



BERGSTEIGER
DÖRFER
GORNISKE VASI



Jezersko

Nature at its most beautiful

alpenverein
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 **DAV**
Deutscher Alpenverein



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ALPENVEREIN SÜDTIROL



Table of contents

The Mountaineering Villages (Bergsteigerdörfer®) project	2
Forewords	5
Jezersko – Nature at its most beautiful	8
Jezersko in the past	10
Characteristics	12
Recommended itineraries – summer	15
Recommended itineraries – winter	33
Bad weather alternatives	42
Access	43
Getting around	44
Associated restaurants, accommodation, and mountain huts	45
Important addresses	46
Maps and guidebooks	47
Impressum, photo credits, and literature	48
How to stay safe in the mountains	49



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA OKOLJE IN PROSTOR



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA GOSPODARSKI
RAZVOJ IN TEHNOLOGIJO



Občina Jezersko



The Mountaineering Villages

(Bergsteigerdörfer®) project – a contribution to the aims of the Alpine Convention.



Area covered by the Alpine Convention.

Slovenians have been aware of the need to preserve the Alps since the beginning of the 20th century when the first ideas to protect the Triglav Lakes Valley started to emerge, eventually coming to life in 1924 with the establishment of the Alpine Conservation Park. Just two years later, the name Triglav National Park was first used. This meant that Slovenia was one of the first Alpine countries to get a national park, which was officially named Triglav National Park in 1961 and expanded to most of its current area in 1981. These efforts ran alongside the work of the Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA), which was making a strong push for the establishment of the Alpine Convention. All the hard work paid off in 1991 when the eight countries of the Alpine Arc and the European

Union signed a contract, which came into force in 1995. Next up was the long and arduous process before the agreement was finally put into force in 2002. With the protocols and declarations of the Alpine Convention, the countries of the Alpine Arc now have an important tool for protecting the environment, as well as the activities, traditions, and culture of the local people. Slovenians were lucky to have been able to protect such a large part of our Alps with Triglav National Park, plus we never interfered with the mountains and nature as much as the other Alpine countries did due to our relatively limited resources. As a result, the general public is not really aware of the efforts of the Alpine Convention, a problem we're trying to address by organizing the Alpine Convention Day, an annual

event which is something special in the signatory states. The Alpine Association of Slovenia is one of the key partners at this event, as our goals are essentially identical to those of the Alpine Convention. But all the modern problems popping up throughout the Alpine world are present in Slovenia as well, and are becoming increasingly serious. The growth of tourism and pressure to allow the building of tourism infrastructure in protected areas; unfavorable demographic trends, which are particularly strong in mountainous areas; climate change, which often has the strongest impact on regions close to mountains; unsustainable traffic and new sports that go against environmental protection policies – all of the above have a strong negative impact on mountainous areas and the culture and traditions of the local people.

The Alpine Association of Slovenia is thus happy to be part of the Bergsteigerdörfer® – Mountaineering Villages project, where it can exercise the protocols and declarations of the Alpine Convention, as well as its own vision and mission pertaining to the development of mountaineering and mountain sports in accordance with the principles of environmental protection and respect for local people, mountaineering tradition, and culture. By joining this international project, which is headed by the Austrian Alpine Club (ÖAV) with partners from South Tyrol (AVS), Germany (DAV), and Italy (CAI), along with the cooperation of the Permanent Secretariat and national contact points of the Alpine Convention, we were given a chance to have Slovenian municipalities and/or towns join the family of similar villages from mountainous areas of Austria, Italy (South Tyrol), and Germany. The people and governing bodies of these municipalities are devoted to the development of sustainable practices, which aren't focused on mass tourism and gigantic infrastructure projects. The towns which are part of the Mountaineering Villages

have quite a few things in common: similar geographic location surrounded by peaceful mountains, small size, living mountaineering and cultural traditions, plenty of available activities (climbing, hiking, bouldering, ski touring, snowshoeing, mountain biking, etc.) that rely on nothing more but your muscles and require no technical assistance. Partners who offer food, accommodation, and other services in the towns, work together with the local alpine clubs in providing interesting insight into the local history and culture, while, at the same time allowing guests to enjoy traditional home-made food and drinks. This way, the project also helps the development of the local economy and allows the young to plan a future in their hometown.

The Alpine Association of Slovenia, which is the national project coordinator in Slovenia, helped by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, which is in charge of the Alpine Convention in Slovenia, and the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, congratulate the municipality of Jezersko for taking the decision to focus on sustainable tourism in one of the most beautiful parts of Slovenia and become the first Slovenian municipality to be part of the Bergsteigerdörfer® – Mountaineering Villages project. We wish them all the best on their journey.

Ljubljana, April 2018, Alpine Association of Slovenia

Vice President
Miro Eržen



Welcome to Jezersko, where nature is at its most beautiful!



This is the slogan that has been greeting the visitors to Jezersko for the past few decades. We are immensely proud of the nature that surrounds us: the forests, meadows, waters, and especially our mountains. The mighty rock faces soaring above the glacial valley are the most distinguishing feature of our town, one that has captivated the imagination of locals and visitors for centuries. The desire to explore and conquer the steep walls, exposed ridges, and scenic summits has been part of our ancestors' psyche, and it was them who made mountaineering and alpinism an integral part of our identity.

The first pieces of information and words of encouragement on our path to becoming part of the Mountaineering Villages network came from the representatives of the village of Zell in the Austrian state of Carinthia as far back as 2012. We felt that the criteria to join the project and its long-term commitments suited us perfectly, and after the first visit of the representatives of the project, who shared our view, we started working on joining the network. In the fall of 2017, we had the official presentation and committee hearing in Salzburg, where the organization was eager to make us the first Slovenian member of the international network of Mountaineering Villages. The main welcoming ceremony took place on May 26th, 2018 in Jezersko as part of the Alpine Convention Day.

In 2015, we adopted a development strat-

egy for Jezersko, which is based on traditions and local resources and encourages the growth of tourism, farming, and forestry, while maintaining the high quality of the region and its nature. All these goals are also the key values of the Alpine Convention and the main focus of Mountaineering Villages. That's why we're extremely happy and proud to welcome you, lovers of mountains and guardians of unspoiled nature, to come and visit us and the rest of the villages which are part of this project and located throughout the Alpine Arc.

We wish you a pleasant stay and plenty of safe adventures with us here in Jezersko!

Sincerely, Mayor Andrej Karničar

Let's get together in the mountains



It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Jezersko on behalf of the Jezersko Alpine Club and all the local people you'll meet during your explorations of our mountains and the surrounding areas. You're about to discover a truly special place, which shares many similarities with other beautiful alpine valleys. This is a stage set against a stunning backdrop of mountains, where life has a slightly different pace than anywhere else. You can look forward to exploring new paths, new horizons, and new experiences, and we'll be happy and proud to share all of this wealth with you. So welcome, dear visitors, to this little piece of mountain paradise!

Jezersko has long been a popular mountaineering destination, and for over a century, so-called "conquistadores of the useless" – to use the words of the great alpinist Lionel Terray – have been welcome in the warm homes down in the valley. You can still get a taste of this tradition by visiting Češka koča, the oldest Slovenian mountain hut, which has managed to keep its appearance and charm from the start of the 20th century and is at the heart of mountaineering and alpinism in Jezersko. The locals, however, started to take part in these activities slightly later, but have managed to reach an incredibly high standard nevertheless. Along with the building and maintenance of the hut and numerous mountain paths, which make the

mountains more accessible, the locals have opened countless climbing routes on the sheer rock faces above Jezersko. The area has also managed to become Slovenia's ski mountaineering capital and the standards of extreme skiing have reached world-class levels. This tradition of mountaineering and alpinism, which is still very much alive, along with the rich natural and cultural heritage, is what will make our time together in this valley truly special and is the reason why you're here, isn't it?

That's exactly what the network of mountaineering villages offers its guests: beautiful nature, a unique cultural identity, and a living mountaineering tradition. And it not only offers guests this, but also the local people. It gives all of us a chance to join forces and protect these things for future generations, perhaps even enriching them along the way. So welcome and thank you for being part of our story. Lucky trails and see you in the mountains!

Anja Karničar
President of the Jezersko Alpine Club

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.



Jezersko

Nature at its most beautiful



LOCATION

The municipality of Jezersko covers an area of 68.8 km². Its main settlement is Zgornje Jezersko at an elevation of 906 m in the central part of the eastern Karawanks, right next to the border with Austria. The area is characterized by a mix of influences from Koroška (Carinthia) and Gorenjska (Upper Carniola). A highly important road, originating as far back as the Roman times, runs right through the center of the town, connecting the Karawanks and the Kamnik-Savinja Alps and crossing the mountain pass of Jezerski vrh to reach the valley of Bela. Spodnje Jezersko is made up of several small hamlets and farms in the narrow valley of the Kokra River, with the hamlet of Spodnji kraj at the confluence of Kokra and Jezernica rivers acting as the informal center of the settlement.

Settlements: Spodnje Jezersko in Zgornje Jezersko

Lowest elevation 694 m

Highest elevation: 2558 m (Grintovec)

Population (2017): 627

MOUNTAIN RANGES

Karawanks, Kamnik-Savinja Alps

MAJOR PEAKS

Grintovec (2558 m)
 Jezerska Kočna (2540 m)
 Skuta (2532 m)
 Dolgi hrbet (2473 m)
 Kranjska Rinka (2453 m)
 Koroška Rinka (2433 m)
 Storžič (2132 m)
 Velika Baba (2127 m)
 Goli vrh (1787 m)
 Veliki vrh (1742 m)
 Stegovnik (1692 m)
 Virnikov Grintovec (1654 m)
 Kozji vrh (1628 m)

MOUNTAIN HUTS

Češka koča na Spodnjih Ravneh (1542 m)

N 46.369855 E 14.535936

Managed by the Jezersko Alpine Club

Kranjska koča na Ledinah (1700 m)

N 46.370520 E 14.549344

Managed by the Kranj Alpine Club

Jezersko in the past

The history of this valley is inextricably related to its remote location at the foot of the mountains, and this gave rise to a unique and self-sufficient community where, for centuries, people have relied solely on themselves for everything they needed to survive. But on the other hand, Jezerski vrh has always provided one of the easiest ways of crossing the Alps, which meant that Jezersko was in touch with the rest of the world thanks to the merchants and travelers going from Kranjska (Carniola) to Koroška (Carinthia).

Jezersko was first mentioned in written documents in the records of the Patriarchate of Aquileia, and in 811 a wooden chapel was built at the site of what is today the Stara cerkev (Old Church). Jezersko was named after the large glacial lake which is said to have covered the whole valley until the 14th century (from the farms in the village of Ravno to Mali vrh and the rocks beneath Stara cerkev). The existence of the lake and its size remain shrouded in mystery to this day; supposedly, the water from the lake started to flow out after the 1348 Villach earthquake, after which a village developed on the former lake bed. How did the people of Jezersko live? Most of their food was produced at home: farming was the most important activity, and food from the fields, pastures, and forests was essential to their survival. But they weren't limited solely to these things, and the route between the valleys of rivers Sava and Drava connecting Kranjska and Koroška (previously Carantania and Carniola, and the Roman Empire (Regia X) and Noricum even before that) gave them another source of income. Evidence of cargo transportation dates as far back as the 15th and 16th centuries, and after 1650, when the first carriage road was built through the Kokra Valley, they started using carriages and horses, which replaced human backs. This activity was further boosted with the opening of the ironworks at Fužine and the development of the wood industry in the

19th century.

The valley profited greatly from the extra income provided by the cargo transportation services: large houses were being built by the end of the Middle Ages, and many of them have been preserved until today. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the shepherds from Jezersko and Solčava developed a new breed of sheep which was officially recognized in Paris in 1850. From the end of the 19th century until the start of World War II, tourism also part an important role in the development of Jezersko: the first accommodation options for tourists/travelers were available since at least the 16th century, while the first rooms built especially for tourists started to appear towards the end of the 19th century. It was about that time that Jezersko started to become known as a travel destination, which was especially popular with Czech tourists. Tourism was at its peak during the interwar period, but after 1945 the people of Jezersko started to look for work outside their hometown.

Ever since the Middle Ages Jezersko was part of Carinthia, which belonged to the Habsburg Monarchy, with Železna Kapla as the administrative and judicial center of the region. In 1919, after the First World War ended, Jezersko became part of the new State of Slovenes, Croats, and Serbs (which was later reformed into the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes) with Kranj as the administrative center. Jezersko became an independent municipality in 1998, seven years after Slovenia gained independence.

MOUNTAINEERING HISTORY

The people of Jezersko have always lived with the mountains: in the summers, they took their animals grazing to the highest pastures beneath Grintovec and Skuta, and they climbed countless cliffs and found numerous hidden passages while hunting for ibex and chamois. But, like elsewhere in the Alps, their

exploits were never recorded and the first documented climbs of the peaks above Jezersko were carried out by explorers and scientists accompanied by experienced locals. Scopoli, a famous botanist, climbed Grintovec from the south in 1759, while most of the other peaks in the area were first climbed in the 1870s by Professor Frischauf, who was also accompanied by local guides. Frischauf was also the one who suggested that a path should be built from Zgornje Ravni to Mlinarsko sedlo, which effectively opened the northern side of the range to tourists.

But it wasn't until the mountain hut of Češka koča was built in 1900 that Jezersko became a true mountaineering destination. The hut was built by the Czech branch of the Slovenian Mountaineering Society (SPD), which was also helped by the local government. To this day, the hut looks almost exactly as it did back then, and it's remained a vital part of all mountain-related activities. In 1948, the Jezersko Alpine Club was established, and it has taken care of the hut over the last seven decades.

The first climbing routes in the area were climbed at the start of the 20th century; in the 1920s and 1930s, most of the walls had been climbed and the first local alpinists started opening routes of their own. Alpinism in our home mountains exploded after 1960: new lines were opened, including cutting edge aid routes, and during the following decades more than 350 new routes were climbed on the walls from Velika Baba to Kočna. As ice climbing developed and evolved in the eighties, Jezersko became a popular ice climbing destination, and extreme skiing developed during this same period. It was actually right here in Jezersko that the most difficult extreme line in the whole of Slovenia was skied by Davo Karničar.

The alpine club expanded in the 1970s to include youth and climbing sections, which made it easier for young, aspiring alpinists



Davo Karničar at the summit of Mt. Everest

to develop and grow. They opened many routes in their home mountains (both in summer and winter), while their biggest mark was left in extreme skiing. After many first descents in the Slovenian mountains, Luka Karničar skied Pamir's Communism Peak at the end of the 1980s. In the following decade, skiers from Jezersko managed some impressive descents in the Central Alps, and in 1995, Davo and Drejc Karničar became the first to ski from the summit of Annapurna (8091 m). Davo Karničar went even further and became the first person in the world to ski from the top of Mt. Everest (8848 m) to its basecamp, and in 2007, he became the first to ski all the highest mountains on each of the seven continents. Jezersko has also become the hub of another outdoor sport: competitive ski mountaineering. Since 1996, we've been organizing an annual race, which is the oldest of its kind in Slovenia. Competitors from Jezersko take part in races in Slovenia and abroad, achieving notable results at the international level.

Characteristics



Healthy climate

The mountaineering village of Jezersko is nestled in a valley beneath the peaks of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps and the Karawanks. The valley is surrounded by dense deciduous and coniferous forests, as well as meadows, pastures, and clear mountain streams. 64.6 % of the municipality is part of the Natura 2000 network. Plenty of greenery and abundant wetlands have a positive effect on the general wellbeing, respiratory system, and eyes. As a result, the area was recognized as a health resort and an ocular tuberculosis hospital was established in the village.

Landscape, geology, and biodiversity

As one enjoys a stroll around Jezersko, it immediately becomes clear that you're walking along a typical U-shaped glacial valley with remnants of the glacier (boulders, moraines, etc.) visible at every step. On all sides, you're surrounded by magnificent mountains. Here you'll find the youngest rock (tufa), which forms right in front of your eyes, as well as the oldest rock type from the Devonian period, which formed 400 million years ago. One of the most economically important plants is the mountain larch typical of this region, which grows slowly and has extremely high-

quality wood. Another interesting aspect of the landscape is the characteristic ash tree hedges, the traditional boundary lines between different pieces of farmland, which regulate ground wetness, protect against the wind, and provide comfortable bedding for the animals. Due to the high number of altitudinal zones (700 m – 2500 m), Jezersko is home to more than 1,000 plant species: 53 of them are protected, and 20 are endemic to this area. Plenty of animal species live here as well, including chamois, ibex, rock ptarmigan, black grouse, western capercaillie, mountain hare, and alpine salamander.

Traditional homesteads

An especially significant aspect of our rich cultural heritage is the traditional homesteads, which provide a unique insight into the architectural legacy of our ancestors dating as far back as the 16th century. Their carefully planned location leads us to believe that most of them were built on the shore of the glacial lake that has since disappeared. Today, the people inhabiting these ancient farmhouses make their living from tree cutting, tourism, raising sheep and other livestock, and many of them have taken up ecological farming.

The Jezersko-Solčava sheep

In Jezersko, we are tremendously proud of our Jezersko-Solčava breed of sheep. They are fertile throughout the year, provide high-quality wool and meat, and are highly resistant to disease and harsh weather. The ram rearing center is located at the Kovk ecological farm. Numerous medals from international shows are a testament to the excellent quality of our work with the sheep, starting with the first we received in Paris in 1850.

Jezerska slatina, our healing mineral water

The first person to write about the source of this healing water was Janez Vajkard Valvasor, the famous Slovenian explorer and polymath of the 17th century. Jezerska slatina contains plenty of calcium as well as manganese and ammonium compounds, plus it has one of the highest concentrations of carbon dioxide of all Slovenian sources. It's especially good for people with cardiovascular diseases and helps digestion (the recommended daily intake is 0.2 liters). The water's popularity increased together with the growth of tourism

in Jezersko, as it was served with every meal in the local hotels and restaurants – a habit which has been making a comeback in the recent years.

Skuta Glacier

The Skuta Glacier is the most south-eastern glacier in the Alps and one of only two glaciers in Slovenia (along with the Triglav Glacier). The small patch of snow and ice is the remains of a much larger glacier that formed the picturesque valley of Ravenska kočna more than 10,000 years ago. It managed to survive due to its favorable location in a cirque beneath the peaks of Skuta and Rinka which gets no sun whatsoever. The glacier is located at an altitude of 2010 – 2120 meters and the ice varies in thickness from 7 to 12 meters. When it was first measured in 1948, it covered 3 hectares; the smallest size was recorded in 2007 (0.7 hectares), and by 2017 it had grown back to 1.7 hectares.



The source of the healing mineral water.

Jezersko Mountain Trail

In 1972, the Jezersko Alpine Club joined the peaks and mountain huts surrounding the valley into a single trail and made a logbook to collect stamps from the summits and other checkpoints. In the following decades, hundreds of passionate hikers completed the trail, and in 2018 a guidebook was published, along with an English translation, so now the Jezersko Mountain Trail can finally be enjoyed by visitors from abroad. The trail connects 15 peaks and five mountain huts; it's more than 100 km long and has 10,000 meters of elevation gain.

Local cuisine

The local Jezersko cuisine can provide you with two unique experiences you won't be able to find anywhere else: one is masunjek, a typical shepherds' dish from cream and buckwheat flour, and the other is bula, which is made out of bread, eggs, meat, cream, and spices and enjoyed during Easter (each

house has its own recipe, though). Numerous local products go great with breakfasts and snacks: dairy products, cured meats, marmalades, honey, herbal teas and syrups, various meat specialties (roasted lamb, trout, game meat) and mushrooms. You can also try various traditional Slovenian dishes (stews, mush, traditional dumplings called žlinkrofi, homemade bread, etc.) and foods that originate elsewhere but have found their place in Slovenia cuisine (cheese dumplings, steaks, roasted meat, goulash, bread dumplings, pasta, etc.). And let's not forget that homemade, traditional liqueurs and Jezerska slatina water go great with any of the foods described above.

A shepherd gives salt to the Jezersko-Solčava sheep at a high-mountain pasture.



Recommended itineraries – summer



Jezersko is perfect for a multitude of activities: it has numerous hiking trails of all difficulties, summer and winter climbing routes, magical ski tours which also include steep and technical descents, kilometers and kilometers of cross-country skiing and mountain bike trails, ice-skating, snowshoeing, etc. In order to make your first steps into the unknown a bit easier and to motivate you for new adventures, we've compiled a list of recommended itineraries.

WALKS

Walking trail through the valley of Ravenska kočna

Walking trail through the valley of Ravenska kočna

The most beautiful and longest walking trail will lead you through the valley of Ravenska kočna. The path is very well marked and easy, and will take you along the Jezernica Creek, across beautiful meadows with magnificent views of the mighty north faces soaring above the valley, through forests, and all the way to the screes right underneath the towering mountains. Information tables dotted along the way provide insight into how the valley was formed, its fauna and flora, and many other interesting details that make Ravenska kočna such an interesting and enjoyable place to visit. There are several larch tables and benches

where you can have a snack or simply enjoy the unspoiled nature.

Starting and finishing point: Lake Planšarsko jezero, N 46.400890 E 14.522734

Furthest and highest point: Viewpoint Na prodih (1123 m)

Length: 8 km

Time: 3 h

A stroll past the valley farms

If you fancy a short afternoon stroll, the loop trail from Lake Planšarsko jezero to the valley farms and back could be a wonderful option. Park by the lake and walk to the church of St. Andrew (cerkev svetega Andreja). Continue along the road to the Šenkova farm, Jenkova farm, and Kropivnikova farm at the edge of the meadows. All three farms were built at the start of the 16th century after the water from the



Stara cerkev sv. Ožbolta.

lake flowed out and people started to settle the valley floor. The path is in the sun throughout the day and can be enjoyed throughout the year.

Starting and finishing point: Lake Planšarsko jezero, N 46.400890 E 14.522734
Length: 2.5 km
Time: 1 h

Old Church (Stara cerkev) and Murnovo

Head from the center of Jezersko, walk past the school, and continue to the wonderful viewpoint at the old church of St Oswald (cerkev svetega Ožbolta) next to the Karničarjeva farm. The church, which was first mentioned as far back as 811, stands high above the valley and has wonderful views of the north side of Makekova kočna. The Karničarjeva farm sells various home-made, ecologically produced food: cheese, cured meats, dairy products, and eggs. Continue along a forest road due west to the abandoned Murnova farm (1030 m). The surrounding meadows are in the sun almost the entire day, which is the reason why this

farm was the only one in Jezersko to be able to grow wheat. You can return the same way or head down the forest road and past the farms of Spodnji Virnik and Olipje to the hamlet of Spodnji kraj, from where the main road will bring you back to Jezersko.

Starting and finishing point: center of Jezersko, N 46.393204 E 14.500834
Furthest and highest point: Murnovo (1030 m)
Length: 4 km (7 km via Spodnji kraj)
Time: 2 h (3 h 30 min via Spodnji kraj)

From the center to Lake Planšarsko jezero

The path starts by the municipal building (Storžič), crosses a bridge, and continues through a pleasant avenue up the former stream bed of Jezernica. As the avenue ends in the hamlet of Žabji trg, turn right, cross Jezernica, and follow a macadam path until you reach a paved road. Turn right and walk to the lake. There are plenty of benches along the way where you can take a rest.

Starting point: center of Jezersko, N 46,394237 E 14,501188
Finishing point: Lake Planšarsko jezero, N

46.400890 E 14.522734
Length: 2 km
Time: 30 min

EASY HIKES

Goli vrh (1788 m)

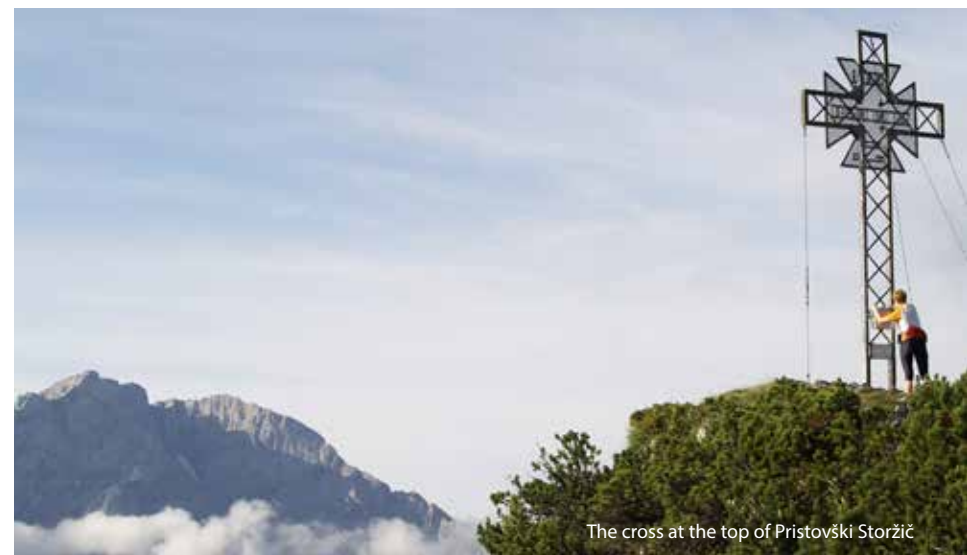
Of all the hills above the valley, this one has the best views. Although steep, the path up Goli vrh is technically straightforward and has no exposed sections. It leads through a forest and can be enjoyed throughout the year: from the heat of the summer to the depths of winter, when avalanches come roaring down steeper and more exposed slopes. You can park at the lake and follow the trail to a small parking space in Ravenska kočna; turn left and head up the steep south-facing slope. After a little over an hour, you'll get to a saddle and the meadows of Jenkova planina, where the trail forks. The trail to Velika Baba goes right, but you should go left (past a shepherds' hut) and continue steeply towards the top, which, unlike the rest of the hill, isn't forested. You'll

get to enjoy truly remarkable views of the champions of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps, as well as the whole valley, Stegovnik, Storžič, the Karawanks, Triglav, southern Carinthia, Obir, Peca, and Raduha. There's a nice larch cross on the top. You can return to Jenkova planina down the Austrian side of the mountain, in which case you'll reach a forest road that will bring you to the shepherds' hut and back down to the valley.

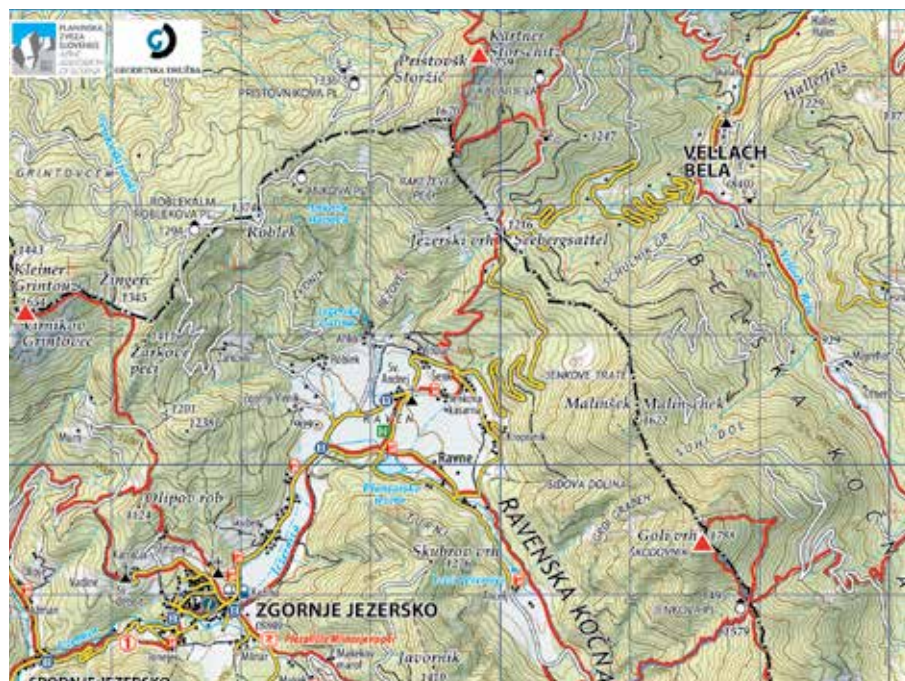
Starting point: Lake Planšarsko jezero (890 m), N 46.400890 E 14.522734
Elevation gain: 898 m
Total time: 4 h

Pristovški Storžič (1795 m)

Pristovški Storžič is another peak with wonderful views located on the border between Slovenia and Austria. Both the path and the summit are located on Austrian territory, which has not been a problem since 2004, when Slovenia joined the EU and Schengen Area. You can start the tour at Lake Planšarsko jezero and head past the



The cross at the top of Pristovški Storžič



Easy hikes to Goli vrh, Virnikov Grintovec, and Pristovski Storžič.

church of St Andrew (cerkev svetega Andreja), Šenkova farm, and towards Štular, where you'll find a signpost (right on the main road) indicating the path to Jezerski vrh. Continue along the marked path to the border crossing at Jezerski vrh; if you're short on time, you can drive all the way to the border crossing. Park on either side of the border. From here on in, follow Austrian trail markers (flags) and yellow signposts. We recommend that you take the shorter and steeper left-hand path for the ascent. It starts along the forest road, continues across a rocky saddle to reach the north-western, shady slope, from where a steel rope will guide you to the summit ridge. The ridge is mellow but some sections are quite exposed. The same goes for the summit with a large metal cross bearing an inscription from a bygone era. The view is

truly magnificent: Carinthia, Carniola, Kamnik-Savinja Alps, Karawanks, Julian Alps... For the descent, we recommend the easier but slightly longer path via Pasterkov vrh and Skalarjeva planina.

Starting point: Lake Planšarsko jezero ((890 m), N 46.400890 E 14.522734
Elevation gain: 905 m
Total time: 4–6 h

Virnikov Grintovec (1654 m)

A prominent peak of the Karawanks rises above the center of the village, closing off the valley to the northwest. Geologically speaking, this is the most fascinating mountain above Jezersko: at its foot, you can find tufa, a type of rock that forms right before our eyes, and the mountain itself is what remains of a coral reef which formed more

At the top of Virnikov Grintovec



than 400 million years ago. This time, the starting point is the church of St Oswald (cerkev svetega Ožbolta). Walk past the presbytery and the Žmitkova farm to reach a steep forest leading to Zagradišče. From a small saddle, you can make a quick detour to Žmitkov špic (20 minutes there and back) before continuing along a gentle forest road that leads to the next steep section. After a little over an hour, you'll get to a wonderful meadow at the saddle of Žingarc (1345 m), which can also be reached along a path from the Austrian village of Korte (Trögern). Continue up a steep path towards a rocky ridge, which has magnificent views but requires utmost caution, as some sections are very exposed. The grassy slopes just before the summit can be very dangerous in winter, especially in fresh snow or icy conditions. Once again, the views from the top are ex-

traordinary, especially when looking at the mighty walls of Kočna and the Čedca Falls, which used to be the highest Slovenian waterfall. Take care on the descent.

Starting point: center of Jezersko (880 m),
N 46.393204 E 14.500834
Elevation gain: 744 m
Total time: 4 h

Štegovnik (1692 m)

A unique and solitary peak to the west of the valley (between Košuta and Storžič), which hides a passage through a natural window on the way to its top. From Kanonir, follow the road to the junction in Dol; turn right and park your car in front of a road barrier (waste disposal site). Start the tour by walking along the road until the start of the marked path for Štegovnik. The



Znameniti smerokaz ob Češki koči.

path up to the saddle of Močnikovo sedlo is wide but narrows down before reaching another saddle above Fevča. From the saddle, head up a steep path to the top with a metal canister holding a summit book and stamp. We recommend that you continue along the ridge due south to go through several picturesque natural windows on your way down. After reaching a small saddle between Štegovnik and Mali Javornik, continue down the marked trail to the road leading back to your starting point.

Starting point: parking space before the road barrier in Dol (767 m), N 46.382150 E 14.445028
Elevation gain: 925 m
Total time: 5 h

HIGH MOUNTAIN ITINERARIES

Češka koča na Spodnjih Ravneh Mountain Hut (1543 m)

Češka koča is the most important starting point and the main mountain hut of the area. The whole mountaineering history of Jezersko is inseparably linked to the hut, which was built way back in 1900 by some Czechs. The typical Czech house stands atop a steep cliff at Spodnje Ravni beneath the north face of Grintovec. It is the oldest Slovenian mountain hut which has managed to preserve its original appearance and character. It serves as the starting point for climbing and mountaineering on the following peaks: Vratca, Kočna, Dolška škrbina, Grintovec, and Dolgi hrbet. The hut has five rooms (33 beds), one bunk room (20 beds), two dining rooms, and comfortable tables and benches outside the hut. The basement is equipped with a modern toilet and bathroom with a shower. There are several paths leading to the hut. The

longest and most scenic option starts in the center of the village (880 m) and goes up the valley of Makekova kočna, past Palčkova skala (Dwarf Rock) and Kačji rob (Snake Edge), and across the northern side of Špegovec, where you'll finally exit the forest. The exposed, rocky sections towards the end of the path are well-secured with sturdy steel ropes. Most people, however, choose the path up the valley of Ravenska kočna. You can park at Lake Planšarsko jezero (890 m) and start the tour there, but there's another parking space higher up (1020 m), which makes the itinerary shorter. You can reach Štularjeva planina (1267 m) by going up a steep hiking path or a longer but gentler forest road past the ropeway station; from there, a marked trail leads up towards Špegovec, joining the other options just after exiting the forest. Follow the marked trail to Mrzla dolina (Cold Valley) and on to the hut. There's another (very difficult) trail to Češka koča, which goes through Malo Žrelo and past Rdeča peč (steel ropes, very exposed), plus a modern via ferrata,



Češka koča in autumn.



Kranjska koča on Ledine



Česka koca with Velika Baba in the

which is described in a separate chapter.

Starting points, elevation gains, and times:

Center of Jezersko (880 m), N 46.393204

E 14.500834, 663 m, 2 h

Lake Planšarsko jezero (900 m), N 46.400890

E 14.522734, 643 m, 2 h

Parking space in Ravenska kočna (1020 m),

N 46.384626 E 14.536489, 523 m, 1 h 30 min

Kranjska koča na Ledinah Mountain Hut (1700 m)

Tucked away in a small larch forest at the foot of the most south-eastern glacier in the Alps (Skuta Glacier) is the Kranjska koča Mountain Hut. Back in the old days, sheep used to graze on the screes and meadows just above where the hut is today. In the second half of the 20th century, there was enough snow during the summers at the foot of the mountains above the hut that skiers flocked to the glacier. In order to make it easier for skiers to train during the summer months, the Kranj Alpine Club built a hut in 1977. It makes for a great tour on its own, or it can be used as a starting point for climbing on the walls of Rinka, Skuta, Trikot, and Dolgi Hrbet, and mountaineering on secured trails (Velika Baba, Rinka peaks, Mrzla gora). The hut is also very convenient if you decide to go across the saddles of Jezersko sedlo and Savinjsko sedlo to Okrešelj and the valley of Logarska dolina. Both of the paths leading to the hut start in the valley of Ravenska kočna, and the best option is to walk all the way from Lake Planšarsko jezero. The easiest option is to take the Lovska pot (Hunters' Trail), which has a couple of exposed sections that are secured with steel ropes. A bit shorter but much steeper and more exposed alternative is the Slovenska pot (Slovenian Trail), which is categorized as very difficult (300 m) and is much more suitable for going up than descending. The two trails (Slovenian and Hunters') go their separate ways at the rope-

way bottom station.

Starting point: Lake Planšarsko jezero ((890

m), N 46.400890 E 14.522734

Elevation gain: 810 m

Ascent time: 2 h 30 min

Velika Baba (2127 m)

The double summit of Velika Baba differs from the other peaks in the area due to its prominent west face (most of the other big walls in the area face north) and north-south running ridge, giving it a character completely its own. The peak and the whole ridge are right on the border between Slovenia and Austria, offering splendid views of Carinthia, Kamnik-Savinja Alps, and Jezersko. The easiest way to the top of the mountain follows Lovska pot (Hunters' Trail) to Kranjska koča hut. From there, continue to Jezersko sedlo and go down a steep scree slope on the Austrian side of the border. After zigzagging down screes and grassy slopes, you'll reach the rocks leading to the top (some steel ropes). The path goes under a prominent rock feature called "babji popek" (Belly Button). The summit is scenic and exposed. If you like exposed ridges, you'll surely enjoy the following option of reaching the top: at the parking lot in Ravenska kočna, turn left and head up towards Goli vrh. At Jenkova planina, turn right to reach a romantic ridge (some larches and dwarf pines) leading to Mala Baba (2018 m), which marks the start of the exposed ridge leading to the summit (no steel ropes, iron pegs, etc.). Descend via Jezersko sedlo and Kranjska koča.

The trail leading directly from Kranjska koča to Velika Baba is extremely exposed to rock-fall and should, therefore, be avoided.

Starting point: Lake Planšarsko jezero ((890

m), N 46.400890 E 14.522734

Elevation gain: 1237 m

Total time: 7 h

Storžič (2132 m)

Storžič is a pyramid-shaped peak on the south-western edge of the valley. Although sheep graze on many of its slopes during the summer months, it is steep enough on all sides that climbing it is a proper mountaineering feat. There's a wooden cross at the top, as well as an orientation table. The view is expansive: from Kranj to Ljubljana, from Triglav to Grossglockner... To climb Storžič from the Jezersko side, you have to drive to the valley of Podstoržič (park at the road barrier at the start of the valley). There are two trails leading to the summit and the easier and most popular option goes past a hunters' hut and the saddle of Bašeljško sedlo, from where it's just 20 minutes to the Kališče mountain hut. From Bašeljško sedlo, the path becomes steeper as it follows the eastern ridge all the way to the top. The trail past Škarjev rob and the saddle of Javorniško sedlo is more difficult and equipped with steel ropes. If you'd like to make a loop, we recommend going up past Javorniško sedlo and descending via Bašeljško sedlo.

Starting point: waste disposal site in Dol

(767 m), N 46.379945 E 14.445570

Elevation gain: 1365 m

Total time: 6–7 h



Descending from Velika Baba with Storžič

The central peaks of the range (Dolgi hrbet, Skuta, Grintovec, and Kočna)

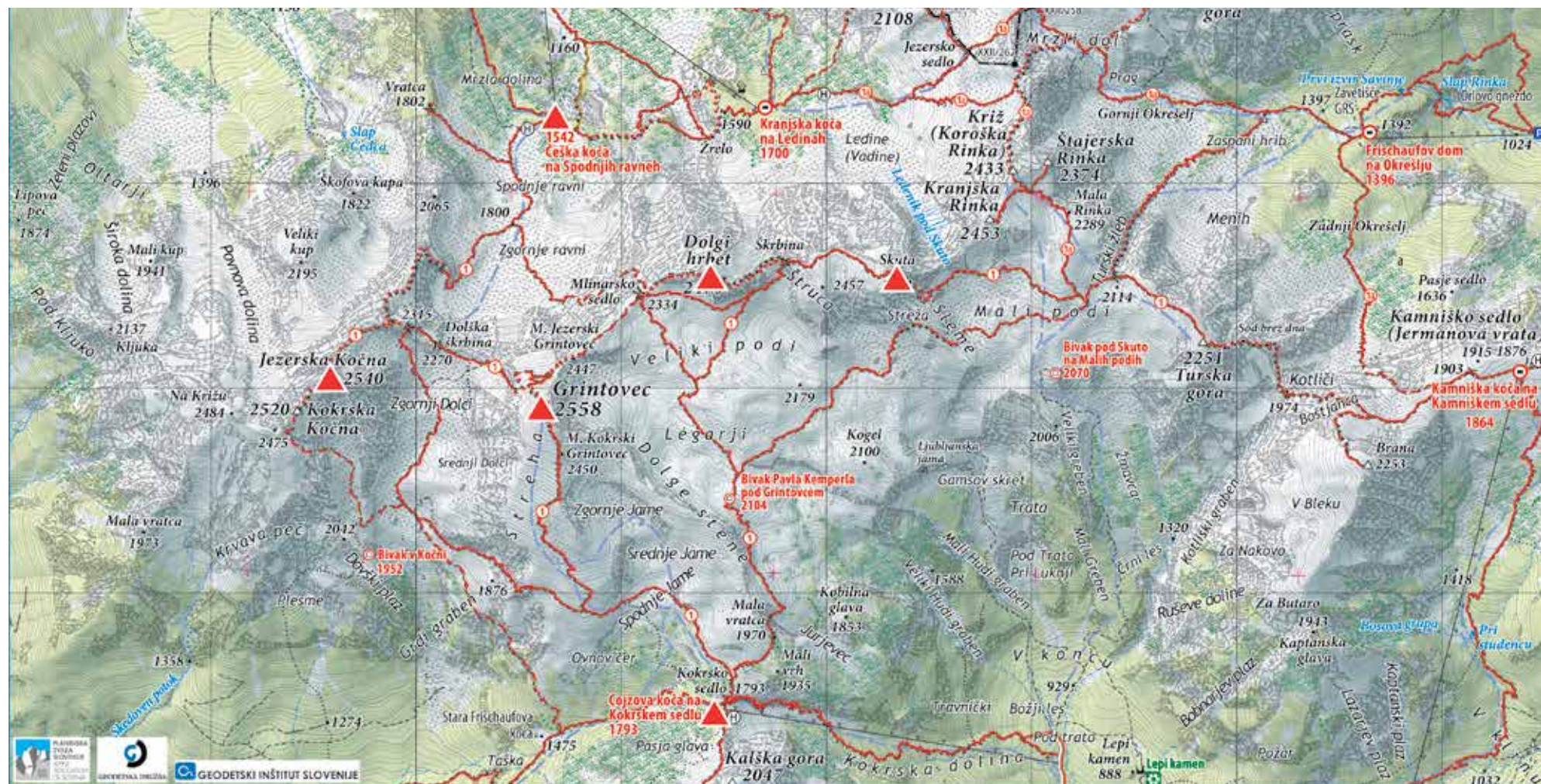
This grand, multi-day itinerary along the ridges of the highest peaks of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps is unquestionably one of the most magnificent itineraries in the mountains above Jezersko. It's a serious, high mountain tour along very difficult trails, requiring not only experience and fitness but

also proper equipment. Sturdy hiking boots, a helmet, and a via ferrata kit are mandatory. At the beginning of the summer, an ice axe is also very useful to safely navigate firm snowfields. The best time to undertake this itinerary is from July until September.

We recommend that you only go to Češka koča on your first day, which allows for an early start on the second day. Warm up by

going up the screes of Spodnje Ravni and Zgornje Ravni to get to the part which is much more interesting: the varied climb up the north face of Grintovec to the saddle of Mlinarsko sedlo (2334 m). Once at the saddle, turn left onto a ridge leading to the top of Dolgi hrbet (2470 m). The next section of the itinerary above the sheer rock faces of Dolgi hrbet and Trikot is the most beautiful

and exposed part of the whole journey. After you reach the top of Štruca, it's just a stroll to the highest point of the day, the summit of Skuta (2533 m). The first part of the descent (to Štruca) is the same as the way up, but then you leave the ridge behind and drop down to the screes of Veliki podi. On your way, you'll go past the new bivouac hut under Grintovec before reaching the



The central part of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps with the plan

hut Cojzova koča na Kokrškem sedlu, where you'll stay the night. The next morning it'll be time to tackle the south-facing slopes of Grintovec. The trail is technically straightforward but sun-exposed, so it's best to get an early start. Once at the summit, an orientation table will help you recognize the peaks



Looking at Skuta from Dolgi hrbet.



Exposed part of the trail on Dolgi hrbet.

all around you. The second part of the itinerary is more interesting and technically difficult. From the top, go down the northern side of the mountain and turn left towards Kočna. Follow the line of least resistance past Dolška šrbina and to the start of Dolci, where it's time to get back onto the ridge. You'll soon reach a junction where you can leave your backpack, which will make it easier for you to crawl through the famous shaft-like feature a bit further up. After this interesting section (where you'll probably have to crawl for at least a couple of meters), it's just an easy scree slope before you reach the chossy summit of Kočna (2540 m). The top is exposed and very small, but the view of Jezersko is breathtaking. Descend to the junction mentioned before and continue down to Češka koča. You can't let your guard down until you reach Zgornje Ravni, as the trail is very exposed and full of gravel. To put the icing on the cake, you'll get to one of the best scree slopes of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps once you get down to the foot of Kočna.

Estimated times:

Day 1: Jezersko–Češka koča (1 h 30 min)

Day 2: Češka koča–Dolgi hrbet–Skuta (3 h 30 min)–Cojzova koča (6 h total)

Day 3: Cojzova koča–Grintovec (3h 30 min)–Kočna (1 h 30 min)–Češka koča (7 h total)

The highest mountains of our range allow a whole host of interesting combinations and itineraries, and here's another one that's highly recommended: Day 1: Jezersko–Češka koča; Day 2: Češka koča–Kočna–Grintovec–Cojzova koča; Day 3: Cojzova koča–Skuta–Rinka peaks–Turski žleb–Okrešelj; Day 4: Okrešelj–Jezersko sedlo–Velika Baba or Ledinski vrh–Kranjska koča–Jezersko

CLIMBING

If your favorite activities are climbing and alpinism, you'll also find plenty of attractive objectives in the mountains above Jezersko. The first documented route on our walls was climbed more than a century ago, and today our mountains boast more than 350 lines with grades ranging from II to VII (UIAA). Many of them have already seen winter ascents and some have even been skied. There's good climbing all over the valley: Velika Baba, Ledinski vrh, Koroška Rinka, Kranjska Rinka, Skuta, Trikot, Dolgi hrbet, Grintovec, Dolška šrbina, and the countless faces and ridges of Kočna.

Most of the routes are 300 to 500 meters long, with the average grade ranging from III to V. The shortest lines are only around 200 meters, while the biggest objectives are more than 1,000 meters high. Most of the approaches and descents are relatively straightforward due to the abundance of marked paths in the area, with Makekova kočna, which has no marked paths, being the only exception to this rule. In general, the rock is quite loose, but there are some excellent routes where rock quality is very good. There's not much in-situ gear in most of the routes, only a couple of pitons at key places. Protection usually consists of pitons, since nuts and friends are quite hard to place. Some younger routes are equipped with bolts (mostly for the anchors), and the only fully bolted route is the Nova centralna smer on Velika Baba.

Two climbing guidebooks for the area have been published: the first one (Ravenska kočna) came out in 1977 in Slovenian and German, and the second one (Jezersko) was published by the Alpine Association of Slovenia in 1999. A selection of winter itineraries is also included in the winter climb-

ing guidebook Zimski vzponi, which was written by Gregor Kresal and published by Sidarta in 2007.

The following routes are the most recommended lines with the best rock quality of the area.

New central direction in Velika Baba

IV/III, 700 m, 5 h

First ascent: Adolf Plattner and Hans Schindler, June 1994.

In recent years, this has been by far the most popular route in Jezersko, and for good reason: great rock, fully bolted, and the wall faces southwest. Plus, the approach is a very easy (veer left from the Lovska pot and scramble up easy terrain to get to the base of the route) and the descent is down a marked trail leading to the valley.





Enjoying the solid rock.

Grintovčev steber

V/IV, 250 m, 3 h

First ascent: Jože Žvokelj, Vinko Grilc, and Štefan Lisec, 14. 9. 1957.

A wonderful line on good rock, which has seen the most ascents of all our routes in the sixty years since it was opened. The anchors are bolted, and there are loads of in-situ pitons throughout the pitches. The most memorable pitch is the wide and airy exit chimney. The approach follows the marked trail to Mlinarsko sedlo. From the top of the route, descend left down a gravel-strewn ledge until you reached the marked trail from Mlinarsko sedlo to Češka koča.

There are many other worthwhile routes to the left and right, such as Zgrešena (V), Košutova (IV+), Tomažev steber (VI-), and Carmen (VI).

Trikot

VI, 500 m, 7 h

First ascent: Tone Škarja and Edo Pišler, 26.–28. 8. 1960.

A great line up the middle of the vertical, triangular wall wedged between Štruca



Jezersko has climbing of all levels of difficulty

and Dolgi hrbet. For quite a while, this used to be the most difficult route of the entire Kamnik-Savinja Alps. The rock is mostly solid and the climbing is exposed, making Trikot one of the finest classic routes of its difficulty in the area. Approach the base of the climb from the Kranjska koča hut and head up a towards prominent gully. Go up its left side to get to the wall (often you'll find snow even in the summer). The route finishes at the marked trail from Skuta to Dolgi hrbet, which will lead you down to Češka koča.

Ferata Češka koča

E/CD; height: 300 m

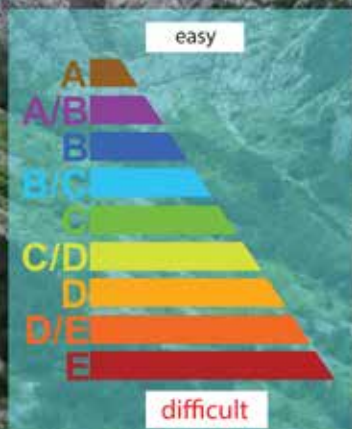
Ascent time: 1 h 30 min

A via ferrata is a climbing route equipped with a steel rope. The Češka koča Via Ferrata was the first modern via ferrata of its kind in Slovenia (it was opened in 2015). It faces north and is perfect for the summer months (from June to September). A helmet, via ferrata kit, and appropriate footwear are mandatory. It requires a lot of arm strength and plenty of experience, as the steel rope is the only artificial aid you'll find.

We recommend that you climb it with a mountain guide, alpinist, or member of the mountain rescue. The starting point of the approach is the valley of Ravenska kočna. After going past the ropeway bottom station, follow the trail leading to Žrelo. After fifteen minutes, you'll get to a signpost indicating the approach to the via ferrata. Head right and up a scree slope to get to the base of the climb (15 minutes) with an information table. The start is steep and difficult. The most difficult section is during the first half of the climb (vertical slab). After the slab, scramble for about 10 meters to get to a comfortable path through dwarf pines leading to the upper part of the route. The second crux is an overhang leading to another vertical, smooth slab. If you find that the route is too difficult, you can bail before the overhang via a secured exit leading to the marked trail. After negotiating the overhang, the rest of the climbing to the top is not too difficult. You'll find a sign-in book fifty meters before reaching the top. The via ferrata ends just a stone's throw from the Češka koča hut.



Towards the top of the via ferrata.



The line of the Češka



Exciting adventures on bikes

MOUNTAIN BIKING ITINERARIES

Ovčje koče

The tour starts in the center of the village; head right to the valley of Makekova kočna and across a recently-built larchwood bridge over the Jezernica Creek. An asphalt road will take you past the Mlinarjeva farm to the bottom of an abandoned ski lift. The road for the Makek farm heads left, but you should continue straight ahead along the unpaved road towards Kočna. The road climbs steadily up to the saddle of Mlinarjevo sedlo with a wonderful viewpoint just above the road with great views of the village and the Karawanks. The road turns south and flattens out (with the odd downhill section) high above the valley of Kokra. A short and steep forest track leads from the unpaved parking space to the small hut at Ovčje koče. You'll be rewarded for your effort with a beautiful meadow next to the hut and splendid views of Storžič, Triglav, and the Karawanks.

Total distance: 14 km

Elevation gain: 350 m (for the ascent)

Time: 1 h 30 min (for the ascent)

Štularjeva planina

To make things as simple as possible, all the itineraries start in the center of the village (at the parking space in front of the municipal building). The start of this itinerary is quite mellow and you have two options: the unpaved road for Jezernica or the main road for Planšarsko jezero. After the lake, head for the valley of Ravenska kočna. An asphalt road will take you to the last of the farms, where a spectacular view of the north faces of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps opens up above the meadows. Continue along the unpaved road going past Gorniški center



The view from Mali vrh...

Davo Karničar to the ropeway bottom station. Just before the ropeway, turn right onto a new forest road leading to the idyllic Štularjeva planina.

Total distance: 18 km
Elevation gain: 280 m (for the ascent)
Time: 1 h (for the ascent)

Jezerski vrh and Ankova planina

Jezerski vrh is by far the most popular cycling objective in our valley. Usually, it marks the end of a road-cycling tour from Kranj or some other Slovenian town. But this time we'll take you and your mountain bike a bit further. The first two kilometers are flat, but the four kilometers after the church of St Andrew (cerkev svetega Andreja) are much steeper. At the pass of Jezerski vrh, turn left up a short but steep hill leading to Rakeževo. At the edge a meadow (where a farm used to be), there's a tower with a webcam (<http://www.jezersko.info/kamera.html>). After enjoying the sun and views of the valley surrounded by mighty peaks, the itinerary continues to Ankova planina, where a border guardhouse used to be.

Total distance: 18 km
Elevation gain: 300 m (for the ascent)
Time: 1 h (for the ascent)

Pečovnik

The Pečovnik itinerary also starts in the center of the village. Go down the main road towards Kranj, but only as far as the hamlet of Spodnji kraj, where you turn left into the valley of Komatevra. After the first steep section, we recommend that you take a short break and have a look at the unique tufa formations. The road up the valley after the abandoned tufa quarry is unpaved. Just before the Robnikov farm, the road to Virnikova planina (a mountain rescue training center) branches off. Continue left past the Krtina partisan hospital, Komatevra farm, and hunters' hut at Stanič. The climb finishes at the border guardhouse ruins at Pečovnik.

Total distance: 20 km
Elevation gain: 740 m (for the ascent)
Time: 2 h (for the ascent)



Panorama Koče.

Recommended itineraries – winter



WINTER CLIMBING, ICE CLIMBING, AND EXTREME SKIING

Sinji slap

II/3, WI 85°/60°, 150 m, 2–3 h

Sinji slap was one of the first Slovenian waterfalls to be climbed and is one of our most popular and ice routes. The anchors are equipped with pitons and bolts, which must often be dug out from the snow. The route is not too difficult and is a good choice for beginners. The thickest ice forms towards the end of the season, when the conditions are the best. The best way to approach the climb is on touring skis. Follow the cross-country skiing trail to the bottom station of the ropeway; the base of the climb is another half an hour. The route finishes at Češka koča and you can descend through Malo Žrelo or via Štularjeva planina (1 h). Both options are quite avalanche-prone, so the best option, if avalanche danger is considerable, is to abseil down the route.

Vikijeva sveča

II/5, WI 90°/75°, 150 m, 2–4 h

The most distinguishing feature of this attractive icefall is the icicle at the top, which can be seen from the valley of Ravenska kočna. The first two pitches are usually quite straightforward, and the height and difficulty of the icicle are determined by the amount of ice (the best conditions usually form in February and the start of March). The icicle is relatively short (15 m), but the climbing is more difficult than it appears at first sight, and it's often very difficult to construct a good anchor at the end of the pitch. Be careful while descending through Malo žrelo, especially if climbing after a period of snowfall (avalanche-prone slopes!). The approach and descent are the same as for Sinji slap.

Teranova Route

III/3, 80°/45°–60°, 350 m, 2–4 h

Teranova Route is one of the most popular snow routes of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps. In perfect conditions, it's a climbing sympho-



Zimske plezalne smeri in slapovi.

ny on steep snow. The route's difficulty depends on the amount and quality of snow and ice. All anchors are equipped with pitons and bolts. The exit traverse to get to the snow slopes above Kranjska koča can sometimes be tricky. The route follows an avalanche chute collecting the snow from the whole of Dolgi hrbet, so make sure that the conditions are safe. The approach to the bottom station of the ropeway is the same as for Sinji slap and Vikijeva sveča. Continue towards Žrelo and veer right to get to the base of the route (1 h). Descend towards Kranjska koča and go through Žrelo to get to the valley (1 h).

Grapa med Babo in Ledinskim vrhom (Baba-Ledinski vrh Gully)

III/2, 70°/40°–60°, 700 m, 3–4 h

The route follows the obvious gully between Velika Baba and Ledinski vrh. The steepest section awaits towards the top of the route. If there's little snow, you might also encounter a short rock step. After climbing the gully, you can climb to the top of Velika Baba (2127 m) along an easy but scenic ridge. The approach, once again, goes past the ropeway in Ravenska kočna. Follow the line of Lovska pot (Hunters' Trail) to get to the base of the wall and go up an avalanche chute under the imposing Led-

inski Falls and turn left to reach the base of the gully proper. From the top of the gully, drop down to the Austrian side of the mountain and climb back up to the saddle of Jezersko sedlo. Descend to the valley past Kranjska koča (2 h).

In perfect conditions, the route can also be skied (IV, S4, 700 m; from the top to the gully S3, 200 m).

Povnova dolina

IV/2, 1200 m, 5–6 h

A grand winter itinerary, which follows an obvious line up the snowfields between the two Kočna peaks and is attractive to alpinists and extreme skiers.

The approach starts in the center of the village. At the junction where the road to Makekova farm branches off, continue straight ahead along a forest road. The road flattens out after the first sharp turn; turn left onto a track leading through the forest and onto the snowfields at the foot of the wall. The start is to the right of the fall-line of Povnova dolina, up a shallow gully in the fall-line of Široka dolina. An airy traverse (to the left) among dwindling larch trees will take you into the left gully. Follow it to a rock barrier, which is avoided either right or left, depending on conditions. Fol-

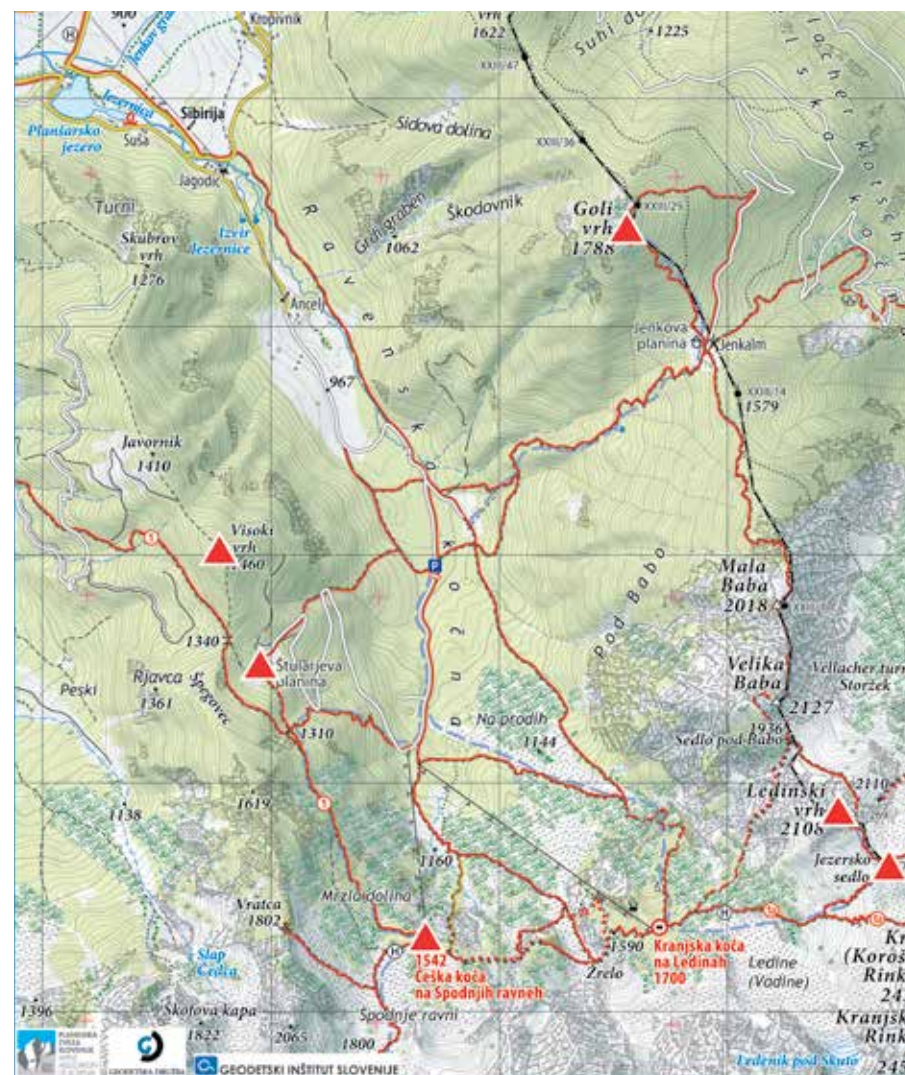
low the wide snowfields to the head of the gully, where a narrow, steep gully leads to a notch at the top of the wall. There are several other, shorter gullies to the left and right of Povnova dolina.

The itinerary is also a great challenge for extreme skiers (IV, sections of S5, 1200 m).

SKI TOURING

Ledine, Jezersko sedlo, Ledinski vrh (2106 m), **Savinjsko sedlo** (2001 m) in **Okrešelj** 1000 m, 2–3 h (for the ascent)

Ledine (the area around Kranjska koča), is the only place above Jezersko that allows for



Ski touring objectives above Ravenska kočna

classic, spring-time ski touring. Each winter is different, but the best conditions are usually encountered between February and April. The itinerary starts in the valley of Ravenska kočna, where you can park your car and follow the cross-country skiing trail to the ropeway bottom station. There are several ways to access the vast slopes of Ledine. The easiest and most popular option is to follow the line of Lovska pot (Hunters' Trail) to Kranjska koča. In snowy winters, it's possible to go from the bowl below the Ledinski Falls directly up a steep gully which brings you to the hut (steep icy step, 5 m). Another, easier option is to follow the line of the marked trail through Žrelo (200 m of steep terrain requiring some climbing). Crampons and an ice axe are mandatory for all three options. You can put your skis back on at the hut and skin up the wide slopes to Jezersko sedlo (2001 m) or Ledinski vrh (2106 m). From Jezersko sedlo, you can ski into the valley of Belska

kočna or continue across Savinjsko sedlo to Okrešelj. The best way to descend to Ravenska kočna is to follow the line Lovska pot.

Grintovec (2558 m)

1500 m, 3–5 h (for the ascent)

Grintovec is the highest peak of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps with an imposing north face rising above Jezersko. Its south-facing slopes, however, are home to a magnificent ski touring itinerary, perfect for experienced mountaineers. From Jezersko, we'll drive to the valley of Kokra and the starting point of this itinerary: the Suhadolnik farm (900 m). Two trails lead over the first rocky barrier (Taška) and the right-hand option, which is less steep, is the best with skis strapped onto your backpack. With enough snow, it might even be possible to ski down here. Continue towards the hut of Cojzova koča na Kokrškem sedlu. The slopes are vast, so make sure not to miss the ramp leading

to the upper part of the tour, the so-called Grintovčeva streha (Roof of Grintovec). In absolutely perfect conditions, it's possible to skin all the way up to the summit, but the climb to the top is much safer with crampons and an ice axe. The slope is vast and complex, so it's best to keep to the skin track while skiing. A grand tour.

Goli vrh (1788 m)

800 m, 2 h (for the ascent)

The tour to Goli vrh, which has the best views in Jezersko, is often done in the depth of winter, usually right after heavy snowfall. It's covered with forest, which substantially reduces avalanche danger. Start in Ravenska kočna, preferably by following the cross-country skiing trails. Most of the time, there are two skin tracks to Jenkova planina. The first one, which is steeper, starts to the left of Gorniški Center Davo Karničar and is used for the ascent only. The second one starts at

the large summer parking space in Ravenska kočna, and this is the line that is usually skied. After about an hour, both options join at Jenkova planina. Head up a narrow and steep clearing running along the border before crossing over to the Austrian side, where the terrain is more open. The best skiing can be found at the grassy slopes near the top and in the sparse beech forest above Jenkova planina.

Pečovnik in Plešivec (1801 m)

800 m, 2–4 h

The valley of Komatevra with the peaks of Pečovnik and Plešivec was discovered by local ski tourers while looking for an alternative route for our traditional skimo race, which was in danger of being canceled due to a lack of snow. The snowy roads, tracks, and open meadows with views of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps are perfect if you appreciate unspoiled nature and peace. All ascents and



Goli vrh s čudovitim razgledom.



Ski touring at Spodnje Ravni.

descents are technically straightforward and suitable for beginners. The tour usually starts at the Robnik farm (the road to the farm is plowed regularly and there's a parking space at the trailhead). From Plešivec, you can keep going to Dolga njiva and Tolsta Košuta (2057 m), but take care as its south-facing grassy slopes can be very avalanche prone.

Češka koča (1543 m), **Spodnje and Zgornje Ravni** (2000 m) 400 m, 1–2 h
In late spring (April and May), Spodnje Ravni and Zgornje Ravni above Češka koča provide a perfect playground for ski touring. The only downside is the quite long approach to Češka koča with skis strapped onto your backpack (1 h 30 min). Crampons and an ice axe are mandatory if you plan on getting an early start.

When the snow is soft, it's possible to skin up all the way from the hut to the base of the north faces at approx. 2000 m (Kočna, Dolška škrbina, Grintovec, Dolgi hrbet). Češka koča doesn't open until May (weekends only).

Shorter ski tours around Jezersko

(Štularjeva planina (1267 m), **Visoki vrh** (1460 m), **Mali vrh** (1300 m),

Pristovški Storžič (1759 m))
400–500 m, 1–2 h

It's possible to ski tour in Jezersko even in the depth of winter when the big north faces are alive with the roaring of avalanches. Safely sheltered by forests, forest roads, steep tracks, and magical meadows, you can make perfect turns even while the snow is still falling. All the tours start at parking spaces down in the village. All itineraries are easy and suitable for beginners and/or less experienced ski tourers.

SNOWSHOEING

Snowshoeing hasn't been around for too long in Jezersko (as is also the case elsewhere), but it's quickly gaining in popularity. We're currently offering two attractive snowshoeing itineraries:

Snowshoeing trail through the valley of Ravenska kočna

The most popular summer trail through the valley of Ravenska kočna is also the number one choice for snowshoeing enthusiasts. The trail is very well marked and not too steep. Throughout most of the winter it's maintained as a cross-country skiing trail, making it extremely comfortable for snowshoeing. You can finish the tour at the ropeway or go further up to the base of the imposing north faces. You'll be walking through a dense spruce forest and across open meadows offering splendid views of the snow-capped peaks of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps (1 h). After reaching the ropeway, you can continue up the recently-built forest road to Štularjeva planina (1270 m, 45 minutes from the ropeway) and follow the marked trail across Kačji rob (Snake Edge) into the valley of Makekova kočna and back

to the center of Jezersko (1h).

Jezerski vrh, Rakeževa and Roblekova planina

If you like sunny trails, we recommend the old path to Jezerski vrh. From the parking space at Lake Planšarsko jezero, head due north past the Šenkova farm and up the slopes leading to the border crossing at Jezerski vrh (45 min). The trail then follows the gentle forest road to Rakeževa planina, Ankova planina, and Roblekova planina, providing wonderful views of the valley with the Kamnik-Savinja Alps in the background. From Roblekova planina, you can return the same way to Jezerski vrh or continue walking along the road to Žarkovo and finishing the loop at Roblekova farm (3 h total).



Užitki ob spustu s Pristovškega Storžiča.



An overview of cross-country skiing trails in Jezersko

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Cross-country skiing has a long tradition in Jezersko, as the locals took it up before World War II. The gently rising glacial valley full of wide-open meadows is perfect for this form of recreation. With enough snow, the area boasts 15 km of cross-country trails (classic and skate skiing). The trails cater to beginners, recreational skiers, and top-level competitors. Most of the trails run along the gentle, sunny meadows around scenic farms above Lake Planšarsko jezero. More experienced skiers, however, can go up the valley of Ravenska kočna to the ropeways and Štularjeva planina.

Additional information about the trails

is available at: Park Jezersko d.o.o.

+386 (0)31 203 930

info@park-jezersko.si

ICE SKATING

Lake Planšarsko jezero and nearby skating rink

Lake Planšarsko jezero lies in the coldest part of the valley called Sibirija (Siberia). The hamlet got its name due to its shady location and extremely low winter temperatures, both of which are perfect for ice skating. A skating rink usually operates from December until March. In really cold winters, ice skating on the lake lit up by the moon is a magical, romantic experience.



Ice skating on the frozen Lake Planšarsko jezero.



An overview of cross-country skiing trails in Jezersko..

Bad weather alternatives



Zadnikar Gallery.

Due to its location, Jezersko has an unpredictable microclimate, which can easily surprise you with a sudden storm or shower. There are also days when it rains constantly and the wonderful peaks are enshrouded in clouds.

Such days are a wonderful opportunity to explore our cultural heritage in the ethnological museum of Jenkova kasarna or to study old farms depicted on the paintings and woodworks of the Zadnikar Gallery. If you'd like to see how some of the local food is produced, you can visit the Karničar farm, where you can sample and buy local cheese. Should you get cold during your wanderings around the village, head over to the Stara pošta hostel, where they have a wide selection of homemade liqueurs to chase the cold away. They also organize workshops where you'll learn how to make your own herb soap. You can arrange to

experience all of the above at the Tourist Information Center Jezersko.

In the summer months, you can take part in one of the events of the Stories of Jezersko series, which are all organized indoors. More information about the events is available at the Tourist Information Center and online (www.jezersko.info).

Even though rainy days bring lower temperatures and obstructed views, we invite you to put on a raincoat and take a walk through the village or the forest and enjoy the soothing sounds of wind and water. During times of rain, a special climate forms which is extremely soothing for the eyes. You'll be surprised by the experiences water-soaked nature can provide.

Access



CAR

Jezersko is tucked away in a glacial valley which can be reached from two sides. If you're coming from Slovenia, drive past Kranj and Preddvor and continue up the Kokra Valley to the village of Jezersko. If you're coming from Austria, drive through the village of Eisenkappel (Železna Kapla) and cross the border at Jezerski vrh. Most people drive to Jezersko, while the summer months also see a lot of motorbike riders and cyclists. The Kokra Valley is the most scenic part of the drive from the Slovenian side, while the Austrian option boasts a varied road and beautiful vistas.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Kranj-Jezersko bus line:

The bus leaves from the central bus station in Kranj; it goes to the center of the village (bus stop Jezersko Kazina) and continues to Ravna (bus stop Jezersko Štular). The buses don't run very often, so check the times at www.alpetour.si.

Train:

You can travel by train to Kranj, where you'll have to catch a bus.

Closest airport:

The Ljubljana Airport is just 30 km from Jezersko. From the airport, catch a bus to Kranj and then for Jezersko. Of course, there's also the option of renting a car or getting a taxi.

Getting around



All over the village there are numerous paths and unpaved roads with hardly any traffic that are perfect for a nice stroll, and you can rent mountain bikes and e-bikes at various places, including the Tourist Information Center.

PARKING SPACES

There are public parking spaces in the center of the village, at the lake, at the start of the trail through Ravenska kočna, and higher up in that valley. We encourage you to park your car as low down as possible and start walking: the experience will be richer and you'll do something for Mother Nature as well. The properties outside these public parking spaces are private and you shouldn't park there.

Center of Jezersko

(N 46.393204 E 14.500834): a central parking space is currently being constructed next to the municipal building; you can use the parking spaces at the site of the former Kazina Hotel (information table) and in front of the sports court.

Lake Planšarsko jezero

(N 46.400890 E 14.522734) and the start

of the trail through Ravenska kočna (N 46.400957 E 14.524955): there are several parking places around the lake and at the start of the trail; this is also the main starting point for all the itineraries in Ravenska kočna.

Ravenska kočna

(N 46.384626 E 14.536489): this parking space is the highest point of the valley that is open for traffic. If you really have to, you can use it as the starting point for itineraries in Ravenska kočna.

There are no public parking spaces in Komatevra, Dol, and the valley of Podstoržič. If you still decide to drive there, you can park at the following locations:

Komatevra

(N 46.400865 E 14.466738): waste disposal site on the right side of the road, 400 m after a tufa quarry.

Dol and Podstoržič: waste disposal sites (road barriers) at the starts of the valleys of Podstoržič (N 46.379945 E 14.445570) and Zabukovec (N 46.382150 E 14.445028).

Associated restaurants, accommodation, and mountain huts

The Jezersko partners of the Mountaineering Villages family are happy to help hikers, mountaineers, skiers, and other mountain enthusiasts. They are happy to provide early breakfasts and information about itineraries, help with gear rental and mountain guides, and offer great food based on local products.

Members of the Alpine Association of Slovenia and its partner association are entitled to a 10% discount on all accommodation (please bring a valid membership card).

Češka koča na Spodnjih Ravneh

N 46.369855 E 14.535936

Jezersko Alpine Club

Opening times: daily from the middle of June to the end of September; weekends only from 1 May to the middle of June.

Number of beds: 53 (rooms: 33, bunk room: 20) Winter room: 6*

T + 386 (4)0 28 33 00;

E ceskakoca.si@gmail.com

W jezersko.info/koca.html or www.facebook.com/CeskakocaJezersko/

Kranjska koča na Ledinah

N 46.370520 E 14.549344

Kranj Alpine Club

Opening times: daily from the middle of June to the end of September

Number of beds: 45 (rooms) Winter room: 3*

T + 386 (0)31 309 600; E pdkranj@pzs.si

W pdkranj.si/postojanke/kranjska-koca-na-ledinah/ or www.facebook.com/kranjska-kocaledine/

*It's forbidden to use fire in winter rooms as wood can easily ignite.

Restaurant Gostišče ob Planšarskem jezeru

Zgornje Jezersko 125a

4206 Zgornje Jezersko

T: +386 (0)4 25 41 060

Mobile: +386 (0)41 762 636

E gostisceobjezeru@siol.net

W: gostisceobjezeru.si

Tourist farm Šenkova domačija

Zgornje Jezersko 140

4206 Zgornje Jezersko

Mobile: +386 (0)31 777 188 or +386 (0)41 777 188

E: polona.karnicar@siol.net

W: www.senkovadomacija.si

Tourist farm Ancel

Zgornje Jezersko 151

4206 Zgornje Jezersko

T: + 386 (0)4 254 11 46

Mobile: +386 (0)41 589 194

E: info@ancel-muri.net

W: www.ancel-muri.net

Hostel/kamp Stara pošta

Zgornje Jezersko 124

4206 Zg. Jezersko

Mobile: +386 (0)70 542 123

E: info@kamp-jezersko.si

W: www.kamp-jezersko.si

Glamping and B&B Cvet gora

Zgornje Jezersko 124, 4206 Zgornje Jezersko, Slovenia

Mobile: +386 (0)70.542 123

E: info@cvet-gora.si

W: www.cvet-gora.si, www.herbalstory.net

Park Jezersko d.o.o., cross-country skiing trails and travel agency

Zgornje Jezersko 57, 4206 Zgornje Jezersko, Slovenia

Mobile: +386 (0)31 203 930

E: info@park-jezersko.si

W: www.park-jezersko.si, www.feelgreen.si

Important addresses

Municipality of Jezersko

SI-4206 Zgornje Jezersko 65,
Slovenia
T: +386 (0)4 254 51 10
E: obcina@jezersko.si
W: www.jezersko.si



Pharmacy

SI-4206 Zgornje Jezersko 57,
Slovenia
T: +386 (0)4 25 19 758
E: lekarna.jezersko@gorenjske-lekarne.si



Tourist Information Center

SI-4206 Zgornje Jezersko 57,
Slovenia
T: +386 (0)51 219 282
E: tic@jezersko.si
W: www.jezersko.info



Gas station and ATM

SI-4206 Zgornje Jezersko 65a,
Slovenia
T: + 386 (0)4 25 45 010



Jezersko Alpine Club

President: Anja Karničar
SI-4206 Zgornje Jezersko 65, Slovenia
T: +386 (0)40 283 300
E: pd@jezersko.si



Jezersko Mountain Rescue Service

President: Primož Šenk
SI-4206 Zgornje Jezersko 47,
Slovenia
M: +386 (0)40 647 626
E: primoz_senk@yahoo.com
W: www.grzs.si



Grocery store Jezerjan

SI-4206 Zgornje Jezersko 56a,
Slovenia
T: +386 (0)4 25 45 150
E: slavica.kavas@siol.net



Zgornje Jezersko Post Office – in the Jezerjan grocery store

SI-4206 Zgornje Jezersko 56a,
Slovenia
T: +386 (0)4 59 51 060



Jezersko General Clinic

SI-4206 Zgornje Jezersko 82,
Slovenia
T: +386 (0)4 25 45 028



Maps and guidebooks

MAPS:

Kamniško-Savinjske Alpe, izbrane pohodniške poti (Kamnik-Savinja Alps, (selected trails) 1:50000, Logarska dolina d.o.o.

Kamniško-Savinjske Alpe (Kamnik-Savinja Alps), 1:25000, Sidarta

Karavanke – osrednji del (Karawanks – central part), 1:50000, Alpine Association of Slovenia

Grintovci (Kamnik-Savinja Alps), 1:25000, Alpine Association of Slovenia

Turistična karta Jezersko (Jezersko Tourist Map), 1:25000, TD Jezersko and Geodetic Institute of Slovenia

GUIDEBOOKS:

Jezerska planinska pot. (Jezersko Mountain Trail). Guidebook and logbook. Planinsko društvo Jezersko, 2018.

Jezersko. Plezalni vodnik. (Climbing guide) Drejc Karničar, Davo Karničar, and Tone Golnar. Alpine Association of Slovenia, 1999.

Slovenske stene. Tine Mihelič in Rudi Zaman. Didakta, 2012.

Zimski vzponi. (Winter climbing in Slovenia and Western Julian Alps).

Gregor Kresal. Sidarta, 2007.



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Karničar Andrej. (1998). Jezerska kronika. Kranj: Gorenjski muzej

How to stay safe in the mountains

1. Each tour must be selected and planned in accordance with the fitness and experience of all participants, especially the children and elderly. Mountaineering often requires surefootedness and a good head.
2. Each tour must be carefully planned using guidebook descriptions and maps. Members of local alpine clubs and the mountain rescue service, as well as mountain hut managers, can be of great help.
3. Use appropriate equipment and clothing, especially sturdy, high-cut boots with a grippy sole. The weather in the mountains can change abruptly, so make sure to pack clothes that will protect you against the rain and cold. Safety equipment and a helmet are mandatory on all trails classified as very difficult, via ferratas, and climbing routes. Don't forget about a beacon, shovel, and probe if you're venturing out in the winter.
4. Notify a family member, friend, hut manager, or accommodation provider about your objective and the estimated time of return.
5. Adjust your speed to the weakest member of the party and start the tour at a slow and steady pace.
6. Stay on marked trails. Take care when walking on firm screes and wet grass. Steep snowfields can be especially dangerous.
7. Take care not to dislodge rocks, which could injure other mountaineers. Your party should negotiate sections that are exposed to falling rock one at a time, quickly, and without stopping.
8. If you're visiting the mountains with your dog, make sure not to disturb other people and animals grazing at mountain pastures. Keep your dog on a leash on narrow paths and in the vicinity of animals.
9. If the weather suddenly deteriorates or the trail becomes too difficult or damaged, it is best to go back down. There's no shame in retreating; in fact, it's a sign of good sense.
10. Keep calm in case of an accident. Try to get yourself out of harm's way and return to the valley. If you can't, call 112 for help. Help the injured to the best of your abilities (first aid) and stay in touch with mountain rescue.
11. Mountains are for everyone. It's a duty of each and every mountaineer to look after the environment. Protect the animals and plants and take out your trash.

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 112



Jezersko

Ginzling im Zillertal
 Großes Walsertal
 Grünau im Almtal
 Hüttschlag im Großarlal
 Johnsbach im Gesäuse
 Kreuth (D)
 Lesachtal
 Lungiarü (I)
 Lunz am See
 Mallnitz
 Malta
 Matsch (I)
 Mauthen

Reichenau an der Rax
 Ramsau bei Berchtesgaden (D)
 Region Sellraintal
 Sachrang - Schleching (D)
 Steinbach am Attersee
 Steirische Krakau
 St. Jodok, Schmirn- und Valsertal
 Tiroler Gailtal
 Val die Zoldo (I)
 Vent im Ötztal
 Villgratental
 Weißbach bei Lofer
 Zell-Sele

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