



NAME AND SURNAME: _____

BORN: _____

ADDRESS: _____

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB: _____

HIKING OF THE TRAILS STARTED: _____

HIKING OF THE TRAILS FINISHED: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Entry number: _____
Rijeka, _____

A GUIDE ACROSS MIDDLE VELEBIT

SHEPHERDS' TRAILS

Velebit is the greatest and the most beautiful mountain in Croatia, also the longest mountain in the European mountain range Dinarides (named after Dinara, the highest Croatian mountain). UNESCO recognized the Velebit Mountain in 1978. as a part of the international network of Biosphere Reserves under the Programme on Man and the Biosphere («MaB»). In 1981, throughout its whole length of 145 km, from Senj to the Zrmanja river spring, Velebit was declared a nature park.

There are two national parks in Velebit – Paklenica, declared in 1949. and Northern Velebit, declared in 1999. Hajdučki and Rožanski kukovi, located in Northern Velebit, were awarded the status of a strict natural reserve in 1969.

The seaside slopes of Velebit are called the Podgorje ("underhills"), and that is where the Shepherds' Trails are located.

The trails spread across Smojveruša, Badnjina and Cesarica coves, the villages of Trolokve, Čačići and Dokozići, former shepherds' summer dwellings of Pejakuša and Radlovac, the abandoned village Skorpovac and easy to reach peaks Kurozeb (1167 m) and Stipčev vrh (545 m). The summer dwellings were in use until recently. In these remote pastures high in the mountains both shepherds and their cattle used to live during hot summer months. Through centuries many trails had been beaten by the people of Podgorje. Only a few are still in use, thanks to hikers. Some of the summer dwellings had, over the course of years, grown into permanent settlements (Skorpovac, Vrbanska duliba), but all the houses were later abandoned. Still, some of the dwellings have recently been renovated into summer houses.

Walking the "Shepherds' Trails" is like traveling by a time machine. The past and the present are revealed here, both of the people of Podgorje and the mighty mountain.

The mountain map SMAND no. 17 – Srednji Velebit (Middle Velebit) is recommended. The trails are reachable throughout the year and add up to walking time of 9 or 10 hours. It is possible to walk them all in one day, but it is more comfortable to rest halfway, in the mountains or by the sea.

This guide describes the recommended route, but hikers are, of course, free to rearrange it.

A suggestion for short winter days: the seaside route from Cesarica to Trolokve, including the climb to Stipčev vrh (545 m) – 4 hours of unique aromatherapy!

Hikers' lodgings are available in refuges at Skorpovac and Kugina kuća. Tourist accomodation is offered all along the coast.

In case of emergency, call 112 to reach the Croatian Mountain Rescue Service. Should you lose mobile network signal, look for it further down the road, without leaving the trail. During hot summer months we suggest you take at least 3 litres of water. The only fresh water source on the Trails is a cistern behind the refuge at Skorpovac. Never walk alone through the Velebit wilderness!

The check-points where you should take photos (if you wish to receive the Trails badge) are marked by a red inscription. There are no seals at the check-points. The church in Cesarica, the refuge at Skorpovac and the chapel in Radlovac are not additionally marked.

The first prize for every hiker that takes the route of "Shepherds' Trails" will be the unique experience of the Velebit mountain. The hikers who wish to receive the Trails badge are invited to send the guide with photos taken at each of the check-points to the Mountaineering Club "Kamenjak", Korzo 40/I, 51000 Rijeka. The club will award them with a badge and entry into the "Shepherds' Trails" Visitors' Book. Should you send several guides, you may enclose just one or two photos at every check-point showing all the participants, PHOTOGRAPHED WITH NO HATS OR SUNGLASSES!

The photos can also be sent via e-mail while you are still at Velebit – more at www.pd-kamenjak.hr.

Your verified guide with a badge will be mailed back within 30 days. (This option is available for Croatian ZIP codes only.)

Cesarica – Stari put 1h 30 min

From the village of Cesarica to Senj the distance is 54 km, and from Karlobag it is 6 km. In Karlobag there are hotels, shops, restaurants, bars, and also a bank, the post office, a police department, a dispensary, a tourist office... Cesarica has a parking lot, rooms and apartments for rent. Down the state road ("Jadranska magistrala") between Rijeka and Zadar buses run daily several times. The walk down the street from the bus stop to the church takes two minutes.

Check-point 1 Cesarica (5m). You take a photo outside the church of St. Helen in the port. The way leads you back to the bus stop, over the state road and through the hamlet of Dokozići. Follow the rocky path that climbs in curves crossing the macadam road five times. The trail leads on through the forest and rocky slopes to CP2.

Stari put – Pejakuša 1h

CP 2 Stari put (cca. 550 m) is a viewpoint and a rest place on the old road that has never been completed.

The photo is taken by the inscription on the stone wall. The trail continues up through the rocks, where the scant vegetation is slowly replaced by occasional woods. The view spreads over a large part of Podgorje and the island of Pag. In the vicinity of Pejakuša you walk between drystone walls, through the woods that has grown over former gardens and houses.

Pejakuša – Skorpovac 1h

CP 3 Pejakuša, a former refuge (cca 800 m). In the abandoned hamlet of Pejakuša you turn left for 2 minutes to the old house of Ante Vrban where the Croatian Mountaineering Association maintained a refuge between 1980 and 1989. The inscription on the front wall of the house is where you take a photo.

You go back to the trail and up again among scarce old oak trees. After the viewpoint at the ridge you enter the forest and follow the wide path between drystone walls to Skorpovac.

Skorpovac – Kurozeb 1h 15 min

Skorpovac is an abandoned village on the Premužić Trail. The people of Podgorje and Lika call it Skorupovac. It is accessible by a SUV, taking the side-road from Kugina kuća.

CP 4 The Skorpovac refuge (960m) is located by the village water tank. Take a photo by the entrance. With help from The Croatian Mountaineering Association, the refuge was built and equipped by the members of the Mountaineering Club “Sveti Šimun – Markuševac” from Zagreb during 2010 and 2011. It remains open at all times. Sleeping bag is recommended. There are ten beds in the refuge, as well as a stove. Potable water can be obtained from a small water tank, 30 m behind the refuge.

The first refuge was arranged in 1969 in the house no. 85, owned by Mile Vrbanić. The last inhabitant left Skorpovac in 1976 and moved to Karlobag. The refuge soon deteriorated and in 1980 a new one was rented in Pejakuša.

Skorpovac is an important crossing point on the Premužić Trail. The trail stretches through northern and middle Velebit from Zavižan to Baške Oštarije, 57 km in length. It was built between 1933 and 1936.

Hiking distances from Skorpovac: Alan - 6h 30min, Baške Oštarije – 5h, Kugina kuća – 1h, Ravni dabar - 3h 15min; also reachable: Budakovo brdo, Bačić kuk, Velinac...

Further on you take a forest walk on the Premužić Trail. Along the way it is possible to visit Vrbanska Duliba, a former permanent settlement. After 45 min you reach the crossing at the Splovine glade: the right trail leads to Kugina kuća (1 h). You turn left towards Radlovac and Kurozeb. Go through the forest for 3 minutes, then down the rocky way, with a view at Kurozeb, for another 3 min. Before the trail reaches the woods and the first summer dwellings of Radlovac, the blazing turns left and leads up for 25 minutes to the peak of Kurozeb. At the ridge you turn left for another couple of minutes towards the southern, higher peak.

Kurozeb – Radlovac 45 min

KT 5 – Kurozeb (1167 m). Take a photo by the inscription on the stone. The height of the peak and the vicinity of the sea make it an excellent viewpoint. The view spreads across numerous Velebit peaks, the Podgorje and the islands of Pag, Rab, Lošinj... You can see the belltowers of Rab, the Osorščica hill, the city of Novalja, the salt-pan of Pag...

You return to the main path and continue to the left to Radlovac. After a walk across the field, by the ruined village water tank you reach the chapel of St. Rocco in Radlovac.

Radlovac – Stipčev vrh 1h 15 min

CP – 6 Radlovac, chapel of St. Rocco (960 m). Take a photo by the chapel doors. The house of Ivan Čačić is also nearby. The Croatian Mountaineering Association maintained the refuge here from 1989 until 2003.

Mountaineering Club „Kamenjak“ maintains a path besides the "Shepherds' Trails": from Radlovac to the north, towards the Premužić Trail. Soon it forks – to the right towards Kugina kuća, to the left for Ograđenica and Alan shelters.

The trail continues from Radlovac by the summer dwellings to the pasture grounds. Soon you reach the ridge with a breathtaking view. You continue down the rocky slopes and through the bushes. At the bottom of the slope the path runs wide and straight by a drystone wall. After a wildlife feeding device a branch leads right for 3 minutes to Stipčev vrh.

Stipčev vrh – Čačići 45 min

CP – 7 Stipčev vrh (545 m). Take a photo by the inscription on the peak. There is an extraordinary view from the top, especially of the nearby island of Pag.

Go back to the main path, then down to the right. After 45 minutes you reach the bus stop on the state road in the Čačići village.

Čačići – The Badnjina Cove (Uvala Badnjina) 1h

You cross the state road and go down the local one to Trolokve village. Next to the first house turn right to the macadam road and follow a drystone wall to Žuta lokva, a pond that never goes dry. Behind the pond, 2 minutes further by the drystone wall, there is a beautiful view of the Jurišnica cove.

Walk back to the pond, then right to the macadam road. After 3 minutes turn left along the drystone wall. Over the wall a shallow pond occasionally arises. Go through Trolokve to the last house, then down to the Smojveruša cove.

Just before the cove there is a small pond. The trail continues wandering across the rough rocky ground between the sea and the mountain. You reach the Skok cliff: Velebit above, the sea in front, and the Badnjina cove deep below.

Caution! Curious hikers are advised to crawl to the edge to take a glance, without their backpacks.

The trail goes safely down into a torrent dry-bed. At the bottom turn right to the Badnjina cove. The check-point is easy to reach.

The Badnjina Cove – Cesarica 1h

CP – 8 The Badnjina cove (15 m). Take a photo by the inscription on a rock. An optional climb down to the beach requires skill and hikers' cooperation. Not recommended for beginners! Caution! When wet, the rocks are extremely slippery!

Go back to the main path, then to the right up the rocky slope. Continue over the rocky ground and over a pasture within drystone walls. After more rocky ground pass the Borovište hamlet, not displayed in maps. Walk over a meadow to reach Cesarica at the end of your journey across "Shepherd's Trails" in middle Velebit.