

Routes and Tours

DISCOVERING
THE DRINA-SAVA
REGION



Discover

THE DRINA SAVA REGION



Beautiful landscapes, charming scenery, huge spaces of intact nature, powerful rivers and dense forests, cultural and historical monuments, wine cellars and many other places of the Drina-Sava area worth seeing deserve to be well explored while visiting the region. You will only scratch the surface if you stay near your hotel, apartment or rural household, so set off along some of the region's routes or embark on some of the tours that will take you to the most familiar places, but also discover the hidden ones. These routes and tours will definitely introduce you to the region in interesting and creative ways.

Routes and trails OF THE REGION



Danube Cycling Route, Ilok

European cycling routes along the Danube are extremely interesting in Ilok because of the height differences and diverse landscapes. This well-marked road is part of the European cycling routes along the Danube River (Eurovelo 6) which through Croatia goes from Udvara (Hungary) to Ilok (138 km). Ilok part of the trail (17 km) passes through Mohovo, Šarengrad and Ilok.

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The Ilok Wine Road, Ilok

The wine road of Ilok is particularly interesting, and is definitely different from what typical wine roads have to offer because almost all the wineries are concentrated in the town. The wineries, cellars and family wine farms differ in production tradition, assortment and cellar type.

Visitors are recommended to start their walk at the Old Ilok Cellars of the Odescalchi Castle, where the hosts will take them through some parts of the facility and organize wine tasting and prepare cold or warm dishes. After that, at least one new and one old winery in the Upper or Lower Town should be visited and at least three varieties of wine should be tasted. The informative leaflet *Welcome to the Danube's Kingdom of Wine* will help to organize the tour.



To experience the winegrowing hills and the landscape and walk through vineyards, one should go to the belvedere and vineyards of Principovac, which boasts a magnificent view of the surrounding vineyards, Ilok, the Danube and the easternmost parts of Croatia. In order to get a special experience of the wine route or a part of it, any visitor should take a tour on the tourist train of Ilok Cellars (Iločki podrumi).

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Cer, Šabac - Loznica

Sightseeing in this area will take you for a walk through various historical epochs: the Roman Empire, the Middle Ages and the World War I. A large number of cultural and historical monuments, significant places, spatial areas, monasteries and churches testify to the rich history of this space. Because of its history and the famous Battle of Cer, Cer Mountain is also represented as a memorial mountain.

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Sultan's Trail, path of peace, Ilok

Süleyman Kanuni, the sultan of the Ottoman Empire, made the trip from Istanbul to Vienna for the first time in 1529, and then again in 1532. Both times he did not succeed in penetrating the city of Vienna.

Contrary to its past, the Sultan's Trail nowadays forms a path of peace, a meeting place for people of all faiths and cultures. The trail starts in the centre of Vienna and passes through Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia and Bulgaria and ends at the tomb of the Sultan in Istanbul. The Sultan's Trail goes through the northern, continental part Croatia (the Danube area) and passes the following cities, towns and villages: Udvar, Draz, Zmajevac, Bilje, Osijek, Bobota, Vukovar, Sotin, Opatovac, Mohovo, Ilok. This hiking route follows asphalt roads, dirt roads and riding tracks and accommodation facilities are constantly available.

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TOURS

OF THE DRINA SAVA REGION

Explore Brčko, Brčko

The tour starts from the old railway station where in 1946 the first youth work actions of Yugoslavia was organized to build a railway line Brčko - Banovići. After imagining life in the period of Tito's rule, the tour will first take you to the city park and several churches built in the 19th century, and then to the old part of the town called Serbian Old Town (Srpska Varoš) where you will see houses from the Ottoman period. After visiting the Brčanska Beledija or the City Hall, built during the Austro-Hungarian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the tour goes to the oldest mosque in Brčko - Savska/Atik mosque built in 1600. The tour ends on the bank of the river Sava where you can spend the rest of your day enjoying in the scenery.

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Sirmium Imperial Palace, Sremska Mitrovica

The tour starts at the Sirmium Imperial Palace, a basilica discovered by chance during the construction of an apartment building in 1957. A scale model of Sirmium in the 4th century AD shows a road network, aqueducts, military fortifications and a circus (hippodrome). This only known unexcavated hippodrome was the second biggest in Europe (150 x 450 meters). It is 2–4 meters under the present-day city centre.

A guided city tour includes the excavations of Roman handicraft stores and workshops and a visit to the Archaeological Museum near St Demetrius Church. Its collection includes altars of legionnaires, a tombstone with a gryphon on it, a big mosaic from a villa rustica, a statue of Hercules, golden coins of Constantine and Helena made from the Dacian gold and replicas of gold bars. The marble head of the goddess Venus of Sremska Mitrovica (1st century BC) is one of the highlights of the collection.

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The Upper Town, Ilok

Start from Nikola Iločki Square towards the medieval town where you can almost feel the times past in an atmosphere created by the 15th-century walls, the Odescalchi Castle, St. John of Capistrano's Church and Turkish (Muslim) monuments. Get to know the wine tradition in the old cellars of the Odescalchi Castle, taste wines in a unique atmosphere among the big, old oak barrels. Do not forget to buy a bottle and take it home! After that, go towards the park whose entrance is located immediately next to the Turkish hammam, take a walk to the western bastion (on the right), and then continue your walk along the path leading through the park along the southern side of the fortress, and enjoy the variety of trees and fresh air that invigorate your body and soul. When you come to the end of the southern side of the walls, take a break at the Cross, which gives a view of parts of Ilok, the Danube and Bačka (Serbia).

Take a moment to enjoy the beauty of the park and pay a short visit to its oldest inhabitant: a Ginkgo Biloba tree. Turn towards the church and the friary and enter the holy shrine of John of Capistrano, explore it and contemplate the beauty and peace you are bound to find. Go back to the Odescalchi Castle -the town Museum with great view to Danube, walk further through path which leads you to the Danube coast or end your walk in the restaurant or one of the cafes in the Upper Town.

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From the Upper Town to the Danube, Ilok

Take the steps in the Upper Town at the Cross that lead to the Lower Town and the Danube. When you come to the restaurant Kapistran, go along the road towards the walkway along the Dunavac; Stop for a while by the Dunavac, a backwater of the Danube, surrounded with typical marsh nature, a wealth of birds, trees, plants and scents. Continue your walk towards the hotel Dunav and the quay along the eternal and mighty flow of the Danube, take a rest on a bench, and finish your walk with a tasty meal on the fine terrace of the hotel Dunav.

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The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe (SWG RRD) is an International Intergovernmental Organization consisting of members from governmental institutions in South Eastern Europe (SEE) responsible for agriculture and rural development in respective member countries and territories. The SWG is a platform for networking and regional cooperation in SEE in the field of agriculture and rural development.

The SWG is carrying out the project Preparation for Implementation of the Area Based Development (ABD) Approach in the Western Balkans – 2nd phase which works on building the capacities and structures within the SWG and selected regions in order to be able to implement the forthcoming ABD programmes. The project's objective is the contribution to sustainable economic growth of the target regions: Drina– Sava (cross-border region between B&H, HR, SRB), Drina- Tara (cross-border region between B&H, SRB, MNE), Prespa (cross-border region between ALB and MK) and Sharra (cross-border region between ALB, MK and KOS*) by strengthening the cooperation of public administrations and other public bodies, the private sector and NGOs in the fields of local development and regional cooperation by building-up local and regional cross-border capacities. The project will create framework conditions within the SWG as organization and the SWG member countries for implementation of the area based development approach and in that way contribute to the sustainable growth of the rural cross-border areas of the SEE region.

This document has been prepared and published with the aim to present the region and its attractions, thus contributing to attracting visitors to the Drina-Sava cross-border area.

The publication has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South-East Europe (SWG) and its Area Based Development Programme and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence



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