

I FEEL
SLOVENIA

BOHINJ
TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK

EN

JULIAN ALPS
TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK

**ALPINE
.PEARLS**
eco-friendly escapes

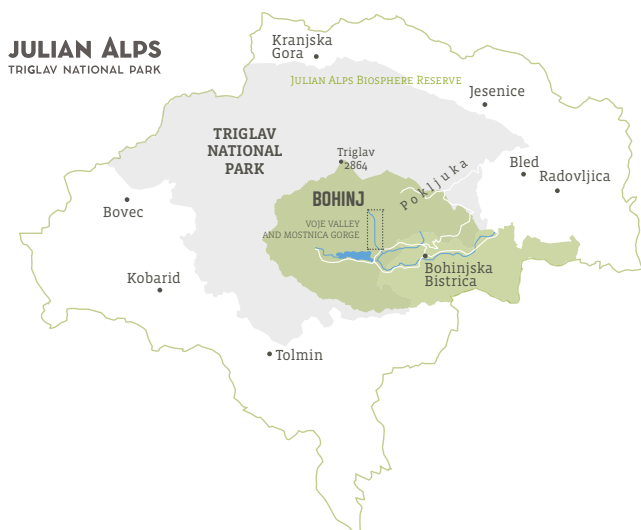
VOJE VALLEY AND MOSTNICA GORGE

TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK, JULIAN ALPS

TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK, VOJE VALLEY AND MOSTNICA GORGE

The Triglav National Park is named after **Triglav**, the highest peak in Slovenia, and is Slovenia's only national park. It lies in the **north-west part of the country** and encompasses almost the entire **Julian Alps** range on the Slovenian side. It is an exceptional experience to learn about the **nature, cultural landscape and people** of the park; however, we must always keep in mind that we are just **guests** here.

The Mostnica Gorge and the Voje Valley are among the most beautiful and popular natural sights in Bohinj. They offer views of crystal clear **pools** and boldly water-shaped **rocks**, as well as diverse **flora and fauna and a cultural landscape** that has been nurtured by the people throughout the centuries. Four brave men walked along the Voje Valley to be the first to climb Triglav from the Bohinj side on 26 August 1778.



WILLOMITZER BOTANICAL TRAIL

The short (approx. 300 m), but botanically quite diverse trail, named after Lovrenc Willomitzer, one of the first men who climbed Mt Triglav, runs from the car park above Stara Fužina to Devil's Bridge (Hudičev most). Thermophilous plants (rayed broom) and hygrophilous plants (alpine butterwort), orchids (fly orchid), healing plants (common tormentil) and many tree species grow along the trail. They are marked with tags with their names in Slovene, English and Latin language.



THE BRIDGES OF MOSTNICA

Four bridges and one footbridge cross the Mostnica on the way from Stara Fužina to Mostnica Waterfall, so our ancestors named the river after the bridges: Mostnica ("Bridge Water").

1 HUDIČEV MOST - DEVIL'S BRIDGE

Just above Zois' Mansion the single-arch stone **Devil's Bridge** rises high above the deep gorge of the Mostnica River. It opens the view to the narrow gorge that the Mostnica carved in **the limestone base**. The stone bridge was built to shorten and simplify the transport of **iron ore** and **charcoal** from the surrounding mountain areas to the ironworks along the Mostnica. Bohinj was the most important centre of mining, ironworks and iron foundries in the Julian Alps region. Because of the iron ore deposits it has been permanently settled since **the old Iron Age** (8th century BC).

The iron making tradition in Bohinj lasted from the old Iron Age through Roman times to the end of the Middle Ages in the 16th century. The golden era of the iron foundry industry is connected with **Baron Žiga Zois**, who lived at the end of the 18th century. Its swift decline occurred due to the advancing technology and import of iron ore. The joint name for the ironworks installations along the Mostnica and for the first iron foundry hamlet there was **Althammer** or **Staro kladvo** ("old hammer"). This was the previous village on the site of the present day Stara Fužina.



Stara Fužina in the past

Fužina ("iron foundry") was the initial industrial plant where the iron ore was melted and processed with charcoal to make iron or steel.

Folk tale about the Devil's Bridge:

People used to talk about how the Devil's Bridge was made. The people worked all day but the next morning everything that had been built was demolished.

And someone said: "Let the devil build this bridge, I will not build it anymore."

And then the devil really started making it. The people asked him what he wanted for his efforts. The devil answered: "The first soul that crosses the bridge - this is the one that I want." A farmer who had a dog, got an idea. He said: "I will take a big bone and my dog with me." Then he threw the bone across the bridge and the dog ran after it. The devil then took the dog's soul and was very angry and started waving his tail, and so he demolished the entire fence.

Written by: Marija Cvetek



Illustration from the folk tale about the Devil's Bridge from the book "Bohinjske pravljice" (Fairytale from Bohinj), illustrated by Matjaž Schmidt.



- ① Hudičev most
- ② Entry point (fee)
- ③ Erosion potholes and the elephant
- ④ Češenjski most
- ⑤ Beraški most
- ⑥ Mostnica Waterfall
- Mostnica Gorge and Voje Valley hiking trail
(Length: 5 km, Time: approx. 2 hours one way)
- Willomitzer Botanical Trail

- 🚧 Roadblock (fee)
- 📍 Tourist information
- 🏞️ Bohinjka, Triglav National Park Visitor Centre Bohinj, Julian Alps Biosphere Reserve
- WC Public toilet
- 🏠 Local Inn
- 🚫 Cycling not permitted
- P Car park
- 🚏 Alpine hut
- 🌉 Bridge, footbridge
- 🚏 Bus station
- ➔ Recommended walking direction

2 ENTRY POINT

From April to October, a fee must be paid at the entry point (**Urščov most**) to enter the Mostnica Gorge. This is also an information point.



4 ČEŠENJSKI MOST

The **Češenjski most bridge** was built on a **natural bridge** that was formed when a large rock slid from the left side of the gorge and was wedged, making a natural basis for the bridge.



5 BERAŠKI MOST - BEGGAR'S BRIDGE

The stone **Beggar's Bridge** crosses the Mostnica in a slight arch. The name of the bridge and the year of its construction (**1903**) is written in red on a rock on the left side of it. A **holy sign** stands next to the bridge. It has a beautifully carved cross that dates back to the 19th century.



3 EROSION POTHOLES AND THE ELEPHANT

The Mostnica Gorge was formed due to **water erosion** of the surface. Although the majority of the water runs into Voje from karst springs and is not turbid, there is still enough gravel and sand to erode and reshape the rock, especially when the water is high and the stream is faster and has more volume. The fast water flow is turbulent, and this is the most important erosion factor for the rocky river bed. **Potholes** are the most visible erosion forms in the Mostnica Gorge. These are various round basins in the river bed, which usually contain sand and small stones. The energy of the water swirls the stones around and widens as well as deepens the potholes. One opening in the rock between two water-carved potholes is very interesting, forming a **natural window** with a rocky arch resembling an **elephant's trunk**.



6 MOSTNICA WATERFALL SLAP MOSTNICE

The **21-metre high** waterfall attracts our attention immediately above the Voje pasture. The dynamic stream of the water calms down on the flat meadows of Planina Voje.



HOW THE GORGE WAS FORMED

The most interesting and beautiful part of the Mostnica is its narrow gorge. The formation of the approximately **2 kilometre** long gorge is partly connected to the **tectonic sinking** of the main Bohinj valley and partly to **glacial deepening** caused by erosion or the deepening of the Bohinj glacier. The side valley of the Mostnica remained at a higher altitude, or we can say that it is a “hanging valley”. The Mostnica river had to overcome the height difference by carving a narrow gorge in the base rock. In some places the gorge is quite wide. In some places it is up to **20 metres** deep and the sides are only shoulder-width apart. The deepening of the Mostnica was fastest during the glacial melting (15,000 to 10,000 years ago), when there were enormous quantities of water and its power was immense. The water, together with the material which it carried, carved the rocks.



Gorge



Pothole



Roe deer



Cyclamen
(*Cyclamen purpurascens*)



Grass snake (*Natrix natrix*)



Alpine butterwort
(*Pinguicula alpina*)

FLORA AND FAUNA

The Voje pasture abounds in **beech forests** that provide shelter to many animals, especially **red and roe deer**. **Hellebores**, **liverwort** and **hacquetia** grow on the forest floor before the trees get their leaves, and **cyclamen**, recognisable by their pink flowers and expressive scent, are also quite common at the end of summer.

Mostnica is a mountain water stream with a typical swirly and uneven flow and very cold water. Species that are adapted to fast streams live in it. **The brown trout** is an indigenous fish that lives in the river. Mosses and algae are also very common. **Low spring marshes** with their typical flora can also be found along small tributaries. **Alpine butterwort** is a carnivorous plant that catches small insects on its sticky leaves. **Yellow-bellied toads** and **alpine newts** live in pools with standing water. There are also many **grass snakes**.

Water meadows, pastures and non-fertilised lowland meadows are intertwined in the upper part of the Voje valley. They are mostly in flower in late spring and early summer. There are several types of orchids, globeflowers, ox-eyes, gentians, lilies and carnations.

A walk along the valley is also interesting in winter, when the river is adorned with ice and the surroundings are covered by a thick layer of snow.

VOJE PASTURE - PLANINA VOJE

The **grassland of Planina Voje** is the open middle part of the Mostnica valley, at an altitude of just slightly over 700 metres. The surface is covered with **ground glacial moraine**, and towards the south the pasture is closed by the terminal moraine dam. It is rich in water and at individual sites, water springs out of the ground. Planina Voje is in a typical glacial valley in the shape of the letter U.

Grassland pasture is used for temporary grazing when cattle move to higher pastures in the spring and return in autumn, and it is also intended for mowing.

The glacial moraine is an unsorted stone material that the glacier carried and deposited.

Planina Voje has traditionally been used for **pasture farming**. In the past, cattle were grazed on grassland pastures before moving to the higher pastures, and again in autumn when the shepherds moved their cattle back down to the valley. **Autumn grazing** in the Voje pasture is still used today. The meadows in the Voje valley are mown in summer.

In the past, locals did not go far to get the basic material for building. They used what nature had to offer, i.e. wood and stone. Numerous sheds and huts were drastically transformed in the past decades; however, we can still find some buildings that preserve the quality elements of the architectural heritage of the 19th century.

Hummocky meadows can also be admired in the Voje valley. They are characterised by hummocks that are covered by grass. They most likely developed through the karstification of the limestone ground moraine material. Hummocky meadows are part of our cultural heritage, since they have been preserved by many years of mowing by hand. Due to machine mowing and artificial fertilisation, hummocky meadows are disappearing from our landscape and they are gradually being overgrown by forests. The otherwise typical diverse flora and fauna on hummocky meadows have also been depleted due to artificial fertilisation.



Voje from Tosc



Storing hay in the past



"Cika"



Farm outbuilding



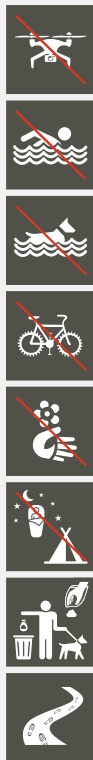
Hummocky meadow



Flowering meadows
in the Voje valley

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VISITORS TO THE TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK

- The use of drones is prohibited in the natural environment without the prior consent of the national park.
- High mountain lakes and streams (e.g. Mostnica) are sensitive and vulnerable habitats where swimming is not allowed. Dogs are also prohibited from swimming.
- Mostnica Gorge and Voje Valley hiking trail is intended for hikers, so cycling is not permitted.
- Do not disturb the environment and do not bring or take anything to and from the area. That is, anything that is not kept in our minds or on our memory cards.
- Respect the habitats of animals and plants.
- Respect the habits of the local people when visiting this areas.
- To protect animals, do not cause noise.
- Burning of fire is forbidden.
- Leave your vehicle in the marked car parks. There are plenty available.
- If possible, use public transport to visit the park.
- Experience the starry nights on the benches of alpine huts, shelters and bivouacs. Overnight stays outside the designated places is prohibited.
- Avoid night visits of the natural environment. Animals need their peace to sleep or hunt at night.
- Dogs must be on a lead and please clean after them.
- Stay on marked trails.



If you do not want to keep this leaflet, do not throw it in the bin, but return it to any of the information points. Protect the environment!

Warning!

The use of the trail is at your own risk. Proper hiking boots are mandatory.

In case of emergency, call 112.

The trail is laid out by Tourism Bohinj in cooperation with the Stara Fužina – Studor Local Community.

INFO: TURIZEM BOHINJ, Stara Fužina 38, 4265 Bohinjsko jezero, t: + 386 (0)4 57 47 590, e: info@bohinj.si

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Voje Mountain Hut

A wide range of local food and desserts.



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