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# EXCEPTIONAL TREES

## of the Northern Littoral



*Mythical ties between past and future*

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## Introduction

The Northern Littoral is increasingly changing from an agricultural to a forested area: in the last two centuries forest coverage has increased from 33 to 65%. The significance of individual functions of the forest is also changing; tourism and recreation are becoming an increasingly more important activity, mainly taking place in forested areas.

Trees have always had an important role in the Northern Littoral, in the forest as well as outside of it. Some known fruit trees and village trees are particularly interesting, but very rare today, and almost every farm also had its own tree in the courtyard. Boundary trees and boundary demarcations, trees for shade on pastures and elsewhere, storm trees at the upper forest border were also very important. Preserved exceptional trees instil respect, represent a tie between past, present and also future, and preserve the image of the cultural landscape.

Trees of exceptional dimensions, especially thickness and height, are the easiest to identify. Some trees, however, are exceptional due to special aesthetic, historical, testimony or energy values and particular treetop or trunk shapes. Other trees, on the other hand, stand out due to their exceptional rarity or non-nativity. Some trees are special due to their peculiar position, and many myths and legends are connected to particular trees.

The Slovenia Forest Service and the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, which presented the project "Exceptional Trees of the Northern Littoral" along with the local tourist organization LTO Sotočje, are responsible for the evaluation of the exceptionality of trees. As part of the project we have complemented the record of exceptional trees, fitted some of the most accessible trees with information signs and integrated them into a new educational trail

»*Exceptional Trees of the Northern Littoral*« presented in this guidebook.

## Trees of exceptional dimensions

The tree with the widest trunk in the world is the cypress in Mexico in front of a church in the town El Tule, with a diameter of 14.36 m. The thickest tree in Slovenia is the lime tree (*Tilia cordata*) known as "Najveska lipa" with a diameter of 3.58 m, and the thickest one in the Northern Littoral is the village lime in the village of Rut with a diameter of 2.67 m.

The tallest tree in the world is the giant sequoia in North America, the Stratosphere Giant, with a height of 115 m. The Sgerm Spruce (62 m) has been for many years the tallest tree in Slovenia, whereas in the Northern Littoral only a few known trees currently exceed 50 m in height. However, the rush of discovering new giants in comparison to foreign countries has not started yet.

The exceptionality of tree dimensions has to be assessed according to individual tree species, since different species reach different dimensions. Our main tree species - spruce, fir and beech tree - frequently exceed the diameter of 1 m, whereas for some shrub species 30 cm is already an exceptional size. Same is true for height.

## Exceptionality of beneficial effects and tree energies

Is it a coincidence that some old village lime trees are a symbol of village self-government, that in a city park or forest we prefer to sit under a certain tree and that every true farm had its own tree?

There is an ever more increasing belief in Slovenia, built on positive experience at home and abroad and also supported by measurements, that some trees in the forest, especially

huge ones, have an extraordinary energy that affects our subconscious and well-being. We have contacted Jože Munič, a renowned and very active radiesthesist in the Posočje region, who carried out measurements of energy characteristics of exceptional trees. Positive energy may originate from the tree itself, influencing the environment, or the tree may take up the positive energy of the environment. In the energy – aura of a certain tree - it is possible to also detect the "Devas" which are the emotional part of the energy body. Some would call it the tree sprite, protecting the tree and the environment.

### **Testimony and mythical trees**

Some trees are connected with stories, fairy tales, and legends, while others with concrete historical events. The most famous is the village lime tree in the village of Rut, symbol of the local (village) self-government, since under the lime tree the village »rihtar« or mayor settled disputes between the village people with a sabre. Commemorative trees are also frequent; some have also carved in the date of the event being commemorated. Twin municipalities planted a commemorative tree in the park in front of the library of Tolmin, and in 1991 several »independence« trees were planted, especially lime trees, to commemorate Slovenia's independence. The entire village trees, but also family trees by the farms, also have a great informative value, since they »carry« many village and family stories. Boundary trees also belong here, since border disputes were quite frequent in the Tolmin area.

In its book »The History of the Tolmin Region«, Simon Rutar describes two events related to mythical trees. In 1331, the religious inquisitor for the regions of Venetia and Friuli,

Francesco de Clugia, launched a crusade against the people of Kobarid for worshipping a tree and a well beneath it. The old parish church (today a cemetery church) of St. Daniel near the village of Volče was arguably erected in the location of the old forest shrine.



### **Trees of particular shapes and non-native species**

In the past, non-native tree species have been introduced from foreign environments. Some have completely »acclimatized«, especially in city parks (e.g. robinia, ailanthus, cedar, tulip tree, plane tree, etc.). Other species still stand out significantly in their environment due to their singularity and rarity, and are therefore considered to be exceptional, especially if they are trees of exceptional dimensions. Trees of

particular shapes are the result of special growth or a mutation of domestic species.

Beside city parks, most of interesting non-native species grow in the city forest of Panovec near Nova Gorica, which was rehabilitated after the end of WWI by planting diverse, mainly non-native species. Panovec is home to interesting stands of red oak (*Qercus rubra*), mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*), American sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), Lawson cypress (*Chamaecyparis Lawsoniana*), however, the most interesting are two stands of swamp cypress (*Taxodium distichum*).

The location and origin of exceptional trees is also important. Trees in a forested area usually grew naturally, trees in an agricultural area were preserved due to their function (boundary trees, trees for shade), whereas trees in an urban environment were planted and need special care. Trees in cities have the greatest dimensions, since their growth is not hindered, and compared to trees in a natural environment they reach a significantly lower age, since they are exposed to several harmful effects.

### **Naming exceptional trees**

In Slovenia, trees are usually named by their owner or family that preserved them through generations (the Sgerm Spruce on the Pohorje Mountains, the Blažin Fir Tree on the Nanos plateau, the Obljubek Oak in the settlement of Drnovk near Goriška Brda). There are also examples of naming trees after the person who discovered or planted an exceptional tree. Frequent is also naming trees after the place where the tree is located (castle, church, village, etc.), and sometimes locations were named after a tree due to its prominence (»By the Three Spruces« in the Idrija region, »By the Fat Fir« in the village of

Nemci, »By the Maple Tree« on the Trnovo Forest Plateau, »Bar under the Mulberry Tree« in Tolmin).

### **Fitting, marking and presenting exceptional trees**

The educational trail »*Exceptional Trees of the Northern Littoral*« integrates mainly exceptional trees near settlements, hiking trails and other pathways or tourist areas. All the trees presented are marked as part of the presentation action »Exceptional Trees of the Northern Littoral« (7) or of the project »Exceptional Trees of the Northern Littoral« (15) of the local action group (LAS) or as a natural value (3).

Trees protected as natural value or natural attractions have a slightly larger sign with a more detailed description of the tree. Other exceptional trees have a wooden information sign with the inscription »*Exceptional Trees of the Northern Littoral*« and logo of the Slovenia Forest Service or LAS project »Exceptional Trees of the Northern Littoral« with basic information on the tree, referring to the publication year of the present guidebook or sign placing. Where necessary, the access to the trees is marked with directional signs. All trees, emanating beneficial energies or otherwise having an interesting position, are also fitted with smaller benches for resting.

During selection we have left out some otherwise very interesting exceptional trees in the Northern Littoral, which are located away from the path or are harder to access. Larch and fir trees under mount Čisti vrh, which are the thickest in Slovenia, fall among this group.

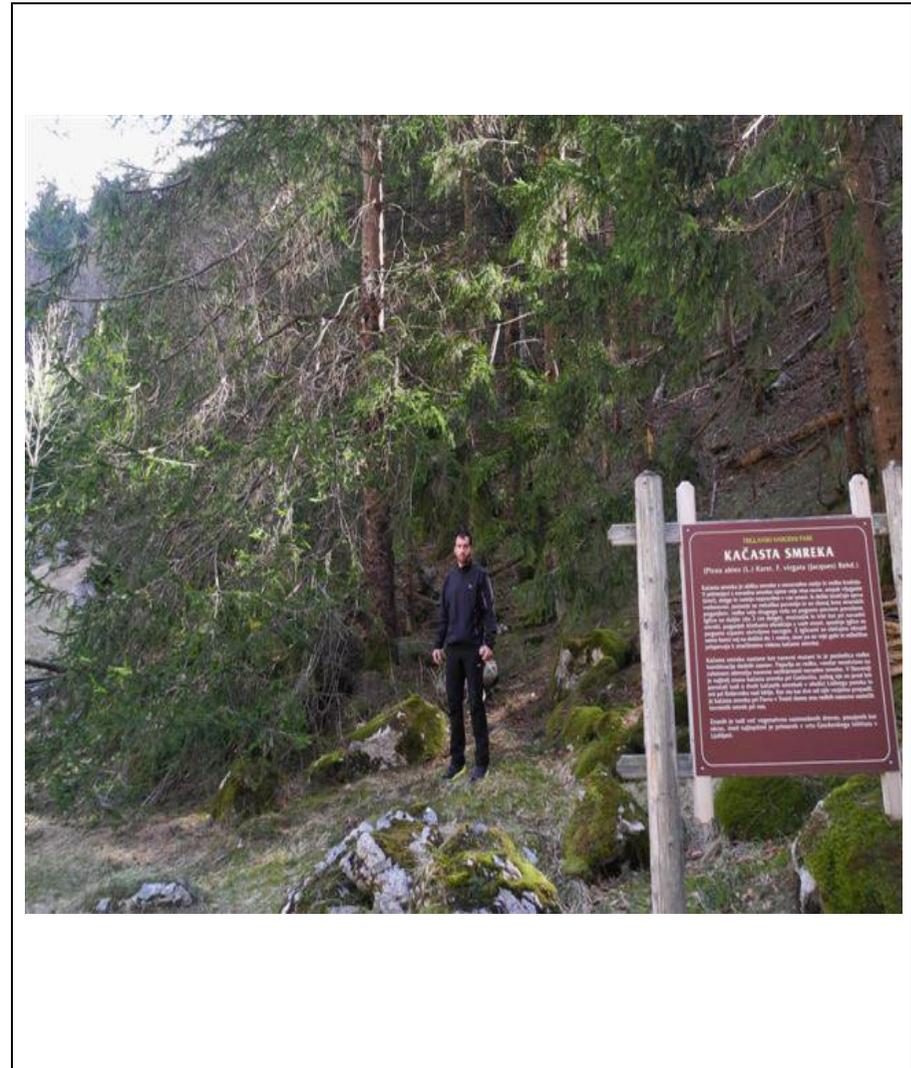


This guidebook uses the following symbols that illustrate the interesting and exceptional aspects of the tree:

	<p>Tree of exceptional dimensions.</p>
	<p>Tree of a particular shape, position, rare or non-native species.</p>
	<p>Witness or mythical tree, tree with its own particular story.</p>
	<p>Tree of beneficial effects and energies.</p>
	<p>The tree is fitted with an information or marker sign.</p>
	<p>The tree is included in the natural heritage or natural value list.</p>

## Snake spruce in Trenta

Tree species:	Common spruce – <i>Picea abies</i> (L.) Karst. f. <i>virgata</i>
Dimensions:	Diameter: 34 cm    Height: 16 m
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 46° 23' 37.1", E 13° 44' 43.4"
Exceptional characteristics:	 
Access:	The spruce grows near the Paver homestead in Trenta at the edge of the meadow. Access to the spruce is provided for. The tree grows above the road Trenta–Vršič, 300 m from the Julijana botanic garden.
Interesting facts:	The spruce has an unusual shape and appearance. The curvilinear growth of the branches resembles the shape of a snake – after which the snake spruce also takes its name. The snake spruce is a mutant of the common spruce. It was first described already in 1833, and botanically named in 1853. There are several such trees with an attractive appearance in Slovenia.



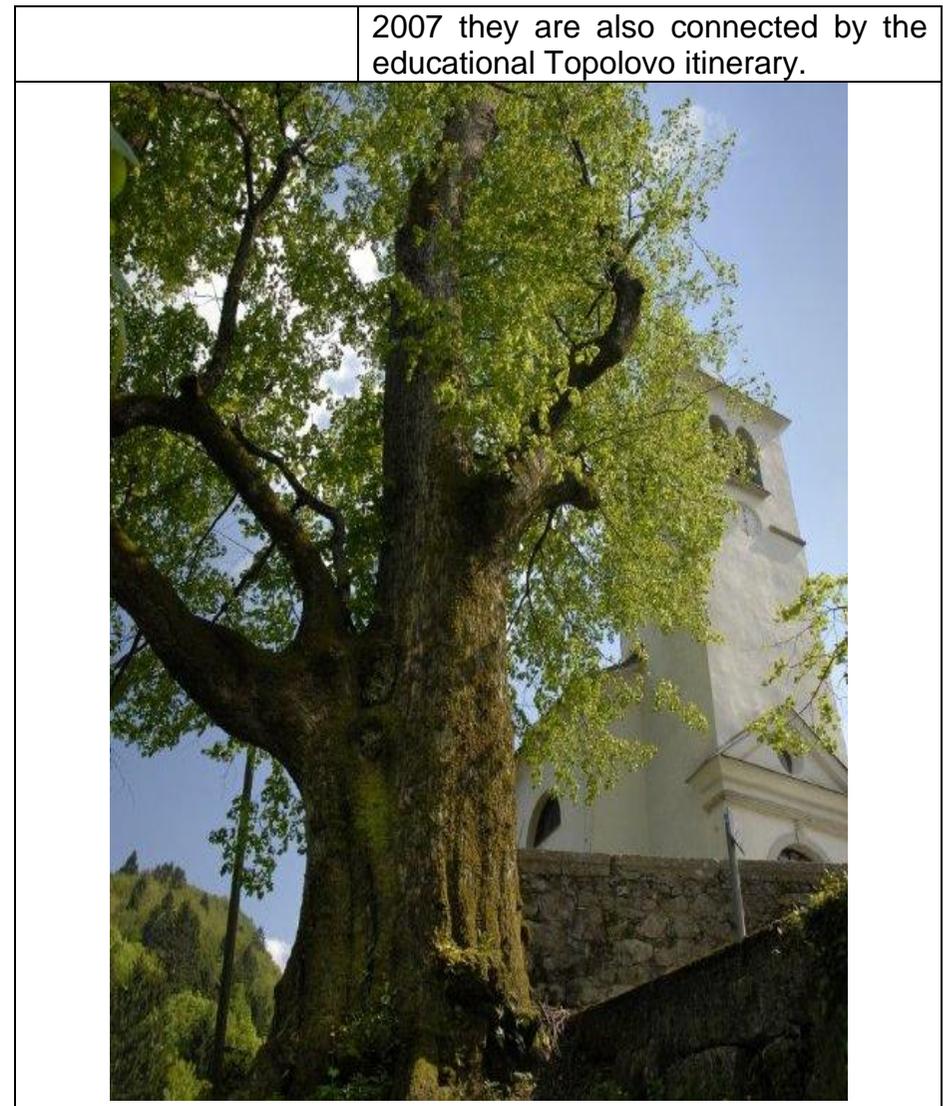
### Šincou chestnut tree on Ozben

Tree species:	Sweet chestnut – <i>Castanea sativa</i> Mill.	
Dimensions:	Diameter: 136 cm    Height: 27 m	
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 46° 15' 16.3", E 13° 35' 54.5"	
Exceptional characteristics:		
Access:	The chestnut tree is located on the marked footpath to the Ozben hill. The starting point is located on the main road leading to the village of Drežnica, 20 minutes on foot to the chestnut tree.	
Interesting facts:	Already in the past, the chestnut tree dominated meadows and pastures. Under them, locals picked chestnuts, and on Sundays it was the gathering point for children who had chestnut picnics under them.	



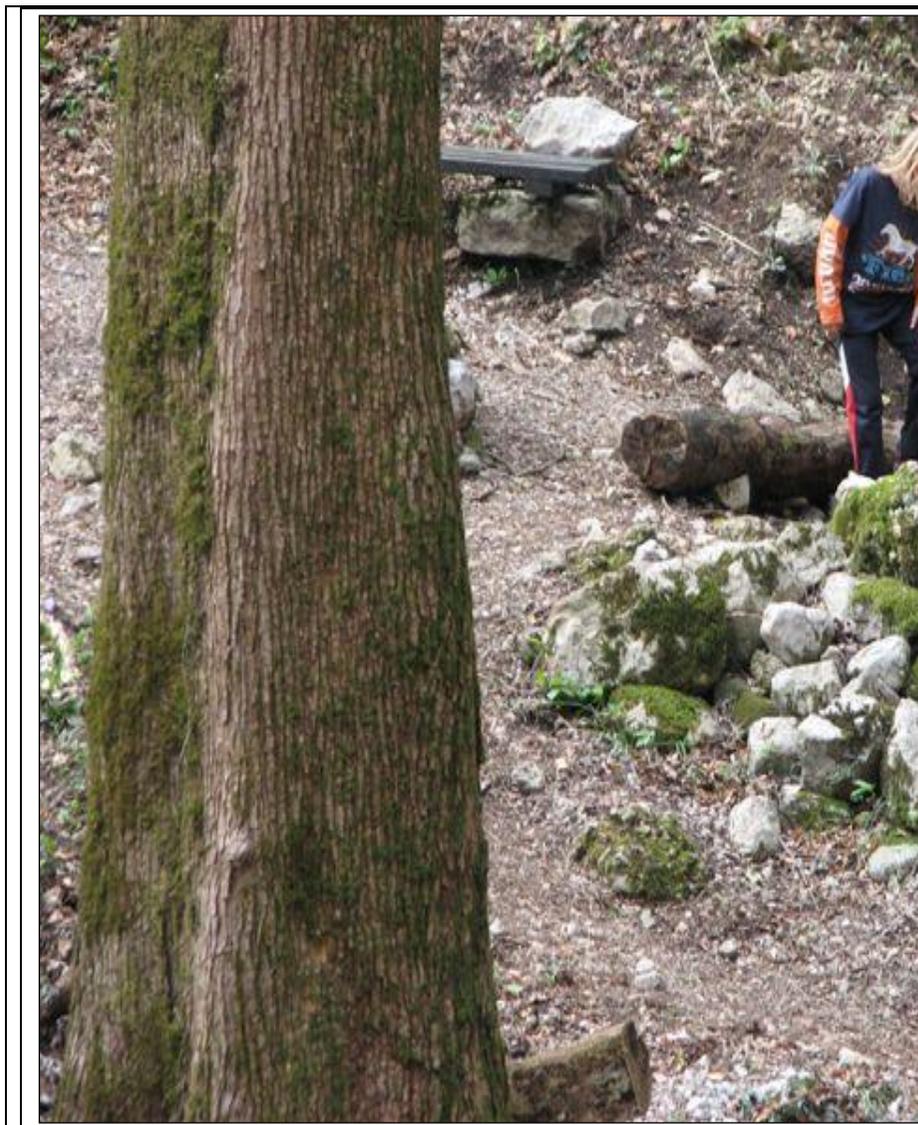
### Lime tree by the Church of St. Jacob in Livek

Tree species:	Lime tree – <i>Tilia platyphyllos</i> Scop
Dimensions:	Diameter: 188 cm    Height: 19 m
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 46° 12' 06.0", E 13° 35' 58.8"
Exceptional characteristics:	
Access:	The lime tree grows on the left side of the path leading to the Church of St. Jacob in Livek.
Interesting facts:	The lime tree has been in bad shape for many years now, however, it keeps defying time. According to the locals, the tree is around 400 years old. This information can be regarded as reliable, since the tree was probably planted during the construction of the church dating back to the end of the 16 <sup>th</sup> century. There is a sign by the lime tree with the inscription »married lime tree«, since the locals symbolically »married« the lime tree of Livek to the chestnut tree of Topolovo. There is a friendly relationship established between both villages, where there was a border between the two countries not so far ago, which is being consolidated since 1994 also by a march between the villages. Since



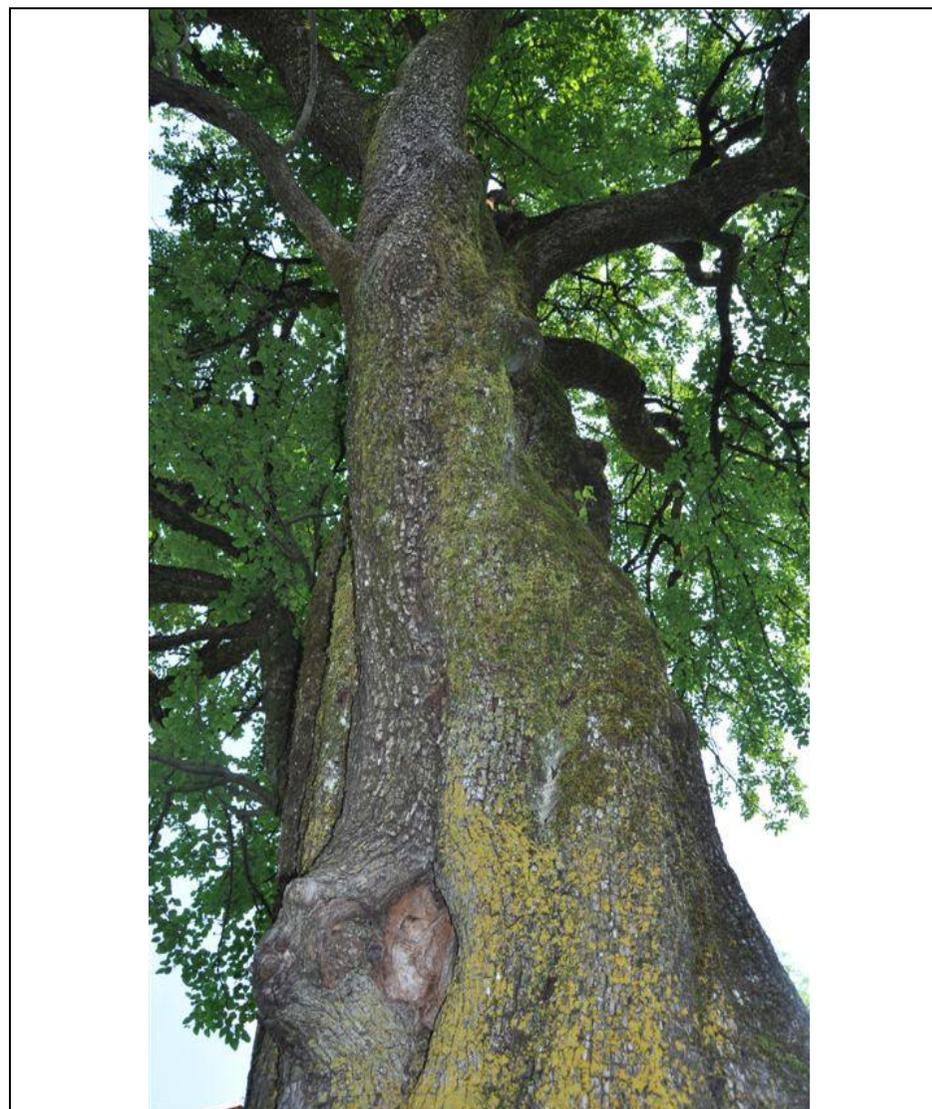
### Elm tree at the »Grofova voda« spring

Tree species:	Wych elm – <i>Ulmus glabra</i> Huds.			
Dimensions:	Diameter: 80 cm    Height: 39 m			
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 46° 12' 13.3", E 13° 42' 13.6"			
Exceptional characteristics:				
Access:	The elm tree is located 8 metres from the Grofova voda spring above the village of Gabrje, to which leads a marked and well-organized tourist path.			
Interesting facts:	There is also the renowned Grofova voda (Count's water) spring in the vicinity. Water from the spring flows directly under the tree and thus enriches it with energy. Water as well as the tree have an extraordinary energy value. According to tradition, the extraordinary energy value of the spring water was already known by the Count of Tolmin, who preferred to drink water from this spring. The tree also contains a Deva (nature spirit).			

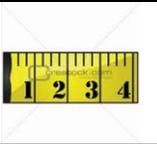
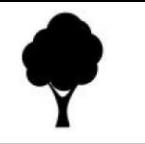


»Štrnejka« pear tree by the farm Pri Lovrču in Čadrg

Tree species:	Pear tree – <i>Pyrus sp.</i>			
Dimensions:	Diameter: 120 cm    Height: 15 m			
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 46° 13' 20.2", E 13° '44 02.1"			
Exceptional characteristics:				
Access:	From Tolmin on a narrow and picturesque road to the village of Čadrg. The pear tree is located by the agritourism farm »Pri Lovrču«, where it is also possible to stay the night.			
Interesting facts:	»Štrnejka« is a particular species of domestic pear tree very common in the village of Čadrg. Most of the pears are processed into home-made brandy. According to the locals, the tree is approximately 350 years old and is among the domestic pear trees with the widest trunk in Slovenia, according to unverified information; it is even the third thickest in Slovenia. The peculiarity of the species places it alongside the Loman »mšketelec« trees, only that it is probably the thickest in the Northern Littoral. The pear tree emanates an extremely beneficial energy that positively affects the surrounding land.			



### Old beech trees on mount Razor

Tree species:	<i>Beech tree – Fagus sylvatica L.</i>			
Dimensions:	There are 27 trees on mount Razor, which are around 310 years old; seven of them have a diameter of more than one metre. The thickest has a diameter of 1.12 m, and the trees can reach 34 m in height.			
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 46° 14' 08.2", E 13° 47' 33.2"			
Exceptional characteristics:				
Access:	A road from Tolmin through the settlement of Ljubinj and the mountains Stador, Lom and Kuk, where there is a parking lot with a barrier, lead to mount Razor. From here, there is another 45 minutes walk on a mountain road to the mountain cabin on mount Razor.			
Interesting facts:	Beech trees on the Razor mountain were a forest protected by a special municipal decree since 1964, which is one of the first such protection measures in Slovenia. The old forest originally reached the upper forest border and was preserved due to protection of the mountain against the landslides coming down from the slopes of Globoki Graben. In the upper part the			

	<p>forest is younger, whereas in the lower part, around the mountain cabin and the mountain itself, the old trees are still preserved. Today, the trees are representative of the characteristic regional landscape, in the summer they offer shade to the livestock and also to the numerous visitors of the cabin on mount Razor.</p> <p>The analysis of the rings on a cut-down tree has shown that trees date back before the Tolmin peasant uprising (1713).</p>
 <p>The photograph shows a scenic view of a mountain landscape. In the foreground, there is a lush green field with scattered rocks. A small stone structure, possibly a well or a small building, is visible. In the middle ground, a white cabin with a red roof is nestled among tall, green trees. The background features a large, rounded mountain peak with patches of snow or light-colored rock, under a clear sky.</p>	

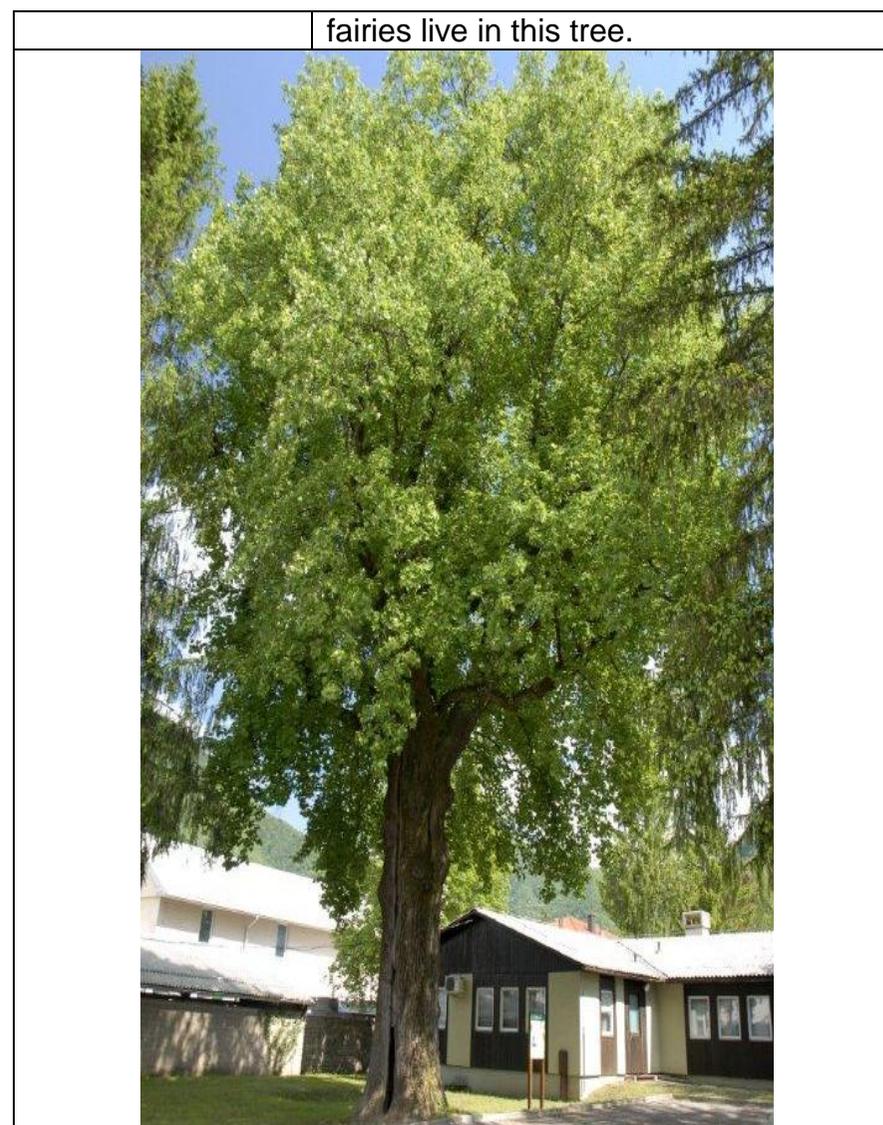
## Poplar by the Soča River

Tree species:	Black poplar – <i>Populus nigra</i> L.
Dimensions:	Diameter: 167 cm    Height: 39 m
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 46° 10' 41.4", E 13° 43' 28.7"
Exceptional characteristics:	   
Access:	From the road behind the cemetery of the Church of St. Ulrich near Tolmin follow the signpost on the path to the Soča River and by the river all the way to the tree (150 m).
Interesting facts:	According to an aerial image taken in 1956, the tree is estimated to be more than a hundred years old. The poplar is clearly visible on the images of that time. It still has a dominant role in the area and it can be spotted from the cemetery. It is no wonder that it has such a high energy value. Due to its good vitality and growth rate (12.5 mm/year) it has great potential to become the thickest poplar in Slovenia.



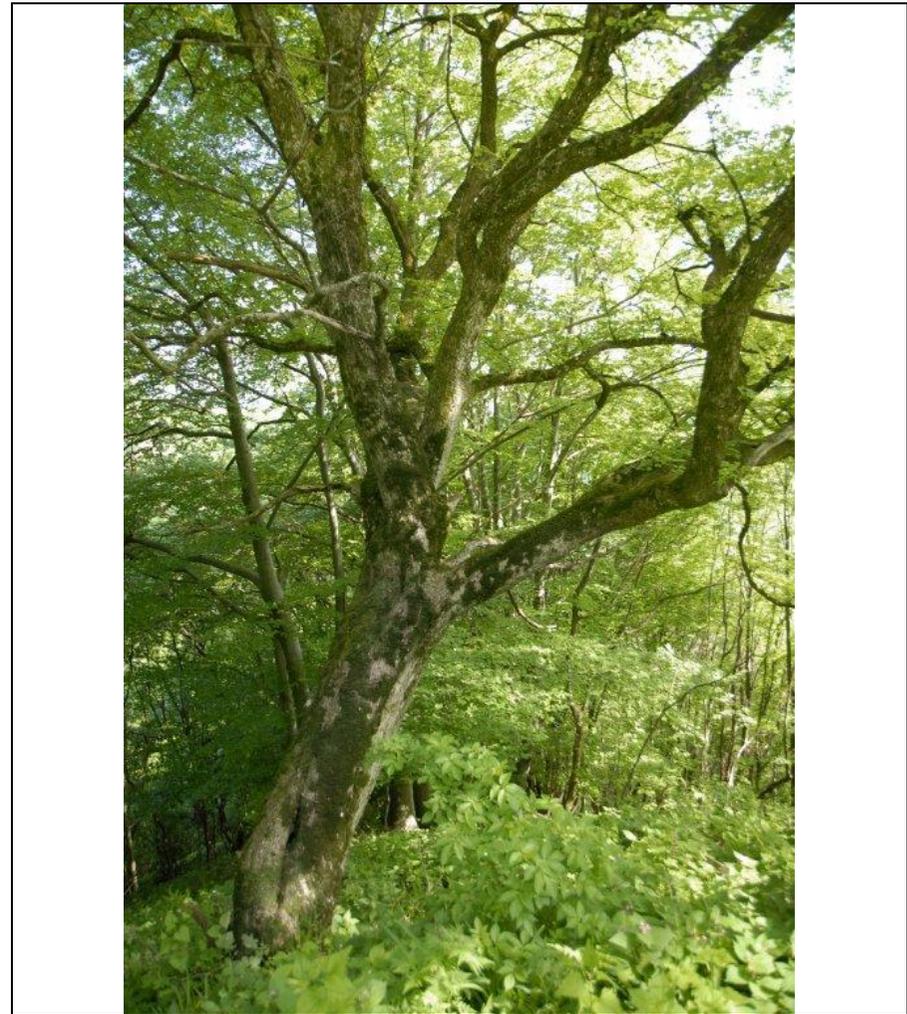
### Castle tulip tree (»Grajska tulpa«) in Tolmin

Tree species:	<i>Tulip tree – Liriodendron tulipifera</i> L.
Dimensions:	Diameter: 167 cm    Height: 31 m
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 46° 10' 53.7", E 13° 43' 52.3"
Exceptional characteristics:	
Access:	The tulip tree stands by the administrative building at the address Ulica padlih borcev 1 b/c in Tolmin.
Interesting facts:	The oldest tulip tree in the eastern part of the USA, named Queens Giant and 41 metres tall, is only a century older than the Tolmin tulip tree, which is the oldest and thickest in Slovenia. According to oral tradition, it is around 310 years old, since it is the remnant of the castle park by the Coronini Manor in Tolmin, which is today hosting a museum. As a consequence, the tulip tree is increasingly becoming a »Tolmin tree«; this species having even the dialectal abbreviation »tulpa«. The tree is truly majestic, hollow on the inside, and most likely for this reason stirring the imagination of children: after a conducted survey a third of six-year-olds of the Tolmin kindergarten believes that gnomes, sprites and



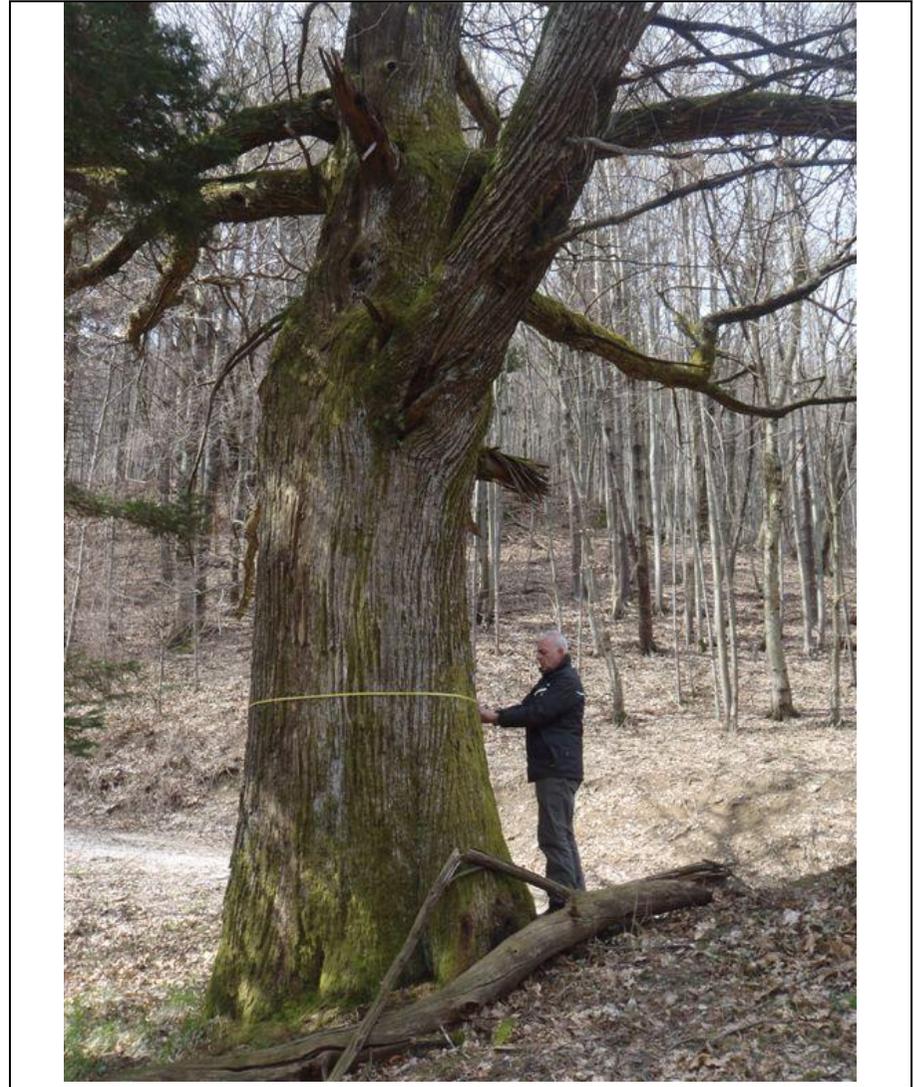
### Field maple near Jurman

Tree species:	<i>Field maple – Acer campestre L.</i>	
Dimensions:	Diameter: 80 cm    Height: 20 m	
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 46° 09' 45.4", E 13° 40' 57.1"	
Exceptional characteristics:		
Access:	From the church in the village of Volčanski Ruti, 3.4 km on the road to the village of Vogrink (road connection to the ridge road through the settlement of Kolovrat).	
Interesting facts:	The field maple is located at the turn by the memorial of the partisan hospital in Volčanski Ruti. The field maple usually grows in the form of a shrub or small tree of the dimension of a maximum of 50 cm. This is why the field maple near Jurman is exceptional in its own »category«, since it is the thickest in Slovenia.	



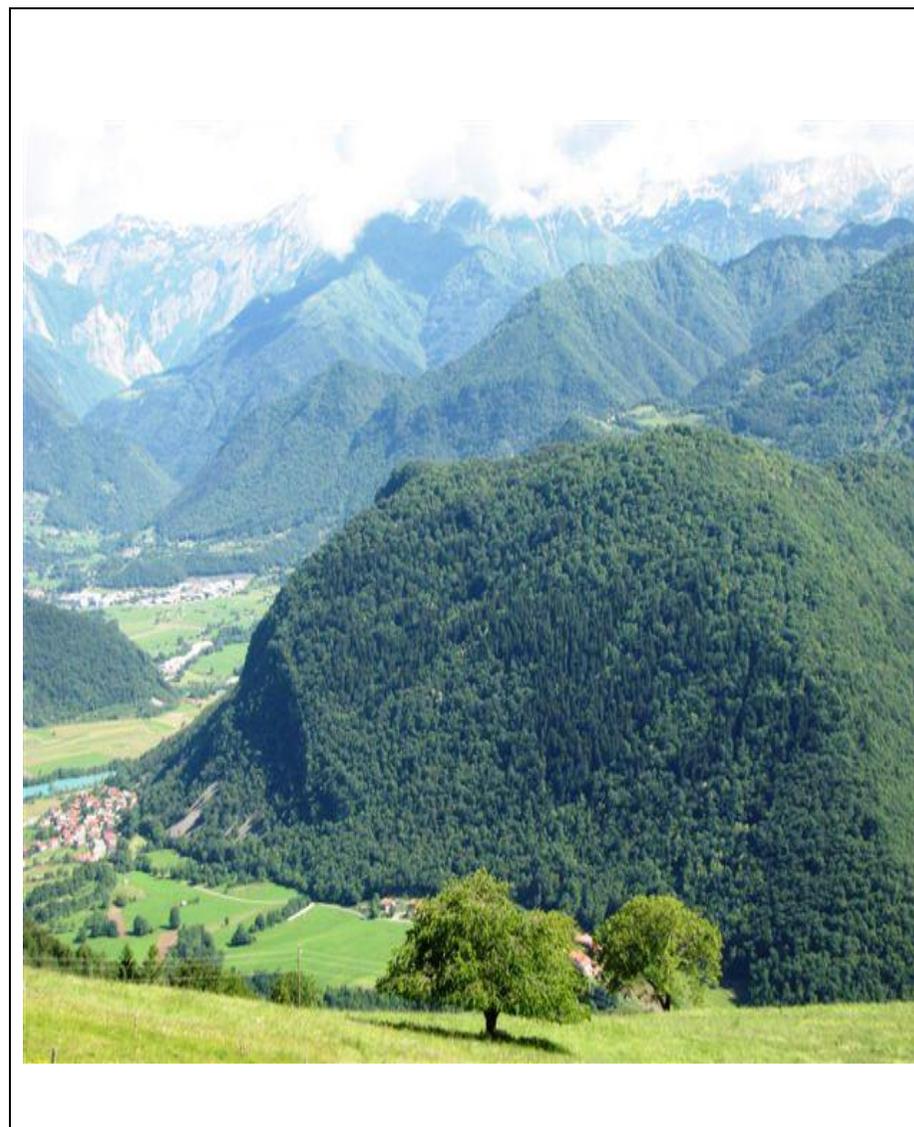
»Kapčev« chestnut tree in Ušnik

Tree species:	<i>Sweet chestnut – Castanea sativa</i> Mill.
Dimensions:	Diameter: 124 cm    Height: 20 m
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 46° 08' 52.1", E 13° 42' 39.9"
Exceptional characteristics:	 
Access:	From the settlement of Ušnik toward the village of Volčanski Ruti, approximately 800 metres to the forest road turning (directional sign), then left and another 150 metres to the chestnut tree.
Interesting facts:	The chestnut tree is located at a nice location, close to the forest route. Its vitality is good; however, it does not have any particular energy values.

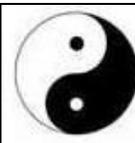


## Yew trees on mount Senica

Tree species:	<i>Common yew tree – Taxus baccata L.</i>		
Dimensions:	Diameter: 37 cm    Height: 15 m		
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 46° 09' 22.1", E 13° 45' 20.7" (information sign)		
Exceptional characteristics:			
Access:	From the settlement of Stopec near the town of Most na Soči, on a marked trail toward the vantage point on mount Senica. The information sign is 30 minutes walking distance (half of the trip to the top of mount Senica).		
Interesting facts:	An old stand of fir trees, to which a multitude of yew trees is incorporated, pleasantly surprises us on the slopes of mount Senica. This is otherwise not a natural habitat of yew and fir trees, but both tree species have expanded by seeding and after the abandonment of agricultural land on mount Senica. Today, this is a habitat with the largest number of yew trees in Slovenia in one place. Individual yew trees are more than 30 cm thick. Yew is a protected species, and the habitat on mount Senica falls among natural values.		



### Village lime tree in Rut

Tree species:	<i>Lime tree – Tilia platyphyllos Scop.</i>
Dimensions:	Diameter: 267 cm    Height: 25 m
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 46° 12' 17.4", E 13° 53' 29.3"
Exceptional characteristics:	   
Access:	The lime tree is located in front of the Church of St. Lambert in the village of Rut in the valley of Baška grapa.
Interesting facts:	The lime tree is one of the most recognizable symbols of the village of Rut, the entire valley of Baška grapa and even the Posočje region. Various sources, based on oral tradition, mention the tree being from 500 to 800 years old. It is possible that the tree was planted when the church beside it was built. 800 years of age are the maximum estimate and are possible only if the tree was planted as soon as the settlement of Nemški Rut was founded. The village lime tree in Rut is widely known as the symbol of the village self-government, granted to the inhabitants of Nemški Rut after their arrival from Tyrol in the 13 <sup>th</sup> century. Despite the fact that the tree has been hollow for a long time, it

is estimated that it is still somewhat vital. The measured energy value is also exceptional and originates from the tree itself, since the environment does not have energy values. Devas are also contained in the tree.



### Black elder tree near Kremenk

Tree species:	Black elder tree – <i>Sambucus nigra L.</i>
Dimensions:	Diameter: 63 cm    Height: 9 m
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 46° 03' 47.9", E 13° 49' 05.5"
Exceptional characteristics:	
Access:	The black elder tree is located by the old fruit drying house of the farmstead in the settlement of Kremenk (house no. 11) by the old (upper) road to the settlement of Gorenja Trebuša.
Interesting facts:	<p>Currently it is the thickest black elder tree in Slovenia. In comparison, the »Jegrt« elder tree near the town Slovenj Gradec is just a few cm less wide and a metre less tall.</p> <p>Due to necessities, the elder tree was often trimmed, however, due to its resilience; the main part of the treetop is still vigorous, whereas the side part of the treetop is withering. The black elder tree is an otherwise a shrub species and the elder tree in Kremenk grew in the shape of a small tree. The owner of the farm recalls the ancient wisdom which says: »Hats off in front of the elder tree!« Elder trees were often regarded as house guardians and were preserved from generation</p>

	<p>to generation also in Kremenk. A truly exceptional energy value originates from the surrounding land, since the elder tree grew exactly in the point having an exceptional energy value, which is otherwise characteristic for shrines.</p>
	

## Black poplar in Stopnik

Tree species:	<i>Black poplar – Populus nigra L.</i>
Dimensions:	Diameter: 121 cm    Height: 37 m
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 46° 05' 48.7", E 13° 53' 58.2"
Exceptional characteristics:	
Access:	From the road turning to the settlement of Šebrelje, on the road or through the meadow by the Idrijca river, 230 metres in the direction toward the town of Idrija, the poplar grows on a meadow close to the trunk road.
Interesting facts:	The poplar is still very vigorous and has an exceptional energy value of white colour which affects all chakras.



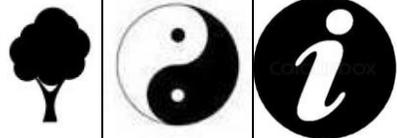
### Ash tree near Rake

Tree species:	<i>Common ash tree – Fraxinus excelsior</i> L.		
Dimensions:	Diameter: 146 cm    Height: 36 m		
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 45° 59' 53.0", E 14° 01' 58.1"		
Exceptional characteristics:			
Access:	The ash tree grows in the first part of the hiking trail near the settlement of Rake, approximately 250 metres from the stone wheel – »Kamšt«, where the trail near Rake begins.		
Interesting facts:	<p>The common ash tree always had a special place among ash trees. It always had great magic power according to popular superstition and mythology. In the past it was even considered that a drink made from the ash leaves was effective against snake venom. Its wood was also valued.</p> <p>The ash tree grows by the unique 400-years-old settlement of Rake, in the first part of the nature trail beginning at Kamšt water wheel and is a popular walking path. The common ash tree, also known as the Scopoli, is the mightiest tree in these parts and one of the largest ash trees</p>		

in Slovenia. The area by the settlement of Rake belongs to the regional park of Zgornja Idrija, which encompasses greater part of the Idrija river from its spring in the hamlet of Mrzla Rupa under the settlement of Vojsko to the town of Idrija.



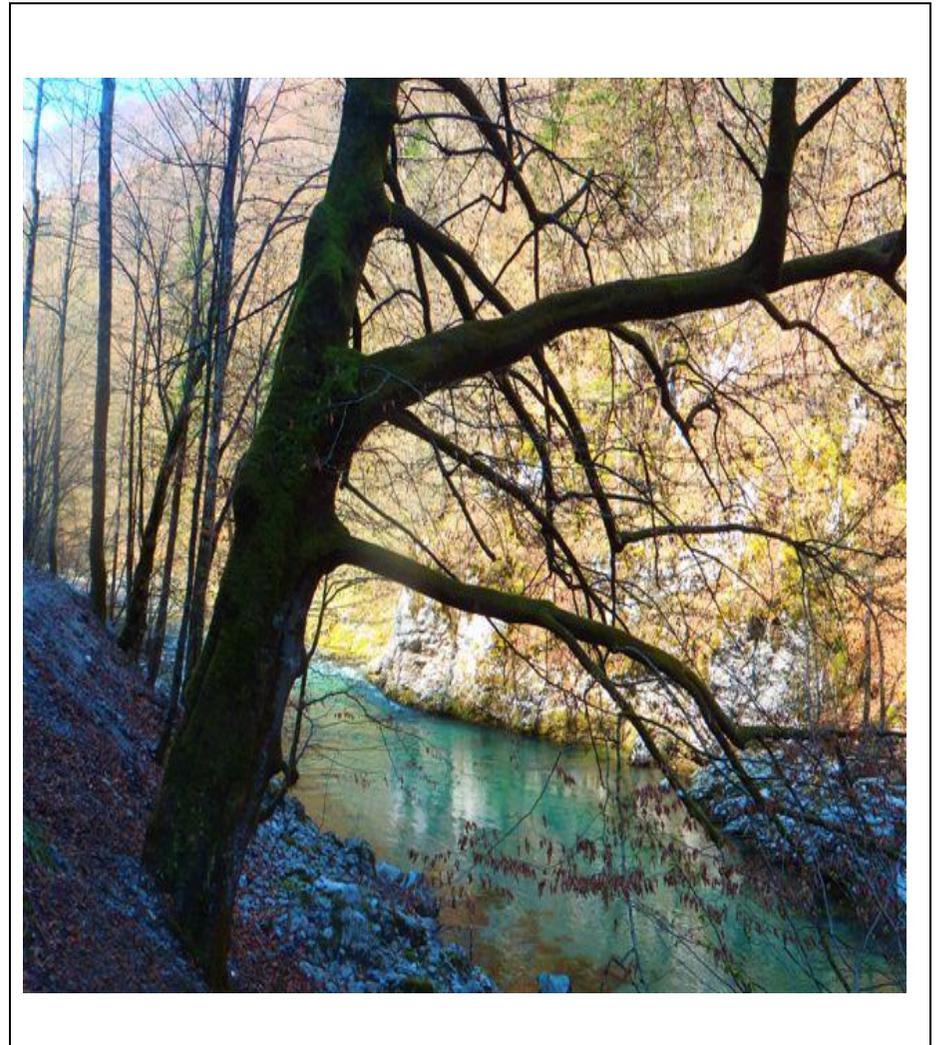
### English oak near Rake

Tree species:	<i>English oak – Quercus robur L.</i>
Dimensions:	Diameter: 103 cm    Height: 34 m
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 45° 59' 24.1", E 14° 01' 54.4"
Exceptional characteristics:	
Access:	The oak grows in the area of Podreteja, by the walking trail near the settlement of Rake, 1100 metres from the Kamšt water wheel, where the trail near Rake begins. Rake and the oak can also be accessed crossing the footbridge over the Idrijca river from the trunk road near the village of Zagozd.
Interesting facts:	Some trees, which have been standing here for several centuries and are thus silent witnesses of the time during which Rake was developing, have preserved at the beginning of the trail near Rake. A few oaks, planted in sequence, grow near the famous ash tree. They are probably the remnants of the former tree-lined avenue, which is today interrupted, since numerous trees have died in the last decades. According to their dimensions and

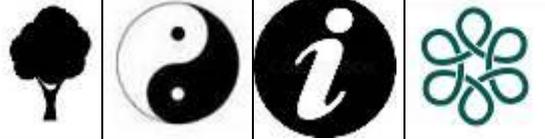
	<p>age, we can conclude that they were planted already around 1776 - during the time when Rake was under development. The surroundings of the oak have exceptional energy values.</p>
	

### Beech tree in Strug

Tree species:	<i>Beech tree – Fagus sylvatica L.</i>		
Dimensions:	Diameter: 100 cm    Height: 29 m		
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 45° 58' 33.1", E 14° 01' 17.9"		
Exceptional characteristics:			
Access:	From the turning in the hamlet of Podroteja, 1.7 km past the Wild Lake (Divje jezero), where the beech tree stands in the Strug gorge, close to the road above the Idrijca river.		
Interesting facts:	<p>The beech tree in the Strug gorge has a particular shape of growth and a rather wide and ramified treetop. Such an expanded growth is the consequence of the treetop branching out toward the river and the road, where the tree has more light and space.</p> <p>The tree has an exceptional energy of white colour which favourably affects emotions.</p>		



### Snake spruce in Godovič

Tree species:	Common spruce – <i>Picea abies</i> f. <i>virgata</i>
Dimensions:	Diameter: 30    Height: 18 m
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 45° 57' 34.8", E 14° 04' 46.3"
Exceptional characteristics:	
Access:	The snake spruce grows in the vicinity of the road tunnel near the settlement of Godovič. Right after passing through the tunnel turn right and after 1 km there are another 200 metres following a trail to the meadow where the spruce stands.
Interesting facts:	There are relatively few snake spruces in Slovenia, the most famous of which is the snake spruce in the settlement of Godovič. Since such trees are a lot less competitive than the rest, they develop only if the competition of other species is less intense, e.g. if they grow in an open space or on the edge of the forest. Only around 10 snake spruce trees grow in a natural environment in Slovenia, and they are also planted in parks and decorative gardens. The

snake spruce in Godovič has been protected as a natural monument since 1987. The snake spruces as well as the surrounding land have an exceptional energy value (the black colour of astral energy).



### Poplar by the Vipava river

Tree species:	<i>Black poplar – Populus nigra L.</i>			
Dimensions:	Diameter: 257 cm    Height: 26 m			
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 45° 50' 40.1", E 13° 57' 00.7"			
Exceptional characteristics:				
Access:	At the exit of the expressway Vipava turn toward Slap, after 10 metres before the factory turn right to a side road which will take you straight to the poplar (around 1 km, first by car, when the road turns into a cart track, then continue on foot).			
Interesting facts:	The poplar by the Vipava river is the thickest in Slovenia and truly a majestic tree. According to known data, even the neighbouring Italy does not have a poplar so thick, even though Italy is the land of poplars. For this reason it is safe to say that it could be the thickest in Europe. Walking to the poplar could be quite pleasant after a rather tedious drive on the expressway, however, the tree could be viewed even from the expressway, when it crosses the Vipava river – the poplar stands directly by the river. Interestingly enough, according to the original			

plans the expressway should pass directly through the tree, however, the expressway's route was moved for reasons of preserving the tree. The poplar has a truly exceptional energy value and is consequently very vital, despite some individual dry branches.



### White willow by the Hubelj river

Tree species:	<i>White willow - Salix alba L.</i>		
Dimensions:	Diameter: 194 cm    Height: 13 m		
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 45° 53' 15.7", E 13° 54' 25.8"		
Exceptional characteristics:			
Access:	The willow is located in a smaller park in front of the Lavrič Library. There is a footpath directly over the riverbed of the Hubelj river.		
Interesting facts:	<p>The willow took the name white after the characteristic white colour of the lower part of leaves which are covered with dense silky hair. There are not many willows over 60 years old and only a few reach 100 years. Due to its poor vitality, the willow by the Hubelj river is close to that age, and judging by its dimensions the growing site near the water is clearly very beneficial to it. The white willow by the Hubelj river is one of the thickest in Slovenia.</p> <p>Due to its high content of acetylsalicylic acid, the willow's bark was used in the past century as an agent against fever and pain. Only later it was replaced by the well-known aspirin.</p>		



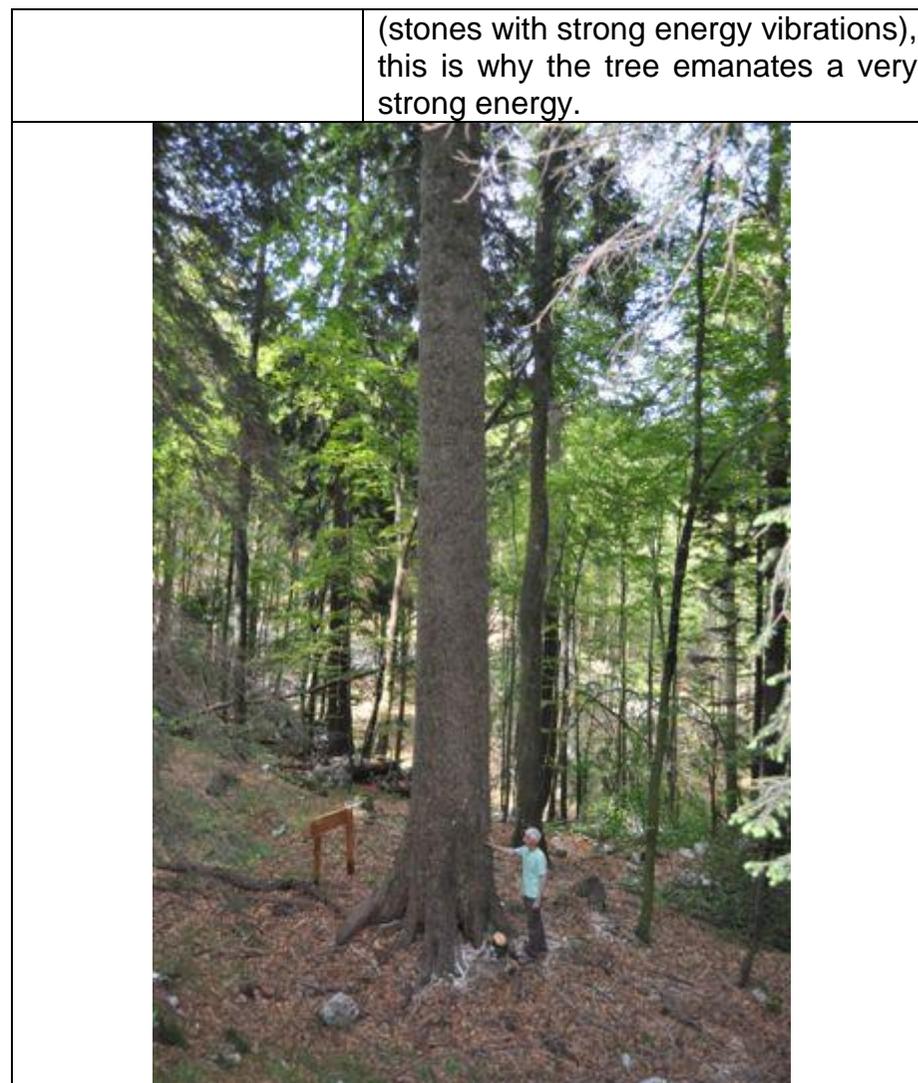
### Maple tree above the Mojska draga valley

Tree species:	<i>Mountain maple – Acer pseudoplatanus</i> L.			
Dimensions:	Diameter: 162 cm    Height: 32 m, before its top branch broke off, it was more than 40 m tall			
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 45° 59' 50.3", E 13° 50' 14.8"			
Exceptional characteristics:				
Access:	From the top of the »Turški klanec« hill take the forest road 2.7 km to the characteristic »Visoka škarpa« (high wall). From there, 600 metres up a skidding trail to the mountain pass above the Mojska draga valley. There you will find a clearing dominated by the mountain maple.			
Interesting facts:	The mountain maple is the thickest tree in the Trnovo Forest and the thickest maple in the Northern Littoral. It is hollow, but still very vital. Due to its magnificence it was selected for the »main role« in the Slovenian youth film TEA (Gustav film, 2007) about the protection of forests and trees. Despite the fact that the maple tree grows on an exceptional position in the middle of the clearing, it has not positive energies.			



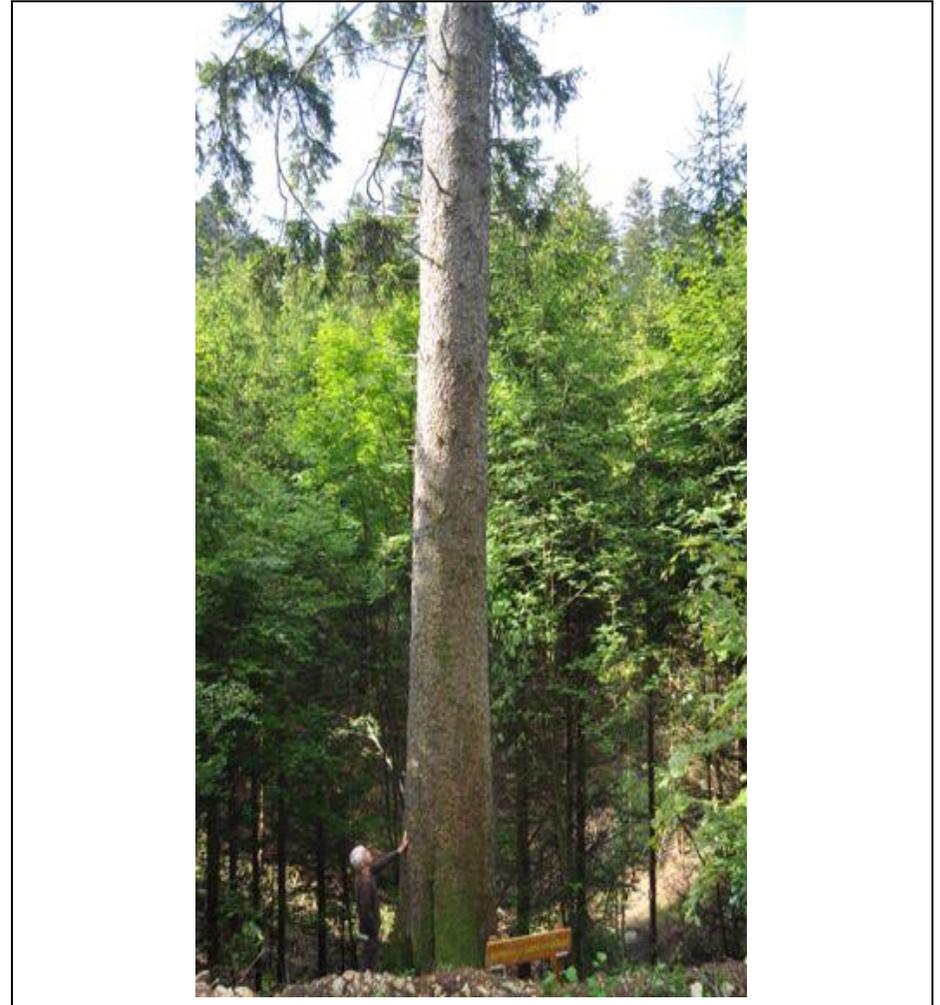
### Fir tree under mount Ojstrovica

Tree species:	<i>Silver fir – Abies alba</i> Mill.			
Dimensions:	Diameter: 124 cm    Height: 45 m			
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 45° 59' 52.3", E 13° 49' 12.4"			
Exceptional characteristics:				
Access:	Under the top of the Turški klanec hill above the village of Lokve turn left to the forest road and then right to the side forest road turning and another 650 m. The fir tree is located 150 metres east, and up a skidding trail. Just before the trail turns right, turn left and take the poorly visible trail to the clearing where the fir tree grows.			
Interesting facts:	After the demise of the famous Trnovo Fir Tree, which was the thickest in Europe (189 cm in diameter, 44 m tall, 300 years of age), the fir tree is the thickest in the Trnovo Forest. The number of fir trees in the Trnovo Forest is consistently decreasing (the percentage dropped from 45 to the current 15%) due to issues in regenerating fir trees. The fir tree under mount Ojstrovica is very vital and grows on a natural shrine enclosed by three megaliths			



### Spruce in the Šibrova dolina valley

Tree species:	<i>Common spruce – Picea abies</i> (L.) Karst.			
Dimensions:	Diameter: 128 cm    Height: 47 m			
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 46° 00' 16.4", E 13° 46' 44.9"			
Exceptional characteristics:				
Access:	From Solkan on the road toward Lokve, past the hamlet of Nemci, then turn to the other forest road on the left. After 250 metres turn right to a skidding trail that will take to the spruce tree after 150 metres.			
Interesting facts:	Around twenty years ago, when the surrounding forest was being regenerated, the spruce and the nearby fir were preserved as exceptional trees. During this time the surrounding spruce forest grew up to 15 metres tall, this is why the spruce is not recognizable anymore. The spruce is located 100 metres east and has a diameter of 116 cm and is 40 m tall.			



### English oak in the Panovec forest

Tree species:	<i>English oak – Quercus robur L.</i>			
Dimensions:	Diameter: 156 cm    Height: 25 m			
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 45° 56' 20.5", E 13° 39' 58.4"			
Exceptional characteristics:				
Access:	The oak is located at the entrance in the city forest of Panovec by the administrative building of the Slovenia Forest Service in Rožna dolina.			
Interesting facts:	<p>The tree is truly majestic and ramified and is the thickest and one of the oldest in the Panovec forest. It is located at the entry point of the forest educational trail in the Panovec forest, which is hedged by several more exceptional trees: swamp cypress, beech and red oak. The educational trail is marked and equipped, and there is also a guidebook for it. The trail is accessible also for wheelchairs or baby carriages. By the trail there are several more exceptional and interesting trees (e.g. swamp cypress, beech and red oak of exceptional dimensions, etc.).</p> <p>Oaks reach an advanced age, even over 1000 years. The most famous</p>			

	Slovenian oak is the »Nujčev hrast« with a diameter of 247 cm.
	

## Chestnut tree in Čolnica

Tree species:	<i>Sweet chestnut – Castanea sativa</i> Mill.
Dimensions:	Diameter: 196 cm    Height: 23 m
Coordinates (WGS84):	N 46° 05' 17.9", E 13° 37' 34.9"
Exceptional characteristics:	
Access:	The chestnut tree is located near the marked trail from the settlement of Gorenja vas near the town of Kanal toward the settlement of Lig. The shortest access is by taking the turn under the hamlet of Čolnica (here the road is crossed by the abovementioned trail), where you can park your car. The chestnut tree is a few minutes walking distance following the trail. The access is marked with information signs.
Interesting facts:	The thickest chestnut tree in Slovenia is Gašper's chestnut in the village of Močilno pri Radečah. It has a diameter of 336 cm and 15 m tall. The chestnut tree in the hamlet of Čolnica is the thickest chestnut tree known so far in the Northern Littoral. It is mainly interesting for its easy accessibility and appealing location. It is not very

	vital, has numerous dry branches and cavities which are home to several various animals (even owls).
	

Publication name and title: Exceptional Trees of the Northern Littoral  
Published by: LTO Sotočje, Tolmin  
Authors: David Fučka, Edo Kozorog, Janez Pagon  
Photos: Edo Kozorog, Samo Jenčič, Janez Pagon, Tomaž Ovčak, Janko Humar  
Design: Ivana Kadivec, Jaka Modic  
Printed by: Bograf d.o.o.  
Date of printing: July 2013  
Circulation: 8000 copies

The project Exceptional Trees of the Northern Littoral is co-financed with the support of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Republic of Slovenia. The Slovenian Forest Service is the institution responsible for the content of information. The managing authority of the Rural Development Programme of the Republic of Slovenia 2007–2013 is the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment.



Once, in the area of the Northern Littoral,  
but also in the wider central and western Slovenia,  
**there was a legend about Čadež,**  
a spirit of the forest, half human and half wether.

He had a beard and very long ears. He could shape shift and was sometimes irritable, but often playful. He loved to scare foresters and hikers by imitating unknown calls. He lured them in his lair and then tickled them as long as he pleased. Usually, he hid in tree trunks, and often he could be spotted overlooking the water springs in the forest.



Evropski kmetijski sklad za razvoj podeželja: Evropa investira v podeželje