

Slavonian archeological tour

Exciting experience in the heart of Slavonia

Day 1 Požega-Kaptol-Gradci - Archaeological site Gradci and Čemernica

Day 2 Geopark - Papuk Nature Park - Jankovac Forest Park

Day 3 Požega and Old Fenners - Halštat lunch

Day 4 Osijek - Vučedol - Museum of Vučedol culture

Includes

- accident and bail insurance
- welcome drink
- tour of the archaeological site with the expert guidance
- tour of the museum
- visit to the UNESCO Geopark and the Papuk Nature Park
- 4 full board
- wine tasting
- tastings
- visit OPG
- transport in the destination

Optional

- transport from airport to destination and return to airport
- rent a bike
- bike guide

Description

Welcome to the heart of Slavonia, one of 10 touristic regions in Croatia. The starting line of this trip, and the team building as well, is the baroque city of Požega. Požega is an idyllic town situated among five green mountains at 152 m above sea level.

It is best to get to know Požega and its landmarks by enjoying in its enogastronomic offer and tradition.

Požega is a place full of interesting stories, legends and rich traditions which are highly valued by Slavonians. Some of the most important parts of the history, rich Slavonian gastronomy as well as local cultural, historical and archeological values which you will get to know.

The hospitality of your hosts, together with the taste of local culinary specialties will enrich your archeological route.

You will get to know the baroque town of Požega, its charming squares and the cathedral, you will feel the soul of Cehovska street. You will experience Požega on foot. You will visit Kaptol and the archeological site Gradine. You will admire Vučedol and Osijek. You will be charmed by Geo Nature Park Papuk.

You experience of Slavonia will be just right- fast enough and slow enough for all of your senses. You will be delighted by the archeological sites as well as the combination of tame hills under the grape vines, wheat fields, oak forests, Slavonian roads and paths, history and culture and many interesting and authentic flavours. So come and experience a different and authentic heart of Slavonia! Experience Požega!

The first day, after you arrive to the baroque town of Požega, we will ride bicycles from Požega to Kaptol where you will visit the archeological site Gradine. During your ride you will get to know the beauty of Slavonia, and mountain Papuk. On the second day, our ride on bikes takes us to the UNESCO GEO Nature Park Papuk where we will enjoy Jankovac, a popular retreat for locals and tourists alike. Our lunch will be served in the nature. On the third day, a guided tour introduces us to Požega, its charming squares and the cathedral. Once again, our bicycles take us to the outskirts of the town to the restaurant "Stari Fenjeri" where we have our lunch prepared according to the standards of the Iron Age. After lunch you will have some time to relax, and then we will return to Požega. On the fourth day, we will visit Vučedol, an archeological site from Neolithic. It is situated 5 km downstream from Vukovar. The oldest findings, the Neolithic ones, represent a phase of the Starčevo culture which used to spread across today's Bosnia and Herzegovina, northeast Croatia and all the way to Macedonia. Areas along the river Danube are populated by the Baden culture, which, archeologically speaking, is the first Indo-European population to cross to the right side of Danube. Around 3000 B.C, the Vučedol culture emerges as one of most important centres of that age. After we tour the site and the Vučedol Culture Museum, we leave for Osijek, where we eat lunch at the restaurant Maksimilijan. After lunch, we visit the Archeological Museum and tour the old town in Osijek, fort Tvrđa. Then we return to Požega. You will be guided by experienced tour guides, and during breaks you will spend your time sampling authentic Slavonian products. At the end of the tour, you will enjoy dinner and cordial company of your hosts while listening to the sounds of traditional Slavonian music. You will listen to a traditional instrument called tambura.

1st day Požega-Kaptol-Gradine

(You can choose to tour the archeological site on a bike. The bike route is approximately 30 km long.)

- Arrival to Požega

Požega is a cultural and historical pearl of the “Golden Valley”. The town is situated in the heart of a valley, surrounded by picturesque mountains Psunj, Papuk, Krndija, Dilj and Požeška gora. From the 13th century the town is royal property, later also the centre of Požega county, and a Turkish sandzak. However, it is only after the exile of Turks, in 1688, that Požega becomes a prominent cultural centre.

The settlement Kaptol is situated in the Požega valley, 11 km northeast from Požega, along the south side of Papuk. The site complex, which consists of a fortified settlement and two necropolises, has been known since the end of 19th century. Necropolis Čemernica is situated north from the village of Kaptol, in the place where the plain of Požega valley becomes mount Papuk. 14 mounds were found and researched at that site. The traces of Gradine settlement and other groups of burial mounds at the hill Gradci, northeast from necropolis Čemernica, were found by the team of Archeological Museum in Zagreb. 25 burial mounds were found, while 17 were researched so far. Burial mounds are found on the necropolis which occupies a few hectares. The necropolis seems to be fortified and it has absolute altitude of 450 m, in close proximity of a fortified settlement.

- Arrival to the Square of the Holy Trinity
- Welcome drinks
- Arrival to accomodation
- A ride to Kaptol and the archeological site Gradine
- The guided tour of the site led by experts from the Centre for prehistoric research
- Lunch at the site(Akademija Graševine is also an option)
- Return to Požega in a lorry
- Wine tasting (wines from Požega)
- Dinner and briefing for the next day
- Spending the night in the hotel Grgindol(Vile Montis Aurea is a second option)

2nd day Geo Nature Park Papuk

(You can choose to tour the destination on bikes- the route is around 40 km long)

- Breakfast

The main feature of the eastern part of Croatia - Slavonia- are plains with huge cultivated areas. That plain was once a part of the Pannonian sea, but now mountains raise from it. Those mountains are almost 10000 m above sea level. One of these mountains is Papuk- the most beautiful mountain in Slavonia. Nature Park Papuk covers the biggest part of Papuk, and Krndija only partially. It spreads northwest and southeast. Its surface area is 336km².

Some parts of the park have a higher level of protection than others. They acquired a status of a special protection area because of its uncommon features which make them unique in the

area, region, country or even abroad. Special protection areas are: geological natural monument Rupnica, forest park Jankovac, special reserve of forest vegetation Sekulinačke planine, natural monument Dva hrasta (Two oaks), natural monument Stanište tise (Habitat of tise) and the special floristic reserve Pliš- Mališćak- Turjak- Lapjak. The area of the Nature park represents geologically most diverse area in this part of the Republic of Croatia. Associations such as European Geoparks Network (EGN) and Global Geoparks Network (GGN) were created to preserve valuable geological heritage. Nature Park Papuk became a member of the said associations in 2007 as the first geopark from Croatia to join.

- Ride to the forest park Jankovac
- A walk and sightseeing of the forest park
- A ride towards Trenkovo
- A break at OPG¹ – an opportunity to try Slavonian delicacies, sample fruit brandy, and try homemade cakes and pumpkin products
- Return to Požega
- Dinner and briefing for the next day
- Spending the night in the hotel Grgin dol (Vile Montis Aurea is a second option)

3rd day Požega and Stari fenjeri

(You can choose to tour the destination on bikes- the route is around 15 km long)

- Breakfast

Požega lies in the Golden Valley, which Romans called Vallis Aurea, and through the centuries it was the most important centre for the citizens of central Slavonia. Its topographic placement below the Old Town and nearby vineyards in the hills made it possible to build a medieval fort. Later, suburbium or the town settlement was created which became a very important centre for merchants and craftsmen. Until today, Požega remains “faithful” to Slavonia. The town of Požega and its surroundings disapprove two of the most common stereotypes about eastern Croatia. Hills and mountains, more than plains, determine the landscape, features and character of Požega and its surroundings. The streets of Požega are part of Požeška gora, and they wind around many streams and it is nearly impossible to find any road that has the right angle (90 degrees). This dynamic of landscape and layout is intertwined with the turbulent past of Požega.

Just a few kilometers from Kaptol, on the road to Požega, the village Turnić is situated. At the entrance to the village, the famous Slavonian plain disappears into a valley, giving you almost an exciting experience.

In that Slavonian grove you can find an exquisite site for tourists and the Pannonian kingdom of trout. Next to a fish farm, a small lake with fish, a meadow and surrounded by forest you can find a restaurant called STARI FENJERI. Apart from the fresh trout from their own fish farm, you can also try an almost forgotten, healthier part of traditional cuisine of this part of Croatia. You can try smoked fish from the barbecue, a real discovery for every gourmet. As well as traditional cuisine, you can also try Hallstatt cuisine prepared the same way as in the Iron Age.

- Guided tour of Požega

¹OPG is a registered farm

- Tour of the Požega Museum
- Tour of the cathedral, the Diocesan museum, crypt and
- Lunch at the restaurant “Stari Fenjeri”: “Hallstatt cuisine”
- Sampling of wines of Kutjevo d.d.
- Free time
- Dinner and briefing for the next day
 - Spending the night in the hotel Grgin dol (Vile Montis Aurea is a second option)

4th day Osijek

(You can choose to tour the destination on bikes- the route Vukovar- Vučedolis around 15 km long)

- Breakfast

Osijek is a very interesting town on the river Danube, in the middle of European Danube area. Its irresistible mix of baroque and urban charm is determined by luxurious historical buildings, vibrant squares and hospitable people. Most important attractions are the baroque fort Tvrđa with the Square of the Holy Trinity, co-cathedral of saint Peter and Paul, Europska avenija with the most beautiful Art Nouveau buildings and green parks of Osijek. Osijek is the biggest city in Slavonia and the fourth largest city in Croatia. It is situated only a few kilometers from the estuary of Drava into Danube near the famous Aljmaš, a famous place for pilgrims. Dr. Franjo Tuđman Bridge divides and unites the city of Osijek to Baranja. Baranja is the place where you can find the biggest wetland of the Danube area- Nature park Kopački rit. It is mostly a lowland area between the rivers Drava and Danube. It is of the biggest importance to ornithologists and lovers of the vast networks of forests and swamps.

- A trip to Osijek
- Tour of the Archeological museum in Osijek
- Lunch (restaurant Maksimilian)
- Wine tasting
- Arrival to Vučedol and the tour of Vučedol culture museum
- Return to Požega
- Dinner and traditional music (tamburica)
- Spending the night in the hotel Grgin dol (Vile Montis Aurea is a second option)

5th day

- Breakfast
- Check out