

8. THE IMPORTANCE OF FOREST TRAILS

Skid trails are used to transport the wood out of the forest. This means that they have to be carefully planned and built. It is imperative that skid trails are mended after the felled wood has been transported out of the forest. The rut made by the machinery should be filled up and the skid trail itself should be mended in a way which allows water to quickly flow from the trail. Only a suitably built and regularly maintained skid trail serves its purpose and does not present an erosion hotspot in the forest. Thank you for staying on marked paths and skid trails so as not to disturb the wildlife and damage the forest growth.

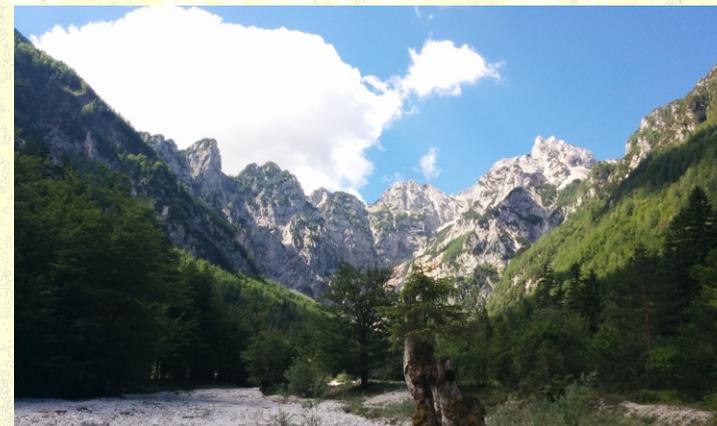


9. ACTIVITIES AFFECTING THE FOREST LANDSCAPE

Activities affecting the forest and its landscape cannot be avoided. The most frequent activities like these include deforestation for agriculture, road construction and other constructions in the forest, which are in close vicinity to settlements and have an important recreational, climatic and aesthetical function. People, who work in the forest, have to take an active part in the management of the area and have to make sure that every intervention has minimal impact on the forest itself. With the growing number of interventions, the problem of introduced species is growing as well.

10. PROTECTION OF NATURE

Forests should be protected in various aspects. On steep slopes and areas prone to land-slides, forests have a protective role. Forest reserves are singled out mainly for the purpose of research of the natural development of forests, so any economic activity there is prohibited. Biodiversity is preserved by Natura 2000, a network established between EU member states working for the preservation of animal and plant species as well as habitats, which are rare or endangered on the European scale because of human activity.



11. FOREST INHABITANTS

The forest and its area give shelter and food to a variety of wildlife. Some animals live in the forest and for others the forest is a source of food. Glades and forest edges are important as pastures for wild animals. However, if there are too many of these animals, they can cause damage to the forest floor, meadows and fields. With planned and sufficient culling, hunters make sure that the damage done is not too great. Many threatened, vulnerable or endangered and thus protected species (grouse, some birds of prey and owls) can be found in the forest as well.



Forest Nature Trail

Tičjak



Trail Guide



SAVINJSKO GOZDARSKO DRUŠTVO
NAZARJE



ZAVOD za GOZDOVE
SLOVENIJE

Območna enota Nazarje



OBČINA
GORNJI GRAD

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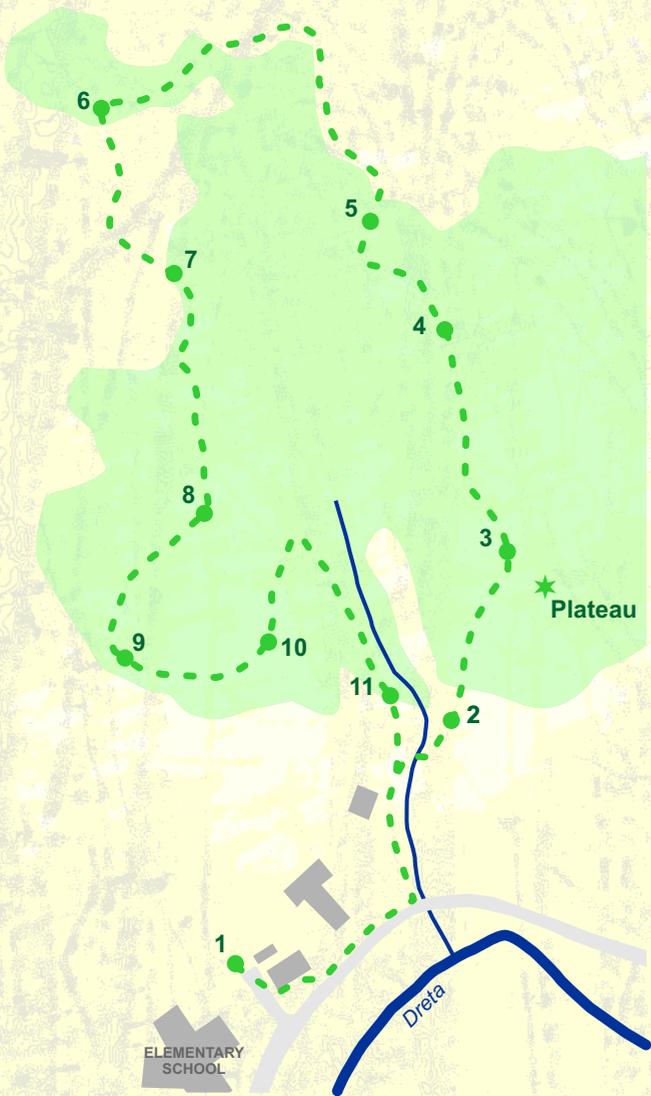
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Sources:

- Sever, L. 2013. *Tičnice iz naravoverja: zanesljivi kačipoti v slovensko prazgodovino*. Male Lipljene: author.
- Križnar, T. 1999. *Samotne sledi*. Ljubljana: author.
- Arnič, M. in sod. 1999. *Naravoslovna pot Tičjak*. Gornji Grad: ZGS.

Trail Map



The trail starts in front of the office of Local Unit Gornji Grad, Forest Service of Slovenia. The address of the office is Kocbekova cesta 23, 3342 Gornji Grad.

The coordinates of the start of the trail:

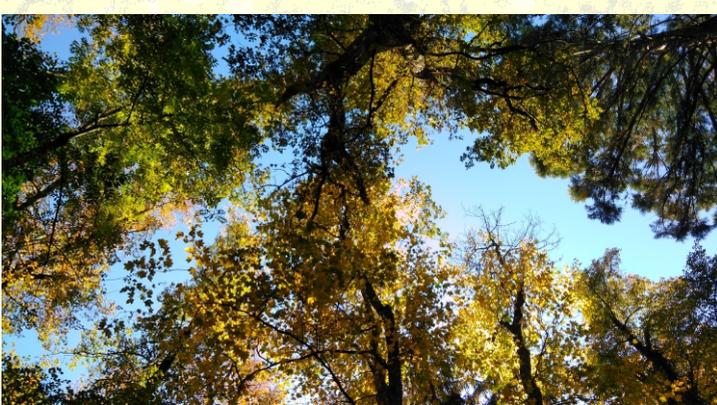
X: 485756 Y: 128234

46° 17' 52.98" N 14° 48' 37.10" E

Trail length: 1.8 km (circular trail)

Walking time: 40 min

Lowest point: 429 m MSL, Highest point: 521 m MSL



1. FOREST

Forests are the cornerstone of the landscape of Zadrečka Valley. Mixed forests with conifers and foliaceous trees are predominant. However, their appearance is not always natural, since most of the forests are privately owned. Forests have a big impact on their surroundings. They contribute to the quality of water, enable recreational activities and are a source of building material, natural fuel and food. Although we are sometimes not aware of it, forests also greatly influence the health and wellbeing of people.



2. LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY

The landscape we can see around us is a direct reflection of human activity in the area. Through time, people have altered the landscape to better suit their needs. Riverbanks and less-fertile land are places where settlements or celki (sg. celek), farms surrounded by estate in the form of fields, meadows and forest, were built. Arable land (used for fields, meadows and orchards) was obtained through deforestation and steeper terrain was used for pastures. However, forests were left untouched on the steepest of terrain and in remote areas.

3. CARE FOR THE FOREST

Forests need to be carefully managed. The most important is the selection of the trees to fell. This has to be done correctly and professionally in order for the forest to naturally regenerate while still carrying out its other functions. The felling of mature trees provides suitable conditions for the growth of saplings, which have to be carefully nurtured for them to grow into a forest that will stand proudly for generations. The basic principles of forest management in Slovenia are multipurposeness, nature-friendly forest management and sustainable forest management.



4. LIFE OF THE FOREST

Various interconnected life processes are happening in every part of the forest. Numerous smaller organisms make the ground and dead biomass their natural habitat. Animals like the bark beetles, caterpillars and millipedes live under bark and they represent food for birds that nest in the treetops. Life processes also occur in live trees. The trees pump enormous amounts of water daily and the breathing process happens through the leaves and needles. Deer are also important for the forest. Together with the other animals they form a continuous and complicated circle of life.

5. WATER AND THE FOREST

The forest is a huge container and consumer of water. The undergrowth prevents precipitation to be quickly drained and eases the destructive power of torrents and streams. Water from precipitation is stored in the forest ground and is gradually released in periods of draught. Because the forest also cleans the water, most springs of drinkable water are usually found there.

6. VIEWPOINT

The highest point of the path is situated at 520 meters above sea level and gives a wonderful view of the surroundings. The village in front of the viewpoint is Gornji Grad with the famous cathedral at its centre. Above the village lies the Menina planina massif, a plateau, which has its slopes covered by forests and the top covered in meadows used as cattle pastures in the summer. On the far right, the mountains Kašna planina, Lepenatka and Veliki Rogatec come into view.



7. THE SECRET OF THE FOREST EDGE

The point of contact between the forest and arable land is called the forest edge. The diversity of plants there is high, because they include both forest and meadow species. The trees that grow on the forest edge are lower than the stand and have overgrown treetops that sometimes lean to the ground. Bush species are usually also found here. The forest edge protects the area deeper inside the forest from negative factors such as wind and sun heat. It is also a refuge for different animals, especially birds, and a rich source of food. When entering the forest through the forest edge, do not forget to behave appropriately inside the forest.

