

On the foothills of Pohorje and the plains of Dravsko polje, domestic forests are rustling and wheat is turning yellow as it matures, by the friendly home green linden trees that smell so nice ...

- People are the essence of our municipality. In the beautiful, picturesque and carefully landscaped villages between Planica and Gorica, with the outskirts of the Dravsko polje plains on one side and the forested slopes of Pohorje on the other, is where just over seven thousand of us live. With 51 km² we belong to the middle-sized class of Slovenian municipalities. Our landscape covers two completely different areas - the east is based on the plains of Dravsko polje, while the western part consists of predominantly rural homesteads that stubbornly defy the industrial and decorates the green forests of Framsko Pohorje.
- A lowland with a municipal centre, Rače is characterized by one of the most beautiful lowland castles in this part of Europe. The old core of the village of Rače and other lowland settlements (Podova, Brezula, Zgornja and Spodnja Gorica) is next to the newly landscaped residential neighbourhoods that still shows its strong former peasant roots from the fertile Dravsko polje.
- The character of the highland area has been accompanied by a tourism boom. The village Planica, which away from the bustle, offers an authentic domestic atmosphere, beautiful surroundings and the excellence of Pohorje's culinary delights is joined by a tourist road to the other areas of Framsko Pohorje: Kopivnik, Ranče, Šestdobe, Morje and Loka pri Framu. Before hiking on the marked path to ascend the slopes of Pohorje you will see spread out before you a scenic view of the old village core of Fram - an urban monument with the Church of Saint Ann.
- We are known for our activity, creative stubbornness, openness, Styrian joy and hospitality. In addition to the natural and cultural beauty, for which we pride ourselves on and enjoy showing off, we are happy to seat visitors at a table and offer them numerous culinary delights and of course also something to ward off their thirst. Since it is pleasant in all aspects and seasons by us, we believe that we are worth visiting and learning about.





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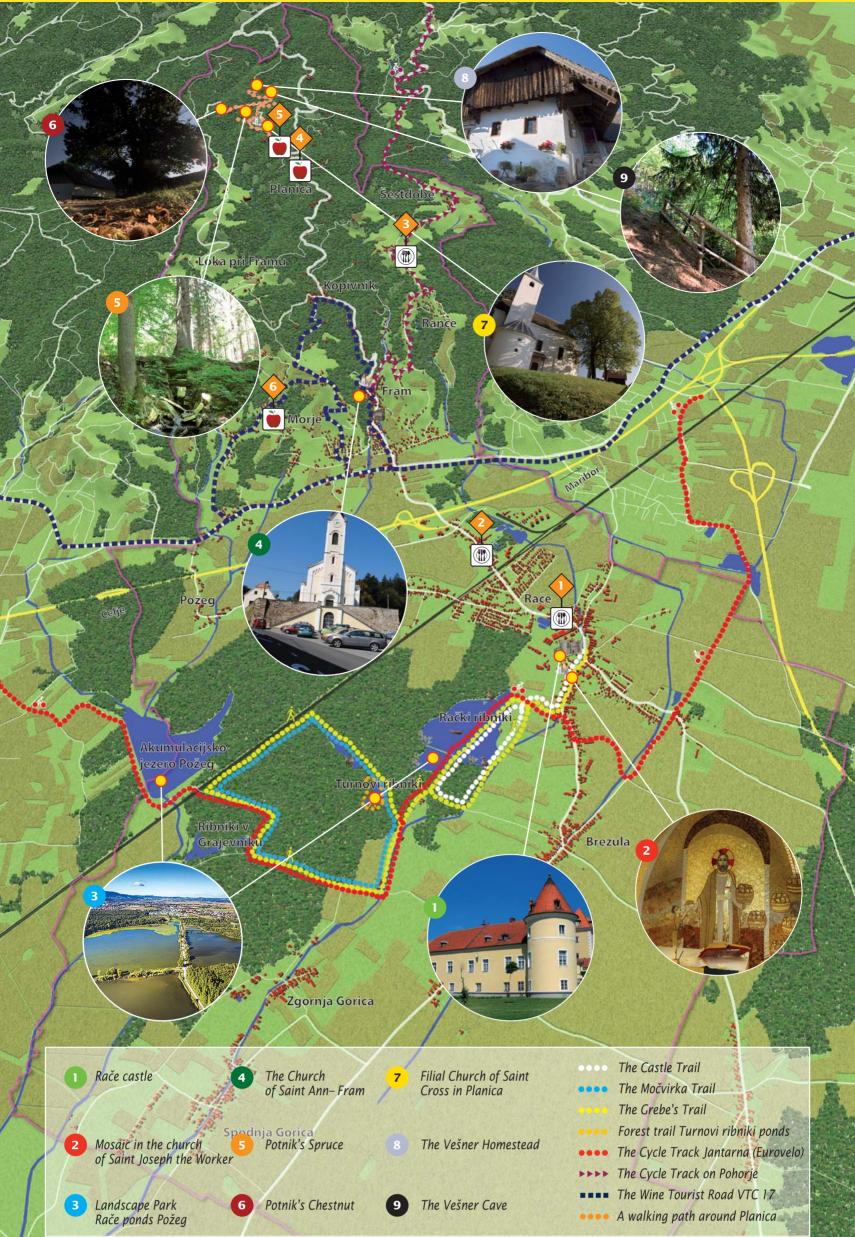


RAČE – FRAM



Where





A ROMANTIC DESTINATION



You will be taken over by the picturesque romantic castle weddings and a feeling of nostalgia at the ethnological museum. You will feel a touch of unspoiled nature in the embrace of the mighty forests of Pohorje, and you will be kindly welcomed by the secluded and quiet villages of Pohorje. Fresh air and breath-taking views of Landscape Park - unforgettable moments! Booking available for weddings.

Traditional event: The last weekend before Christmas there is the special event "Romantic Christmas" in the courtyard of Castle Rače.

A DESTINATION FOR EXCURSIONISTS



Walkers and cyclists are always welcome; other excursionists will not be bored here either. They will be enriched with a new knowledge of tastes, views, and feelings of peace and serenity.

Experiential themed trails: Tal 2000 (A botanical garden)

Historical-Experiential trail: The Castle - the setting for events of the first Slovenian historical novel written by Josip Jurčič.

Circular cycle tracks: • easier track through the lowland part - marked trails of Amber Cycle Track: Eurovelo • more demanding track around Pohorje: Fram - Ranče - Areh.

Traditional events: Municipality festival events in second half of June: The Hike from Gorica to Planica and a hike around Landscape Park. The traditional 1st of May march to Areh and a march to Jug's farmhouse in September.

DESTINATION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN



Programmes for schoolchildren are unusual, unique, instructive, interesting, and above all an experience that uses all of their senses. We have the best classroom where upon children can learn through sight, hearing, touch, taste, smell and interaction how food, that is natural and animal-friendly, is produced. Pupils can investigate the, so-called, Land of Parzival (Percival), become acquainted with the conspiracy of the first Slovenian historical novel in the castle, and can listen and learn about the different types of birds, flora and fauna that make their homes in Landscape Park.

The experiential trail that goes around the castle follows the topic of the first Slovenian historical novel. There is a great ethnological collection at Castle Rače. And one can get to know nature better through the marked trail of Landscape Park. Research the Land of Parzival at the botanical gardens: TAL 2000.

DESTINATION FOR GOURMETS



Traditions of the past have become enriched by the new culinary trends of local taverns. There is a domestic atmosphere to the Pohorje tourist farms, which serve you up such delicacies as Pohorje pisker (a meat and vegetable stew), mushroom soup, Pohorje bunka (smoked dried pork), cheese, Gibanica (cheese pastry) with walnuts, and so on. Pumpkin seed oil, wine, meat products, goat cheese, and honey



A pearl in the centre of town

The location which became the setting for the story and conspiracy of the first Slovenian historical novel, Ivan Erazem Tattenbach, written by Josip Jurčič.

Castle Rače is an example of a flatland island or water castle- a manor, additionally protected by a high ditch. The building's history extends into the first half of the 16th century, when the manor was completed with four parts adorned with Gothic renaissance portals. Beside the chapel dedicated to Saint Janez Nepomuk, as one enters the manor, the first and foremost attractive sight to see is the White Hall; nowadays it serves as a wedding hall and, because of its acoustics, is very suitable for all kinds of concerts and different cultural events.

Today the castle is a cultural and social centre for the community. The castle's

tenets include the municipality's administration premises, the local office, a cinema, a private ethnological collection, a painter's studio, a tourist agency and a few private apartments. The image of the castle has changed through time, according to the change of the owners and according to different styles within centuries. A document, mentioning the first owner of the castle as **Gregor Regal** from



Rače, was issued on 26th April 1534. Many other owners followed, the last of which was **Vincenc Bachler Jr.**, a member of Bachler family, who sold the estate and the castle at auction. Today the castle of Rače belongs to the Municipality of Rače-Fram.

THE CHURCH OF SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER, RAČE: A MOSAIC BY FATHER MARKO RUPNIK

In 2011, Father Marko Rupnik, religious artist and consultant of the Pontifical Council for Culture, enriched the interior of the parish church with a mosaic, showing the motif of Jesus' miracle of The Multiplication of the Loaves. The mosaic also features elements of Dravsko polje, in addition to the stones from the local gravel pit, we find wheat ears and vine stalks. Fr. Marko Ivan Rupnik also allowed young people to each lay their own stone into the mosaic. In the church, we can admire the stained glass created by the academic artist Stane Kregar.





Park of unspoiled nature

he Landscape Park Rački ribniki-Požeg is located on the outskirts of the Dravsko polje plains and covers an area of 848 hectares. It contains mainly lowland mixed forests, meadows with hedges and stagnant waters like ponds and water dam holders.

The park is an extremely important natural complex of the Slovenian Lowlands, as it assures important habitat to some rare and endangered plant and animal species - not only by regional and Slovenian measures, but by broader measures as well. Thus, there are at present over 210 bird species, 50 dragonfly species and 12 amphibian species; that is if we only mention the most noticeable and loudest. In the past few years, the park has also become more and more interesting to visitors, who can find here nature unspoiled, get to know plants and animals and have the opportunity to relax and enjoy

the peace. Due to its lowland position and simple accessibility, the park is suitable for visitors of all ages. The paths through the park are marked and labelled with signposts that point out the important animal and plant species; at the entrance to the park there are some information boards as well. More information about the park as well as the possibility for a guided tour throughout the park can be found in the guidebook **"Vodnik po poteh."**

THE BOTANICAL GARDENS TAL 2000

In the immediate neighbourhood of Landscape Park, in the village of Zgornja Gorica, lies **the botanical gardens Tal 2000**. On an area of $6000m^2$ of water, waterside, poisonous and healing plants are presented. This collection of the water and waterside plants is the biggest in Slovenia. Within the collection it is necessary to mention the yellow floating heart, water chestnut, bulrush genus, arrowhead,

hound's tongue, rose coloured water lily, spatterdock, and, a speciality of the gardens, the four-leaved European water clover. Among the poisonous plant species, we can see some of those that grow in their natural habitat, some decorative poisonous plants and also some which were brought here for economic reasons.

The healing plants are divided into two groups: those found in their natural habitat and those growing in gardens. In the botanical gardens you can also observe variegated dragonflies, listen to frogs croaking and enjoy birds singing. On display is a small collection of rocks and minerals. You can also gather exhaustive information and written materials about Landscape Park and visitors can inform themselves about the tourist offerings and sights in nearby surroundings. There is a garden called Parzival Land that is arranged with treasures that await a child's discovery.













In the valley along the Framski potok stream

Framsko Pohorje – The hilly southeastern part of Pohorje starts at the vineyard laden slopes of Fram and Morje and continues to such fruit growing areas as Loka, Kopivnik and Ranče and then passes over the animal husbandry of Planica into the wooded area of Pohorje.

In former times, Fram, due to the several sawmills, pumpkin oil and grain mills as well as trading at the junction of the Dravsko polje and Pohorje, was a **very lively place**. On the waters of Framsko Pohorje, more than 90 waterwheels were turning, powering a multitude of sawmills and grain mills as well as some pumpkin oil mills, threshing machines ("stope") and a hammer factory which gave a very special image to the place.

Today, excursionists can visit tourist farms, good inns and events such as: the blessing in Fram on Saint Ann's Sunday in July, the blessing by the Filial Church of Saint Cross in Planica and other occasional events. You can get from Fram via Planica to Areh, and via Ranče to the mountain huts of Slivniško Pohorje. Especially nice is to be returning from Pohorje to Fram. Come over and get to know more; enjoy the beauty and feel the hospitality of the locals.



FRAM

At the entrance into the hilly part of Framsko Pohorje lies the village of Fram. This village has been protected as an urban monument to help preserve its architectural and ethnological heritage. **The core of**

the village lies in the valley along the stream Framski potok. In the oldest Slovenian oil mill, Oljarna Fram, which is still operating in a magnificent building at the centre of the village, they are successfully continuing the tradition of oil production. On some of the farmhouses there are still partly abandoned or remodelled objects—remains of past husbandry (Sagadin's Sawmill, Pečovnik's Mill, Svetej's Sawmill which is between Ranče and Planica and the oil mills in the centre of the village).

SAINT ANN'S CHURCH

The church is located on an elevated encampment above the village, on the site of an old castle chapel, which was demolished in 1875 and replaced with the current new Roman church. The church has a single nave, with a transverse section that forms two side chapels in front of the presbytery. The church tower is located in the eastern part of the nave. The facades are







strongly articulated with new Roman architectural motifs, several tombstones from the 16th and 17th century have been built into them. The altars inside date back to the end of the 19th century and have been completely renovated in the past few years so that the inside of the church expresses all of its greatness.

In the old Turkish times, a protective stronghold was placed here. It is a particularly solemn event on Saint Ann's Sunday in July when crowds of people gather to join the blessing, both locals from the nearby villages of

the Fram Pohorje region and other pilgrims as well.

SAINT NEŽA'S CHAPEL

Upon arriving in Fram, there, upon a hill surrounded by vineyards, is a beautifully restored chapel dedicated to St. Neža. Built in 1843, on the top of a ridge along a vineyard hill in Fram, the chapel was restored in 1870 and became a place where Mass was held. During the war, it was robbed and ruined (frescoes as well) and all the fittings were stolen. The chapel was also renovated in 1997 and a Mass will be held on St. Neža's name day.

THE ROMAN AQUEDUCT

In Roman times, this aqueduct was constructed to go from Fram to Roman Petovia. The stone channel of a Roman aqueduct runs on flat fields in the direction of Fram to Ptuj. It is important for the study of a more comprehensive history of Roman times. Fram was the



source of drinking water for Poetovio; a spring called the Golden Fount. It was built using quarry stone and rock and then covered with stone slabs and enclosed with baked clay. The canal is 1.4m wide and 0.7m high. The canal is enclosed under the surface of the aqueduct and thus is not visible.

THE REMAINS OF CASTLE FRAM

The ruins, in the forest up on a hill above the church in Fram, are the only reminder of the mightiness that was once Fram Castle. Historical sources suggest that the castle was first mentioned in 1335 as Vraunhaym. The castle has seen many owners. In 1635, the castle was conquered and plundered by rebellious peasants. In the 18th century, it burned down and in the early 19th century it finally fell apart. After the first world war, the land housing the remains of the castle was bought by, priest and historian, Kragl from Fram.

Descriptions of the castle talk about its mightiness; it was surrounded with walls and defensive towers. Directly under the hill was where the castle farm was situated.







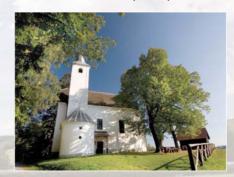


The village with genuine hospitality

he village, Planica, is settled on the south-eastern side of Pohorje, at an altitude of 600 to 900 m. It is an idyllic Pohorje village with outstanding natural features and genuine hospitality. It is a place where you can easily forget the worries of everyday life and enjoy the beauty and specialties offered to you by the tranquil life of the Slovenian countryside.

The village, Planica, has about 150 inhabitants. Almost all the families here are reliant on **agriculture** for their employment; mainly **farming** and **forestry**. Planica is also known for its well-visited tourist farms. One of them boasts the treasures of permaculture and organic lifestyle. While on the other farm you can spend an unforgettable holiday according to your wishes with customized workshops of cooking, baking, pickling, etc. On both tourist farms

you will be pampered with unforgettable tastes of superb and authentic local food and by proverbial friendliness and hospitality.



THE SACRED PEARL OF PLANICA THE FILIAL CHURCH OF SAINT CROSS IN PLANICA

On the way through the village of Planica above Fram, we get surprised by the sight of a church on a hill in front of the woods. The oldest part of the Filial Church of St. Cross is the primary chapel of the Holy Ghost. This part was built before 1679 and

has been preserved in the former sacristy. The rest of the church was built in 1816 and then renovated in 1882. The church is a single-nave space with an altar ending; the church tower being attached to the side wall. Through the church tower the entrance leads into a semi-circular chapel. The church has a place in the immovable cultural heritage, namely sacred architectural heritage. Holy Mass takes place on the first Sunday of every month at 2 pm. Every year, on the last Sunday in April, the May tree is traditionally set up. On the first Sunday in September at 10 am there is a blessing followed by a social gathering.

THE SPRUCE THAT HUGS THE STREAM

Every hiker is surprised and astonished when, in the middle of a forest ravine under a church, they find themselves standing in front of a small miracle of nature - Putnik's spruce. The spruce germinated on a white bridge made













of coarse marble plate above a stream, over which, in Roman times, a path ran from the marble quarry. The spruce has, in decades of growth, spread its roots out onto both banks of the stream. Nearby are the remains of an



abandoned marble quarry, which is protected as a natural geological monument. The beauty of this marble was well known to the Romans and we can still admire it today on the necropolis in Šempeter and the Orpheus monument in Ptuj.

TRAVELING INTO POHORJE'S PAST At over 200 years of age, the old Vešner homestead is a typical ethnological monument of subsistence agriculture. It was built with stone and wood and then covered with a tufted thatched straw roof. The residential part of the house has three arched cellars below. It is a national cultural monument with the characteristics of an ethnological monument that testifies to a way of life through time. Not far from the farmhouse is the 9m deep **Vešner's cave**; which is unique due to its marble composition.

POTNIK'S CHESTNUT

The **chestnut** that stands right next to Potnik's farmhouse is a natural



dendrological monument. If we want to embrace this giant, we will need a few assistants. Potnik's chestnut is one of the thickest chestnut trees in Pohorje as well as in Slovenia.



Measurement of the trunk's diameter in 2007 was exactly 900 cm. Close to it grows another chestnut (with a trunk diameter of 551 cm).

We call Potnik's chestnut trees "pet trees" because these trees were planted within homesteads in the vicinity of its buildings.











Thematic trails

ENVIROMENTAL AND ECOLOGICAL TRAILS THROUGHOUT LANDSCAPE PARK RAČKI RIBNIKI – POŽEG

- THE CASTLE TRAIL The shortest trail in Landscape Park, which is frequented by bicycles. The trail begins at the Castle Rače and is 4800m long. Attractions along the trail: Rače Castle, a nest of the white stork, meadows with hedges, birds (e.g. shrike), ponds with aquatic plants and animals that live on them.
- Floating Heart Trail) This medium trail in Landscape park is 6200m long. It begins at the former Sawmill (currently Algoja) from the direction of the village Podova. Along the way, you can see the botanical garden TAL 2000. Attractions along the trail: the botanical garden TAL 2000, the lowland floodplain forest, forest birds, different trees, shrubs, herbs, berries, fruits and the ponds Turnovi ribniki.



trail, we are welcomed by a large informational board with a map of the area and charted trail. If you come with a bicycle you can leave it here in the cleverly designed stand that was put here for this purpose. You will be delighted by the Insect Hotel; about which you can learn more on the trail. Moreover, the Nature Experience Trail presents more forest birds and tree species.

THE CYCLE TRACK JANTARNA KOLESARSKA POT (EUROVELO)

The Amber Cycle Track (Jantarna kolesarska pot) is one of the planned European routes, which will connect the coast of the Baltic Sea to the coast

and Fram as well as comes in contact with the settlement of Planica above Fram. The latter does not have vineyards, but it is well known for its rich tourist offerings of farmhouses. Continue along the wine road to meet with rich natural and cultural heritage, catering of high quality and indigenous cuisine at many guest houses and farmhouses. The beginnings of viticulture and successful winemaking of the mentioned area can be found already before 1453, when Fram viticulture became popular for its excellent wine; it was offered at both the Viennese and English courts. In 1822, the Austrian archduke Janez Habsburški showed interest in the wine produce in Fram. The history of



■ THE GREBE'S TRAIL - This is the longest trail in Landscape Park, which (just like The Castle Trail) begins at Castle Rače. The entire trail is 12 km long and it combines all of the attractions described in The Castle Trail and The Močvirka Trail. You can get more information about the park in the guidebook Vodnik po poteh at Landscape Park Rački ribniki - Požeg.

NATURE EXPERIENCE TRAIL FOREST TRAIL TURNOVI RIBNIKI PONDS

Landscape Park Rački ribniki - Požeg, near the highway and the Ljubljana -Maribor railway line, has an exceptional position and conditions for the development of eco-tourism. Year after year, more and more visitors have come to the park; this has certainly contributed to the park's infrastructure, such as decorated walkways and an observation tower. The circular trail, dedicated to the forest, begins at the intersection of the road and turns towards the ponds Turnovi ribniki near the Rače hunting lodge. The trail follows the road and then encircles the bottom pond, Turnhait. It is marked with signposts, so anybody can find their way around it. Immediately, at the beginning of the

of the Adriatic Sea. It comes from Austria and at the Sentili border crossing it joins with Slovenia. The track leads through Pesnica Valley, Maribor, and Hoče and then it joins the municipality of Rače-Fram at Rače gravel pit. Furthermore, the track passes through one of the most beautiful sections of the route, through Landscape Park to the ponds Rački ribniki and along the Požeg that ends at the municipality of Slovenian Bistrica. The surface of the water and peacefulness of the woods create a paradise for bird and plant lovers alike; at the same time, it offers pure relaxation, far away from the noise of traffic. The whole way along the track is well marked.

THE LOWER POHORJE LEADING PODPOHORJE WINE-TOURIST ROAD (VTC 17)

On the lower Pohorje leading Podpohorje Wine-Tourist Road VTC 17, which runs from the vineyards of Ruše all the way to Slovenske konjice, it is possible to enjoy oneself in the variety and exceptional beauty of the Slovenian countryside; one can find indigenous cuisine and wine roads. The course of the Podpohorje Wine-Tourist Road leads along the slopes of Morje, Koprivnik

viticulture also helps preserve the cultural heritage.

WALKING AND HIKING TRAIL PLANICA NAD FRAMOM

This trail leads through the lonely forests of Pohorje Planica, past pastures and meadows. On the way, you can see very colourful flora. You can observe a wide variety of landscape motifs, which were jointly created by nature and man. The trail has (in addition to an educational function) a hiking character as well. It is suitable for both children and adults. Possible refreshments are available at the tourist farms along the way. To find out more about the trail view the brochure **Sprehajalne poti po Planici** (Walking trails at Planica).

NATURAL SCIENCES, CULTURAL-HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL EDUCATIONAL TRAIL OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FRAM

Old verses by Fram chaplain Oroslav Caf celebrate today the historically protected settlement of Fram. The trail, just like the verses, weaves the story about the village "old castle stands where Saint Ann watches over it and where the Golden Fount strengthens nature." The trail is interesting for locals and tourists alike.













MUNICIPALITY OF RAČE - FRAM



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Number of inhabitants (in 2015): 7265

Local Community Rače: Rače, Brezula, Podova, Zgornja Gorica, Spodnja Gorica Local Community Fram: Ješenca, Požeg, Morje, Fram, Loka pri Framu, Kopivnik, Planica, Ranče, Šestdobe

Altitude: from 262 m in the lower part to 900 m (Planica)

Area: 51km² (out of this the centre of municipality Rače 8,5km² and Fram as the second largest settlement 5,5km²)

For the creating of individual programmes and conducting of guided tours: Polona Račič: +386 40 466 931 • Matjaž Tomanič: +386 41 742 360 Local guided tours: Patricija Thaler: +386 31 379 845 • Roman Hergan: +386 41 572 385

All additional information is available on Municipality of Rače - Fram's webpage: www.race-fram.si



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