



## Mura cycling route

Cycling map and description of the route

Pomurje

Međimurska županija

1:75000

[www.mura-drava.eu](http://www.mura-drava.eu)

## Mura Cycling Route

Mura Cycling Route is known as one of the most beautiful cycling routes in this area. You may expect easy riding with many culinary delights in the magical landscape of the Mura River. Whether your expectations are high, you will realise at the end that you have got more than could ever imagine. The route demands you only to surrender to the warm welcome of local people, excellent cuisine, green landscape with fields and meadows, mysterious forests, ravishing vineyards... During cycling, step by step you will discover rich history of the region, its culture, nature and people.

If you decide to follow marked cycling route, the route will lead you by many cultural and natural attractions and many opportunities for other kinds of recreations offered along the way to allure you as active athletes. You will certainly not want to miss tasting the local cuisine and excellent wines, which are appreciated both in our home country and abroad. However you are still on holiday, you should take some time relaxing in a spa and feel the benevolent effects of thermal water.

The cycling route in Slovenia runs along the left and right bank of the Mura River and continues to Croatia.

### Along the left Bank...

While cycling along the left bank, you will at all times be accompanied by the melodic dialect of the Prekmurje region. This was once an independent language, and even today, this dialect requires some amount of effort to be understood by the unfamiliar guest. Your cycling adventure will begin in the Austrian town of Sichelendorf and will lead you towards Lendava. Along the way, the route offers you many opportunities, twists and turns and will allow you to customise it as you wish. You can cross over the Mura at many points along the way, either by using classical bridges or a ferry ride.

### Along the right Bank...

In Slovenia, the Mura River's right bank represents the part of Styria and Prlekija. The cycling route will lead you all the way from the Austrian border in the north to the Croatian border in the south. If you think that you have finally begun to understand dialect of Prekmurje, you will realise that you have to start all over again on the right bank. Throughout history, the Mura has played an important role which has been most recognised in the dialect spoken by the people.

### In Croatia ...

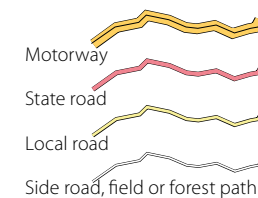
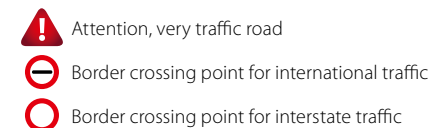
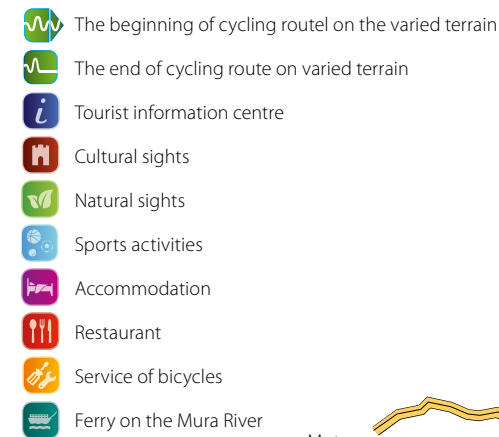
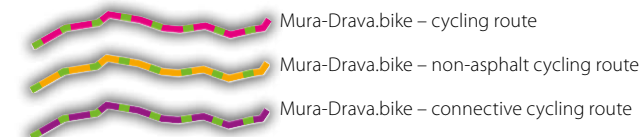
The cycling route on both sides of the river certainly does not end in Slovenia. It leads you into the neighbouring region of Međimurje, where you have many options for choosing the way. You can stay near the Mura River where you can see many natural attractions and cycle one part of the route through Regional park Mura-Drava. The other choice can be the route where you will feel cultural attractions of the place. Independently of the choice you will be surprised about hospitality and modesty of local people, excellent cuisine and beautiful nature because of which Međimurje is called »The flower garden of Croatia«.

The end of the route is at Legrad, where the Mura River conflues with the Drava River.

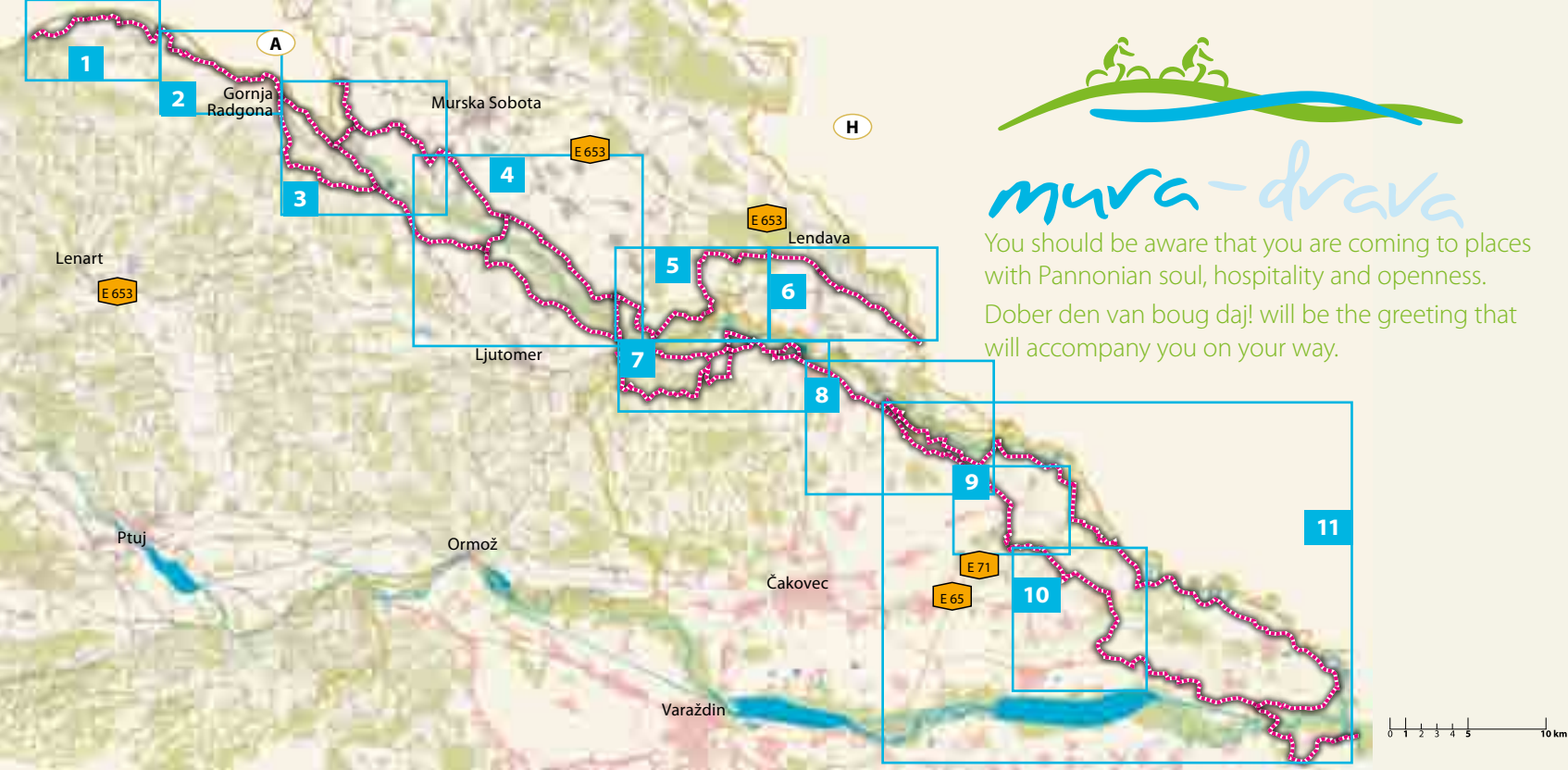
The route runs along settled cycling routes and less traffic local roads and is appropriate for all recreational cyclists. Because of different kinds of grounding the use of trekking or mountain bikes is recommended.



 mura-drava



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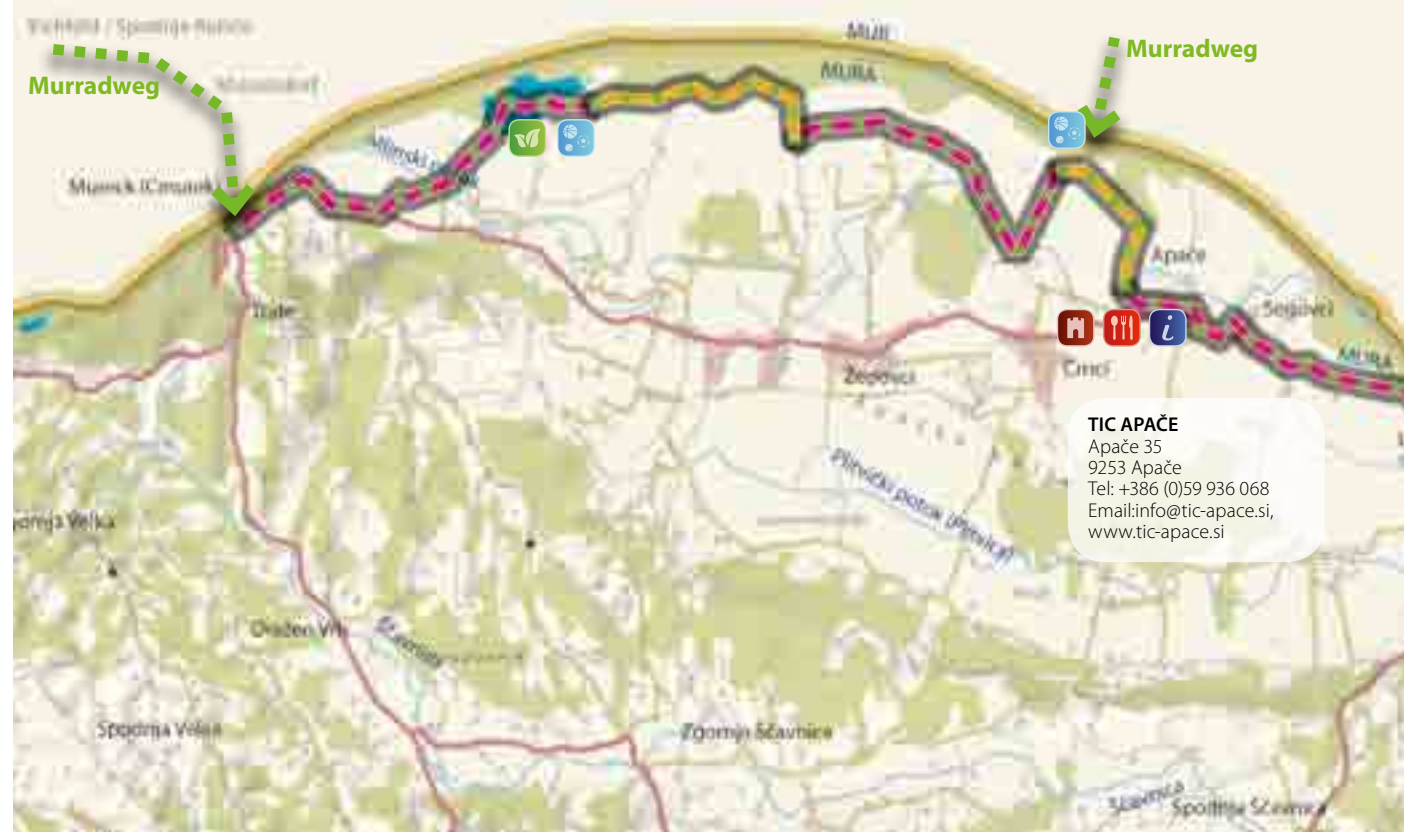
## 1. Cmurek – Apače

(16 km; 11,5 km – asphalt and 4,5 km – dirt road)

Riders in the Austrian Mureck cycle over the Mura River Bridge and arrive to Slovenia, where they continue the way left towards the right side of the Mura River. On the Slovenian side Gora they come to Trate.

**TRATE** is typical ridge village in Slovenske gorice in the municipality of Šentilj. The village was first mentioned in 1419 as Wisenpach. The settlement has been developed on three descending ridges of a typical NW-SE direction, where are mostly located farms.

You should continue along the way where the Mura River is running along the left side and you will come to Vratja vas. After less than two kilometers from the beginning in Trate, where the buildings on the left side end, the way leads you off the main road on the left, on the less busy, orderly, paved road among meadows and fields. It is important to stay on the left side in the first small crossroad as the view of tourist and recreation Zg. Konjišče will extend. If you want to stop and see the father of Pannonian oaks, or perhaps walk by the ponds, play with children on the playground or just lay the blanket on the grass, listen to the birds, admire and merge in the nature, this is the perfect place and it is right to turn to right route.



**Tourist and recreation centre** in Zgornje Konjišče has been developing into a complete tourist destination (fishing, camping ...). You can enjoy unspoiled nature and beautiful surroundings peaceful and relaxing moments alone or in company in the touristic recreation centre in Konjišče. It offers the possibility of fishing, beach volleyball and remains of giant oak, named father of the Pannonian oaks.

Huge oak tree named the **father of the Pannonian oaks**, fell down into the water by the banks of the Mura River 1350 years long ago. It was found not earlier than in 1999 during the rehabilitation of abandoned gravel pits. In 2005 the oak trunk was fully excavated. His position, the properties of debris, in which it has been found, and geomorphologic characteristics of the surroundings suggest that it was suspended on meander dunes. The data show that this was once a mighty tree. The first section above the hive, the number of rings has been close to 160 (all can not be ascertained), which means that the tree was 200 years old when it crashed into the water, as the circumference of the trunk sapwood partly fell away. In addition it was found that the oak tree has been really magnificent tree when it crashed into the water with a thickness of about 150 cm, height around 30 meters and a volume of about 28.7 m<sup>3</sup>.



After a visit to the ponds, you should continue cycling and turn left across the first crossroad and continue along the way past the farmhouse along the well maintained dirt road. You will be surrounded by trees on the left and you can admire fields of maize, wheat, canola, barley and pasture on the right. The route has been slowly turning to the right, where you have been

a little away from the Mura River, however you should already turn left at the next house on the left side and continue cycling by the asphalt path.

After almost 3 kilometers of cycling among the houses and fields you will reach the crossroad with the priority road, where you can decide for a short trip in the direction of the Črnci (turn right) where you can visit the mansion Freunedau or turn left and continue cycling along the main road.

In the middle of the abandoned Baroque French castle park in Črnci in Apače **Freunedau baroque mansion** stands, the successor to the original house from the 16th century and later the Renaissance mansion. Among the owners were Khiessli, counts Stürgkhi, Wildenstein family, Trautmannsdorf family and others, and by the end of the Second World War the family Meinl from Vienna (Meinl castle). Now there are apartments in two floors in a mansion with a wide main facade.

The next opportunity for a short break is offered to you at the next crossroad on the way (after 0.8 km), where you should turn left and you will come to the bridge over the Mura River, where is also a small resting point for cyclists.



If you want to see the bridge over the Mura, you can turn off the main road. At the bridge, which attracts many tourists and represents a connecting point for many local cycling routes along both sides of the Mura River, you will also find a toilet and a place to relax.

You should continue cycling after rest towards Apače. When you will come to Apače the church of the assumption of Mary with the most beautiful Gothic rosette in Slovenia, built in 1440, welcomes you on the left side. And you have already been on the main road where you should turn left towards Gornja Radgona. You can relax and refresh yourself in the heart of Apače.

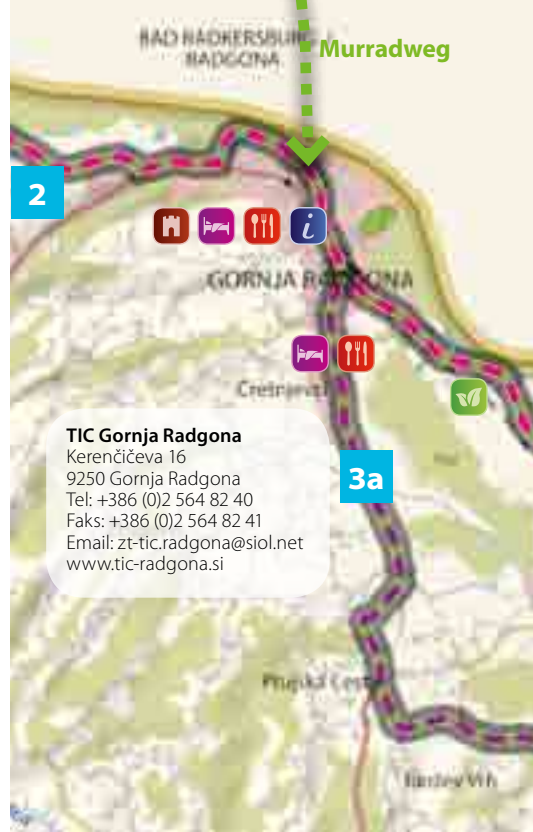
The settlement **APAČE** lies on Apaško polje at the border with Austria. It is a dispersed settlement of Pannonian type with a distinct German architecture. Apače is located at the road, which connects the border crossing Trate in the direction of Sladki vrh and Šentilj. The year 1923 was an important year in the history of valley Apaška dolina, particularly in the sense of the use of Slovenian language in this area. By the end of the first World War German here was the official language, because the majority of the population was of German origin. After 1945 the Germans left, the new immigrants came from Prekmurje, Notranjska, Primorska and Dolenjska regions. The plague raged here between 15th and 18th century, which has been demonstrated with numerous plague spots from this time.

**Church of the assumption** in Apače with the most beautiful rosette in Slovenia stands at the heart of the settlement just by the main road. The church was built around 1440, while in 1445 has become a parish church. Over the centuries the church has undergone several architectural changes, until in 1644 the present bell tower was built. From cultural and historical aspects are undoubtedly the most famous Gothic churches of rosette made from a single piece of stone, which ranks it among the rare and unique specimens in Europe, and the Gothic statue of Mary made of stone in 1470.

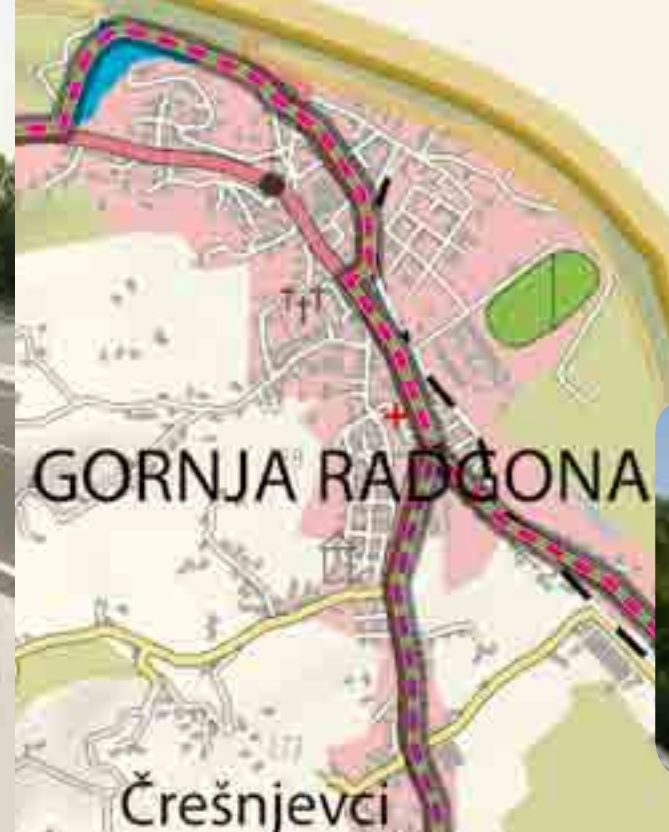
## 2. Apače – Gornja Radgona (7,5 km – asphalt)

You should continue along the route from Apače through the villages Segovci and Lutverci, over the stream Plitvice and you will come to Podgrad. You should turn left on the regional road in Podgrad and cycle 0.8 km, then you should turn left onto Gubčeva road that will take you closer to the Mura River and to the bridge that connects the Bad Radkersburg and Gornja Radgona. Thus you will arrive to the town of Gornja Radgona.

**GORNJA RADGONA** was founded on the slopes of castle hill (265 m above the sea level), hence the name Gornja (»Upper«). It was administratively linked to today's Austrian Radgona (German Bad Radkersburg) before 1918. In 1907 it became a market and after 1945 it was developed to a town. Slovenia and Austria are connected by the »Friendship Bridge« over the Mura River built in 1969. Gornja Radgona has a predominantly agricultural hinterland with developed wine industry. Agricultural Fair Gornja Radgona is every year as largest such event in Slovenia.



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### Old hospital »Špital«

Establishing the »špital« in the early Middle Ages, attached to church feudal lords and monasteries. They were built at the gate of the city or even outside the city walls. Foreigners, poor natives, sick, poor and old people and people with disabilities found shelter here where they received adequate food and bed.

The building old hospital in Gornja Radgona originated in the beginning of the 17th century. It was first mentioned in 1614 and has one hall in the ground and first floor of which arches resting on four Tuscan columns. Ground floor hall, which was a chapel, opens in a semicircular apse behind the altar and is the only one which stands out of the floor rectangular building.

It was renovated in 2006 and now serves for exhibitions of museum collections and other exhibitions. In the present form it is a unique building in Slovenia.



**Radgona castle** stands on a hill with beautiful view of the wider environment. It has been giving shelter to the market place and town for centuries with its commanding position above the town and the Mura River. It was built by Slovenian nobleman Radigoj who gave the castle and then the place his own name. The first owners were Spanheims Counts, later the owners or managers of the castle were constantly changing. Today the castle is privately owned and can be viewed, arranged in advance.

## Memorial park »Never again«

A symbol in memory of the 10th anniversary of the war for the independence of Slovenia in 2001 was erected under the hill of St Peter's church. There is a panel on a pedestal with the inscription »Never again« in three languages. Nine vertical pipes with chrome capitals represent nine Slovenian trees (each cover has its own format) as it has been conceived by the sculptor Mirko Bratuša. Cannon tubes were seized of the Yugoslav army and were left to time that ought to destroy them. As the tubes will disappear, war and warfare will be gone.

Gornja Radgon has always been a place of various artists, scholars and artists. Among them, eight »inhabitants« of **Alley of the greats** that instilled hope to people with their creation in the near and distant surroundings, and wake up their national and human pride.

## Cellar under the fall

Gornja Radgona is mostly known for its wines in Slovenia and also in the world. The history of wine is hard to describe as there are no written and material evidence. Vines were brought by the ancient Romans. We may discover in the ancient chronicles that the vines grow in this area since the 12th century and that the citizens of Radgona had granted a special privilege for the freight



of wine throughout the rest of Austria and Styria, free of duty and toll in the 14th century. At the end of the second millennium cellars for bottled wine were renovated under the waterfall that runs from the castle rock and is the most interesting tributary of the Mura River. The fall is a wine cellar with unusual attraction, which creates a special atmosphere at the wine tasting.

**Lisjak channel of the Mura River** is a natural pearl which is designed for recreation, relaxation, and especially learning about the natural heritage. On the way there are thirteen points, at which educational signs are standing with descriptions of trees, shrubs, amphibians, reptiles, birds and fish.

Gornja Radgona is known for its **wine cellar**, where 300,000 bottles of gold champagne are annually filled, obtained by the conventional method, and silver champagne produced by the industrial method. A special place among the silent wines belongs to the fragrant Traminer.



You may decide in Gornja Radgona to continue cycling along the main road, or turn on a side road to wonderful hilly landscape, where you can relax at views of vineyards and orchards. (Description of the side route can be found on page 26)

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### 3. a RIGHT BANK OF THE MURA RIVER – Gornja Radgona – Hrastje Mota (10 km – asphalt)

The main route from Gornja Radgona continues in the direction of Radenci. In Gornja Radgona you should cycle to the second exit in the roundabout in the direction of Murska Sobota/Lendava. You should continue cycling by the regulated cycling route through Mele and Šratovci.

#### ŠRATOVCI

In Šratovci you can visit the **chapel** from the 19th century. The place is famous for its well preserved **homesteads**. The oldest was built in 1875. Homestead is composed of littoral farmhouse with a rich facade profiling, two separate outside buildings and forge with preserved inventory.

After 5 km of cycling you will come to Radenci – the town of health resorts.

Town **RADENCI** is situated in the region of thermal and mineral springs and vines. The oldest mention of the place dates from 1436 - Radein. It has become famous as the health resort in 1833. Dr. Henn has discovered a fountain of mineral water for the general public. Year 1869, when dr. Henn dammed up the first spring and when 37,000 earthen »slatink« were filled, is deemed as the beginning of exploitation of mineral water. It was transported to surroundings, even to the Pope and the Emperor by farmers in carriages. Mineral water



### 3. b LEFT BANK OF THE MURA RIVER – Gederovci – Bakovci (15 km – asphalt)

The route leads cyclists from Sieldorf in Austria over the border crossing point to Gederovci. You should turn right at the roundabout in the direction of Sodišinci where you can see the Water educational path Mokoš.

#### SODIŠINCI

Educational water path Mokoš is a new opportunity to learn about the nature, processes in stream and the sense of water for people. Pannonian part of Slovenia gets the least rainfall thus each water source, each thread of water is very important. Waterside habitats make possible life of stork which is the symbol of Prekmurje. If we want storks to stay in Prekmurje, it is necessary to revive Mokoš which does not have water any more. Thus projects of eco-remediations have already taken place. We have new opportunity to learn from the nature – the stream Mokoš and educational water trail make this possible.

The way leads the cyclist in the direction of smaller settlement Murski Petrovci. We should continue in the direction of Petanjci.

Here you have an opportunity to continue cycling by the left bank of the Mura River or to cycle over the bridge on the right bank of the Mura River. This way will lead you to Radenci.

If you continue the way by the main road, you will come to Petanjci where Garden of Remembrance and Comradeship is located. It is special memorial park protected as cultural monument.



### 3. a RIGHT BANK OF THE MURA RIVER – Gornja Radgona – Hrastje Mota (10 km – asphalt)

and spa were soon famous throughout the world. Here you can swim (indoor and outdoor pools), refresh, find accommodation and relax in the wellness center.

#### Radenska museum

In the middle of beautiful park with pine trees in Radenci stands Mary's home, historic villa which was built as part of the spa complex in 1894. There has been a museum collection Radenska since 1978, which was thoroughly renovated in 1993. The permanent exhibition shows the history of the company's development, which has been growing on the rich mineral water springs from 1869 to today, and the parallel development of spas and its tourism.

**Chapel of St Anna** is located in the park in Radenci. In tympanum above the entrance the year 1895 is inscribed. This is bigger neo-Gothic chapel with a transverse nave, which was made by the widow of Henna Roman, whose father had discovered the first mineral water spring in 1833. The chapel is a fine example of architecture in neo-Gothic on turning point of the century.

**Church of St Cyril and Methodius** is an example of modern church architecture from 1986.

**Nine mineral springs** with average temperature of 12 to 16°C are currently exploited in Radenci. They provide a basis of spa and spa tourism.



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### 3. b LEFT BANK OF THE MURA RIVER – Gederovci – Bakovci (15 km – asphalt)



#### PETANJCI

**Garden of remembrance and comradeship**, protected cultural monument, has been cultural and actual connected with rich history, culture and natural inheritance of places near Mura. It has been an interesting part of the net of botanic gardens and arboretums in Slovenia with more than 500 trees.

**Nadasdy castle** is located near the Garden of remembrance and comradeship, on the other side of the street. Its remains are hardly seen today. Johannes Kepler, famous astronomer found its place of refuge here in Counter-Reformation time (1598).

You can devote yourself to **riding** in Petanjci. There you have many possibilities: riding for children, acrobatic performance, riding course for beginners, summer camps, field riding...

In Petanjci, near Garden of remembrance and comradeship, you can put your bike a little on the site and compete with friends in paintball. Rafting or archery can also be organized here for you.

You should continue the way in the direction of Tišina. Cyclists have a beautiful view of cultural inheritance – the Church of Mary's birth in the centre of Tišina.

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### 3. a RIGHT BANK OF THE MURA RIVER – Gornja Radgona – Hrastje Mota (10 km – asphalt)

There are many **thematic channels** in the immediate vicinity of the spa: Path by the Mura River, Path among the springs of life, Attila's path, Jogging path, Cooper's test

Would you like to cycle or just to see the left side of the Mura River? You have a chance to go over the bridge on the left bank of the Mura River in Radenci.

You can choose to see the town, to refresh yourself or to relax in thermal springs in Radenci. To continue the journey you should cycle through the town and choose the second exit in the second roundabout (the direction of Lendava).

You will come to Turjanči after almost 2 km. Here you can see the chapel on the square ground plan from the 19th century which lies along the railway line, southwest of the village. You should continue cycling to Hrastje Mota, where you can see the homestead built in 1861.

#### HRASTJE MOTA

In the town you have the opportunity to see the various chapels and homesteads. The oldest homestead was built in 1861 and consists of farmhouse, outside building, granary, pigsty and well.

In the village stands the neo-Gothic chapel with a bell tower from around 1900, which has a triangular head and carpentry for religion.



### 3. b LEFT BANK OF THE MURA RIVER – Gederovci – Bakovci (15 km – asphalt)

#### TIŠINA

**Church of Mary's birth** built in 1685 is one of the most interesting architectonic monuments in Slovenia.

Then follows cycling through the settlement in the direction of Tropovci where you should turn right from the main road in the centre of the village. You should continue the way by Kolesarska ulica to the centre. The route leads you by the fire station in the direction of Gradišče which has been known for sport fishing. You will cycle to Murski črnci and Satahovci after cycling through a compact part of settlement and partly by the uninhabited part along the stream Mokoš. You should turn left in Satahovci and after 1 km right in the direction of Krog.

At the branch in **KROG chapel of St Florian** is situated, there you should turn right to Trubarjeva ulica.



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## Outside the roads – Murska Sobota

If you want to stop and see Murska Sobota, you should turn left to Plečnikova ulica and continue the way to Murska Sobota which has been located 2.5 km faraway.

**MURSKA SOBOTA** is the regional centre of northeastern Slovenia and Pomurje. History in the city, which is called Sobota by locals, is very diverse. This territory has been under the auspices of several countries and until 1919 was connected to the Slovenian home country. Visitors most clearly meet development of the city and region through the historical periods with the tour of the permanent exhibition of the regional museum.

Murska Sobota is definitely worth a visit and an excellent starting point for all visitors and tourists in the region. The city is, for predominantly oriented Alpine Slovenia, special as it is the only Slovenian city in the right flat country.

Throughout the year, life in the city is enriched with cultural, entertaining, traditional, culinary and sport events, including the biggest: Bogračjada, Sobota days, Airshow, Kramarski sejem, St. Nicholas fair... There is also rich culinary offer which is hard to resist.



## Murska Sobota Castle

The castle is the successor of the missing Murska Sobota castle. In the middle of the park stands a mansion, the comprehensive four-tract, two-storey Renaissance with prominent rectangular towers built in the second half of the 16th century. The current image of the castle comes mostly from the first half of the 18th century, when the backyards were surrounded with arcades, frontage was renewed and both portals were created. Probably an old north facade points typical Baroque characteristic three-axial risalit. Eastern so-called urban facade features a splendid example of Baroque architectural forms from the second quarter of the 18th century.

Castle salon is certainly the most prominent of the interior. In the late Baroque illusionistic manner painted space brings on the ceiling iconographic alluring accomplishment of peace allegory. Some examples of quality architectural equipment are also preserved here beside painted salon in the northern and architecturally extremely well-designed volume of the former castle chapel in the west wing. In the park the castle binds to neo-Gothic complex of the evangelical church, built between 1907 and 1910.



## Regional museum of Murska Sobota

is the main regional institution for the protection of movable cultural heritage in Pomurje. Its mission is complex museum activity which includes recording, collecting, researching, documenting, protecting, educating and various forms of representing all kinds of material and spiritual heritage, which has been created by inhabitants from the first settlements of this region. There are intertwined cultural influences of neighboring provinces and countries, and unique creativity that comes from ethnic, national and religious diversity, as it has been created over centuries to the present time.

Beside permanent exhibition about the history of Prekmurje, for which museum received a special recognition from the European Museum Forum in 1999, you can also see a variety of temporary exhibitions and permanent exhibitions.

## Church of St Nicholas

– on the place where Sobota's catholic church dedicated to St. Nicholas is located, a kind of Roman pagan temple with cemetery ought to be located in the second and third century. Tradition says that the first catholic church in Murska Sobota already stood in 1071, in the documents it was first mentioned in 1297. The present church was built between 1910 and 1912. The church keeps a beautiful baroque painting of St Nicholas. It is the work M. Schiffer from 1790 and is decorated with Krager colored windows.



**Evangelistic church** - neo-Gothic church was built in 1910 according to plans by the Hungarian architect Ernoja Gereya. Even the inside is neo-Gothic and is painted in the Hungarian spirit. The altar with the Deposition from the cross was painted by Jenő Bory.



**Adventist, baptist and pentecostal churches** are also located in Murska Sobota as testifies rich history and cultural openness of Pomurje space.

**Gallery of Murska Sobota** as a public institution has great regional character and is important holder of cultural events in the region on the field of fine arts. Basic activities are the organization and provision of exhibitions of modern Slovenian and international art, educational programs for children, youth and adults, professional tours of the exhibitions, art workshops and thematic sessions. The organization of an international art event - the European Triennial of small statues is essential. Its beginning date back to the year 1973.

Permanent collection of Gallery of Murska Sobota includes over 610 works of art, paintings and sculptures and works on paper by artists from Pomurje and elsewhere.

**Mansion Rakičan** is building with typical elements of the Renaissance and architecture rebuilt in the Baroque. The current renewal has returned cheerfulness to the building and presented Rakičan again as a pleasant rural castle building, surrounded by an excellent park. There are preserved many exotic trees, there is also oval, neo-Gothic designed chapel.



Beside the rich cultural heritage of Murska Sobota, you can also discover the **city park**, which is one of the best preserved medieval English parks in Slovenia. In the shadow of two hundred years old oak trees, beech, ash and linden trees you should let you for a moment to stop the time.

You should walk by the educational trail through the park by the castle pond, public sculptures and Renaissance castle in the middle of the park, the Regional museum of Murska Sobota is located. Children will be delighted in the playground on the educational trail.

If you are interested in aviation or a panoramic tour, you can stop at Pomurje aviation centre in Rakičan.

You should continue cycling past village cultural center to Bakovci. Cyclists should cross the highway by the crossover, from which Murska Sobota can be seen on the left side. There extend fields and greenery all the way to the Mura River on the right. You should continue straight to Bakovci.



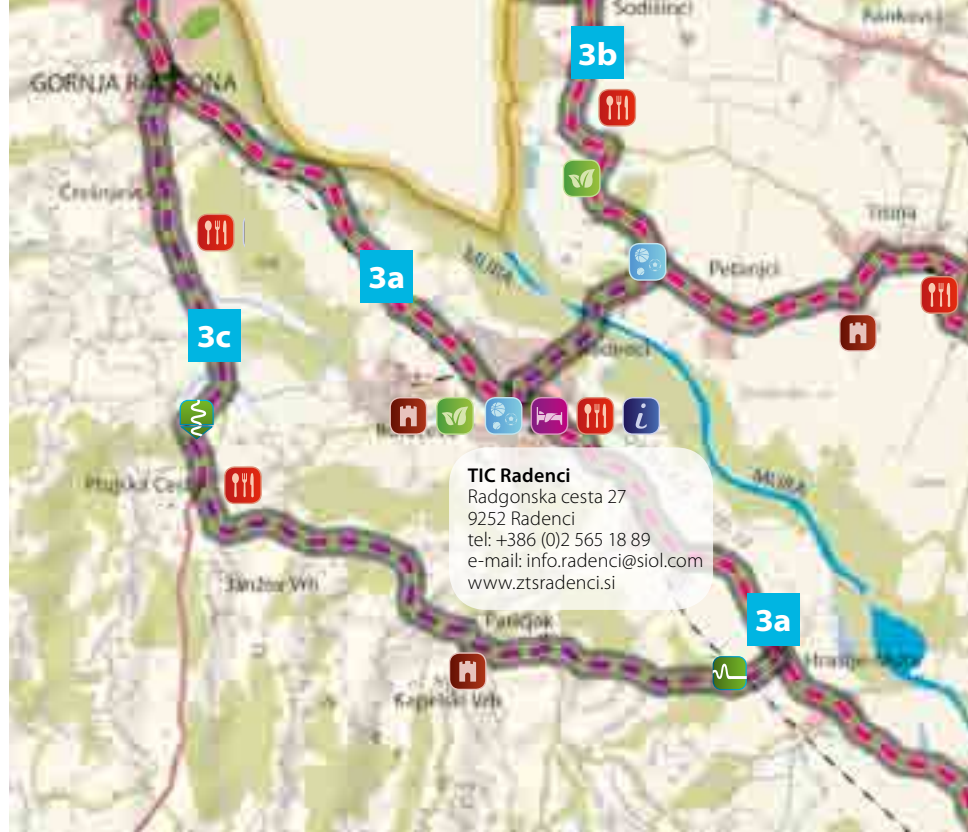
### 3. c Gornja Radgona – Kapela – Hrastje Mota (side route: 11 km – asphalt)

If you choose a side route, which is slightly longer and more complex, but you would like cycling, the route takes you past the beautiful vineyard region; you should choose the first exit in the roundabout in Gornja Radgona (the direction of Črešnjevci). You will need approximately 1 km to Črešnjevci, the place that is famous for its many wine farms and wine shops.

Only few kilometres further the view of numerous small hills full of vineyards will extend. You should cycle through Orehovci and Ptujška cesta where ones who prefer beer can drink a glass of home made beer in the guest house.

You should continue cycling by the ridge and enjoy the nature and vineyards. The way leads you to Kapelski vrh.

**KAPELSKI VRH** is spacious settlement and is one of the most popular excursion points in Radgonsko-kapelske gorice. Here are extended vineyards and plantations of apple trees, peach trees and currant.



**The church of Saint Mary Magdalene** (Kapelski vrh) was built between 1823 and 1224 and stands on the highest point 312 above the sea level called Kapela. There is beautiful view of Prekmurje, during clear atmospheric daytime conditions Lake Balaton can be seen.



You should turn left before the hill with a church. Then follows short downhill and you will come to the main road in Hrastje-Mota where you should turn right and connect on the main road in the direction of Veržej.



## 4. a RIGHT BANK OF THE MURA RIVER – Hrastje Mota – Gibina (23 km – asphalt)

You should continue from Hrastje - Mota by the cycling route, where you will drive over 2.5 km through Vučja vas.

You should continue cycling through the underpass of the highway and cycle to Stara Nova Vas. You should turn left after 0.2 km (on the left side are the factory and restaurant) along the route across the fields. You should stay on the right side and cycle by Bunčani and continue 1.5 km. Then you will come to the crossroad where you should go straight to Veržej. This route leads you among wide fields and meadows, where you will find hardworking local farmers.

You will come to Veržej, which lies on Mursko polje on the right bank of the Mura River. There are extensive forests, called »obmurski logi« that range from the north to the village. Wide region of meadows along the forest has been extended towards east, which have been sprinkled with white daffodils in May.

**VERŽEJ** has a long settlement tradition, starting in prehistoric times, as evidenced by found objects - urns with ashes, bronze objects, debris from the Illyrian period and flat stone ball from the Stone Age. Remains of Roman buildings are evidence that this territory belonged to the province of Lower Pannonia. Residents of Veržej pay attention to very powerful social activities in the field of firefighting, culture, sport and tourism. The feast of daffodils and also the feast of the county takes place in May, thus there are many events such as the selection of Miss daffodils, narcissus Cup competition, theatrical performances, and the summer music school during the main school holidays during.



## 4. b LEFT BANK OF THE MURA RIVER – Bakovci – Gornja Bistrica (13,5 km – asphalt)

You will cycle from Bakovci to Dokležovje across fields over discharging channel to the centre of Dokležovje where you can see the church of St Stephen built in 184.

**DOKLEŽOVJE** Parish Church of St Stephen built in 1844 has the dominant position in the cemetery in the middle of the village, on the left side of the road. Opposite the church is a monument dedicated to Ivan Jerič.

In Dokležovje you can go across the bridge on the right bank of the Mura River and you will come to Veržej.

You should continue along the way past the farm on the right side in the direction of Ižakovci, place where you can see the Island of love and floating mill on the Mura River.

**IŽAKOVCI** The Mura River has been playing around with nature in its riverbed for centuries creating a natural island which is called the **Island of love**. The island is very well known for its substance, beauty

#### 4. a RIGHT BANK OF THE MURA RIVER – Hrastje Mota – Gibina (23 km – asphalt)

##### Duo gallery – Eco museum

In the centre DUO in Veržej you can see sales and exhibition gallery with craftsmen's products of eastern Slovenia (Prlekija, Prekmurje and Podravje), where 34 craftsmen currently exhibit. Products made of clay and husk, wood, glass, straw, wool, iron and paper represent only a small part of the rich artistic offer. The products are accompanied with a certificate of national and art trade.

##### Floating mill on the Mura

You can visit only the Pannonian floating mill in Slovenia (there were 69 floating mills on the Mura River at the end of the 18th century; 93 owners of floating mills were registered in 1925). You can buy white, rye, bread, buckwheat and corn flour, buckwheat and millet flour and other milling products.

The place is famous for **beekeeping**. You can visit the Beekeeping museum.

##### Forge

If you are interested in forging skills, you can visit Forging museum in the centre DUO.



#### 4. b LEFT BANK OF THE MURA RIVER – Bakovci – Gornja Bistrica (13,5 km – asphalt)

and unspoiled nature. In the framework of The Tourist Association various activities take place on the ISLAND OF LOVE, which are interesting to both hikers, tourists and random visitors.

One of the most traditional events is »BŪJRAŠKI DNEVI«, which has been organized since 1991 and is held in the second week in August. It is executed in a spirit of touristic cultural, ethnological and entertainment events. It is devoted to the memory of the life and work of people who lived through decades with this often turbulent river. People there evoke memories of the ancient hand works associated with life of people living near the Mura River.

##### Mill on the Mura River, Ižakovci

Coexistence between the river and the man has always been intense. Since the fourth century on the Mura River a lot of floating mills were located - according to some data over ninety - and they have been boats link between Prekmurje and Prlekija. During operation, the mill includes to a wider range of touristic offer of the place, the



home county and the region with its mill services and cuisine. On the Island of love is available home made flour, which is definitely something special.



#### 4. a RIGHT BANK OF THE MURA RIVER – Hrastje Mota – Gibina (23 km – asphalt)

##### Educational forest trail »Mura River backwaters«

Educational forest trail is suitable for all friends of nature. Murski logi and backwaters of the Mura river near Veržej represent true natural pearl. You can see the meadow, which was created by deforestation and has typical vegetation of wet soil, such as white daffodil, which can be found only in this area in eastern Slovenia. On the banks of the Mura River you will learn about Murski log (small wood of hard and soft wood), divided into vegetation zones, dependant on the level of ground water and soil composition. Each river flood converts the form of bends. Changes are reflected in the emergence of new backwaters branches, and filling in the previous backwaters and sinking of trees with poor root system, swamped by sand. As a result, of filling backwaters are spread out, which gradually passes into a swamp and eventually become dry land. Backwaters are mostly stagnant water, rich in flora and fauna of standing water.

In Veržej you can go over the bridge on the left bank of the Mura River, then you will come to Dokležovje.

You can cycle from the main road from Veržej to Križevci pri Ljutomeru, which is 3 km away from the main road. Then you should go back to Križevci or Banovci on the main road.

##### KRIŽEVCI PRI LJUTOMERU

The area of today's Križevci was inhabited in pre-historic times, as there are sites from the Neolithic and Eneolithic Age (2100-1750 BC) in Bučečovci and Lukavci. Many objects have been found far away from the original site, which the researchers associated with the operation of the Mura River and its changing stream. Mura ought to stream along Križevci and Ljutomer in ancient times, so were Križevci situated on some kind of island. The area has also rich archaeological heritage, urn cemeteries from the Hallstatt period have been well known. Horsing has a longstanding tradition in this area. Characteristic of the wider area are the lakes. Lake Gajševsko jezero which was formed damming the Ščavnica River. The lakes are an important part

of touristic offer, as they offer opportunities for spending active free time and fishing.

You should continue the way in Veržej in the direction of Banovci, a place that is famous for its thermal water and spa.

##### BANOVCI

There are almost 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> of water area in Banovci with waterfalls, slides, underwater massage and hot springs. You can swim in the indoor and outdoor pools. All pools are open all the year round. There is a swimming pool that nudists can enjoy the sun and water refreshment in the camping site.

You should continue the way by the spa and along fields and you will come to Zg. Krapje. You can visit **Beekeeping museum** which is on the left side before the board with the inscription Krapje.

You should continue the way in the direction of Cven, but you can turn left off the main route just before Cven (sign Biomura) and learn about Project Biomura. There is BIOMURA information centre among ponds by the fishing home.

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#### 4. b LEFT BANK OF THE MURA RIVER – Bakovci – Gornja Bistrica (13,5 km – asphalt)



Biogas plant on the right side and strawberry plantations on left side.

You can cycle off the main road from Ižakovci to 3 km faraway Beltinci.

##### BELTINCI

The places of today's county Beltinci were first directly mentioned in a document dated in 1322. Beltinci has already been the administrative and economic centre of the surrounding area for centuries, mainly due to the county, which had its seat in Beltinci castle. In the middle of the park a large family mansion of Bánffy family is located. The original building from the 13th century is surrounded by walls with four towers and a water moat. The current single-storey mansion with a simple facade and round towers from the 17th century is surrounded by a park with trees of selected species.

A Jewish **synagogue** was located in town and had for orthodox Jewish community Beltinci a local rabbi.

##### Beltinci castle

The central sight of Beltinci is a baroque palace in Beltinci. The mansion originated in the 13th century, however it has got its baroque form in the 17th century. Thus it is a good example of

4b

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#### 4. a RIGHT BANK OF THE MURA RIVER – Hrastje Mota – Gibina (23 km – asphalt)

##### Biomura

The area of the Mura River in Slovenia has been designated as nature conservation and an important habitat of high biodiversity. Most of these areas therefore fall within the Natura 2000. From nature conservation point of view are important lowland floodplain forests, old branches and backwaters, river islands, gravel pits and erosion areas in the riverbeds. Ensuring the biodiversity of areas and the protection and restoration of wetlands depends primarily on maintaining or raising the groundwater levels and more intensive hydrodynamic processes in the river corridor.

Then Cven and Mota follow.

You can cycle by the main route from Mota to Ljutomer, which is about 4.5 km away from the main road. Then you can come back to Mota or Razkrižje on the main route.

##### LJUTOMER

Ljutomer, the heart of Prlekija, was already mentioned as settlement in 1249. It has become the market in 1265. Plague, fires and invasions of Turks were problem the place had to deal with. The town centre consists of three squares, each with its own sign. There is the Chapel of St Anne from 1756 on the square Stari trg. On the main side of the chapel St Anne is portrayed, on the right side is St Anton, on the left St Florian, and on the back side decorate Sacred heart and holy trinity. There is a statue of Virgin Mary on a high pillar on the main square. The statues of St Roch and Sebastian stand on the bottom of the pillar on each side. The sign was built in 1729 by the mayor of that time. Before that the pillory with the cage for offenders stood on this place for the purpose of exposing the offenders to the public. The chapel of St Florian is place on the square Miklošičev trg. The chapel is the part of the walls of Ljutomer church built in 1736. The town Ljutomer has a centuries-old wine tradition. In the immediate vicinity, in the Železne dveri and



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#### 4. b LEFT BANK OF THE MURA RIVER – Bakovci – Gornja Bistrica (13,5 km – asphalt)

early Baroque castle building. The castle has another attraction, its underground vaulted passages. One tunnel connects the castle with the church; the other ought to lead from the castle building to a large castle granary. The castle surrounded with beautiful baroque-designed park, with beautiful domestic species of trees and many exotic species, has been extended over 14 hectares in the past. On this surface about 1600 trees were planted including around 800 exotic trees. Some of them can still be found today in the park.

Cycling from Ižakovci leads cyclists by the road along popular avenue in the typical village near Mura called Melinci where the ferry has still been running. Throughout history they have been known for brickworks.

##### MELINCI

Ferry in Melinci is one of four ferries which drive along the Mura River. It consists of two shallow boats, connected with integrating and supporting platform on which is ferryman's little hut. Platform, usually with fence, is attached to the steel river rope on which runs

a rope pulley with a hanger rope. Ferry is moving across the river by the help of the river flow.

Village Melinci has been known for brickworks in the past - handmade bricks and fire-baked bricks. Bricks have not been produced and baked only in Melinci, but also in surrounding villages and other places in Slovenia. This activity disappeared and was completely gone in the 60s of the 20th century. TD Brod Melinci has been organizing traditional Days of brickworks for fifteen years in order to show the production and fire-baking of bricks. You can see the Brickworks museum in Melinci.

The cycling route leads you to turn right and continue in the direction of Gornja Bistrica.

You can continue the way in Gornja Bistrica along the left bank of the Mura River, which runs through the Lendava and then ends at the border crossing point with Hungary. You can also turn right and continue cycling along the right bank of the Mura River, where the route continues to Croatia.

#### 4. a RIGHT BANK OF THE MURA RIVER – Hrastje Mota – Gibina (23 km – asphalt)

Jeruzalem are suitable soils and favourable micro-climate which allow the cultivation of the highest quality wine varieties. Ljutomer is also known for its excellent cheeses and spark horses - trotters. Traditional harness racings take place on the town racetrack in the summer season. Ljutomer is also famous for pottery masters, who mainly produce color glazed ceramics and decorative items.

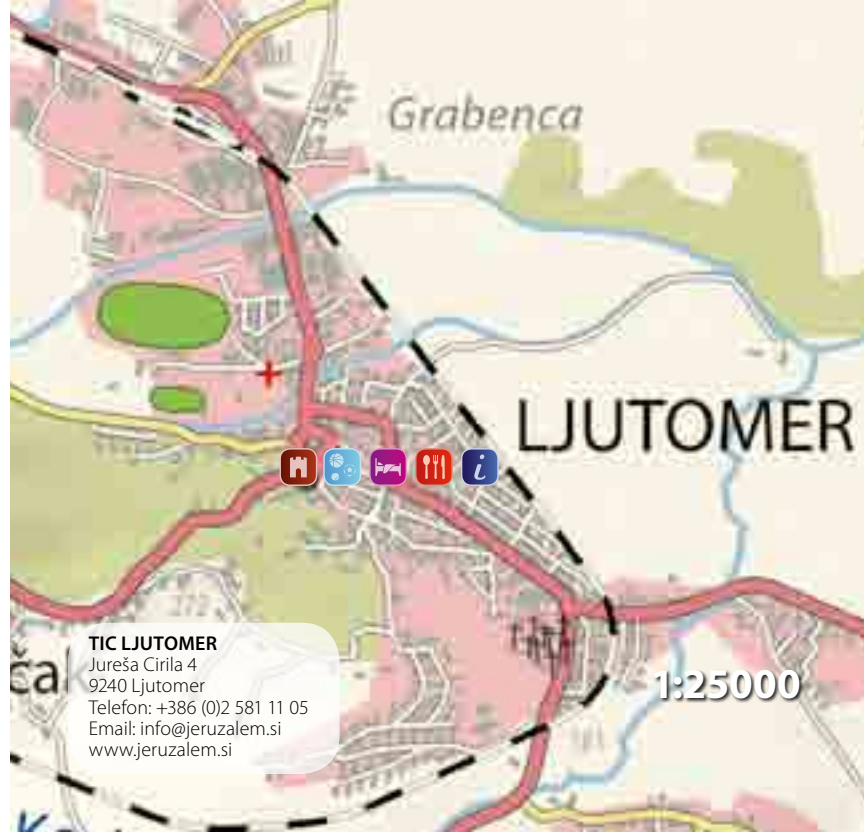


#### Ljutomer museum

Three permanent museum collections are exhibited in the museum: The first one is called The camp movements in Slovenia, which represents happening in the first Slovenian camp in Ljutomer and other camps. Another collection, general museum collection shows the overall economic, cultural, political and social life of Ljutomer. The third collection is: A collection of photos and movies of dr. Karol Grossmann. You can see the artistic photography and projection of the oldest Slovenian films from 1905-1906, recorded in Ljutomer.

#### Pottery

One of local families has been making pottery for 140 years. They are one of the few potter's families with a long and rich tradition of making pottery. Tradition does not mean only that the fifth generation makes pottery, but also that the whole family is involved in this - the preservation and continuation of pottery heritage. All products are manufactured by hand at the potter's wheel. Products are fired in the old traditional way in wood-fired oven, thus the smoke gives a different and unrepeatable shade to each product. That is why each of earthenware is unique.



You will come to Razkrižje. It could be said that touristic offer is created by ordinary, simple people. It is based on the rich cultural and natural heritage, preserved habits, customs and traditions, the culinary specialties, good wines and interesting landscape, which passes from the area near the Mura River to the wine-growing world of the eastern slopes of Slovenske gorice.

#### RAZKRIŽJE Ivan spring and healing energy points

If you are interested in folk traditions you should stop at Ivan spring. Many people believe in the healing power of water, which should help to good eyesight, general welfare and the elimination of strumousness. Among some older people a story of a blind girl was saved. The girl, who ought to wash her face with water of Ivan spring, overlooked. Since then this place is a pilgrimage site. Bioenergetics found many places for human welfare at Ivan spring and its surroundings along the Ščavnica River. After a short period of stay in a location the blockages release and restore normal energy flow. In total, there are 22 energy points on the area of municipality Razkrižje.



#### 4. a RIGHT BANK OF THE MURA RIVER – Hrastje Mota – Gibina (23 km – asphalt)

##### Forging museum

You can see the Forging museum in Razkrižje, which is located on the left side before the bridge over the Ščavnica River. You can see tool with which the horses of Lendava Countess were shoed.

##### Slomšek mill

Great-nephew of Blessed bishop Anton Martin Slomšek. Martin Slomšek sold the homestead in Slom in 1905 and bought the Slomšek mill and sawmill in Razkrižje. Milling trade has been known in that place since 1912. People from everywhere, even from Croatia came to the mill. They paid grinding mainly with agriculture produce, as well as with money if they produced less. The mill was originally on the water, later electrically driven. The mill is protected as a technical monument. Access: After crossing the bridge of the Ščavnica River you should turn right in the direction of Ljutomer. The mill is on the right side, 200 m away.

You should continue the way towards the Šafarsko, where you can see a prehistoric settlement.

##### ŠAFARSKO Prehistoric settlement

On the northeastern edge of the village Šafarsko pri Razkrižju is a terrace with fallow name Gradišče. In a topographic field campaign in 1960 the remains of earthen pottery have been found in the fields at the top of the terrace that had to be placed in the Copper Age period. Systematic archaeological excavations were organized in Gradišče since 1981 to 1984 held by the Regional museum of Murska Sobota. Former living facilities in the settlement, fireplaces and stoves can be reconstructed on the basis of the survey.

**GIBINA**  
**Gibina waterfall** is one of the largest natural waterfalls in Pomurje. Franc Smolkovič had a mill on great wheels at the stream, which flows from Štrigova and is simply called Gibina Stream. His son Matija built gates on the waterfall in 1918. The waterfall is one of the most beautiful natural sites in the municipality of Razkrižje and is a great place for relaxing the nerves and body.



**Pumpkin-growing tradition** in the municipality of Razkrižje is more the 100 years old. Pumpkin seed oil processing technology is based on hot pressing. If you are interested, we can show the old technologies of pumpkin seeds compression.

You will cross the border Slovenia - Croatia after one kilometer.



## 5. Gornja Bistrica – Mala Polana

(13 km; 4,3 km – asphalt,  
4,7 km – dirt road, 4 km – asphalt)

The cycling route turns right from Melinci and continues to Gornja Bistrica. This place was often flooded by the Mura until regulation. The northern part has been a little bit raised, out of the flooding area and completely cultivated. Agriculture and stockbreeding have been the most common uses. Acacia forests by the Mura River offer the opportunity for beekeeping.

### GORNJA BISTRICA

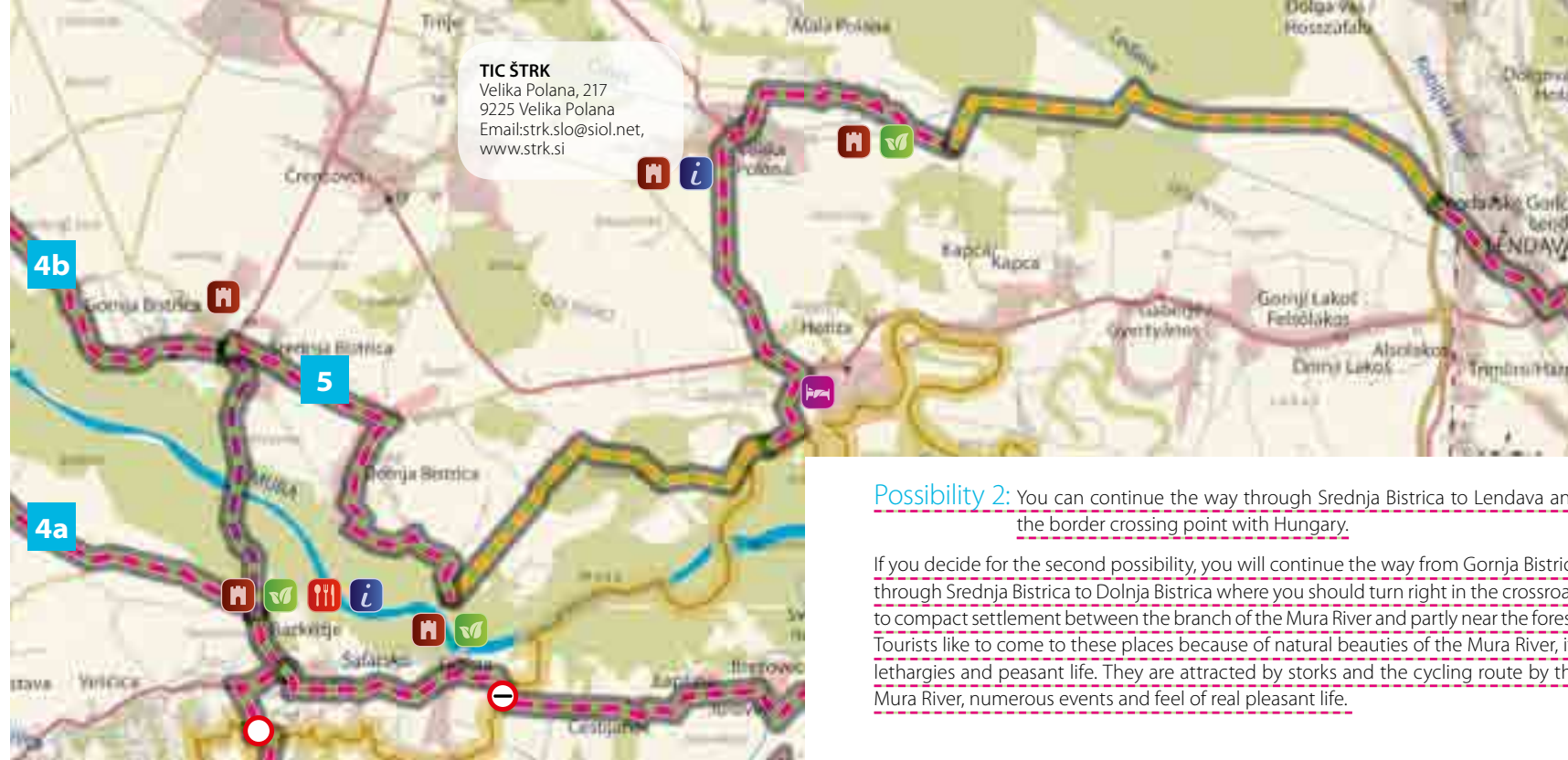
**Church of Saint Anthony of Padua** was built in 1792. Today's patron of the church is blessed Anton Martin Slomšek.

### Organic centre

Organic foodstuffs produced by different local offerers can be seen or bought in the centre.

In Gornja Bistrica you have two possibilities.

**Possibility 1:** You can turn right in Gornja Bistrica and continue the way through the settlement to the Mura bridge in the direction of Razkrižje and continue on the right bank of the Mura River. The route also continues by the Mura River in Croatia.



**Possibility 2:** You can continue the way through Srednja Bistrica to Lendava and the border crossing point with Hungary.

If you decide for the second possibility, you will continue the way from Gornja Bistrica through Srednja Bistrica to Dolnja Bistrica where you should turn right in the crossroad to compact settlement between the branch of the Mura River and partly near the forest. Tourists like to come to these places because of natural beauties of the Mura River, its lethargies and peasant life. They are attracted by storks and the cycling route by the Mura River, numerous events and feel of real pleasant life.



## DOLNJA BISTRICA

**The white stork is migratory** bird which flies to these places every April and stays here until September. It feeds on frogs, reptiles and molluscs. It nests on the trees, poles or on buildings near settlement. It spends the winter in Africa.

The route passes through Dolnja Bistrica by the lethargies of the Mura River which preserve unique ecosystems near the glade, between fields and forest.

## The lethargy of the Mura river

The world near the Mura River has been rich with lethargies, flooding groves and swampy meadows. There have been more than 50 kinds of fish in the Mura River mostly with cyprinid composition. European mudminnow lives only in lethargies of the Mura River. More than 100 kinds of birds nest here, white stork and a few of black stork. In lethargies we can find rare swimming fern.

Then follow the 5 km long cycling by well regulated dirt road among fields and forests. When you come to asphalt road you should cycle 1 km and turn left before Hotiza and after 0.4 km turn right to Velika Polana, the place known as European Stork Village.

**VELIKA POLANA** is a village in Prekmurje, surrounded with lowland meadows, swampy groves, nice people and storks' nests. That has been the way how compatriot Miško Kranjec described it in his books. The place has had the title European stork village since 1999. The title was given by the European Foundation EURONATUR.



It has been known as **European stork village**. 9 pairs of white storks are the pride of the village. They nest in Velika and Mala Polana. Storks supplement the colourful environment of swampy meadows during the days. There they find their essential food. They come back to their nests in the evenings. We can find them on the electric poles and on chimneys of abandoned houses.

**Polanski log** is the place of refuge for many endangered species from the Red list. We can go through the forest by the forest nature trails in Polanski log. It has been planned in the way that each visitor can find appropriate distance to walk. It is possible to get professional attendance of district forester. This ecosystem has been known all around among experts as here are important habitats of »Prekmurje pines« - black alder tree in European area.

## Miško Kranjec homestead

There is a renovated museum at Miško Kranjec homestead. Well known writer, after who the primary school has been named, wrote novels mostly about local people and village. It is



impossible to find more colourful introduction of the home village. There is no muddy ruts and dirt roads anymore, however here still live nice and simple people to whom Miško Kranjec devoted pages of his literary works. His homestead is his inheritance in paper wealth. The writer who wrote more than 50 novels is known to all Slovenes.

When you continue cycling from Velika Polana you should turn right after 0.5 km in the direction of Mala Polana. You will cycle among fields on the low land and through Mala Polana.

## MALA POLANA Country development centre

In the rooms of association you can see or buy hand made products as: small baskets, narrows, bags, ruck-sacks, suitcases, souvenir, kitchenware, shoes, clothes, needle works and furniture elements.

You should turn left after 0.5 km on the dirt road, sign for Copek mill will direct you.

**MALA POLANA**  
**Copek mill has** been an important point since war times when Liberation front was established and stayed the only one which has never been discovered by enemies. Today this is the only mill preserved on stream Črnec. There have been 5 mills on stream Črnec, today only one is preserved. It is also known as the only preserved preindustrial mill. His renovation was supported by the European Union. After the renovation the mill has got the miller thus it still operates. Technical building is secured as historic monument; it is certainly important as copy of ethnologic inheritance.



## 6. Mala Polana - border crossing point Pince (15,5 km; 1 km – asphalt, 6 km – dirt road, 8,5 km – asphalt)

You should continue the route from Mala Polana at Copekov mill by the stream Črnec through the forest, among fields to the Ledava River, where you should turn right and cycle 4 km by the river. The landscape has been denoted by viniculture which has rich tradition of the area of Lendavske gorice. When you come to the motorway you should turn left through the underpass and on to the asphalt road. You should continue the way by the Ledava River (after 0.5 km you can turn left over the bridge in the old part of Lendava). The main road leads you further, after 1 km you should turn left and cycle over the bridge.



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**LENDAVA** is well known for numerous sights as: thermal water, 400 years old vine, Lendava castle, sacral inheritance, numerous traditional events...

Lendava has more than 800 years old tradition. It is situated on the crossing of many important ways. This military resting point on the way Poetovio-Savaria (Ptuj-Szombathely) was named Halicanum

by Romans. Older part of the settlement lie on low terraces above former flooding area, which has been extended through dry riverbeds on the north to Dolga vas and to Čentibe on the east after regulations in 1945. The industrial buildings were built on the south. In the 60s of the 20th century the development of the town was hastened by the establishment of petrochemical industry.

Lendava is also known of traditional events. Annual touristic, cultural, sport and entertaining events revive the town. Events connected with wine tradition as St Martin's day, wine festival, bogračijada and the biggest among all – Lendava vintage are very well attended. Lendava vintage has been traditional ethnologic event in the first half of September. Every year thousands of people come to see parade with show of customs, folklore, village marketplace, competition in cooking of bograč, wine festival, sport games and entertaining program.

**Lendava castle** is situated above the town centre at foothills of Lendavske gorice. The castle was rebuilt to today's form in the 18th century. Castle fortification which was on the hill, where today's castle stands, probably existed here in the 12th century. The castle was the property of Hungarian family Bánffy, later for a short time of family Nádasdy and of royal family Eszterházy since 18th century. The descendant of 400 years old vine, the sort Žametovka or Modra Kavčina from Lent in Maribor, has been planted on the castle yard. There are also museum and gallery in the castle.



**Gallery-museum Lendava** takes place in Lendava castle and was established in 1972. Since then a art colony has been organized there and many artists have come to Lendava and left there more than 400 artistic works. Permanent exhibitions in Gallery-museum Lendava are Archeologic exhibition OLORIS (late Bronze Age, site Dolnji Lakoš near Lendava), Memorial Room of György Zala (one of the greatest Hungarian sculptors, born in Lendava) and exhibition Castle on the lookout (facsimiles of weapon and military equipment from the time of Turkish raids).



### Sacral objects

Jewish synagogue in Lendava was built in 1866 for the needs of Jewish community of that time (there were 232 Jews in town in that time). Today the synagogue does not serve religious purposes but as the place for art exhibitions and cultural events. There has been permanent exhibition the History of Jewish in Dolnja Lendava.

Evangelistic church in Lendava was built between 1931 and 1934. It has been identical with the one in Csorna in Hungary from the architectural point of view.

Catholic church of St Catherine was built in 1751 in Baroque style. The painting of St Catherine from 1800 stands behind the altar. It has been the work of Italian painter Barazutti. The monuments of St Florian, St Stephen and Anton Martin Slomšek embellish the square in front of the church.

### The Chapel of holy trinity with mummy of Mihael Hadik

Historic sources are evidence that the chapel was built in 1728 by family Gludovác. Wooden coffin with dead body of Mihael Hadik has been found

during the digging of foundations for chapel. Michael Hadik fell in action with Turks in 1603. His mummy has still been the key attraction in the chapel.

### Theatre and concert hall

After 10 years of construction the building, which has been the pride of the town and gives it a special seal, was opened. It has been the work of famous Hungarian architect Imre Mákovecz, who deviates from the majority with his architecture. His projects have been different among themselves as he tries to accommodate to the nature or environment as defender of organic architecture. Cultural activities



execute in the theatre and concert hall with emphasis on theatre and concert performances. There has not been any similar building near thus admirers of culture come also from Hungary and Croatia.

### Spa

In the immediate neighbourhood water world can be found where can you relax and enjoy in active water experience, beside the healing effects of paraffin water. There have been water surfaces (winter season pool, thermal pool »grape«, Olympic swimming pool with toboggan and chute, children pool and inside pools which include recreative pool with water effects, fast river, massage pouts, geyser, water fall and children pool).

**Lendavske gorice** are situated among stream Kobiljanski potok, the Krka and the Ledava River. The third of 150 m<sup>2</sup> vineyard fell to South Slavonic country in 1920 after Treaty of Treanon. The Slovene part of vineyard is 9 km long from Dolga vas to Pince on the southeast; there is 3 km long part on the north and only 1 km long on the south. Mastodon arvernensis from the middle or early Pliocene have





been found in Čentibilske gorice in 1951. Ridges and terraces rise from 265 to 328 m high; the highest top (334 m) is beyond the border. All the positions exposed to the Sun are below vineyards (500 ha); fields, acacia and beech forests are in the sunless position. Expressive sun position, warm sandy and marlaceus ground and favourable microclimatic conditions make possible the production of quality white wines. You can try them in many wine shops and touristic farms beside excellent cooking.

There has been protected group of wooden wine cellars as architectural monuments on the hill Novi Tomaž in the middle of vineyards.

You can stop in the spa on the right side before the bridge and treat yourself to velvet luxury of paraffin hands coating and bathing in the pools with unique paraffin water which refreshes skin and makes it youthful. You also have the possibility to spend the night in hotel with three stars.

You should cycle 0.2 km more after crossing the Ledava River and turn right in the crossroad in the direction of border crossing point Pince. You will cycle by the Dolina pri Lendavi. You can observe hilly landscape of Lendavske gorice on your left side. Wine shops and touristic farms make Lenavske Gorice rich. They offer typical food and drink of our landscape. You will come to Pince after 6 km of cycling. The way continues to Hungary.

## 7. Gibina – Hlapičina (8 km – asphalt)

Immediately after leaving the border you enter the village of Čestijanec and soon after the villages of Lapšina, Jurovec and Brezovec follow. 4 km after the border crossing you arrive at the village of Sveti Martin na Muri, where numerous attractions can be visited.

**SVETI MARTIN NA MURI** is one of the oldest settlements in Međimurje. According to the historical research the settlement Halicanum was located here as early as in the Roman period. Sveti Martin na Muri was an important outpost on the Roman road to West. The Church of St. Martin the Bishop built in 15th century by the templars is located in the centre of the village. At the outskirts of the village and nearby the Mura, the family farm Goričanec can be found. The place offers accommodation, food, horse riding and other recreational activities. Spa&sport resort Sv. Martin is situated 4 kms from the centre of Sveti Martin na Muri. This municipality is largely oriented towards tourism and it was declared the European Destination of Excellence (EDEN) for sustainable rural tourism.

It has also won the Golden Flower of Europe (Entente Florale Europe) for tidiness and sustainable development.

### Regional Nature Park of the Mura River

The first entry point to the area of the Regional Nature Park Mura-Drava is situated in the very centre of Sveti Martin na Muri (at the church). This natural landscape is the first regional park in Croatia, it is networked to the programme Natura 2000 and will be a part of the UNESCO-protected Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube. In the Park,



the Mura River can be experienced in its pristine form, with numerous meanders, rich flora and fauna and beautiful swamps habitats which have unfortunately become very rare in other European Pannonian rivers.

In the Park you can drive through the gravel trail which goes back onto the asphalt road in short intervals (through villages of Marof, Hlapičina, M. Središće, Peklenica) and from the village of Križovec you can continuously (51 km) drive through the nature along the Mura to Donja Dubrava without going through inhabited areas.

### ŽABNIK

This northernmost settlement in Croatia is situated right next to Sveti Martin na Muri. The settlement got the name according to the sound backdrop created by thousands of frogs. (Cro. žaba = a frog). There are numerous attractions are nearby Žabnik.

### The norther most geo point

This geo and tourist point can be approached by a small maze which may encourage you to explore your own inner dimensions. At the very point, numerous and interesting geographical facts can be found there.



### The mill on the Mura River

Numerous wooden floating mills were tied along the banks of the Mura up to the 80-ies of the 20th century. Unfortunately, only this »old man«, where first wheat was ground in 1902, has been preserved. The mill is a unique object of traditional building heritage in Croatia. Beyond Croatian borders, the mill is known for its original mill mechanism. On the bank of the mill there is a mill house with the



ethnographic collection and the gift shop. The fishing lodge where fish specialties are served are next to the gift shop and the mill house. There is also a ferry »boat«, which still connects the two river banks.

### Miller path

A 3 km-long circular path packed with information boards and resting places is ideal for stress relief and education on rich flora and fauna and traditional heritage of the Mure. The educational path is a part of the Eco museum Mura which covers the area of the Mura from Ižakovci to Križovec.

### MAROF

A hundred meters from the mill, the Trstenjak family has set up an ethnographic collection in their homestead where you can see many ethnographic objects which were used in this area in the past. The hosts also offer ecologically produced tea, cakes and bread.

The cycle route continues through the fields to the village of Hlapičina.



### 7. b Towards SPA (13,5 km – asphalt)

If you choose this road which passes through beautiful wine region, in the centre of Razkrižje turn right and after 0.5 km turn left to the state border and Štrigova. A 500 m of relatively steep climb follows, but you will be rewarded in the end when you see the stunning scenery of Štrigova and the Međimurje wine roads.

### 7. a Hlapičina – Mursko Središće (side route 4 km– dirt route)

You can turn left in Hlapičina and cycle along the Regional Nature Park on the dirt road. After passing through the fields, the route leads along the Mura River. Upon coming to the ferry you can cross to the left bank and see a fishermen heaven with 7 lakes. From the ferry, the route leads to the asphalt road and on the side street along the Mura to the centre of Mursko Središće.



## ŠTRIGOVA

Štrigova, or in Latin Stridon, was founded by the ancient Romans in 1 AD. The legend has it that the first Međimurje vine was planted in Štrigova in this period. Restaurants Stridon and Kult offer local specialties and cafe Orijent offers accommodation. In the wine houses of the families Nemeč, Kocijan and Kossi you can taste fabulous wine. Numerous cultural monuments can be found here also.

### Crkva Svetog Jeronima

On the site of the present church there once stood a wooden church built in 15th century. The present Baroque church was built in 2nd half of 18th century. It is known for its valuable frescoes painted by the Paulite monk Ivan Ranger from Tirol.

### The Međimurje State Archives

In the very centre of Štrigova, the renovated elementary school building from the Austro-Hungarian empire houses the Historical archives of the Međimurje region. Beside preserving bibliographic material, this institution organizes interesting historial exhibitions.



grape varieties. Wine may be tasted and bought in forty beautifully decorated vine cellars and family vineries. Local culinary specialties can be eaten in a number of excellent restaurants such as Terbotz in Železna Gora. Cafe Monika offers accommodation.

After Štrigova and 3 km ride and a short climb you come to the village of Jurovčak.

## JUROVČAK

The winery and deer farm of the Dvanajščak family, the wine and fruit-growing farm of the Hažić family, traditional restaurants Potrti kotač and Jastreb can be visited in Jurovčak. Peculiar cellars dug in the sandy soil without any supporting structure, e.g. »Wine caves«. Tours of the wine caves can be arranged in the restaurants.

The path descends some 100 m down the hill through Jurovčak to the Sv. Martin Spa.

## SVETI MARTIN SPA

This place has been famous for its abundance of thermal water from 1911. Today, there is Spa & Sport Resort Sv.



## Međimurje wine road

The best continental wine road of Croatia passes through the picturesque landscape of exceptional biodiversity. The wine road is unique because this area of 10 kms contains some 20 autochthonous and international

Martin which is the largest and most beautiful Croatian spa with a hotel and four star apartments, luxurious wellness, numerous sports and golf grounds. Various services for cycle tourists can be provided there.



After leaving Sv. Martin Spa take a sharp left turn and ride through short and steep climb to Gornji Koncovčak. If you want to see the Old Straw House, you should turn left in Koncovčak towards Sveti Martin na Muri, and then after 0.2 km to the right towards Kapelščak which is 1.5 km away. Get back to the main trail to by following signs to Sveti Martin na Muri.



### Old straw wine house

Situated amongst idyllic vineyard surroundings, at the top of Kapelščak, there is a 19th century wine house thatched with straw. Besides taking a look at this jewel of traditional rural architecture, the watch tower near the St. Margaret Church can be climbed. Stunning scenery of vineyards the Mura valley and neighboring Slovenia and Hungary can be experienced from the watch tower.

If you opt for not visiting the Old Straw House in Kapelščak, you should turn left in Gornji Kuncovčak in the direction of Sveti Martin na Muri, where you should continue cycling along the main trail.

## 8. Hlapičina - Podturen (17 km – asphalt)

You should continue the way from Sveti Martin na Muri among fields and meadows through Hlapičina.

### HLAPIČINA Family Kiralj mill

In the courtyard of the family Kiralj, a 150-year-old wooden mill can be viewed. Hardworking family will offer you homemade bread and other local specialties and tell you the story of the mill trade.



#### TIC Mursko Središče

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From Hlapičina take the local road to the beginning of Mursko Središće and turn left near the Mura.

## MURSKO SREDIŠĆE

Mursko Središće is the northernmost town in Croatia, known for its tradition of mining. Boarding house Ilonka on the path offers homemade food and accommodation. It is the only major urban centre, located near the Mura River. In the centre, there is a small berth for boats and educational trail »Miller path«. The town is connected with Čakovec by rail. If you cross the bridge you will reach Lendava in 20 min. At the outskirts of the town in the Peklenica direction you can visit tourist complex Cimper.

### Miners' Memorial House »Cimper«

Interesting collection and multimedia presentation on the mining history of Međimurje can be viewed in the tourist complex Cimper which is one of the best preserved examples of historical industrial heritage in Croatia. Cimper is also an EDEN finalist. Excellent »mining« restaurant, mini-brewery, overnight apartments and camping site are parts of the complex.



After leaving M. Središće continue riding on the local road through landscape marked by the »halde«, small mounds covered by trees which are the remains of old mines.

After 3,5 km ride you will get to Peklenica.

## PEKLENICA »Trojka«

Reconstruction of the World's first oil drill, so called »Trojka« and natural oil spring may be seen in the centre of Peklenica if you take only 100 m from



the bike trail. Oil was drilled here as early as in 1886, which is 4 years before start of drilling in Pennsylvania (USA).

The trail takes you directly to Križovec.

## KRIŽOVEC Centre of the Regional Nature Park of the Mura-Drava River

Presentation of the ecological values of the Regional Nature Park Mura-Drava and interesting thematic exhibitions can be seen in this nicely arranged Centre. Centre's staff will be happy to give you any info on the Centre and other service info necessary for enjoying the nature. Here you can leave the asphalt road and continue riding on the gravel road along the Mura river all the way to Donja Dubrava. If you prefer staying on the asphalt road you will pass through typical lowland villages of Miklavec and Ferketinec. On your left side you will be followed by the Mura which can be approached by several trails marked by ferry signposts. The distance from the river is 2 km. Lowland road brings you to Podturen.

## 9. Podturen – Donji Hraščan (10 km – asphalt)

**PODTUREN** is a typical Pannonian valley village dotted with a large number of traditional estates which are still mainly intact.

### Ethnological collection »Tale of linen and heron«

(heron »Čapla«-traditional carnival mask)

There is a collection dedicated to cultivation and processing of linen which was once irreplaceable in the region. Here you can also find traditional carnival masks typical of Međimurje county.

### Trokrižje (Three crucifixes)

Right in the centre of the village, there are three crucifixes representing the Calvary. It is a rare monument of sacral heritage in the region.



Onwards from Podturen the path takes you on a ride through villages: Novakovec, Dekanovec, Domašinec, Turčišće and Donji Hraščan.



## 10. Donji Hraščan – Donji Mihaljevec (16 km – asphalt)

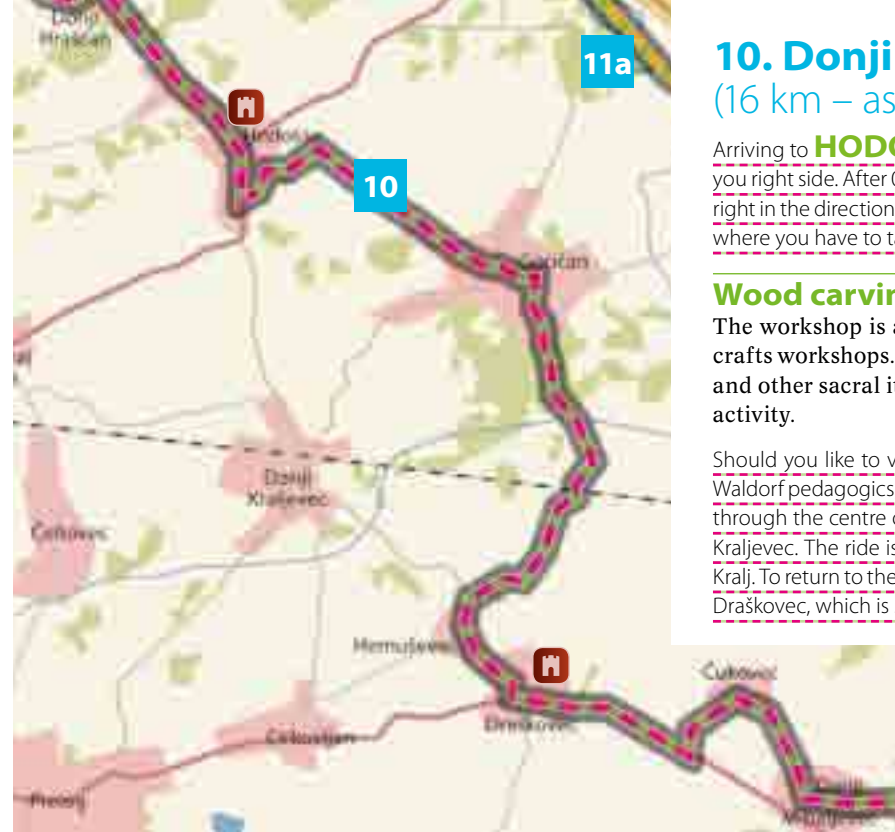
Arriving to **HODOŠAN**, take a right turn onto the main road, ride through the village keeping to your right side. After 0.5 km take a left turn passing a chapel. Keep riding for another 400 m and then turn right in the direction of Goričan. After arriving to Goričan keep on until you reach the village of Draškovec where you have to take a left turn towards Čukovec, pass through it and finally reach Donji Mihaljevec.

### Wood carving workshop Kranjčec

The workshop is a part of »Međimurje's road of tradition« which includes more than ten crafts workshops. Master Kranjčec is renowned for making wooden parts for church altars and other sacral items. With the master as a guide, you can also have a go at this engaging activity.

Should you like to visit the birthplace of dr. Rudolf Steiner, a prominent anthroposophist, founder of Waldorf pedagogics, biodynamic agriculture and architect of a number of other ideas, take a ride straight through the centre of Hodošan until you reach a crossroads where you should turn left towards Donji Kraljevec. The ride is 3.5 km long. There are several restaurants in Donji Kraljevec, not to forget Hotel Kralj. To return to the main path, cross the railroad crossing and keep left, following the signpost towards Draškovec, which is 3.5 km from D. Kraljevec.

Once in **DRAŠKOVEC**, you will find yourself on the more traffic heavy road; you should ride in direction of Koprivnica. The settlement is known for its church of St. Rok and a geothermal spring of hot water. A new spa resort is expected to be opened here shortly.



## 11. Donji Mihaljevec – Donja Dubrava (10 km – asphalt)

Once you leave Donji Mihaljevec take a quiet road towards Sveta Marija.

### SVETA MARIJA Collection of »Sveta Marija lace«

Due to foresight of Sveta Marija's women, the art of making Sveta Marija lace is not forgotten, the result of which is its inclusion in the world encyclopedia of lace. You can find it exhibited in the ethnographic collection and should you like to participate in its making, you only need to register beforehand.

In Sveta Marija keep to the right hand side of the road, ride in the direction of hydroelectric power plant as if you are returning towards the channel. Continue towards Donji Vidovec.

### DONJI VIDOVEC

**The last European gold panners** live in Donji Vidovec. Legend has it that the cross on the top of the local church of St. Vida is gilded with pure gold from the Drava river, a gift from local gold panners. Gold from the Drava is the purest non-derivative gold in



the world. This traditional trade, unique in Europe, can be seen if you visit ethnographical collection in the center of the village or if you make a stop in Golf Hotel and arrange the presentation or couple of days programme.



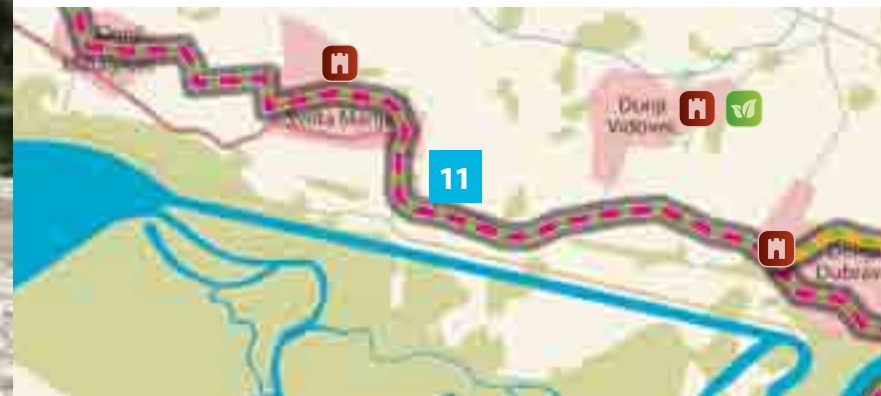
Further you proceed on the road to the village Donja Dubrava where you cross over the bridge to Legrad which is near the mouth of the Mura and Drava river. This place is the starting point of the Drava bicycle path connected with the Pan-European Danube path.

### DONJA DUBRAVA

This easternmost village in the Međimurje county once was a thriving craft centre and a »flojsar« station (flojsar in Međimurje vernacular = ferryman) for transporting wooden chucks by the Drava all the way up to Osijek.

### Blacksmith shop

Numerous horses were shod in this Blacksmith shop and tools and parts of agricultural machinery were produced from mid 19th century to 70-ies in 20th century. You can also give a try at your own blacksmith skills guided by the master.





## 11. a Križevac – Kotoriba – Donja Dubrava (alternative route 51 km – dirt route)

If you decide for the route through natural landscape of the Regional Nature Park Mura-Drava, you should just turn right in the centre of Križevac and then take quality macadam path by the Mura and the Hungarian border. The path is appropriate for trekking and MTB bicycles and it is marked with signposts and interpretations boards. At every 5th km you can find a resting post.

### Excursion site Zelengaj

Halfway between Križevac and Kotoriba, right next to the border with Hungary there is the excursion site Zelengaj. Apart from the restaurant, there are fishing lakes, boats to sail down the river and camping site.

After a 39 km drive through the countryside and peaceful forests, meadows and fields you will arrive to the village Kotoriba.

### KOTORIBA The ethnographic collection »Old farof« (Old rectory)

In the building of the old rectory, next to one of the largest churches in Medimurje, there is an exhibition of the objects (dishes, clothing ...) used in traditional households of late 19th century.

### Basket workshop Podgorelec

Basket weaving is a family craft, an art passed from generations to generations. Visitors can view or participate in the process of making usable items made of willow cane.

### DONJA DUBRAVA

After exiting Kotoriba drive 9 km along the gravel path towards Donja Dubrava. Along the road you can see memorial to the fort New Zrin and the equestrian farm Muškatljin.

### Equestrian farm »Muškatljin«

This equestrian farm is located in the special zoological reserve Veliki Pažut right next to the the Mura - Drava estuary. Guided by a host you can reach the river mouth by bike, horse, boat or on foot. The mouth of the two rivers can be seen from a position that is unique, but inaccessible to those uninformed. Along with fish or hunting specialties hosts will offer you a possibility of overnight stay, organization of fishing or an unforgettable photo safari.





## Are you interested in cycling on different thematic routes?

May be cycling in pairs, discovering natural and cultural heritage with your children, discovering culinary specialities, thermal water... Then you should choose one of thematic products, which are divided into different stages and go in the way of your wishes. You can find more about individual tours on [www.mura-drava.eu](http://www.mura-drava.eu).

### Health in nature

While cycling in the unspoiled riverside environment of the Mura and Drava, living a life in harmony with nature will seem like the most normal thing in the world. You will have the opportunity to experience an ecological way of life, to enjoy delicious local cuisine, to relax with a glass of homemade wine and to chat in the company of your friendly hosts. In addition to clean air, you can also enjoy numerous other natural attractions such as natural spring water sources and diverse cultural events that happen traditionally in Ptuj. Perhaps then after a short time you'll be wishing to experience the wonders of nature once more.

### Water and air

During Roman times, the healing thermal waters in this area were already well renowned. Even today, water from the hot springs can relieve many health problems and simultaneously have a positive effect on one's overall health. The cycling route that run in their close proximity offer you an excellent opportunity to turn off the cycling routes for a while into one of the thermal centres to take advantage of these gifts of nature. Fairly strenuous cycling near the wine growing hills can be capped off with a visit to the pool, sauna or massage parlour so you can finish the day completely relaxed. The choice is yours and among all of the offers, you will certainly find what is right for you.

### Sun and wine

As you wander by bicycle over hills overgrown with vines and among cottages and tourist farms, you are sure to be enchanted. You'll gather new strength as you relax on beautiful sunny terraces from where your view extends off seemingly forever and conjures up wonders that only Pomurje's flatland vineyards can offer. You can visit the places where the domestically and internationally renowned wines are produced. Amidst an experience of local culinary tradition, you may be able to discover some of the local production secrets from the producers themselves. The secrets will be worth remembering!

### Together in triumph

Teambuilding in the form of group cycling is an excellent way to combine pleasant and active leisure activities with the positive effects of employee relationship building in a new environment. With your colleagues, you can experience the various activities offered in areas around the Mura and Drava Rivers. Group games, strolls on Pohorje, rowing boat rides, ferry rides... In a relaxed atmosphere, formed through a combination of traditional cuisine and premium wine, you will get to know your employees or colleagues in a different light. Together, you'll develop new bonds that can then be transferred back to the normal working environment and certainly have an impact on your future cooperation.

### In history

In times gone by, the water represented a key element of the settlement. Towns and smaller settlements always formed near sources of water and only later migrated into the area's interior. Numerous archaeological remains near the cycling routes along the Mura and Drava Rivers are evidence of that fact. Many of the buildings are still standing including castles, mansions, city walls, churches and other similar structures. Both past and recent history is much appreciated by the locals, as there are and continue to be more thematic museums, which, through the great energy and enthusiasm of their owners, ensure that the history will not be forgotten.

### As a couple

Romantic cycling in unspoiled nature along the Mura River and exploration of the old city centres along the Drava River will revitalise your relationship and bring a sense of consistency and harmony. By cycling, you can travel a longer or shorter route amidst the wine-growing hills and choose more intimate atmospheres with culinary delights at the restaurants or refreshment at any of the natural health spas. We are convinced that spending time along these rivers will stimulate your imagination and enchant you both with the wonder of your magical journey.

### For inquisitive

A family cycling journey through unspoiled nature along the Mura and Drava River will not only provide fresh air and the discovery of natural and cultural attractions but also the chance to spend much more time together. Since it is primarily over flat areas, the cycling is not too difficult for younger riders, and the natural and cultural attractions are sure to be very interesting and educational for them. You will all surely have so many questions and will be able to discover the right answers to each with the help of the friendly hosts.

### Near and far

The entire cycling route along the Mura and Drava Rivers can be divided into shorter or longer journeys. People are different; some may prefer exploring the local attractions on long cycle trips amidst the fabulous countryside along the Mura and Drava Rivers. There are many routes offered: more or less difficult, shorter or longer, but they all have in common that they lead you on panoramic rides through the Mura and Drava Rivers villages and towns and present you with locations that you may never have heard of before. If at any time your curiosity takes over you can easily stop at any of the interesting natural and cultural attractions along the path. Or perhaps you will just remember some of those spots for your next visit to the area.

## Project **MURA-DRAVA.BIKE**

Cycling map with detailed description of Mura Cycling Route, which takes you through the area of rich culture and untouched nature, has been made in the framework of Mura-Drava.bike project co-financed from IPA SI-HR 2007-2013 fund. The project, which incorporates Slovenia (Pomurska and Podravska regions) and Croatia (Međimurje and Varaždin counties), aims to develop a common touristic product in the area of cross-border region. The project, whose primary purpose is the development of cycling tourism in the regions and supporting the development of service activities, will relate to the existing Austrian cycle paths along the Mura and Drava Rivers and establish a new cross-border tourist destination on the European tourist map.

Ten institutions and organizations which work in the area of the four project regions have been involved in the partnership. Their experiences on the field of development of tourism and touristic products, cross-border cooperation and engagement in the local environment ensure an appropriate professional basis to the project. Beside the partnership mentioned above, municipalities and counties have also been involved in the project. They have cooperated as affiliated active players and have been recognized as one of the most important for development of sustainable tourism in the involved regions and individual municipalities.

### Project Partners:

- Regionalna razvojna agencija Mura, d.o.o.
- Center za zdravje in razvoj Murska Sobota
- Prleška razvojna agencija, giz
- Znanstveno-raziskovalno središče Bistra Ptuj
- Turistička zajednica Međimurske županije
- Regionalna razvojna agencija Međimurje – REDEA d.o.o.
- Razvojna agencija Grada Čakovca – Čakra d.o.o.
- Turistička zajednica Varaždinske županije
- Varaždinska županija
- Mariborska razvojna agencija



### Publishers

Mura-Drava.bike project partners

### Texts

Regionalna razvojna agencija Mura, Turistička zajednica Međimurske županije and internet

### Photos

arhiv Regionalne razvojne agencije Mura (Aljoša Videtič), arhiv Občine Apače (Elvis Saletinger), arhiv Mestne občine Murska Sobota, arhiv Občine Razkrižje, arhiv Turizem Lendava (Peter Orban, Tomaž Galič, Dubravko Baumgatner, Igor Kolenko), arhiv Zavoda za turizem in šport Radenci (Jasna Divjak, Dani Mauko, Bogo), arhiv Galerije Murska Sobota, arhiv Zavoda za kulturo, turizem in promocijo Gornja Radgona, arhiv Centra DUO Veržej, arhiv ZTK Beltinci, arhiv LTO Prlekije Ljutomer, Anton Hozjan, arhiv Turističke zajednice Međimurske županije, arhiv Multimedia, arhiv Turističke zajednice grada Čakovca, arhiv Spa&sport resort Sv. Martin, Milivoj Kuhar Mimi, Denis Perčić, Krug Čakovec.

### Preparation of cartographic presentation

Geofoto, Multimedia, s.kolibri

### Design

s.kolibri

### Printing

Tiskarna Ekart

Year of issue

2011



**Naložba v vašo prihodnost**  
Operacijo delno financira Evropska unija  
Instrument za predpristopno pomoč



**Ulaganje u vašu budućnost**  
Operaciju dijelomično financira Evropska unija  
Instrument prepristupne pomoći



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
SLUŽBA VLADE RS ZA LOKALNO SAMOUPRAVO  
IN REGIONALNO POLITIKO

