



## Karavanke/Karawanken Products

*April 2019*

# Karavanke/Karawanken Products

*Hiking, biking, soft winter*

Slovenia, Austria

*April 2019*

**Author (Autor):**  
**Company (Unternehmen):**

Ing. Andreas Kranzmayr  
Alpines Wandermanagement GmbH



**Author (Autor):**  
**Company (Unternehmen):**

Marko Lenarčič  
Hiking&Biking Slovenia



**Author (Autor):**  
**Company (Unternehmen):**

Sissi Wutte  
Carnica-Region Rosental

Carnica Rosental



## About hiking products of the Alpe Adria Karavanke/Karawanken project

The main hiking product developed during the project was the lengthening of the Südalpen Panoramaweg hiking trail, which, in part, crosses Karavanke/Karawanken ridge, during its 20 stages and 286 km. Four stages have been added during the Alpe Adria Karavanke/Karawanken project. The Karavanke/Karawanken Mountains have a unique property- you can visit two (even three on some places) countries in one trip (or even at the same time), and you have amazing views on both Slovenia and Austria.

## Index of the packages included in this document:

1. Slovenia/Austria: From Žirovnica in Slovenia to Bad Eissenkappel in Austria across Jezersko.....	4
2. Slovenia/Austria: From Ljubelj to Rosenbach (Faak am See) on Karavanke/Karawanken Panorama trail.....	11
3. Southern Alps Panorama Trail – “Highlights of the Karawanken” short trip.....	16
4. Southern Alps Panorama Trail – “Mittagskogel circuit” short trip .....	21

## 1. Slovenia/Austria: From Žirovnica in Slovenia to Bad Eissenkappel in Austria across Jezersko

### 8 day hiking discovery of West Karavanke in Slovenia and Austria

Long, multi day hike that starts in the cultural significant village of Žirovnica and visits some of the sightseeing pearls of Karavanke/Karawanken nature, culture and history.

#### TRAIL INFORMATION

Žirovnica - Stol – Roblek hut - Tržič - Storžič - Jezersko - Eisenkappler Hütte - Bad Eissenkappel – Žirovnica (with transfer)

Starting point: Žirovnica

Length: cca. 75km

Duration: 8 days (6 days of hiking)

Elevation change: cca. 6000 h.m.

#### Description

##### DAY 1:

First day you begin with arrival to the small charming village of Žirovnica, after setting in, it is time for a stroll in the city. Žirovnica is quite rich with culture. Starting with a birth house of the most important Slovenian poet-dr. France Prešeren, the author of Slovenian national anthem. You can also say that Žirovnica is beekeeping capital of the world, not because of quantities, but rather because one of the most prominent beekeeping experts in Europe was born and lived here- Anton Janša, the father of modern beekeeping. Today, a reconstruction of Anton Janša's apiary, the first home of Janša's bees, still stands in its original place in the village of Breznica. Learn about the Slovenian way of beekeeping on a guided tour and discover the unique Slovenian traditional painted beehive panels which are a speciality of Slovenian folklore. Delight your taste buds by indulging in a tasting of local honey products. With enough time, you go upon Cultural Heritage Path, that connects the birth houses of some of Slovenia's literary giants (the greatest Slovenian poet France Prešeren, his friend the linguist and scholar Matija Čop, and the writers Fran Saleški Finžgar and Janez Jalen), as well as the apiary of the pioneer of European beekeeping, Anton Janša. It is one of the most beautiful theme paths in Slovenia.

#### Important points of interest on the stage

##### Prešeren's birth house:

Slovenia's greatest poet spent his childhood in Vrba, a small village in the Gorenjska region in a typical farm house originating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The house in its current form dates from 1856 when it was rebuilt following a fire. Opened as a museum in 1939, Slovenia's first protected cultural site represents the living culture of the time when Prešeren lived in the house in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

##### Ajdna archaeological site

Ajdna is one of the most prominent archeological findings of Late Antiquity in Slovenia. In the 5th and 6th centuries, during attacks by the northern tribes, locals took refuge on the rocky slopes of Mt. Stol, from where there are expansive views of the Julian Alps and Lake Bled.

### **Anton Janša memorial apiary**

Anton Janša was born in a simple, peasant family, on the 20th May 1734 in the village of Breznica in Upper Carniola region (part of the Austro- Hungarian empire, today Slovenia). His birth house, positioned next to the apiary, was preserved until 1907. Anton's father Matija Janša, locally known as Matija Kuhar, erected a wooden apiary beside their new cottage and barn in Breznica. They filled it with traditional Carniolan beehives, the speciality of which were the unique hand-painted front panels which were painted by the Kuhar children in the family barn. The Kuhar's old apiary stood until 1877 when they constructed a new one. Anton Janša is considered the greatest Slovenian beekeeper. His birthday was on 20th May, and in 2017 this date was officially announced as World Bee Day.

### **Završnica Recreational Park**

The park is situated in the Završnica valley, surrounded by the mighty Karavanke mountain range, green meadows and lush forested slopes – inviting you to have a fun and active adventure! The park is easily accessible and yet remote enough to allow you an escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

### **The village Linden tree:**

The linden tree in the village of Vrba is more than 200 years old. Sixteen stones have been placed in an arrangement under its canopy. In bygone days, every master in Vrba had his own stone – this was the meeting place for the village elders who would traditionally meet under this tree to discuss village issues and to decide on important matters. They did not write down their agreements, yet what was agreed upon held good.

### **The Završnica Reservoir water retention basin:**

The surge tank above the village of Žirovnica, with its intriguing façade that can be seen from a great distance, was built in 1914 for the Završnica hydropower plant and later used by the Moste hydroelectric power station. Water from the Završnica reservoir flows into the 16-metre-high surge tank and flows out through a 900-metre-long pipe and into the engine room of the power plant. There are steps leading to the top of the water reservoir which serves as a magnificent viewpoint.

### **Optional – hiker-friendly accommodation**

- Valvasor Hut Under Stol

### **DAY 2:**

First day of hiking, begins in style with the ascent to the highest mountain in the Karavanke/Karawanken mountain range- Mt. Stol/ Hochstuhl (2236 hm). If you are starting from Žirovnica, you will first have 1.5h walk on gravel road to the hut Valvasorjev dom pod Stolum, from where you will follow the so called Žirovniška pot (trail) to the (15min below the top) hut Prešernova koča and then to the top. After the soaking up of the view, the trail leads back to the Prešeren hut and from there it descends towards Zelenica glacial valley. The area attracts many ski tourers to its slopes during winter but only cattle during summer. The hut has been completely renewed in 2018 and serves as mountain education center, and is a popular ski touring starting point in wintertime. Most of the hike is across rocky terrain. The valley will be crossed briefly followed by a climb up the two-thousander Begunjščica, where you can overnight in the hut Roblekov dom na Begunjščici.

### **Important points of interest on the stage**

Mountain huts Prešernova koča na Stolu, Roblekov dom na Begunjščici, Planinski dom na Zelenici



### Optional – hiker-friendly accommodation

- Mountain hut Prešernova koča on Stol/ Hochstuhl
- Mountain hut Roblekov dom on Begunjščica
- Mountain hut Koča na Zelenici



Photo 1: Above Žirovnica, Archive ZTK

### DAY 3:

The trail begins with traversing slopes of Begunjščica and gradually descending to Preval pass, on which you can find shepherd's hut, where, in summer time, you can still get fresh dairy products. Then you continue towards mountain hut Dobrča, over forests. Take a rest, refresh yourself at the hut, then continue toward Lešanska and Bistriška planina (pasture). The trail continues mostly through forests and pastures to the small pass where it begins the descent to the small city of Tržič.

### Important points of interest on the stage

**Preval and Lešanska pastures with shepherd's huts**

**Dirt Park Divjina:** If you're the type of person for whom a bike is a tool for flying through the air with a triple spin or double somersault, then Divjina Dirt Park is the place for you. Even hardened BMX competitors will tear up in happiness over this site. This spectacular wooded park has even been selected by Red Bull for their competitions. Gravity doesn't exist here and if you haven't yet come to believe in miracles, you'll see them here with your own eyes.

**Linden tree** in Žiganja Vas. Step inside and stare at the sky.

The more than 500-year-old village linden tree in the middle of Žiganja Vas is a natural value of national significance.

**Dovžan Gorge** – through the Born Tunnel into a colourful sea and onto the shores of sand and gravel. There is good reason for the Dovžan Gorge's status as a protected natural monument for more than 25 years. It is geologically one of the most fascinating areas of Slovenia. The picturesque valley, which is located 3.2 kilometres northeast of Tržič, was carved out by the Tržič Bistrica River deep into the heart of the Karavanke Mountain, laying bare the most complete sequence of rocks from the younger Paleozoic period, ranging in age from 300 to 260 million years. The layers of rock are like the pages of a thick book, recording a fantastic story about unusual living creatures and a changing environment in the distant geological past.

**The picturesque town centre and market street of Tržič** - The picturesque old town with its own Dragon: "It all began with the dragon. He came to life deep inside the mountain of Košuta. When he grew into a huge beast it split the mountain in two. This triggered a roaring rockslide that buried the settlement below the mountain. To save themselves the inhabitants ran into the valley. After a time they ran out of breath and stopped. This is where the present-day town of Tržič grew and developed. This is a town famous for its tradition of craftsmanship. Since this area has been a busy transportation route since the time of ancient Rome, the residents of Tržič developed into outstanding and very enterprising ironworkers, cartwrights, clothmakers, tanners, and especially shoemakers."

**The Tržič Museum** presents the once extremely highly developed trades and crafts that were the livelihood for many Tržič residents. The museum premises are in the former Pollak dyehouse and tannery in the old forging and crafts part of Tržič along the still preserved water chutes. Of particular interest is the display of shoemaking and footwear and the display of the tradition of skiing.

### Optional – hiker-friendly accommodation

- Other accommodation in Tržič: <https://www.visit-trzic.com/en/accommodation/>

### DAY 4:

The day starts with a steep ascend from Tržič to the ridge of Kriška gora with a lovely mountain hut on Kriška gora, from where there is a good view of the Ljubljana basin. From the hut the trail goes on the ridge, it is mixture of forest and pasture trail, till it reaches the stream at Mala Poljana. The slopes on which the trail leads, reveal a process that is characteristic to much of the Slovene Alps: forest overgrowth and the consequent rise of the forest line, namely, the altitude to which forest cover extends. From there the trail continues towards the hut Dom pod Storžičem. The hut stands on the edge of the Jesenje pasture overlooking Lomska dolina valley.



Foto by Viljem Vogeljik



**Important points of interest on the stage**

Koča na Kriški Gori, Dom pod Storžičem, Paragliding from Kriška Gora

**Optional – hiker-friendly accommodation**

- Mountain hut Dom pod Storžičem

**DAY 5:**

The trail in the first part follows a pleasant forest path across meadows and the Javorniški preval pass to Javornik. Then it climbs up the ridge and onto the oldest rocky mass of Stegovnik which lies ahead. The trail is accompanied by views of Jezersko from the top, and the impressive rock face of Jezerska Kočna and Grintovec can be seen on the other side of the valley. The second part of the trail is descending along the road into Zgornje Jezersko village. Since the stage is relatively short, make sure to visit the small lake, Planšarsko jezero, in the vicinity.

**Important points of interest on the stage****Planšarsko jezero (lake):**

The little heart-shaped lake was made by local inhabitants in memory of a larger glacial lake that had drained away, and after which Jezersko got its name. It is a well-visited spot and one could call it also a symbol of the area. In summer, it allows boating, in winter skating.

**Church of Sv. Andrej:**

After long renovation in 2010, the church of St. Andrew became a place of great discovery – frescoes from the 15th century were found here. Experts say these are the most beautifully preserved frescoes from that time in Slovenia. They are supposed to be the work of Friulian painters. In the south side of the presbytery stands a small figure of a man who donated the money for this great work. Nobody knows who that man was.

**Optional – hiker-friendly accommodation**

- Tourist farm Šenk's homestead

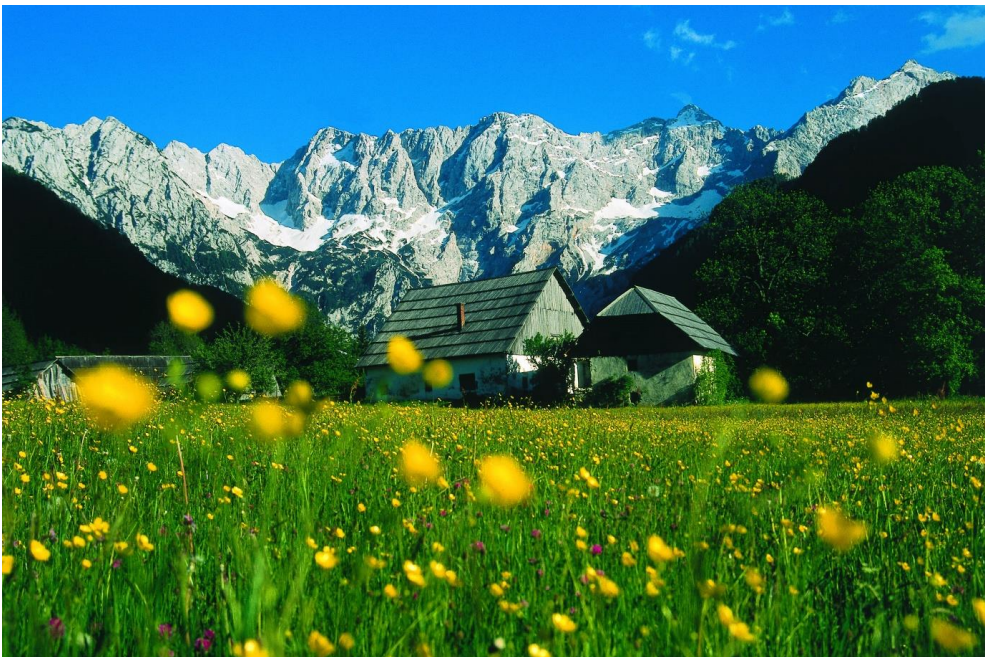


Photo 2: Jezersko Valley, Archive TIC Jezersko



**DAY 6:**

From Zgornje Jezersko start towards the Planšarsko Jezero lake, and from there on macadam and forest trails up to the Jezerski Vrh border crossing. When crossing into Austria, the trail heads towards Seebergsattel mountain pass. Then it continues towards Pasterksattel pass and then turns to the West to the Kepp. The trail starts to descend past the hamlet of Trögern (988m) further downwards to the Gasthof Franzl inn and into the Trögern Klamm ravine. The path in the ravine is unfortunately covered in asphalt, but even that cannot undermine the beauty of the ravine. The trail leads on the ravine until it turns steeply upwards toward Eisenkappler Hut, where the stage ends. If you risk another 1.5h hiking from the hut, you can reach the highest peak of the eastern Karavanke/Karawanken, 2139m high Hochobir/Ojsterc. The view is really unique: on one side, the entire Klagenfurt basin with its numerous lakes stretches out before the observer and on the other side, there is an outstanding extensive view on good days – even the Großglockner, the highest mountain in Austria, and the Triglav can be seen.

**Important points of interest on the stage****Hochobir:**

Hochobir is the highest mountain in Northern Karawanken in Kärnten. From the top you can enjoy beautiful autumn views of the Drau valley, main Karawanken ridge and Hohe Tauern.

**Optional – hiker-friendly accommodation**

- Mountain hut Eisenkappler Hütte

**DAY 7:**

The last day there is just 2,5h hike down to Bad Eisenkappel/ Železna Kapla, which will be combined with the visit to the Obir Tropfsteinhöhlen caves. The path to the caves branches off at Potschulasattel pass, but the trail to Bad Eisenkappler/ Železna Kapla leads forward (around 2.5h). However, it is smart to visit the caves, to enjoy the views of the underworld as well, since the duality is the rule of life. From the caves to the city you can opt for cave bus transfer (7€) or hike for about an hour. Visit to the caves takes about 1.5-2h.

**Important points of interest on the stage****The Obir Tropfsteinhöhlen caves:**

The Obir Stalactite Caves are known as one of Austria's most fascinating natural wonders. They are the result of the incomparable combination of nature and men (mining), symbiosis of 200 million years of history and modern techniques (multimedia effects underline the amazing natural spectacle)

**Optional – hiker-friendly accommodation**

- **Hotels:** VIVEA Health resort, Natur Romantik Resort Berghof Brunner,
- **Farms:** Arlitscherhof, Guesthouse Podobnik, Pension Besser, Guesthouse Kupitz, Longo Mai, Perutschhof, Strugl (Farm can be located outside the city, so check location before reservation)

**DAY 8:**

Time to head home or to other adventures, let it be in Austria or back in Slovenia, van transfer will pick the visitors at the time of their choosing, and take them back to Žirovnica on the starting point.



Photo 3: Foto Franz Gerdl "Carnica-Region Rosental"

### Important points of interest on the stage

#### **Turkish Fortress (accessible possible also via very difficult Ferata):**

A small fortress built for protection of civilian population against the Turkish invaders in 15th century.

#### **Haggeneg mansion:**

Magnificent mansion/castle dating back to the beginnings of the 14th century.

#### **Museum forge:**

Ex forge, which was nowadays carefully restored to show the old craftsmanship of blacksmiths.

#### **Museum of old motorcycles:**

A vast collection of motorcycles, some even 100 years old, but still in full working order, including Puch 800, one of 9 surviving bikes in the world.

#### **Peršman museum:**

A farmstead that witnessed a brutal murder of two families during the last days of WW2, now turned into museum of half-past history.

### Optional – hiker-friendly accommodation

- Mountain hut Valvasorjeva koča under Stol/ Hochstuhl (possible to reach by car)

## 2. Slovenia/Austria: From Ljubelj to Rosenbach (Faak am See) on Karavanke/Karawanken Panorama trail

### The trail of the breathtaking views

This 5 day tour, goes partly on the Karavanke/Karawanken Panorama trail, which was designed to offer some of the best views in this part of the world.

### TRAIL INFORMATION

Ljubelj - Zelenica – Stol/ Hochstuhl – Prešeren hut – Hut on Golica - Kepa – Bertahütte - Rosenbach (or Faak am See)

Starting point: Ljubelj

Length: cca. 50 km

Duration: 5 days (3 days of hiking)

Elevation change: cca. 3500 h.m.

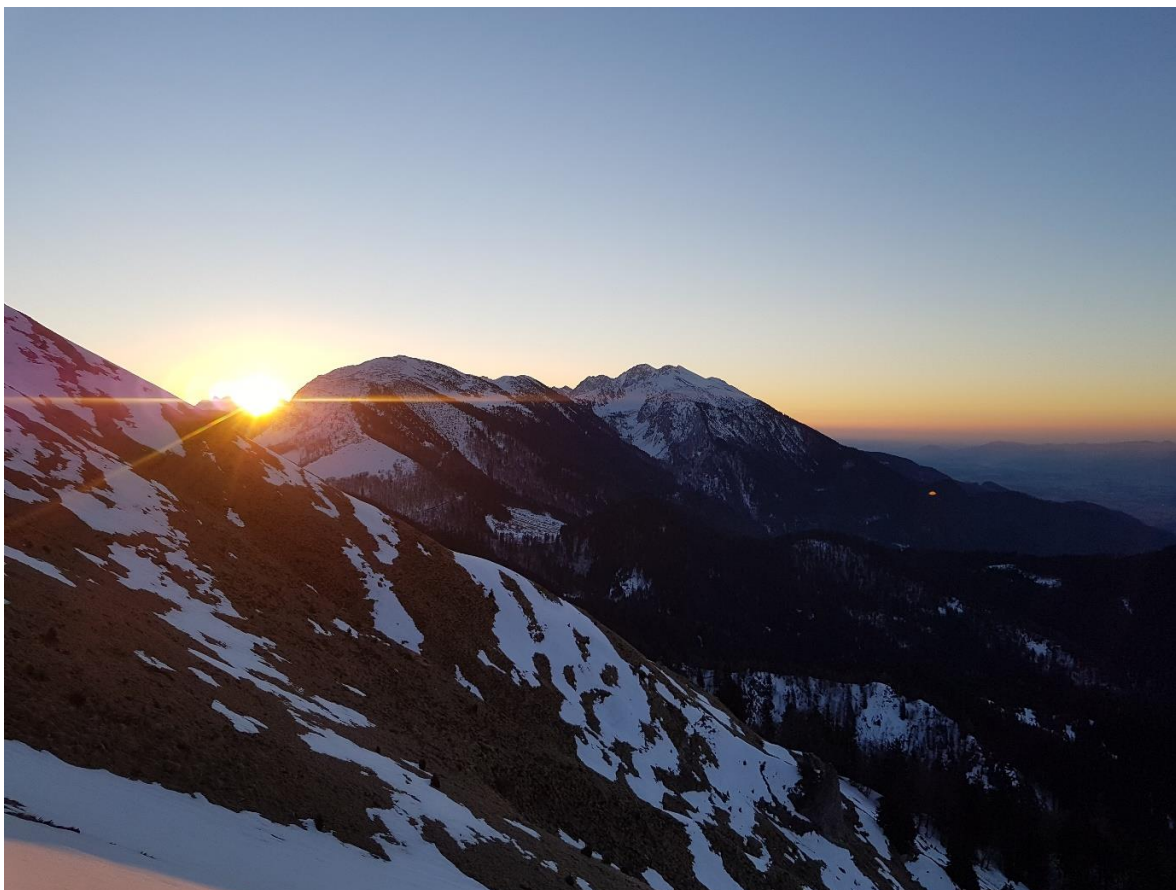


Photo 5 Peter Lenarcic, "Sunrise on Golica"

## Description

### DAY 1:

"Centuries ago more than half the settlement below Ljubelj consisted of smithies. A blacksmith there had an old rooster that went up to Košuta, where he laid an egg, and from the egg hatched a dragon. The dragon burrowed into the mountain and as he grew into an enormous beast this split the mountain in two. This triggered a rumbling rock avalanche that buried the village below the mountain. To save themselves the villagers ran into the valley. After a time they ran out of breath and stopped. This is the site of the present-day town of Tržič."

First day you begin with arrival to the small city of Tržič, after setting in, it is time for a stroll in the city. Tržič has an interesting city center, and is known for its shoemaking (and other crafts) tradition.

Already in 1492, Tržič was established as a city, important because of its position one of the most important connection routes over Karavanke/Karawanks. It has burned many times during its history, and is therefore the only city with 200 years of fire protection tradition and the mandatory use of metal doors and shutters.

Use your time to visit Tržič Museum or take a stroll into Dovžan Gorge.

### Important points of interest on the stage

**Dirt Park Divjina:** If you're the type of person for whom a bike is a tool for flying through the air with a triple spin or double somersault, then Divjina Dirt Park is the place for you. Even hardened BMX competitors will tear up in happiness over this site. This spectacular wooded park has even been selected by Red Bull for their competitions. Gravity doesn't exist here and if you haven't yet come to believe in miracles, you'll see them here with your own eyes.

**Linden tree** in Žiganja Vas. Step inside and stare at the sky.

The more than 500-year-old village linden tree in the middle of Žiganja Vas is a natural value of national significance.

**Dovžan Gorge** – through the Born Tunnel into a colourful sea and onto the shores of sand and gravel. There is good reason for the Dovžan Gorge's status as a protected natural monument for more than 25 years. It is geologically one of the most fascinating areas of Slovenia. The picturesque valley, which is located 3.2 kilometres northeast of Tržič, was carved out by the Tržič Bistrica River deep into the heart of the Karavanke Mountain, laying bare the most complete sequence of rocks from the younger Paleozoic period, ranging in age from 300 to 260 million years. The layers of rock are like the pages of a thick book, recording a fantastic story about unusual living creatures and a changing environment in the distant geological past.

**The picturesque town centre and market street of Tržič** - The picturesque old town with its own Dragon: "It all began with the dragon. He came to life deep inside the mountain of Košuta. When he grew into a huge beast it split the mountain in two. This triggered a roaring rockslide that buried the settlement below the mountain. To save themselves the inhabitants ran into the valley. After a time they ran out of breath and stopped. This is where the present-day town of Tržič grew and developed. This is a town famous for its tradition of craftsmanship. Since this area has been a busy transportation route since the time of ancient Rome, the residents of Tržič developed into outstanding and very enterprising ironworkers, cartwrights, clothmakers, tanners, and especially shoemakers."

**The Tržič Museum** presents the once extremely highly developed trades and crafts that were the livelihood for many Tržič residents. The museum premises are in the former Pollak dyehouse and tannery in the old forging



and crafts part of Tržič along the still preserved water chutes. Of particular interest is the display of shoemaking and footwear and the display of the tradition of skiing.

**Šentanski rudnik:** The St. Anne mercury mine is located 9 kilometres north of Tržič near the hamlet of Lajb, along the road that leads towards Ljubelj (Loibl) along Mošenik Brook. The system of shafts is preserved in its entirety and is 5 kilometres long, and lies hidden beneath the surface of the southeastern slope of Begunjščica. Visitors can go on a guided tour along Anton's Shaft in the fifth horizon.

**Mauthausen:** The Ljubelj labour camp was the only camp in Slovenian territory during the Second World War. It was one of 49 subcamps of the Mauthausen concentration camp complex not far from Linz, Austria. More than a thousand prisoners worked in appalling conditions from 1943–1945 to build the present-day tunnel on Ljubelj (Loibl).

### Optional – hiker-friendly accommodation

- Mountain hut Dom na Zelenici: <https://www.zelenica.info/>
- Other accommodation in Tržič: <https://www.visit-trzic.com/en/accommodation/>

### DAY 2:

In the morning the transfer will pick up the hikers at their accommodations and take them to Ljubelj (if they have not slept in the Dom na Zelenici hut) where the start of the hiking will begin with the warm up to the hut Dom na Zelenici, maybe a cup of warm tea, before heading up to the top of the king- mt. Stol/ Hochstul, the highest mountain in Karavanke. The trail takes around 5h to the top. It is not particularly demanding and marked, you may look a bit for the marks. You will ascent over Mali Stol (Little Stol) ridge towards the hut Prešernova koča under Stol/ Hochstuhl. From the hut, there is just another 30min walk to the top of mt. Stol / Hochstul. Than the visitors can enjoy the evening and the sunset from one of the best viewing points.

### Important points of interest on the stage

- Mountain hut Dom na Zelenici
- Natura 2000

### Optional – hiker-friendly accommodation

- Mountain hut Prešernova koča on Stol/ Hochstuhl
- Mountain hut Dom na Zelenici

### DAY 3:

From Prešernova koča hut under Stol/ Hochstuhl, the trail continues on the ridges towards Golica. The trail is not difficult, it leads across pastures, forests and ridges, and is regarded as one of the most beautiful trails regarding the views in Slovenian mountains. On certain points it goes exactly on the border between Slovenia and Austria.

### Important points of interest on the stage

**Daffodils and views** on Austria and Slovenia are the main attraction of this stage. Some of the best views on Julian Alps and Triglav are to be found here. Daffodils main season is in May, when they blossom in full colours.

**Natura 2000** is a European ecological network of protected areas, defined by the Member States of the European Union. This parts of Karavanke are included in the this network.

**Svečica pasture** is known for variety of flowers, that come to blossom in the late spring, making a colourful scene

**Mt. Golica and the hut Koča na Golici** is a popular day hike destination above Jesenice, Jesenice. There is also info point for the Karavanke region in the hut. One of the most famous folk (polka) songs Na Golici (Trompeten-Echo) by Slavko Avsenik is named after this mountain.

#### **Nature science and educational trail in Javorniški Rovt**

Educational trail is 8 km long, with the height difference of 600m. On it you will find 12 observation points, with information tables and signposts. The trail boasts many of natural and historical landmarks, that youngsters can explore and than on the basis of their own experience discover the laws of nature nad remenants of the past.

#### **Old mining trail**

The old mining trail is a trail along which iron ore was transported from Savske jame, a former iron ore deposit, to the furnaces at Stara Sava. Interesting sights along the trail: Ironmaking settlement Stara Sava, Gornjesavski muzej (museum), Kos Manor House, Murova, Chapel at Pejce, Holy Cross Church, Savske jam, (Sava Caves), daffodil meadows

#### **Ironmaking settlement Stara Sava**

It is characterised by extremely rich ironmaking tradition. It has all the essential elements of a former iron foundry settlement: Ruard Manor from the 16th century, Church of St. Mary's Assumption from the beginning of the 17th century, Kasarna with workers' flats from the end of the 18th century, a blast furnace with a puddling mill, storage for charcoal and a mill from the 19th century. Today the area serves as an Iron making museum with permanent exhibition on the owners of iron foundries and the history of ironmaking in Jesenice.

**Part of the stage** goes on the Slovenian Alpine Trail, Via Alpina purple trail and the new Southern Alps Panorama Trail/Panoramaweg Suedalpen (PWSA)

#### **Optional – hiker-friendly accommodation**

- Mountain hut Prešerenova koča on Stol/ Hochsthul
- Mountain hut Koča na Golici



Photo 6 Aleš Krivec

**DAY 4:**

From Golica the trail goes further north along the grass covered ridge, before getting quite steep and difficult. First it descends on pastures Rožca, that also feature a small hunting hut, and is located directly above Karavanke tunnel. From there the trail ascends up to Hruški vrh and pastures of Dovška Rožca, that also features shepherd's hut. From there the ascend to Mala Kepa (small Kepa) and Kepa (Mittagskogel, 2139h.m.) awaits. The section from Golica to the top of Kepa should take around 5h. It is highly advisable to carry a map with you, since there can be lack of proper markings.

After reaching the top (it can be skipped) return back to the cross section and turn to Austria, crossing the border. There is about 1.5 – 2h to reach Bertahütte, a small hut above Rosenbach/Področca and Faak am See/ Baško jezero.

**Important points of interest on the stage**

Planina Borovščica / Ferlacher Alm (1497m),  
Sedlo Borovščica / Ferlacher Sattel (1500m)

**Optional – hiker-friendly accommodation**

- Mountain hut Koča na Golici
- Mountain hut Bertahütte



Photo 7 Photo Franz Gerdl: Region Villach Tourismus GmbH

**DAY 5:**

Only a relatively short descend remains, either towards Faak am See/ Baško jezero or Rosenbach/Področca, both ways take about 2-3h. There is also possible to order transfer directly to Bertahütte. If not, there is an

easy walk on the roads to Faak am See / Baško jezero or Rosenbach/Podrožca. On the first location you will find a small lake on the second, beautiful mountain retreat. It is your choice where the legs will take you.

### Important points of interest on the stage

#### Lake Faaker See/ Baško jezero:

Lake Faaker is a beautiful alpine lake found in Austria's southern state of Carinthia (Karnten). Tucked against the steep northern slopes of the Karawanken mountain range, the sparkling blue water creates an inviting setting that attracts regional and international visitors.

#### Kepa / Mittagskogel:

After Stol/ Hochstuhl and Vrtača / Wertatscha, Kepa / Mittagskogel is the third highest mountain in Karavanke range. Due to its beauty it is a true landmark of Kaernten (Austria), from where it is seen like a regular rocky pyramid with a bit cut off peak, so when having clouds around summit one could easily think of looking at volcano.

#### Bertahütte:

A popular mountain hut and also a starting point for ascent on Kepa/Mittagskogel from Austria. You can reach it by offroad car as well.

#### Mt. Golica with Koča na Golici hut

Is a popular day hike destination above Jesenice, with the hut which serves also as a INFO point for the Karavanke region. Even one of the most famous folk songs in Slovenia (and Austria) sings about it - **Na Golici** (Trompeten-Echo) by Slavko Avsenik.

### Optional – hiker-friendly accommodation

- **FAAKER SEE/ Baško jezero:** Ferienanlage Forellenhof , Gästehaus Lesjak, Pension und Ferienwohnung Erna am Faaker See , Panoramahotel Schachinger, Karnerhof Wellness- & Geniesserhotel, Erlebnis-Hotel Appartements Wellness & Sport, Vitalhotel Sonnblick, Haus Fritz, Villa Schnabl , Camping Anderwald
- **ROSENBACH/ Podrožca:** Gastehaus Lanthaler, Appartments Amrusch

## 3. Southern Alps Panorama Trail – “Highlights of the Karawanken” short trip

### Stage 1 “Rosenbach/Podrožca – Koča na Golici/Kahlkogelhütte lodge”

#### “From the Rosental valley to the main ridge of the Karavanke/Karawanken”

The first stage leads from the Rosental valley through the shady mixed forests of the Bärengaben rift, covering about 1,000 metres in altitude up to the Karawanken main ridge. At the Rosenbachersattel you cross over to the Slovenian south side of the mountains. The landscape is now gentler: charming beech woods combined with alpine meadows. And you can soak up the wonderful views of the legendary Triglav massif. An enjoyable high-altitude hike leads to the panoramic Koča na Golici/Kahlkogelhütte lodge. Tip: The lodge is well-known for its sea of daffodils in spring.



Length: 12 km  
 Ascent: 1,176 m alt. diff.  
 Descent: 186 m alt. diff.  
 Duration: 6:00 h  
 Difficulty: medium

### Important points of interest on the stage

**Daffodils and views** on Austria and Slovenia are the main attraction of this stage. Some of the best views on Julian Alps and Triglav are to be found here. Daffodils main season is in May, when they blossom in full colours.

**Natura 2000** is a European ecological network of protected areas, defined by the Member States of the European Union. This parts of Karavanke are included in the this network.

**Svečica pasture** is known for variety of flowers, that come to blossom in the late spring, making a colourfull scene

**Mt. Golica and the hut Koča na Golici** is a popular day hike destination above Jesenice, Jesenice. There is also info point for the Karavanke region in the hut. One of the most famous folk (polka) songs Na Golici (Trompeten-Echo) by Slavko Avsenik is named after this mountain.

#### **Nature science and educational trail in Javorniški Rovt**

Educational trail is 8 km long, with the height difference of 600m. On it you will find 12 observation points, with information tables and signposts. The trail boasts many of natural and historical landmarks, that youngsters can explore and than on the basis of their own experience discover the laws of nature nad remenants of the past.

#### **Old mining trail**

The old mining trail is a trail along which iron ore was transported from Savske jame, a former iron ore deposit, to the furnaces at Stara Sava. Interesting sights along the trail: Ironmaking settelment Stara Sava, Gornjesavski muzej (museum), Kos Manor House, Murova, Chapel at Pejce, Holy Cross Church, Savske jam, (Sava Caves), daffodil meadows

#### **Ironmaking settelment Stara Sava**

It is characterised by extremely rich ironmaking tradition. It has all the essential elements of a former iron foundry settlement: Ruard Manor from the 16th century, Church of St. Mary's Assumption from the beginning of the 17th century, Kasarna with workers' flats from the end of the 18th century, a blast furnace with a puddling mill, storage for charcoal and a mill from the 19th century. Today the area serves as an Iron making museum with permanent exhibition on the owners of iron foundries and the history of ironmaking in Jesenice.

**Part of the stage** goes on the Slovenian Alpine Trail, Via Alpina purple trail and the new Southern Alps Panorama Trail/Panoramaweg Suedalpen (PWSA)

### Optional – hiker-friendly accommodation

- Mountain hut Koča na Golici

### Stage 2 “Koča na Golici/Kahlkogelhütte lodge – Stol/Hochstuhl – Klagenfurter Hütte/Celovška koča lodge”

#### **The royal stage: “Close to heaven – ridge hike and Hochstuhl summit”**

High above the valleys, today you will hike along the sunny side of the Karawanken ridge to the east. At first you will pass through charming, shady mountain forests and delightful alpine meadows. Later you will encounter steep grass slopes and rocky karst terrain. Great distant views down to the valley and across the border will make you feel like the “King (or Queen) of the World”. At the summit of the Hochstuhl (2,237 m)

you will be standing at the highest point of the Karawanken. Congratulations! Take time to relax and be thankful. Then it's a descent over loose rubble to the Klagenfurter Hütte lodge, which is located in a wildly romantic high valley basin.

Length: 16.1 km

Ascent: 950 m alt. diff.

Descent: 861 m alt. diff.

Duration: 7:00 h

Difficulty: difficult

### Important points of interest on the stage

**Daffodils and views** on Austria and Slovenia are the main attraction of this stage. Some of the best views on Julian Alps and Triglav are to be found here. Daffodils main season is in May, when they blossom in full colours.

**Natura 2000** is a European ecological network of protected areas, defined by the Member States of the European Union. This parts of Karavanke are included in the this network.

**Svečica pasture** is known for variety of flowers, that come to blossom in the late spring, making a colourful scene

**Mt. Golica and the hut Koča na Golici** is a popular day hike destination above Jesenice, Jesenice. There is also info point for the Karavanke region in the hut. One of the most famous folk (polka) songs Na Golici (Trompeten-Echo) by Slavko Avsenik is named after this mountain.

#### **Nature science and educational trail in Javorniški Rovt**

Educational trail is 8 km long, with the height difference of 600m. On it you will find 12 observation points, with information tables and signposts. The trail boasts many of natural and historical landmarks, that youngsters can explore and then on the basis of their own experience discover the laws of nature and remnants of the past.

#### **Old mining trail**

The old mining trail is a trail along which iron ore was transported from Savske jame, a former iron ore deposit, to the furnaces at Stara Sava. Interesting sights along the trail: Ironmaking settlement Stara Sava, Gornjesavski muzej (museum), Kos Manor House, Murova, Chapel at Pejce, Holy Cross Church, Savske jam, (Sava Caves), daffodil meadows

#### **Ironmaking settlement Stara Sava**

It is characterised by extremely rich ironmaking tradition. It has all the essential elements of a former iron foundry settlement: Ruđer Manor from the 16th century, Church of St. Mary's Assumption from the beginning of the 17th century, Kasarna with workers' flats from the end of the 18th century, a blast furnace with a puddling mill, storage for charcoal and a mill from the 19th century. Today the area serves as an Iron making museum with permanent exhibition on the owners of iron foundries and the history of ironmaking in Jesenice.

**Part of the stage** goes on the Slovenian Alpine Trail, Via Alpina purple trail and the new Southern Alps Panorama Trail/Panoramaweg Suedalpen (PWSA)

### Optional – hiker-friendly accommodation

- Mountain hut Koča na Golici

### Stage 3 “Klagenfurter Hütte/Celovška koča lodge – Bodental – Deutscher Peter guesthouse”

#### “Through the most beautiful high valley in the Karawanken”

Today it's downhill. Just after the Klagenfurter Hütte /Celovška Koča you'll leave the splendid valley basin via a low saddle, and the descent begins: it's a short climb – secured by steel ropes in places – to the Bodental valley. The hidden high valley is considered the most beautiful valley head in the Karawanken. It's no wonder that settlers once found their paradise here. The hike through the valley floor – past the Märchenwiese meadow and the Meerauge pond – leads through an ancient cultural landscape to the valley mouth. From there, you follow the wild Bodenbach stream to the Tschaukofall waterfall and on to the historic Deutscher Peter guesthouse in the Loibltal valley.

Length: 12.1 km

Ascent: 217 m alt. diff.

Descent: 1,172 m alt. diff.

Duration: 5:00 h

Difficulty: difficult

## Stage 4 “Deutscher Peter guesthouse – Eselsattel – Koschutahaus lodge”

### “Historic saddle crossing, old cultural paths and hidden habitats”

The stage begins sedately. From the Deutscher Peter guesthouse the old cultural paths lead through pristine mixed forests over the Eselsattel into the hidden Ribnitz-Tal valley. Beautiful, isolated farms, flowering meadows, old wayside shrines, ... all reflect the traditional farming lifestyle there. In Zellwinkel you reach the lowest point. Through unspoiled mountain forests, past hidden farm hamlets and the Malealm pasture, you then climb up to the Pischenzasattel. There, the alpine finale begins: through the gravel cirques at the foot of the Koschuta/Košuta rock faces to the Koschutahaus lodge.

Length: 15.6 km

Ascent: 1,652 m alt. diff.

Descent: 1,082 m alt. diff.

Duration: 7:00 h

Difficulty: difficult

## Stage 5 “Koschutahaus lodge – Schaidasattel – Terklbauer guesthouse”

### “Hiking at the foot of the wild Koschuta/Košuta rock faces”

The Koschuta/Košuta is a highlight in the Karavanke/Karawanken. Imposing rock faces, which rise boldly towards the skies, are its distinguishing feature. From the Koschutahaus lodge you first climb through the mighty gravel cirques at the foot of the Koschuta/Košuta, then right along the bottom of the rock face. The mightiness of the rock inspires respect and humility. From the Potoksattel onwards you will pass through a wildly romantic forested ridge, through a rugged landscape, before entering beech woods at the Schaidasattel. The night is spent in the valley at the Terklbauer guesthouse.

Length: 11.9 km

Ascent: 854 m alt. diff.

Descent: 1,274 m alt. diff.

Duration: 6:00 h

Difficulty: difficult

## Stage 6 “Terklbauer guesthouse – Hochobir – Eisenkappler Hütte lodge”

### The “Hochobir/Ojstrc summit- natural gem, cultural treasure and 360° panorama”

Today we conquer the final summit: the monumental Hochobir/Ojstrc. From the Schaidasattel the steep path leads through wonderful mountain forests up to the tree line. Alpine pastures and alpine karst terrain make up the striking peak. The higher you go, the more impressive the views. At the Hochobir/Ojstrc summit cross sign (2,139 m) you will be greeted by the probably most beautiful 360° panoramic view in Carinthia/Koroška. Congratulations! Take time to just enjoy and be happy. On the descent you will discover some relics from the old mining days. The mountain is also a natural gem with its special fauna and flora. The night is spent in the comfortable Eisenkappler Hütte lodge at the tree line.

Length: 10.9 km

Ascent: 1,271 m alt. diff.

Descent: 572 m alt. diff.

Duration: 5:00 h

Difficulty: medium



## Stage 7 “Eisenkappler Hütte lodge – Bad Eisenkappel/Železna Kapla”

### From the mountain with the best views to the spa resort of Bad Eisenkappel

From the Eisenkappler Hütte lodge it is just a short final stage through the wonderful mountain forests of the Hochobir/Ojstrc down to the valley. Every now and then a last view of the Karavanke/Karawanken opens up, as well as towards the fertile Jauntal valley with its wonderful lakes. The spa resort of Bad Eisenkappel/Železna Kapla is well worth seeing and marks the end of this 7-day hike to the highlights of the Karavanke/Karawanken. With some wistfulness we end the tour, but also look forward to new adventures here in the Alps-Adriatic Karavanke/Karawanken region. Have fun!

Tip: Bad Eisenkappel/Železna Kapla is famous for its fantastic Obir stalactite caves.

Length: 7.2 km

Ascent: 107 m alt. diff.

Descent: 1,123 m alt. diff.

Duration: 2:30 h

Difficulty: easy



## 4. Southern Alps Panorama Trail – “Mittagskogel circuit” short trip

### Stage 1 “Thörl-Maglern – Wurzenpass”

#### “From the Gailtal valley to the Karawanken main ridge”

At the place where three countries meet, the westernmost stage of the Southern Alps Panorama Trail begins, rich in natural diversity and varied landscapes. On the “borderless hike” we begin at the clear Gailitz stream in Thörl-Maglern and walk through steep, natural beech woods, on secluded forest paths along the gentle summits until we reach the Dreiländereck. You will experience borderless freedom, with views of the Julian Alps, the Villach basin, the Dobratsch and the lower Gailtal valley. Feeling fulfilled thanks to these unique views of the Southern Alps, and fortified with delicacies from the Dreiländereckhütte lodge or Bergrestaurant, we head continuously on a gentle decline down to the Wurzenpass.

Length: 12.3 km

Ascent: 996 m alt. diff.

Descent: 560 m alt. diff.

Duration: 4:45 h

Difficulty: medium

### Stage 2 “Wurzenpass – Baumgartnerhof”

#### “So close to the skies – across the Karawanken chain”

A long stage awaits you, and once the Steinberg is reached, it continues gently along the northern slopes of the Karawanken. The panorama alternates from the landslide area of the Dobratsch to the magnificent mountain scenery of the Julian Alps. On the Steinberg, the views open up to the Hohe Ponza and the Mojstrovka. Forest passages alternate with idyllic alpine pastures parallel to the higher mountain ridge, which is the border to Slovenia.

Length: 21.2 km  
Ascent: 922 m alt. diff.  
Descent: 1,075 m alt. diff.  
Duration: 7:00 h  
Difficulty: difficult

### Stage 3 “Baumgartnerhof – Mittagskogel – Bertahütte lodge”

#### “Mittagskogel – the highest summit of the western Karawanken”

High above Lake Faaker See you take one last look at the gentle cultural landscape before this next stage leads you up through the rifts on the north side of the Karawanken to the former Annahütte lodge. Continuing upwards, you pass through the various heights with mixed forests, spruce forests and finally mountain pine bushes, and the panorama becomes more and more impressive. Alpine skills are required on the craggy rocky ridge of the Kleiner Mittagskogel. As a reward you are awaited by the wild west flank of the Mittagskogel, with distant views to the Julian Alps and finally the summit of the Mittagskogel. Via the eastern “normal” path, you descend to the idyllic Bertahütte lodge.

Length: 10 km  
Ascent: 1,279 m  
Descent: 669 m alt. diff.  
Duration: 5:30 h alt. diff.  
Difficulty: difficult

### Stage 4 “Bertahütte lodge – St. Jakob”

#### From the Mittagskogel to the Rosental valley

After a restful night at the Bertahütte lodge, the path leads steeply down to the isolated Gratschenitzen chasm. The path leads along the stream past the refreshing “Schönbrunnen” spring. From the mighty northern portal of the Karawanken tunnel you return, step by step, to civilization. The historical railway village of Rosenbach is the final point of this impressive Karawanken experience.

Length: 10 km  
Ascent: 24 m alt. diff.  
Descent: 964 m alt. diff.  
Duration: 3:00 h  
Difficulty: medium