection, there are exhibits of Tartini's depictions, his manuscripts, and a violin, which is considered the most valuable exhibit.

Point supported by projects of the Interreg Italy–Slovenia programme: tARTini (2017–2020), Tartini bis (2023–2025)

ADDRESS: Kajuhova 12, 6330 Piran, Slovenia

OUTDOORS/INDOORS: indoors

DURATION OF YOUR VISIT: 1–2 hours

GUIDED TOUR OPTION: YES

ENTRANCE FEE YES

BOOKING CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tel: +386 (0)51 245 725

E-mail address: info.casatartini@gmail.com

More information: <https://www.facebook.com/casatartini>
and <https://www.discovertartini.eu/>

2. ROUTE:

PURISSIMA MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN – ŠKOCJAN INLET NATURE RESERVE – ITALIAN MULTIMEDIA CENTRE GRAVISI



On the cross-border route, nature meets the linguistic, historical, and cultural heritage of this area. In the Purissima Mediterranean Garden, you can explore the richness of Mediterranean flora, in the Škocjan Inlet Nature Reserve you admire the largest brackish wetland in Slovenia, a refuge for numerous birds and plants, and, in the Gravisi multimedia centre, you learn about the linguistic, historical, and cultural heritage of the cross-border area.

PURISSIMA MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN



In Spodnje Škofije, just 9 km from Koper, along the ancient route between Trieste and Koper, lies the Purissima Mediterranean Garden. This is a didactic educational area intended for young people, kindergarteners, agriculturists, and all nature enthusiasts, where more than 200 species of Mediterranean plants thrive. Visitors can learn about them, recognise their scents, and discover their use in culinary arts. The garden offers a space for natural science days, education, culinary dinners, and gatherings amidst the scents of the Mediterranean.

Point supported by projects of the Interreg Italy-Slovenia programme: Meds Garden (2017–2019), Meds Garden+ (2023–2026)

ADDRESS: Spodnje Škofije 11e, 6000 Koper, Slovenia

OUTDOORS/INDOORS: outdoors

DURATION OF YOUR VISIT: 1–2 hours

GUIDED TOUR OPTION: YES

ENTRANCE FEE YES

BOOKING CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tel: +386 51 227 874

E-mail address: purissima@agraria-koper.si

More information: <https://agraria-koper.si/purissima/>

ŠKOCJAN INLET NATURE RESERVE



Just a step away from the town of Koper spreads a true natural treasure.

The Škocjan Inlet Nature Reserve is a 122-hectare Mediterranean wetland and the largest brackish (semi-saline) marsh in Slovenia. Due to the diverse mix of brackish and freshwater habitats, a true paradise has been created here for numerous plant and animal species, as well as for all who enjoy observing and experiencing nature. On a walk along the circular educational trail, which is a little over 2 kilometres long, visitors can discover the rich plant and animal life of the reserve and encounter numerous rare species. The idyllic image of the area is complemented by Camargue horses and Podolian cattle, which maintain the vegetative balance in the nature reserve through grazing. A visit is educational, relaxing, and full of sensory experiences.

**Point supported by projects of the Interreg Italy-Slovenia programme:
Zatok (2005–2008), Adriawet 2000 (2011–2014)**

ADDRESS: Sermin 50, 6000 Koper, Slovenia

OUTDOORS/INDOORS: outdoors

DURATION OF YOUR VISIT: 3 hours

GUIDED TOUR OPTION: YES – mandatory guided tours for groups with more than ten visitors and for all education institution groups

ENTRANCE FEE YES

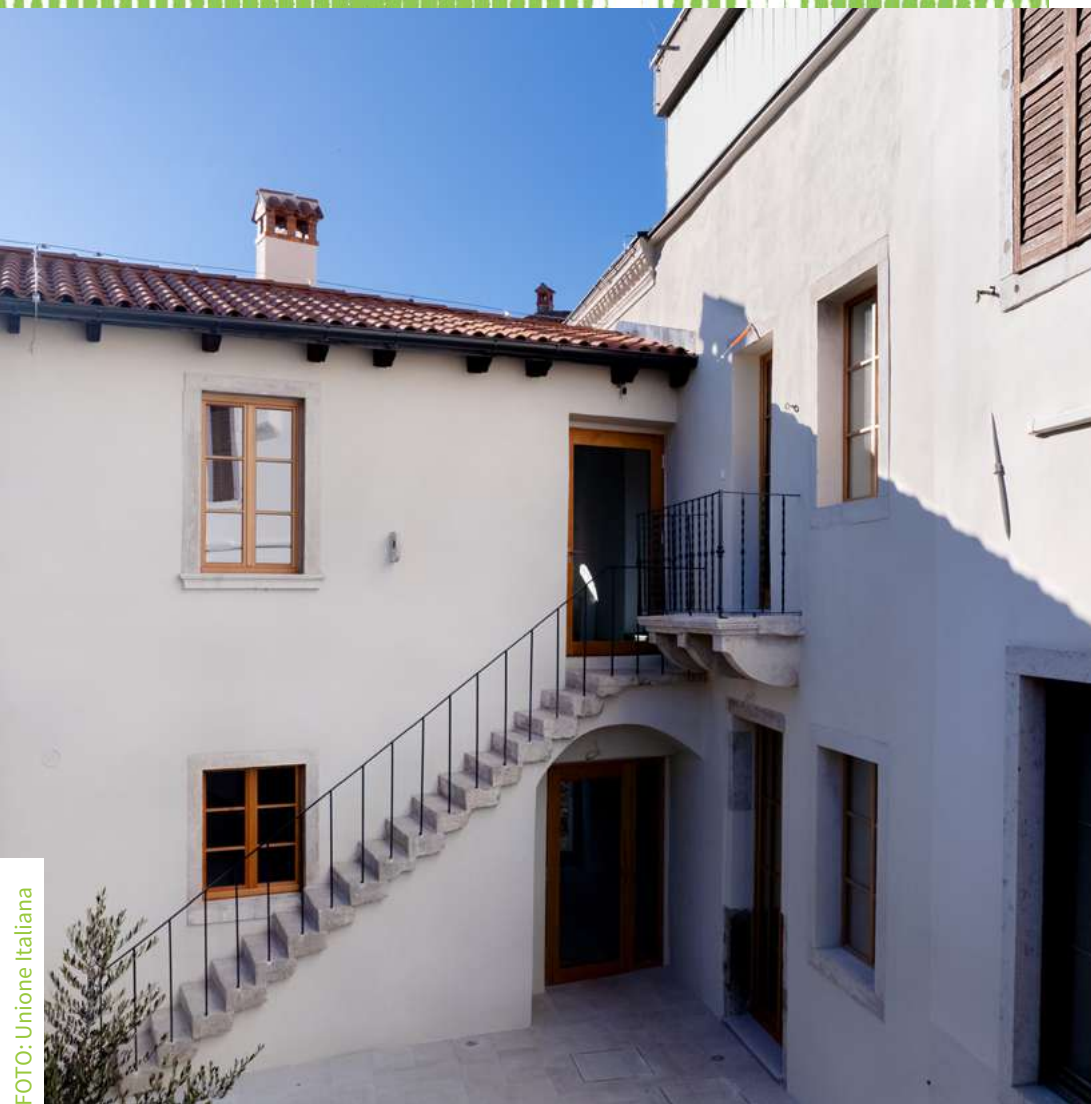
BOOKING CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tel: +386 (0)5 626 03 70

E-mail address: bojana.lipej@dopps.si

More information: <https://skocjanski-zatok.org/>

GRAVISI ITALIAN MULTIMEDIA CENTRE



A multimedia centre has been established in the Gravis-Buttorai Palace in Koper, which takes visitors into the world of history, language, and culture of the Italian national community in Slovenia and Croatia – an indigenous minority that has been living along the Adriatic for centuries and co-creating the rich cultural landscape of Istria. On the ground floor of the palace, there is a multimedia and educational museum trail where visitors can explore and learn about the linguistic, historical, and cultural heritage of this area and the broader cross-border region. The exhibition offers an insight into the everyday life of the Italian community: its language and dialects, customs, architecture, artworks, and stories of notable figures.

Point supported by projects of the Interreg Italy-Slovenia programme: PRIMIS (2019–2023), PRIMIS Plus (2023–2025)

ADDRESS: Ulica Osvobodilne fronte 8, 6000 Koper, Slovenia

OUTDOORS/INDOORS: indoors

DURATION OF YOUR VISIT: 1 hour

GUIDED TOUR OPTION: YES

ENTRANCE FEE NO

BOOKING CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tel: +386 (0)70 842 953

E-mail address: unione.it.cap@siol.net

More information: <https://www.facebook.com/unioneitaliana1991>

3. ROUTE:

CERJE PEACE MONUMENT – HISTORICAL TRAIL AT BRESTOVEC – KRČNIK
NATURAL STONE BRIDGE AND THE KOŽBANJŠČEK STREAM VALLEY



The cross-border route combines the history, memory, and natural beauty of the Karst and Goriška Brda hills. Visitors can view the monumental Peace Memorial at Cerje, where they learn about the significance of peace and the identity of the Slovenian nation. At Brestovec, they explore the heritage of the First World War through trenches, caverns, and installations, while in the valley of the Kožbanjšček stream, they admire the picturesque gorges and the natural Krčnik bridge, which impresses with its grandeur and beauty.

PEACE MONUMENT AT CERJE



On the Cerje hill, right next to the border with Italy, stands a magnificent stone tower – the Peace Monument. With its magnificent architecture, set in a natural amphitheatre, and with historical and artistic collections, it pays tribute to the memory of the history of the Slovenian nation. It is simultaneously a museum facility, a viewpoint, and a symbolic monument to all those who deserve credit for preserving Slovenian land and gaining a sovereign state. At the same time, it invites us to reflect on the meaning of peace.

At the top, a breathtaking view opens up over the Adriatic, the Alps, and the Karst landscape. The tower is not merely a monument, but also a place for reflection on the past and a glimpse into the future.

Point supported by the project of the Interreg Italy–Slovenia programme: BeWoP (2024–2026)

ADDRESS: Lokvica 18, 5291 Miren, Slovenia

INDOORS/OUTDOORS: both

DURATION OF YOUR VISIT: 1–2 hours

GUIDED TOUR OPTION: YES

ENTRANCE FEE: YES

BOOKING CONTACT INFORMATION:

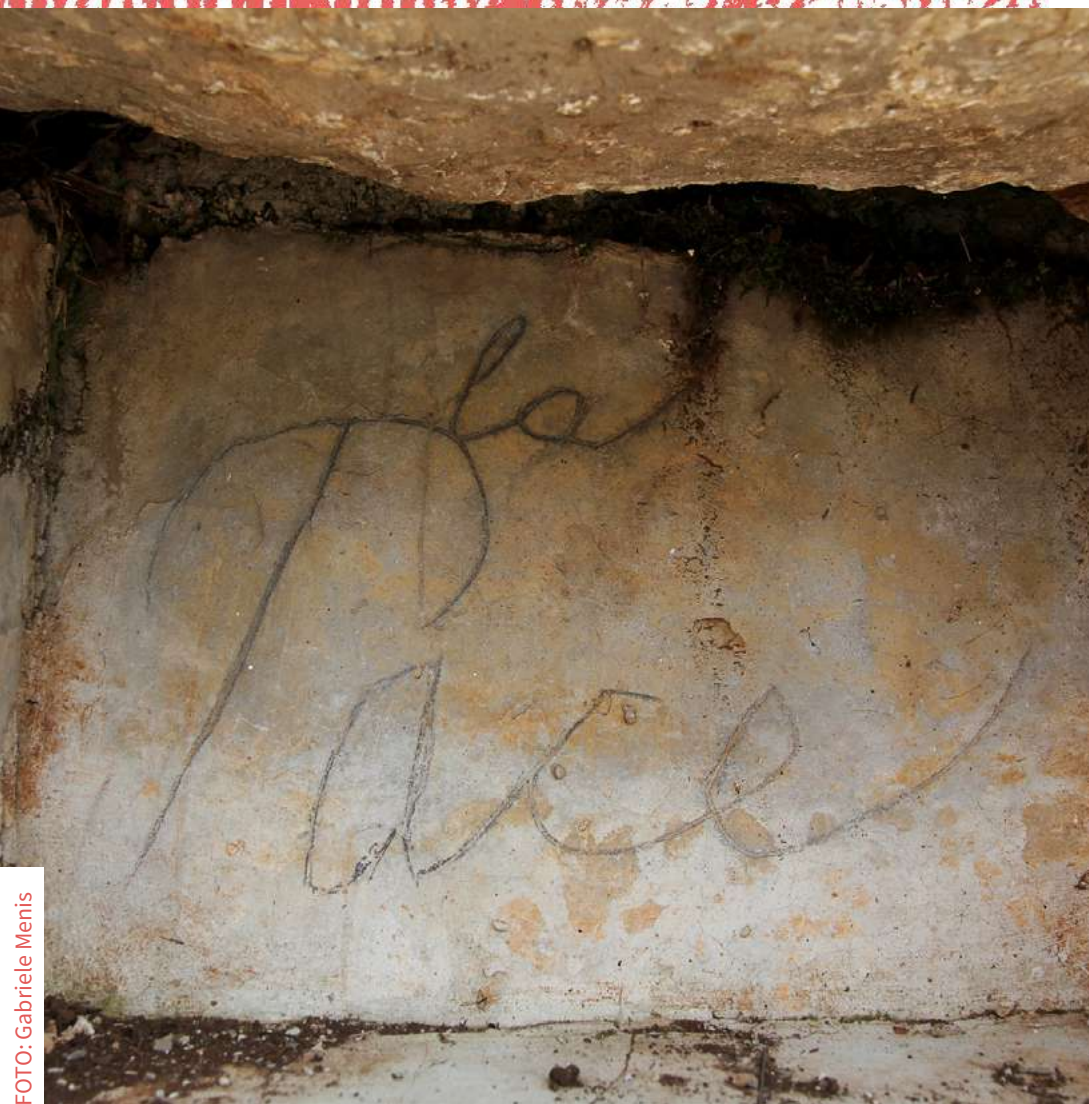
Tel: +386 (0)31 310 800

E-mail address: info@mirenkras.si

More information:

<https://www.mirenkras.si/pomnik-miru/obisk-pomnika-miru>

HISTORICAL TRAIL AT BRESTOVEC



The Brestovec Open-Air Museum is one of the three hundred heritage points of World War I, integrated into the Peace Trail from the Alps to the Adriatic. Brestovec is one of the many areas marked by the Isonzo Front, although the hill was never directly affected during the battles. The Italian army established an extensive system of trenches, caverns, and observation posts here. A particular highlight is the artillery cavern, built between January and August 1917, which housed eight cannons. Today, the area is set up as an open-air museum where visitors can walk along soldiers' paths and learn about their life on the front line. Metal installations testify to the events on the Karst during World War I and are accompanied by a symbolic narrative of an Austro-Hungarian and Italian soldier. At the entrance of the Italian soldier, there is an inscription "la Pace" (Peace), and at the entrance of the Austro-Hungarian soldier, "Vo(g)liamo la pace" (We want peace).

Point supported by projects of the Interreg Italy-Slovenia programme: WALKofPEACE (2018–2022), WALKofPEACE+ (2023–2026)

COORDINATES 45.877547, 13.574102

OUTDOORS/INDOORS: outdoors

DURATION OF YOUR VISIT: 3 hours

GUIDED TOUR OPTION: YES

ENTRANCE FEE NO

BOOKING CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tel: +39 048 148 9139, +39 346 176 1913

E-mail address: info@prolocofoglianoredipuglia.it

More information: <https://www.thewalkofpeace.com/sl/>

KRČNIK NATURAL STONE BRIDGE AND THE KOŽBANJŠČEK STREAM VALLEY



Below the village of Kožbana in the Goriška Brda region, nature has created one of its most picturesque landmarks – the gorges of the Kožbanjšček stream with the Krčnik natural stone bridge. It is one of the most beautiful natural features in Slovenia, protected as a cultural monument and enchanting visitors in all seasons. The approximately 40-metre long riverbeds begin with a huge pothole and a six-metre deep spherical depression in the streambed. Approximately in the middle of the basin, a beautifully rounded and smooth natural bridge stretches, considered one of the most beautiful in Slovenia. Nearby are also the Kotline – three consecutive riverbeds that have also been formed by the Kožbanjšček stream. With its riverbeds, rapids, waterfalls, and pools, it has been a popular retreat and gathering place for many years.

Point supported by the project of the Interreg Italy–Slovenia programme: Bridge (2021–2022)

ADDRESS: In the village of Neblo, turn towards Golo Brdo, and at the junction at the end of the village of Hruševlje (near Peternel), head into the valley of the Kožbanjšček stream.

OUTDOORS/INDOORS: outdoors

DURATION OF YOUR VISIT: 1–2 hours

GUIDED TOUR OPTION: YES

ENTRANCE FEE YES

BOOKING CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tel: +386 (0)5 395 95 95

E-mail address: tic@brda.si

More information: <https://www.brda.si/sl/spoznaj/narava/2023030714095889/naravni-kamniti-most-krcnik-in-dolina-potoka-kozbanjscka/>

4. ROUTE:

TACTILE GALLERY – IL GIARDINO DEL CHIOSTRO – KOLOVRAT OPEN-AIR MUSEUM



The cross-border path connects art, nature, and history. In the Tactile Gallery, visitors experience art through touch, sound, and sensory experiences, broadening the perspective on cultural accessibility. In Cividale, you can take a walk through the Chiostro Mediterranean garden, which functions as an outdoor plant laboratory. The path concludes at Kolovrat, in the open-air museum, where the museum trail and exceptional views reveal the history of World War I.

TACTILE GALLERY



The art beyond the visible is a unique exhibition that opens up a new way of experiencing art through touch, sound, and other senses. Particular attention is paid to blind and partially sighted visitors, emphasising the importance of including vulnerable groups in the cultural space. The project aims to raise awareness of accessibility in the arts. In collaboration with the Faculty of Education at the University of Primorska, students of inclusive pedagogy prepared audio descriptions of the exhibited works in three languages. The exhibition space was carefully chosen and adapted to ensure complete accessibility – from parking to adjustments for those with mobility impairments.

ADDRESS: Mercator center Nova Gorica (Industrijska cesta 6, 5000 Nova Gorica), Slovenia

OUTDOORS/INDOORS: indoors

DURATION OF YOUR VISIT: 1 hour

GUIDED TOUR OPTION: YES

ENTRANCE FEE YES

BOOKING CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tel: +386 (0)51 345 301

E-mail address: david.kozuh@goriskimuzej.si

More information: <https://bit.ly/taktilnagalerija>

IL GIARDINO DEL CHIOSTRO



In the former monastery of San Giorgio in Cividale del Friuli, an educational and social farm has been established where tradition meets innovation. The Mediterranean garden acts as an open-air laboratory, where visitors get to know the plants, their scents and shapes - each essence telling its own story. The experience becomes particularly magical in the evenings when the lighting highlights the shapes and colours of the plants, adding a touch of mystery to the space. The entire area with its Mediterranean garden is a unique blend of natural, historical, and cultural heritage that definitely deserves a visit. Furthermore, the garden serves as a meeting place, hosting cultural events and connecting people with nature.

Point supported by projects of the Interreg Italy-Slovenia programme: Meds Garden (2017–2019), Meds Garden+ (2023–2026)

ADDRESS: Via Firmano 16, 33043 Cividale del Friuli, Italy

OUTDOORS/INDOORS: outdoors

DURATION OF YOUR VISIT: 1 hour

GUIDED TOUR OPTION: YES

ENTRANCE FEE YES

BOOKING CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tel: +39 339 724 5085

E-mail address: info@ilgiardinodelchiostro.com

More information: <https://www.ilgiardinodelchiostro.it/>

KOLOVRAT OPEN-AIR MUSEUM



The Kolovrat Open-Air Museum is one of the three hundred heritage sites of the World War I, integrated into the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic. The circular trail leads past command and observation posts, machine gun and artillery positions, caverns, and a network of shooting and connecting trenches on multiple levels. Special experiences are offered by original details, such as the spiral staircase in one of the caverns and the use of original materials from wartime. From the top of the Kolovrat ridge, a view opens up over the entire battlefield – from Kanin all the way to the Gulf of Trieste. Along the ridge of Kolovrat, which rises steeply along the right bank of the Soča River between Kobarid and Tolmin, the border between Austria-Hungary and Italy ran before World War I.

Point supported by projects of the Interreg Italy-Slovenia programme: WALKofPEACE (2018–2022), WALKofPEACE+ (2023–2026), BeWoP (2024–2026)

COORDINATES 46.184577, 13.660426

OUTDOORS/INDOORS: outdoors

DURATION OF YOUR VISIT: 1–2 hours

GUIDED TOUR OPTION: YES

ENTRANCE FEE NO

BOOKING CONTACT INFORMATION:

tel: +386 (0)5 389 0167, +386 (0)31 586 296

E-mail: info@potmiru.si, info@thewalkofpeace.com

More information: <https://www.thewalkofpeace.com/sl/>

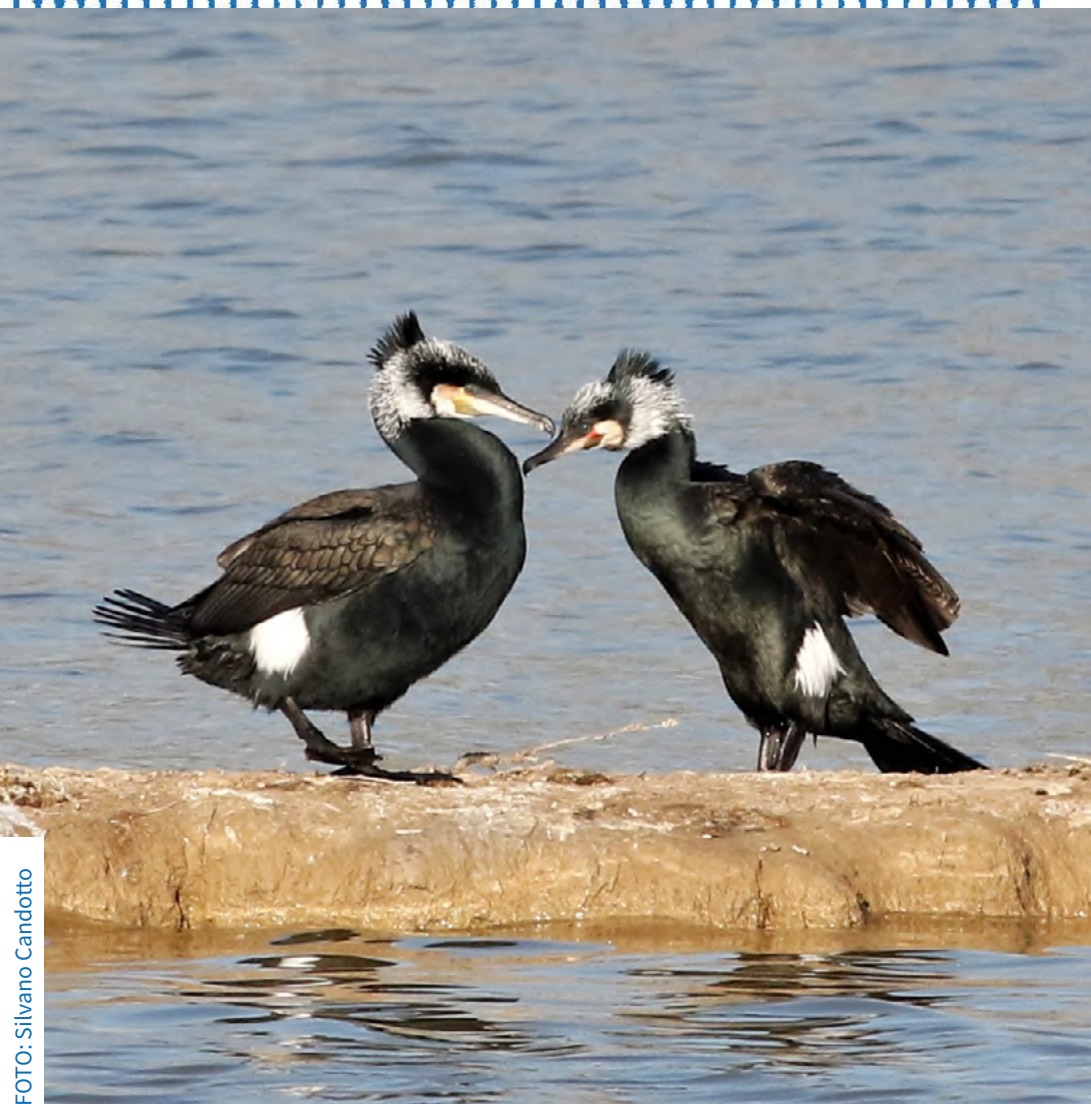
5. ROUTE:

ISONZO RIVER MOUTH NATURE RESERVE –
CICO MULTIMEDIA CENTRE



The cross-border path connects the nature reserve at the mouth of the Soča River, one of the largest wetlands of the northern Adriatic, which is a refuge for numerous birds and other animal and plant species. Visitors can also head to Comelico, where the CiCo multimedia centre uses an interactive installation to bring closer the culture, language, and history of the Ladin community.

ISONZO RIVER MOUTH NATURAL RESERVE



At the mouth of the Soča River, one of the largest wetlands in the northern Adriatic, covering 2300 hectares, spreads out - a true paradise for water birds. The area that was once cultivated has been transformed back into a natural sanctuary for thousands of birds belonging to more than 300 different species. At the entrance to the Cona Island, there is a welcoming visitor centre which includes a museum and accommodation facilities, and a small restaurant is also nearby. The centre is an ideal starting point for exploring the reserve, as well-maintained paths and observation points extend from here.

Point supported by projects of the Interreg Italy-Slovenia programme: Grevislin (2018–2022), Grennat (2023–2025), Poseidone (2023–2025)

COORDINATES 45.768005721503386, 13.487671289075482

OUTDOORS/INDOORS: outdoors

DURATION OF YOUR VISIT: 2–4 hours

GUIDED TOUR OPTION: YES

ENTRANCE FEE YES

BOOKING CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tel: +39 333 4056800

E-mail address: info@rogos.it

More information: <https://riservafoceisonzo.it/>

CICO MULTIMEDIA CENTRE



In the heart of Comelico lies CiCo – a multimedia centre dedicated to the language and culture of the Ladins. This is an indigenous community that has been residing in the Dolomites for centuries and has shaped the valley's unique character with its language, customs, and way of life. The multimedia centre offers an experiential journey through the natural and cultural heritage of the Comelico Valley. At the centre of the exhibition are the language and Ladin culture, which put their stamp on the valley. Visitors learn about the rich cultural layer of the area and at the same time understand the importance of preserving minority languages and traditions in modern times.

Point supported by projects of the Interreg Italy-Slovenia programme: PRIMIS (2019–2023), PRIMIS Plus (2023–2025)

ADDRESS: Piazza Roma, 32045 Santo Stefano di Cadore BL, Italy

OUTDOORS/INDOORS: indoors

DURATION OF YOUR VISIT: 1 hour

GUIDED TOUR OPTION: YES

ENTRANCE FEE NONE

BOOKING CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tel: +39 0435 420117

E-mail address: info@fondazionecomelico.it

More information: <https://www.fondazionecomelico.it/cico/>

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coesione per tutti

Cross-border thematic routes Italy-Slovenia

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