

CROATIA

*Discover, feel, experience...*



A GUIDE THROUGH BJELOVAR-BILOGORA COUNTY

[www.tzbbz.hr](http://www.tzbbz.hr)

EXPLORE  
BJELOVAR-  
BILOGORA REGION

BJELOVAR-  
BILOGORA  
COUNTY

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# EVIDENCE OF EXISTENCE AND CONTINUATION...

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The Bjelovar-Bilogora County is an area of small picturesque towns and places scattered on the smooth rolling hills of Bilogora, Papuk and Moslavina, each with its own natural beauty, customs, rich traditional gastronomy and preserved stories of the past. There are many more reasons to come and stay here than the blue sky, yellow fields and green meadows, ponds, vineyards, orchards and healthy, natural forests, and the Croatian National Tourist Board has on several occasions awarded the Green Flower awards for the exquisite decoration of our towns, squares, parks and home gardens. We protect our precious treasures in museums and churches; the evidence of existence, continuation and preservation of life in this area.





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HOLIDAYS  
ON THE MOVE  
LEAD TO A  
HEALTHY LIFE....

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Not only the cleanness and peace are nourishing here. In the ancient Roman period, the Daruvar area treated both body and soul. This modern centre for medical rehabilitation, relaxation and recreation is situated in the attractive Juliet Park, surrounded by springs of medicinal hot water and mineral mud sites. Warm baths, mineral mud and massages will make you feel like a new person. The mild and comfortable climate is waiting for you, even in winter; hiking trails, cycling or, if you prefer, a horse-drawn carriage, as well as horse-riding, are also here for you. Spend an active holiday walking through landscaped and century-old parks or the intact nature of our meadows and forests.





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THE TASTES  
AND FLAVOURS  
OF THE PAST...

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**T**ake a break at one of the many picnic areas, family farms, restaurants, wineries with the highly regarded Graševina and the rich spread of local specialities. This is the place where quality food and drinks have been made since ancient times. Wherever you go, our local people will show you that their hospitality is in their hearts. It's hard to resist a rural platter that has everything for gourmet delights from morning until evening; from cheese, cream, polenta and homemade bread, which starts the morning, through midday roasts and cabbage rolls, fish stews and carp on wooden forks, to an evening game stew, 'Gibanica' (baked layered pastry) with local brandy of various types, our beer and wine. Along the Bilogora and Daruvar wine trail you should definitely taste light, smooth and the aromatic wines, Graševina, Riesling, Chardonnay, Sauvignon, Portuguiser, Traminac...



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THROUGH  
VAST FORESTS  
AND RICH  
FISH PONDS...

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**T**he mild climate, richness of forests, lowlands around rivers and ponds, intact nature, spacious and rich hunting grounds, the whole area of our region offers numerous opportunities for hunting and fishing tourism. The hunting grounds are among the best in Croatia with numerous small and large game of a high trophy value. The local hunters, who look after animals and have maintained the heritage for more than a hundred years, will be hosts to anyone who wants to spend time in their forest areas. The county is interwoven with numerous ponds rich in various fish species, and the cleanliness of the Česma, Velika, Ilova or Toplice rivers are frequent anglers' destinations. Fishing lodges and recreation centres with their specialities will allow you to fully enjoy your free time.



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# RIDE INTO AN ADVENTURE...

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The people in this area have always been attached to horses which assisted them in their daily work and transportation, however, today they have a completely new role. You can get acquainted with and explore the easternmost county of Central Croatia, which spreads over the slopes of the Bilogora, Papuk and Moslavačka mountains, on horseback. You will enjoy exploring the internationally certified equestrian trails, village tourism family farms, wineries, and you can also visit equestrian clubs, resting areas, ethno-houses and other cultural and historical heritage sites dotted along the trails. Certified tourist guides will take you on an adventure of exploring this peaceful countryside on horseback, whether you are a brave beginner who has never ridden a horse or an advanced rider for longer or multi-day trekking tours.





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# THROUGH NATURE ON TWO WHEELS...

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**Y**ou will be presented with peaceful landscapes of the Bjelovar-Bilogora region on bike trails that criss-cross the entire county. Our region is considered to be the most suitable area for recreational use of bicycles due to its rolling hills and environmental protection. Important advantages are the mostly smaller and scattered settlements well connected by quiet roads, marked bicycle routes, rest areas, bicycle repair stations, smart benches and licensed cycling guides ... If you, on the other hand, prefer mountain bike trails, you can ride your bikes down the forest roads and paths throughout the county.





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VISIT  
DARUVAR  
AND FALL IN  
LOVE WITH LIFE

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Entertainment, culture, natural beauties, gastronomy, sportsrecreation, rehabilitation, medical and wellness programmes are just a part of the diverse tourist offer where you will find something for yourself. There are only a few towns in an oasis of peace such as Daruvar, yet with such great opportunities for active holidays and events in every season.



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# REASONS FOR VISITING AGAIN

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# M

ake sure to visit us at the times of unique events throughout the year, sip and taste carefully chosen wines and local food during **Vinodar** - the most entertaining wine festival, **St. Vincent's Day** or **St. Martin's Day**, check the quality of Staročeško beer at the **Days of Beer and the**

**Independent Brewery Fair**; witness the tradition of the **Czech Culture Days** in Daruvar and Končanica; find out what you can make from homegrown plums at the **Plum and Brandy Days** in Sirač; enjoy the preserved nature along the **Crane Trail**, explore outer space with us during a **ten-day event on astronomy** in Daruvar and then enjoy the musical atmosphere of **Darfest, Daruvar Klapa Evenings, Aliferous Music and Art Festival, FLIG** (brass orchestra music festival) or go back in time during the **'Two Days Rockabilly Plays'** event in Daruvar.  
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# BENEFITS OF THERMAL WATER IN THE TOWN CENTRE

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Therapeutic thermal water in the Daruvar area has always been used to improve the quality of life and is an essential link between the past and the present. It was first used by an Illyric tribe the Jasi (meaning Healers), and the Roman emperors, Turkish and Austro-Hungarian commanders, gentlemen, citizens and peasantry were



treated here as well. Imagine having a rest for your body and soul in the surroundings of a large centuries-old park, of exceptional horticultural and monumental value, at the very sources of healing thermal water and mineral mud. The Daruvar Spa, located in the heart of the town of Daruvar, will give you unique relaxation with its health, wellness and bath programmes. Using only natural therapeutic warm water, the inexhaustible well of relaxation, pleasure and fun is provided by the Aquae Balissae Thermal Water Park, so forget your daily worries and problems and immerse yourself in the magical world of water fun living your life to the fullest. ([www.daruvarske-toplice.hr](http://www.daruvarske-toplice.hr), [www.aquae-balissae.hr](http://www.aquae-balissae.hr))



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# STAROČEŠKO BEER, 5TH ELEMENT BEERLIST AND OTHER STORIES

The area of present-day Daruvar has, over the centuries, been populated by people from different parts of the world, which has affected the lives of the population of western Slavonia. Due to a number of historical circumstances, the national composition of the Daruvar region is extremely diverse today, and the influence of

the Czech minority is visible through the tradition and quality of Czech breweries, which is still preserved in the products of the Daruvar Brewery, the oldest industrial brewery in Croatia from 1840. In addition to Staročeško beer, the brewery has been producing a craft beer called 5th Element since 2014. In the new 'Beerlist - beer and other stories' travel programmes, you will learn something about the history of Daruvar beer and beer in general, you will see how beer is made, experience its smell and taste different beer flavours.

([www.starocesko.com](http://www.starocesko.com)  
[www.5th-element.com.hr](http://www.5th-element.com.hr),  
[www.beerlist.eu](http://www.beerlist.eu))

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# A HARMONY OF TASTE AND FRAGRANCE IN DARUVAR

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In Daruvar vineyards, a region where grapevines have been cultivated for more than two thousand years, "golden" wines are created that meet the requirements and impress the senses and the most demanding wine connoisseurs. Get to know the magical process of making wine, the favourite drink of gods and people at 7 different points of the Daruvar Wine Trail from ancient times.

From grape picking, wine maturing in barrels, to guided tastings such as The Ballad of Wine and Cheese, which combines the flavours and aromas of wine with the flavours and aromas of cheese in the baroque cellar of Janković Castle, you will experience hedonism in Crane Town. The gastronomy of the Daruvar region, while retaining its authenticity, has become well-known for its specialities such as salty-sweet sauces, cabbage dumplings, white polenta, 'Tačkrle' – jam pockets or pastries made under the considerable influence of Czech cuisine.

**([www.vinskeceste-bbz.hr](http://www.vinskeceste-bbz.hr), [www.visitdaruvar.hr](http://www.visitdaruvar.hr))**





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**LET'S  
TURN OFF  
THE LIGHTS  
AND TURN ON  
THE STARS!**

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**D**ark Sky Park 'Vrani kamen' became the first Croatian International Dark Sky Park in the highest gold category, according to the strict criteria of the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA), an American non-profit organisation, the only one on a global level, whose mission is to preserve and protect the night environment and the heritage of the night sky through quality exterior lighting, with the aim of preserving the natural treasure and the great potential of the unpolluted night landscape and almost intact nature. The international Dark Sky Park 'Vrani kamen' is located 9 km from the town centre and extends over 8,000 hectares of Papuk Mountain, in the western part of Slavonia, with Petrov vrh being the most frequent area. The park is rich in flora and fauna and a great place for astronomers and astrophotographers, who can enjoy watching and photographing the starry sky, which is preserved from unnecessary light pollution. The accommodation at the mountain lodge is suitable because of its close proximity to night observations and the availability of electricity necessary for the functioning of astronomical equipment. For the past ten years, the Astronomical Society 'Kumova slama' has been caring for and promoting the clearness of the sky above Daruvar by organising a unique event in Croatia - '10 Days of Astronomy in Daruvar'. ([www.visitdaruvar.hr](http://www.visitdaruvar.hr))



**SAY "YES" TO DARUVAR**

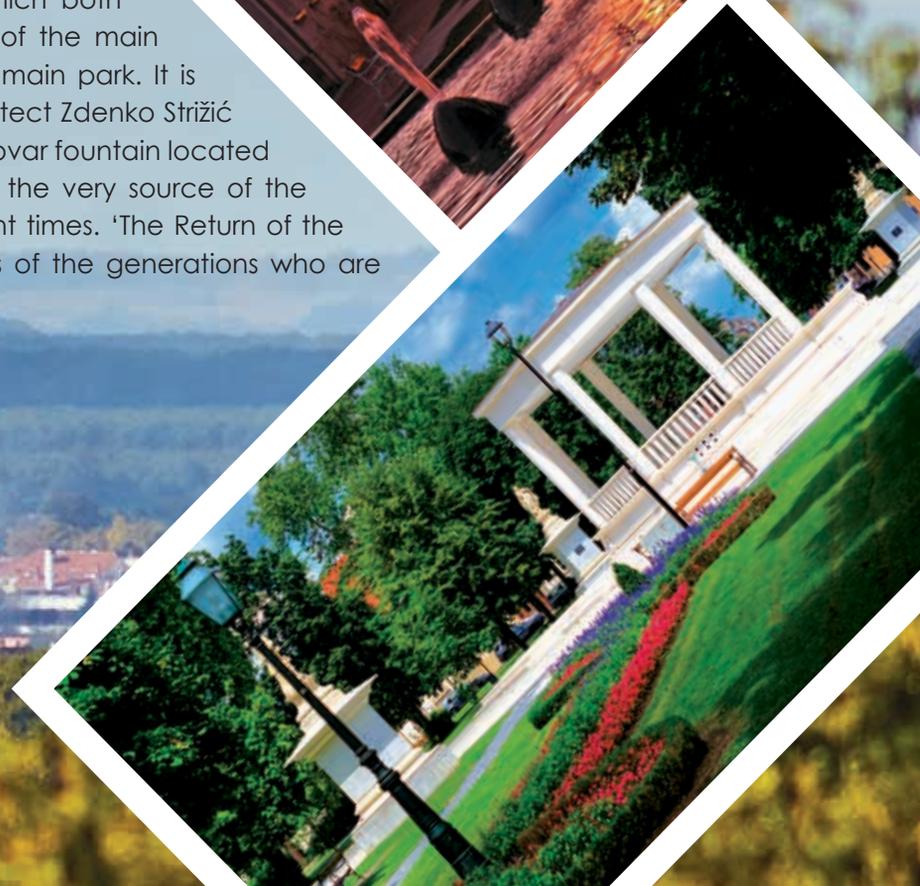
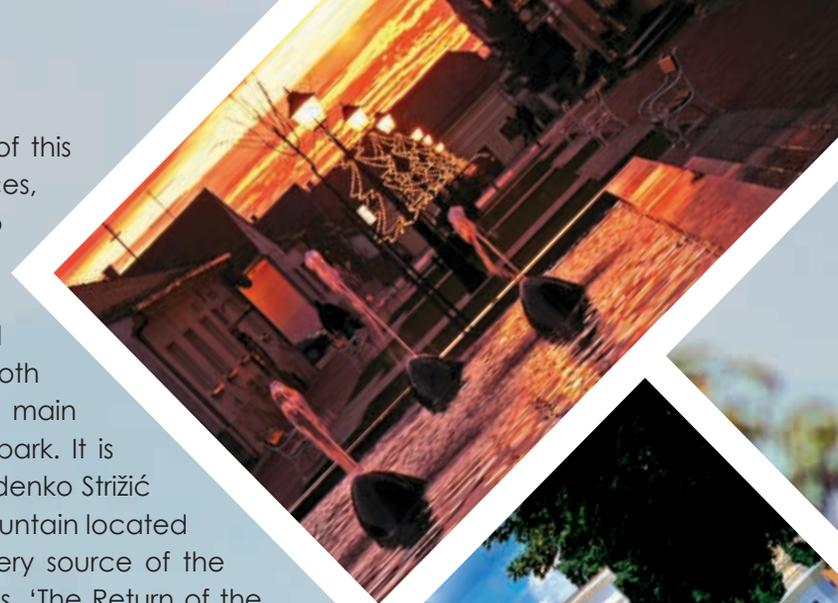
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TAKE  
MEMORIES  
FROM THE  
HEART OF THE  
COUNTY

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**B**jelovar is the natural, cultural and political centre of this region. With its special characteristics and differences, it attracts many intentional and casual travellers, who love to explore, learn about history, stay in nature, enjoy the rich gastronomic offer. Although known as one of the youngest Croatian towns, Bjelovar, and rightly so, enjoys the status of a continental town, which both domestic and foreign tourists are happy to visit. One of the main attractions is the Music Pavilion, located in the town's main park. It is built of Brač stone, following the design of Bjelovar architect Zdenko Stržić and it is the largest stone pavilion in Europe. The only Bjelovar fountain located alongside the town's central promenade returns us to the very source of the Pannonian Sea, which flooded all these areas in ancient times. 'The Return of the Pannonian Whales' fountain, with its symbolism, speaks of the generations who are coming and leaving the town.



**EXPLORE BILOGORA**

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THE BIGGEST TOWN  
CELEBRATIONS,  
FESTIVALS, EVENTS...

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**T**erezijana is the main cultural, entertainment and tourism event in Bjelovar. It is held every year in June and was created in memory of the Austrian Empress

Maria Theresa, who founded Bjelovar in 1756. The number of events of 'Terezijana' is increasing every year, so that all generations can enjoy the various concerts, performances of street entertainers, exhibitions, tastings, performances and other interesting events. There is also a rich catering offer and there are many manufacturers of traditional products. During the three days of the event, the Empress visits the festivities a few times in the Imperial carriage, accompanied by her retinue and the Historical Cavalry Unit of the Bjelovar Border Guards, the Hussars. The main annual theatre festival is '**Bjelovar Theatre Echoes Festival - BOK fest**', which includes the most significant achievements of local and foreign professional theatres.



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THE BIGGEST TOWN  
CELEBRATIONS,  
FESTIVALS, EVENTS...

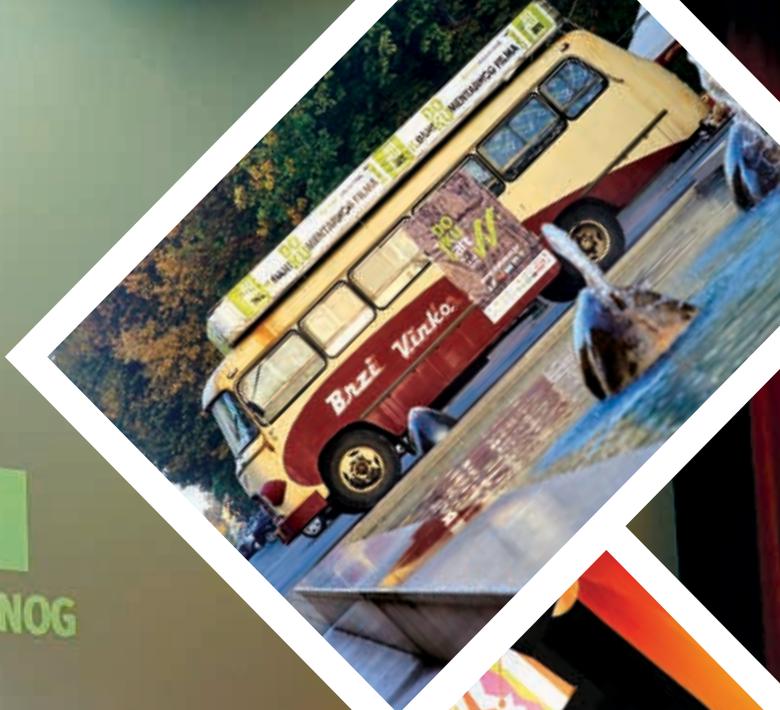
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**DOKUart** is an international festival that brings together and presents numerous documentary filmmakers from Croatia and the world. Bjelovar also hosts the **'International Percussion Week'**, which features numerous percussion ensembles and soloists. The days of Christmas are reserved for **'Advent in Bjelovar'**, which is spread throughout the town's park, and the traditional **'Christmas Gala Concert'** with guest performances by Croatian and foreign musicians. Bjelovar and its surroundings have been known for the tradition of holding fairs for more than 500 years, so it is not surprising that the **Bjelovar Fair** was founded on these foundations. In addition to the two largest fair events, the **'Spring International Fair'** and the **'Autumn International Bjelovar Fair'**, there is also the **'International Beekeeping Fair'**.

DANI  
DO  
KU MENTARNOG  
art FILMA

5. > 11. 2019. > KM Bjelovar



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# MUSEUM, THE KEEPER OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Bjelovar Town Museum will show you the most precious memories of the town's past and the lives of its inhabitants. There are several permanent exhibits in the museum. One part exhibits paintings and sculptures by world-renowned Bjelovar artists. The museum is located in the centre of Bjelovar, within the protected historical core. There is also the oldest Croatian registry office found near Bjelovar. According to estimates, it dates back to 1470.

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Bjelovar is also known for the museum display of the Homeland War, which is a direct witness to the war operations. The recent history of Bjelovar is evidenced by the **memorial area of Barutana** (weapons' depot) where, on 29 September 1991, Bjelovar was liberated from the enemy's army. After many years of savage destruction, there are still fresh wounds and memories of that day, which is marked as Bjelovar Town Day and Bjelovar Veterans Day.



## EXPLORE BILOGORA

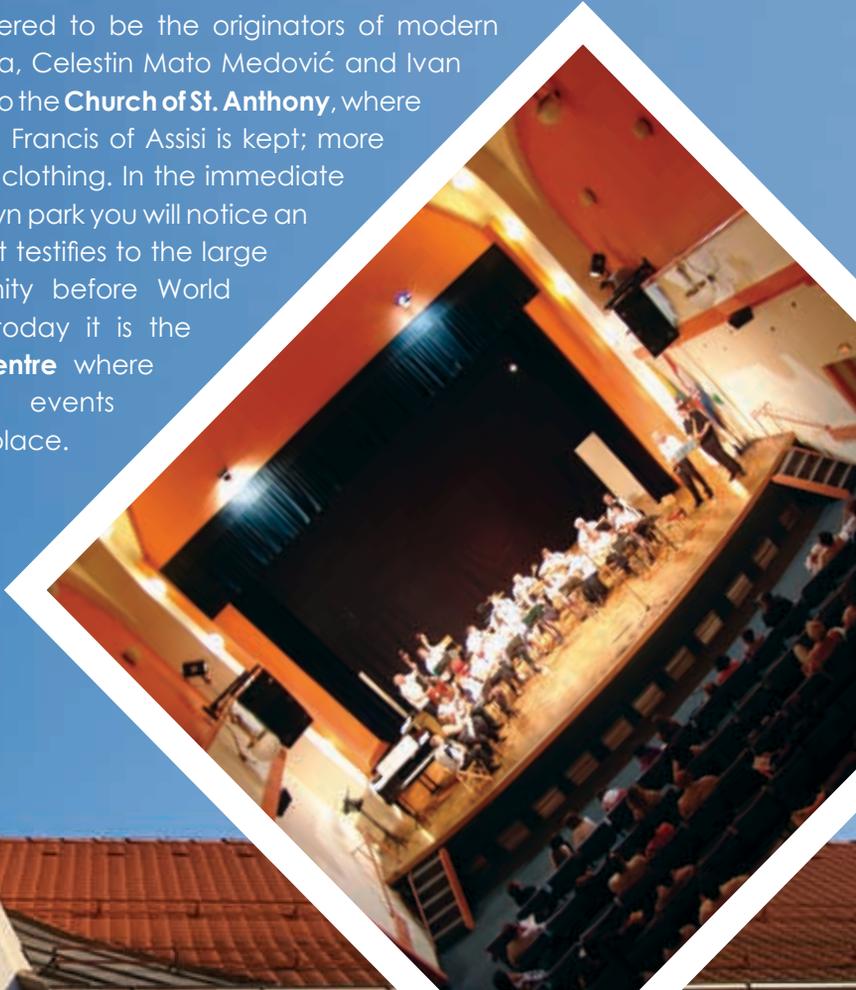
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**BJELOVAR  
CHURCHES  
AND RELIGIOUS  
BUILDINGS**

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The largest church in Bjelovar, also the **cathedral of the Bjelovar-Križevci diocese**, was consecrated in 1772 in honour of St. Theresa of Avila. A plaque on the cathedral with a Latin inscription reveals that Empress Maria Theresa dedicated this church to the Divine Virgin Theresa. The second-largest church is the **Holy Trinity Orthodox Church**. The creation of the new iconostasis included famous painters, who are also considered to be the originators of modern Croatian painting style; Bela Čikoš Sesija, Celestin Mato Medović and Ivan Tišov. Within the wider centre of Bjelovar there is also the **Church of St. Anthony**, where a reliquary with relics of St. Francis of Assisi is kept; more precisely, a piece of his clothing. In the immediate vicinity of the main town park you will notice an old synagogue that testifies to the large Jewish community before World War II, and today it is the **Cultural Centre** where cultural events take place.



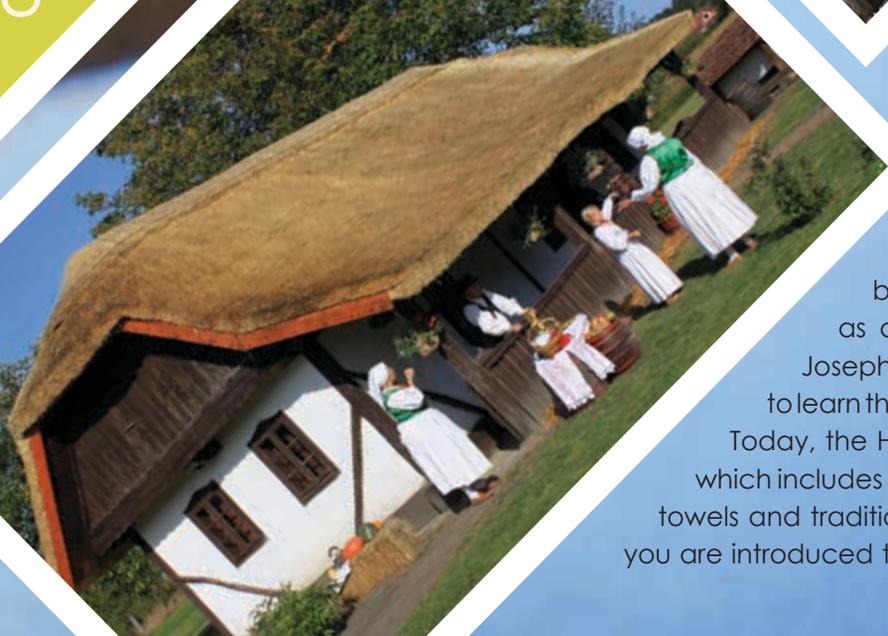
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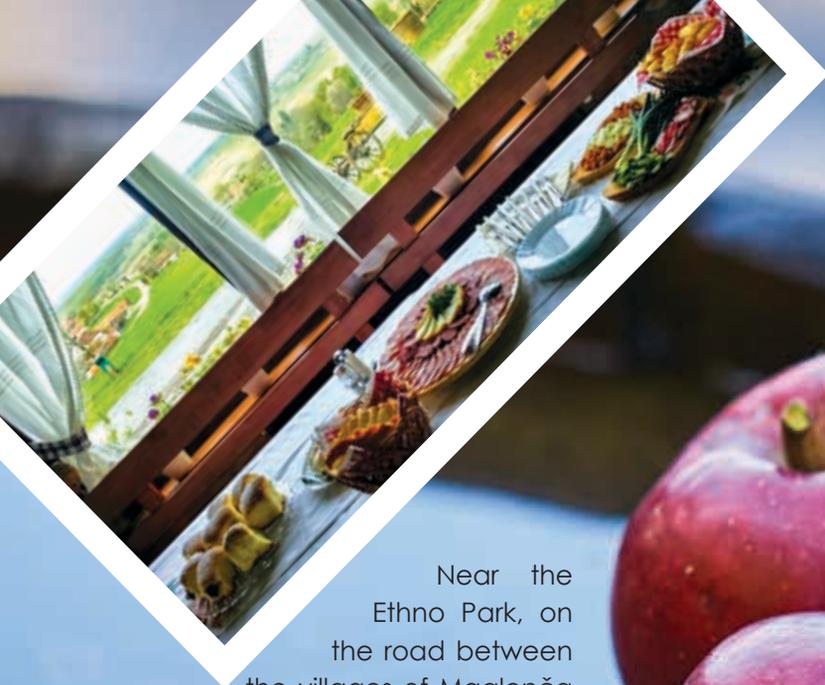
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A HERITAGE  
COLLECTION  
WITH A WOODEN  
SCULPTURES  
GALLERY



Close to Bjelovar, near the centre of Veliko Trojstvo (the Great Trinity) village, you will come across an **Ethno Park**, which shows the construction method of the Bilogora area in the traditional way. You will notice a beautiful antique house, barn, granary, corn and bread oven. Likewise, the farm buildings and houses that used to be common in Bilogora are presented in a unique way. There is also a building within the park, which was previously used as a museum. It shows the life and the period when Joseph Broz Tito stayed there. Many people will be surprised to learn that Tito worked in the mill in Veliko Trojstvo for four years. Today, the Heritage Collection has been set up in the building, which includes many exhibits, old items used in and around a house, towels and traditional costumes of the region of Bilogora. In this way you are introduced to the life, culture and customs of our predecessors.





Near the Ethno Park, on the road between the villages of Maglenča and Šandrovac, there is a gallery of wooden sculptures called **‘Svjetle pruge’** (‘Bright stripes’). It is a unique outdoor gallery created in cooperation with the County of Bjelovar-Bilogora, the Croatian Forests, the Municipality of Veliko Trojstvo and the Sculpture Department at the Academy of Fine Arts Zagreb.



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# HISTORY OF THE CROATIAN LOVARI ROMA PEOPLE AND THE MYSTICAL VEDI GIANTS

**D**uring your stay on Bilogora, don't miss Maglenča, the village near Veliko Trojstvo. This is where the traditional wooden Roma home of the indigenous Croatian Lovari Roma is situated. The Romany Ethno House, as a tourist and traditional building, is unique not only in Croatia but also in Europe. Thanks to its dear hosts, you

will get to know the turbulent history, traditions and customs here, as well as the original Roma cuisine, which contains the spiciness, interesting flavours and smells carried through the wandering ages of the Roma people. Lovari Roma nurture the tradition of living in solid buildings, as evidenced by the permanent exhibition in Croatian, Romany and English languages. The cosy ambience of the open fireplace, homemade lavender products growing around the property invite you to explore and learn something new about this people.

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A particularly interesting story lies in the forests of Bilogora where strange human-like creatures used to live. They were male and extremely tall, loud, strong, covered in hair, pulled up trees and carried heavy loads. Traditions say that there were good and evil Vedi giants. At the end of the 19th century, the Vedi giants gradually abandoned the arable land, meadows and people, retreating into the forests. Going to the mystical forests of Bilogora is a real adventure for every visitor. The preserved nature and the view of the gentle hills of Bilogora and the surrounding villages will win you over and give you unforgettable moments to last for a long time.



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TRAILS  
INTERWOVEN  
WITH  
HOMEMADE  
WINE DROPS

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The towns and villages scattered on the slopes of Bilogora are most famous for picnics, wineries, wine shops, green oases and vineyards. In the pleasant and beautiful surroundings of the picnic areas you can enjoy the flavours of the traditional dishes of the Bilogora region and make a toast with Riesling, Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir, Muscatel, Traminac or Graševina. Due to its peculiarity, the surroundings of Bjelovar offer traditional local dishes, specialities prepared from carefully selected homemade food. These locations are ideal for holidays, walks, enjoying the fresh air, cycling, outdoor recreation or team building.



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# MATO LOVRAK MOTIFS CENTRE

**K**eeping the memory of their fellow citizen and a great Croatian children's writer, a centre was created in Veliki Grđevac near Bjelovar with motifs from Mato Lovrak's novel, which was also made into a film. Although made many years ago, film hits such as 'Vlak u snijegu' ('A Train in the Snow') and 'Družba Pere Kvržice' ('Pero the Lump's Gang') are watched with interest even by today's younger generations. Digging the locomotive out from the snow, saving the cooperative and the comradery of the children, who reconciled the village inhabitants, are just a part of Lovrak's adventures that readers and viewers are happy to remember.

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Every spring, the traditional Lovrak Days of Culture are held in Veliki Grđevac. In this way, the memory of the local great novelist of Croatian children's literature is still preserved and promoted. The content that awaits you at the 'Mato Lovrak Cultural Centre' will surely awaken your inner child, or together with your little ones you may wish to travel back in time. In the immediate vicinity of the Centre there is the educational 'Friends of Nature Trail' which is two kilometres long. There are several stations along the trail where you can find out about the flora and fauna of this area. Within the Centre there are also swimming pools with therapeutic water and many other varied features.



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# A PARADISE FOR EXPLORERS AND ADVENTURERS

# Č

Čazma is located in the Moslavina region of Central Croatia. It is only 45 minutes by car from the city of Zagreb, covering an area of 250 square kilometres and encompassing 36 settlements with about 8,000 inhabitants. People from Čazma like saying that their town has been inhabited since prehistoric times. The characteristic of Čazma is certainly the intact nature, which is a true paradise for recreation, hunting and angling enthusiasts. It is rich in cultural heritage and people who foster the tradition and old customs of this region. If you are a nature or history lo-ver and still crave for a relaxed atmosphere, this is the right time to head to Čazma.

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## MEET ČAZMA THROUGH ITS PEOPLE AND HISTORY

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RICH  
CULTURAL  
TOURISM  
OF ČAZMA

48





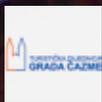
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**t. Mary Magdalene's Church** is a cultural monument dating from the medieval period of Čazma. It is a unique example of Romanesque architecture in Northern Croatia. It is one of the few parish churches with two towers and a very interesting story is related to its creation.

The Čazma Town Museum operates within the Centre for Culture, which is a cultural, museum, gallery and educational public institution. It has two permanent exhibitions, so you can see some 20 original works by an academic painter **Anton Cetin** from Čazma, who is currently living and working in Canada, and the **Aleksandar Marks Gallery**, a well-known author and cartoonist. Marks is the creator of Little Red Riding Hood, the first Croatian colour cartoon from 1953. The lovely private **Matešin Gallery** is located in Bojana, just seven kilometres from Čazma. It has a permanent art exhibition of the works of the local academic painter Franjo Matešin, as well as a wonderful amphitheatre in a peaceful natural village environment.

**The traditional Moslavina house** in Gornji Miklouš was built in 1924. It is characterised by natural materials, stone, wood, mud, straw and brick.

The interior consists of traditional furniture from the museum's ethnographic collection holdings, and there is an old blacksmith's shop in the house. A great opportunity to learn about the former Moslavina lifestyle.



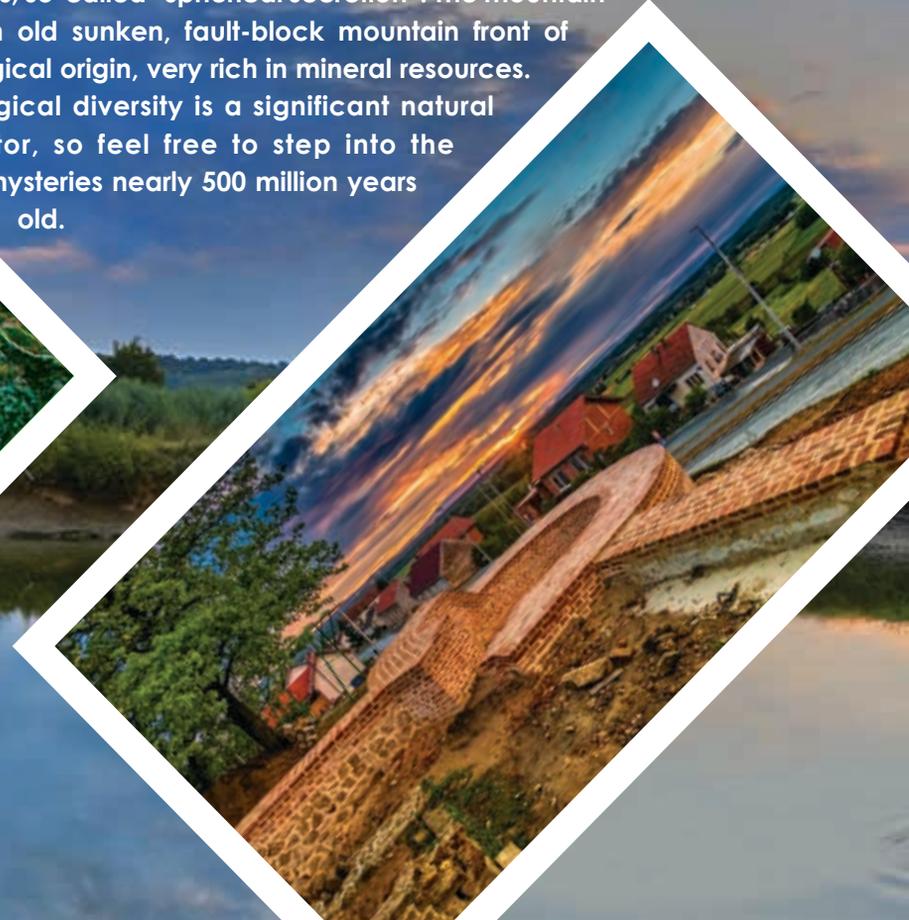
**MEET ČAZMA THROUGH ITS PEOPLE AND HISTORY**

Tourist Board of the Town of Čazma  
[www.tz-cazma.hr](http://www.tz-cazma.hr)

# IMPECCABLE ORIGINAL NATURAL VALUES

The Moslavačka Gora Regional Park is characterised by a great geological diversity of non-renewable natural inanimate nature. This is exactly what the famous stone spheres represent. These are migmatite spheres shaped in the process of formation, to be more precise, they were shaped during the cooling of rocks, so-called "spherical secretion". The mountain is part of an old sunken, fault-block mountain front of palaeological origin, very rich in mineral resources. Geological diversity is a significant natural factor, so feel free to step into the mysteries nearly 500 million years old.

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The bishops of Zagreb were permanent residents in the medieval fortress of Čazma from 1226 when Čazma became the auxiliary seat of the Zagreb Diocese. They built a palace that was then knocked down. Later the plateau was levelled and a modern fort was erected in the same place, which was there until the 19th century. A memorial ossuary was later built on the plateau of the fort, while the enlarged surfaces and original figures made in the technique of graffiti were replaced with a mosaic by the great artist Edo Murtić. The eco-ethno resort Sišćani, a place famous for fishponds, is ideal for studying and observing about a hundred of very rare bird species. Here you can see several species of herons, numerous species of waterfowl, mute swans, wild ducks, black coots and many others. With its 30 or so storks' nests, the resort is one step away from being declared a "stork village".



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## SPECIFIC NATURE OF EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

The Salaj family began decorating their field with Christmas lights in Grabovnica back in 2002. Thanks to their great effort and enthusiasm, the **'Christmas Fairy Tale in Čazma'** soon became the most significant event in inland Croatia. The idyllic nature, the restored mill, the roaring sound of the river the waterfalls, lakes, bridges, winding paths, many trees and shrubs are lit up with two and a half million Christmas decorations. During Easter, the property is transformed into an **'Easter story'** when the whole place is decorated in the Easter spirit. The International Wine Exhibition **'Čazma Vinokap'** (Čazma Wine Cup) takes place at the beginning of spring and has become a famous tourist offer and attraction with more than 100 wine exhibitors. July is special for the residents of Miklouš and the surrounding villages because right then they have an **'Order under the Linden Tree'**, a celebration of their ancient customs and culture.

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One of the oldest sporting events in Croatia, the **super marathon 'From Kaptol to Kaptol'** is the longest athletic road race in Croatia, 61 kilometres and 350 metres long. It has had a symbolic connection between two cities, Zagreb and Čazma, since 1974. Every year Čazma hosts the **Eco Fair**, which brings together producers of organic products from all over Croatia and abroad.



## MEET ČAZMA THROUGH ITS PEOPLE AND HISTORY

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# THE EXTREMELY RICH AND A PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE OF GAREŠNICA

The Garešnica area is located within the southern part of Bjelovar-Bilogora County and is situated on the eastern slopes of Moslavačka Gora mountain in the peaceful Moslavina region. Garešnica's settlements with neighbouring municipalities are very well connected to state and county roads. Garešnica consists of 23 settlements, and the highest area quality is the diverse landscape environment, which makes this area recognisable and unique. This part of the county is made up of water areas, hills, plains, meadows, dense forests, fertile fields and vineyards. The area is suitable for planting vines, plums, apples and nuts.

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## EXPERIENCE NATURE

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# TOURIST SIGHTS

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The town's historic centre. Sights that you should definitely visit and explore are the Baroque Church of the Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is also a protected cultural monument, then the Croatian Garešnica Home, St. Martin's Church in Velika Trnovića. At the turn of the 19th to 20th centuries, Garešnica was the place of craftsmen and traders. The first reading room in Garešnica was founded by the Commission of the Matric Croatica (Hrvatska Matica) in 1887. With the further establishment of the Garešnica fire company, the town took on the form of a true urban environment. Explore the border guards' (Graničari) historical paths. One of the most important tourist projects of Garešnica is certainly the thematic tourist route of the 'Border Guards Trails', which follows the line of movement of the Border Guards and the defence against the Turks. The trail connects natural attractions, archaeological sites, restaurants and sports facilities. It is also suitable for pedestrians and cycling enthusiasts. At the end of the 17th century, in the area of Garešnica, in the present-day area of the Sports Park, there was a captaincy authority with a military station of the Krajina army made up of infantry, cavalymen and artillery, commonly known as Border Guards (Graničari). Ivo Robić, our most famous and greatest schlager easy listening singer and composer of popular

pop music, was born on 28 January 1923 in Garešnica, where he spent the greater part of his childhood. One of the most successful mechanical engineers, who took the Americans to the moon, Milojko Mike Vucelić, was also born in Garešnica.



**EXPERIENCE NATURE**

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# MARSHES, DIVERSE FLORA AND FAUNA

**T**he gentle slopes overgrown with forests and vineyards, large and smaller villages, wildlife and lush vegetation are the right environment for true nature lovers. You will find a mild and pleasant climate, themed trails, unique family farms with authentic products. The urban area is

surrounded by marshes and ponds, green and oases with the most biological and landscape values being along the Ilova River. Take a walk around Poilovlje, a significant natural heritage protected by Natura 2000. You will experience a true feeling of being in intact nature, see as many as 62 bird species, European beavers, otters, as well as other marsh flora and fauna. Sailing along the Ilova River is the highlight of a visit to this protected area.

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**Hunting and fishing tourism.** The abundance of forests, plains around rivers and freshwater ponds, vast and rich hunting grounds, offer numerous opportunities for hunting tourism. High trophy roebuck, group and individual hunting of wild boar, as well as the quality supply of small game, make the Garešnica region one of the leading hunting destinations. Garešnica and its surroundings, with their ponds and natural waters, are widely known as a good resource for fishing tourism.



**EXPERIENCE NATURE**

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# TASTES OF HOMEMADE TRADITIONAL CUISINE

**H**oney, mushrooms, wine, freshwater fish, game and fresh forest fruits are the main advantages of the Garešnica gastronomic offer. Pluck up the courage to travel through time and taste many delicacies prepared by the old Graničar (The Old Border Guard). The gastronomy of this area is based on the

preservation and promotion of Croatian gastronomic heritage and the traditional preparation of food. Various and quality dishes are prepared according to the traditional recipe from local producers. The slopes of the Moslavina Mountain are a favourable habitat for growing grapevines, so all lovers of fine wine can enjoy Škrlet, Graševina, Chardonnay, Rhine Riesling, as well as aronia berry fruit wine.

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**The first bee hotel** – a honey adventure. The region of Garešnica is a leader in the centuries-old tradition of beekeeping and honey production. The first five-star bee hotel is an innovative tourist attraction of the destination and provides visitors with a real honey-made adventure. Take a tour of the apiary, the garden of medicinal plants, observe the bees in their natural environment, learn about beekeeping technology and the production of honey, try the treatment of inhaling the air from the hive, taste bee products or hire your own beehive. One can remain indifferent in the abundance of colours, scents and sounds of the idyllic estate in the heart of Moslavina.



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NATURAL  
BEAUTIES ON  
THE SLOPES  
OF BILOGORA

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**T**he town of Grubišno Polje is located on the southwestern slopes of Bilogora. On the southern border of the town there is the upper flow of the River Ilova, while the northeast consists of the Bilogora mountain passes. Apart from Daruvar, Grubišno Polje is an important centre for the Czech national minority in Croatia. The first traces of the people's presence in the present-day area of Grubišno Polje date back to the Stone Age, which is why this town is full of historical and interesting facts and data. An unavoidable place in Grubišno Polje is the 'Centre for Culture and Information of Dr. Franjo Tuđman'. If you are a culture lover, make sure to stay informed about current concerts, theatre performances, exhibitions, creative workshops, lectures and film screenings.



## ON THE SLOPES OF BILOGORA

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# HOLIDAYS IN INTACT NATURE

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In the shade of centuries-old oaks, on an area of about three hectares, there is the **picnic area Bara** (Pond), which includes two sports ponds, a sports field for beach volleyball, football and a catering facility that organises various cultural, entertainment and sports facilities. Fishing trips are held several times a year.





For nature lovers there is a nice walking path that partly passes through the preserved Bilogora forest. You can enjoy the peace and quiet, the rustling of the leaves, the birds singing and the variety of forest flowers. For enduro cycling enthusiasts, there is a bike trail leading through the woods. This place is ideal for holidays and refreshments, as well as an opportunity to enjoy Bilogora's specialities. The excursion site is characterised by a marsh surrounded by forest, which is the typical landscape of the Grubišno Polje region.



## ON THE SLOPES OF BILOGORA

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VISIT TO  
FESTIVITIES,  
FAIRS AND  
EVENTS

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**T**he Agricultural Fair and the Cheese Fair are held annually in November in the Grubišno Polje Sports Hall. The Cheese Fair is a blend of economy, culture and entertainment. In addition to numerous exhibitors of agricultural products, you can also taste authentic dishes prepared in our Bilogora region, as well as made by national minorities. Traditional folk costumes and folklore are an unmissable element of this event. A series of cultural and entertaining events is the hallmark of the 'Marinje' event, which is traditionally held in September after the Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary Feast. The event has a religious character, so visitors attend masses, processions, concerts, festivals and choir meetings. You can also visit us during the Easter Fair, the May Bicycle Tour or at the Christmas Fair.



## ON THE SLOPES OF BILOGORA

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# GARIĆ GRAD ABANDONED FORT

**G**arić Town is one of the oldest mediaeval Croatian fort towns in northern Croatia, similar to Medvedgrad. It was built by Ban Stjepan Šubić in 1256. In 1295 the Paulist Fathers, who founded the monastery, came to Garić Gora. In 1544, the Ottomans conquered and destroyed Garić and

the monastery with St. Mary's Church. In 1544 it was abandoned after the Ottoman invasions. Since then the ruins of Garić Town have been preserved and it has become a favourite picnic area. It is located in the middle of Moslavina Mountain near Podgarić.

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## MEDIAEVAL FORT

Tourist Board of the Town of Garić  
[www.berek.hr](http://www.berek.hr)

# CALENDAR OF TOURIST EVENTS IN BJELOVAR-BILOGORA COUNTY

## January

- IPEW - International Percussion Week / Bjelovar
- Vincekovo / Daruvar (the stops of Daruvar Wine Trail)

## April

- 10 days of Astronomy in Daruvar
- The Salaj Family's Easter Story / Grabovnica (Čazma)
- Easter Fair / Grubišno Polje
- Health Week in Bjelovar-Bilogora County / Daruvar, Bjelovar-Bilogora County
- Feast of St. George at Bilogora – Sanctification of horses, St. George's sacred washing and bonfire / Veliko Trojstvo
- Easter Eggs Show / Bjelovar
- BOK Fest - Bjelovar Theatre Echoes Festival / Bjelovar

## February

- International Beekeeping Fair, Wine Exhibition / Gudovac Fair (Bjelovar)

## May

- BOK Fest - Bjelovar Theatre Echoes Festival / Bjelovar
- Gastroflora / Garešnica
- Cycle-fest and Motorcycle Alka (tilting at the ring) / Grubišno Polje
- Daruvar Spring Flower Fair
- Daruvar Klapa Evening
- Beer Days and Independent Breweries Fair / Daruvar
- Marinje in Garešnica

## March

- GAF – Garešnica Carnival
- BOK Fest for children / (Bjelovar Theatre Echoes Festival) Bjelovar
- Spring International Bjelovar Fair / Fair Gudovac (Bjelovar)
- Čazma Wine Cup - International Wine Exhibition
- Zagreb-Čazma Super Marathon – 'From Kaptol to Kaptol' Race / Zagreb-Čazma

## June

- Vinodar - the most entertaining wine festival / Daruvar
- XCM Terezianer - Cycling Marathon / Bjelovar-Maglenča-Veliko Trojstvo
- Potato Days - Bramborak / Gornji Daruvar
- Spring in Veliko Trojstvo
- Terezijana – Bjelovar Summer Festival / Bjelovar
- Motorcycle Alka (tilting at the ring) and Motorcycle Festival / Daruvar
- Ivanska bonfire / Ivanska
- Lovrak Culture Days / Veliki Grđevac

## July

- TWO DAYS ROCKABILLY PLAYS - Rockabilly Festival / Daruvar
- Order under the Linden Tree / Miklouš (Čazma)
- Children's Day in Bojana / Bojana (Čazma)
- Dožinky-harvestfestivities/Daruvar
- Czech Culture Week / Daruvar
- Bjelovar Cultural Summer / Bjelovar

## October

- Crane Trail / Daruvar - Petrov vrh
- Daruvar Autumn Flower Fair
- Ethno Festival "Bilogora in my heart" / Veliko Trojstvo
- Darfest – music festival / Daruvar
  - DOKUart / Bjelovar
- Halloween – night cycling / Bjelovar

## August

- Bjelovar Cultural Summer / Bjelovar
- Potato Days in Hercegovac
- Bilogora Equestrian Games / Veliko Trojstvo

## November

- St. Martin's Feast / Daruvar
- St. Martin's Feast / Garešnica, Velika Trnovitica
- An Evening of National Minorities / Bjelovar (sports hall)
- Agricultural Fair and Cheese Fair / Grubišno Polje

## December

- Christmas Fair in Grubišno Polje
- Colouring Christmas in Bojana - traditional Christmas in the countryside / Bojana (Čazma)
- The Salaj Family's Christmas Fairy Tale / Grabovnica (Čazma)
  - Advent/Christmas Fair in Bjelovar
  - Christmas Gala Concert / Bjelovar
  - Advent/Christmas Fair in Daruvar
  - Advent/Christmas Fair in Garešnica
  - Advent/Christmas Fair - Christmas Magic in Čazma

## September

- Flig - International Brass Band Festival / Daruvar
- Autumn International Bjelovar Fair / Fair Gudovac (Bjelovar)
  - Plum and Brandy Days in Sirač
- Marinje - cultural and entertainments event / Grubišno Polje
  - Eco Fair in Čazma
- The Mask - Small Theatre Fair / Daruvar
- Bilogora Photo Meetings / Veliko Trojstvo
  - Gariglazbijada (Music Days) and Garešnica Fair / Garešnica
  - FRA MA FU Festival - festival of reporting and reporters / Daruvar

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