

Istra Nature

Prirodne ljepote Istre
Bellezze naturali dell'Istria
Natural wonders of Istria
Naturschönheiten Istriens

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Istra Nature

NATURAL WONDERS OF ISTRIA

1. The Cave of Mramornica (The Marble Cave)

- the entrance to Mramornica Cave, one of the largest underground caverns in Istria, is located in the vicinity of Brtonigla, near the Stancija Drušković
- the cave is rich in dripstones of various colours and tall stalagmites that give it a special charm
- located away from the summer crowds and heat, Mramornica Cave is an ideal refreshing escape for all lovers of utterly unspoiled nature

Our recommendations:

- the 30-minute guided tour
- gastronomic offer in the agrotourism restaurant
- wine-tasting
- a visit to the park with domestic animals

Entrance tickets: 25 - 50 kuna

Opening times:

April 1st - 30th and October 1st - 31st:

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

May 1st - June 30th and September 1st - 30th:

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

July 1st - August 31st: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

November 1st - March 31st: only on week-

ends and public holidays by arrangement



Information:

Brtonigla Tourist Board

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Sterle Agrotourism

📍 Stancija Drušković 20, 52474 Brtonigla

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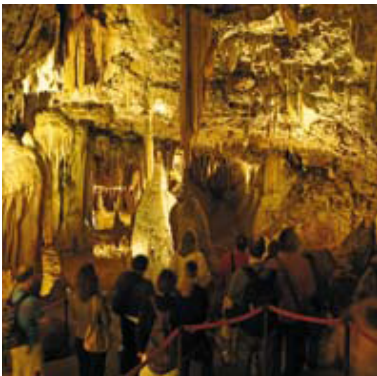
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✉ agroturizam.sterle@pu.t-com.hr

www.agroturizamsterle.hr

4. Baredine Cave

- discover a mysterious play of nature that has been going on for thousands of years, away from the light of day and the human eye - visit the underground world of the Baredine Cave
- the cave is 132 metres deep, includes five halls, a 30-metre-deep subterranean lake and 300 metres of maintained pathways
- stalactites and stalagmites with red crystals appear in various forms, such as a ten-metre-long "curtain" (a very realistic statue of the Madonna, a statue of a shepherdess Milka, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and a Snowman-Torchbearer)
- in the subterranean lake flourishes the olm (Proteus anguinus)



Information:

Tar - Vabriga Tourist Board

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Silvio Legović

📍 Jama Baredine, 52446 Nova Vas

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www.baredine.com

Our recommendations:

- organised 40-minute tour with professional guide
- speleo-climbing and speleo-adventure
- picnic
- exhibition area: mini agro-museum
- restaurant offering

Entrance tickets: 20-45 kuna

Opening times: April 1st-October 31st:

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (organised tours start

every 30 minutes), November 1st-

March 31st: only by arrangement

5. Pazin Cave

- some hundred metres beneath the largest and best preserved medieval castle in Istria, the largest Istrian karst river Pazinčica disappears into the crater of this most striking example of karst evolution in Istria and the surrounding area
- this cave is an attraction that leaves a strong impression on every visitor - from Dante and Jules Verne to everybody else who has had the chance to see this unique work of natural forces. The cave has recently been opened to public



Information:

Central Istria Tourist Board

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Natura Histrica Public Institution

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Istria speleological society

📍 J. Dobrile b.b. 52000 Pazin

☎ +385 (0)91 512 15 28

✉ info@sdi.hr

www.sdi.hr

Our recommendations:

- individual tour of the educational hiking trail
- "Journey to the Centre of the Earth" speleo-adventure with professional guide

Entrance tickets: educational trail 15-30

kuna, speleo-adventure 100 kuna (only by

arrangement with the Istria speleological

society via the e-mail address info@sdi.hr)

Opening times: June 1st-September 30th:

10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (except Monday), October

1st-May 31st: non-stop (free entrance)

6. Učka Nature Park - Vela draga

- to experience one of the most stunning panoramas in this part of Europe, climb the highest peak of Učka - Vojak (1401 m). Its stone tower offers a breathtaking 360-degree-panorama of the Istrian peninsula, northern Adriatic islands, mountains in the Gorski kotar region, and all the way to Venice and the Alps
- Učka is the only place in the world where you can take a photograph of the Učka (Tommasini) bellflower, and one of the last European sites where you can watch griffon vultures or golden eagles
- Učka Nature Park includes two educational trails (the Plas that passes over the top ridge of Mount Učka, and the 2-km-kong Vela draga) and the Slap hiking path
- Vela draga is an impressive canyon on the western slopes of Mount Učka where atmospheric processes over millions of years have created this stunning place amidst the Istrian karst. Its amazing limestone towers will remain etched in the memory for a long time, reawakening admiration for the greatest architect of all - Mother Nature



Information:

Učka Nature Park Public Institution

📍 Liganj 42, 51415 Lovran

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✉ park.priroda.ucka@inet.hr

www.pp-ucka.hr

Our recommendations:

- hiking (more than 50 hiking trails)
- mountain biking (8 marked paths)
- free climbing (more than 60 climbing routes)
- alpinism
- bird watching

Entrance tickets: free entrance

Opening times: non-stop

7. Gračišće - Pićan

- "This is a picture of the world at the moment of Creation" - these are the words academic Branko Fučić used to begin his journey through the history of Gračišće
- "The picture" can be viewed from the plateau of the church of St. Vitus (sv. Vid) which offers a magnificent view of the entire protected landscape Gračišće - Pićan covering approx. 600 ha
- on the location of today's church of St. Vitus there probably used to be a sanctuary of the god Perun, the supreme god in Old Slavic mythology. The area around Sopot waterfall was home to the god Veles



Information:

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Municipality of Gračišće

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Public Institution Natura Histrica

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Our recommendations:

- the area of the protected landscape includes a 10-kilometre-long walking path of St. Simeon (sv. Šimun) that passes by Sopot waterfall and the hill of Školjčak with the church of St. Mary Magdalene (345 m above sea-level) offering wonderful views of the surrounding area
- several marked and countless "free" cycle tracks
- organised tasting of wines and traditional dishes of the region
- guided mushroom gathering
- attractive positions for taking photographs: Gračišće, Pićan

Entrance tickets: free entrance

Opening times: non-stop

8. Plomin hill

- the slopes of Plomin Hill are the habitat of many rare and endangered plants and several rare bird species (peregrine falcon, golden eagle), butterflies and orchids
- the hill's numerous caves are home to many bats
- the protected area's northern part is rural landscape with a patchwork of woods and pastures characterised by great biodiversity
- attractive vantage point and location for taking photographs: Plomin



Information:

Kršan Tourist Board

📍 Vozilici 66, 52234 Plomin

☎ +385 (0)52 880 155

✉ info@istra-kršan.com

www.istra-kršan.com

Our recommendations:

- hiking
- hunting

Entrance tickets: free entrance

Opening times: non-stop

9. Lim Channel - Romuald's Cave

- some twenty minutes' drive north of Rovinj lays a flooded canyon valley - Lim Channel, also known as Lim Bay
- Lim Channel is part of the 35-km-long Limška draga hollow that stretches almost to the town of Pazin in the very heart of Istria. The channel itself is over 12 km long and surrounded on both sides by steep hills that can reach up to 200 m in height (Sv. Martin 230 m)
- gastronomic offering, mussel beds
- 120 m above the sea is Romuald's Cave where, according to legend, St. Romuald used to live in the 11th century as a hermit, praying and meditating. This 105-metre-long cave consists of several impressive halls that bear evidence of continuous life in this area since prehistoric times (the oldest remains of prehistoric people in Istria). A colony of greater mouse-eared bats, an endangered and protected species, lives in the cave. The entrance to the cave is only 47 centimetres high, but the main hall reaches a height of five to six metres. This cave is considered a unique phenomenon because stalactites and stalagmites are located only on its left side; the right side is bare



Information:

Kanfanar Tourist Board, Kanfanar

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Our recommendations:

- organised tours
- cycling
- hiking

Entrance tickets: the price of an organised tour of Romuald's Cave (unguided tours are not permitted) is 10-30 kuna, which covers the necessary equipment and a professional guide

Opening times: June 15th-September 15th:

10 a.m. - 5 p.m., September 16th-June 14th:

only by arrangement

10. Kingdom of Feštini Cave

- in the very heart of Istria, near the village of Feština, close to Žminj, the cave „Feštinsko kraljevstvo“ (Kingdom od Feštini) is quite remarkable for its natural beauty
- as soon as you enter the cave you will hear the rhythmic sound of dropping water that from time immemorial has been creating the magnificent underground formations reflected in the reservoir lakes below



Information:

Žminj Tourist Board

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Mirjana Orbanic

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www.sige.hr

Entrance tickets: 25-40 kn

(welcome drink included)

Opening times: April 1st - May

31st and October 1st - 31st only on

weekends and holidays 10 a.m. - 6

p.m.; June 1st - September 30th every

day from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; October 1st

- March 31st only by arrangement

11. Palud

- ornithological jewel of Istria located only eight kilometres south of Rovinj and some hundred metres from the sea; it covers an area of 210 ha
- 219 registered bird species
- Many cultural monuments dating from prehistory to the Middle Ages



Our recommendations:

- organised tours
- bird watching
- cycling
- hiking

Entrance tickets: entrance free for indi-

vidual visitors, price for organised 2-hour

tours 10 - 30 kuna, bird watching 10 - 50

kuna (equipment included)

Opening times: June 15th-September

15th: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m., September 16th-June

14th: only by arrangement

Information:

Rovinj Tourist Board

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12. Labin - Rabac - Prklog

- picturesque indented coastline with the most appealing coves of Rabac and Prklog. The Labin-Rabac path leads walkers through interesting canyon forms, past various plants, a stream and waterfalls
- the medieval town of Labin is a valuable cultural monument; its highest point is called Fortica and offers magnificent views of Rabac, Mount Učka, and the islands of Cres and Lošinj
- attractive positions for taking photographs: walking trail and the medieval town of Labin



VANTAGE POINTS

Name of the belvedere	Position
1 Sv. Petar	Crveni vrh, Umag
2 Žbevnica	Lanišće
3 Sv. Mauro	Sv. Mauro-Momjan, Buje
4 Buje Old Town	Buje
5 Buzet Old Town	Buzet
6 Sovinjak	Sovinjak, Buzet
7 Sv. Jelena	Oprtalj
8 Vrh	Vrh, Buzet
9 Črnigrad	Ročko polje, Buzet
10 Gradišće	Donji Srbani, Brtonigla
11 Vižinada	Vižinada
12 Motovun Old Town	Motovun
13 Grimalda	Grimalda, Cerovlje
14 Padova	Kašćerga, Pazin
15 Huhober	Grdo Selo, Pazin
16 Paz	Paz, Cerovlje
17 Tinjan	Tinjan
18 Trsine	Vrsar
19 Plomin	Plomin, near the Vidikovac restaurant
20 Velj Golaš	Bale
21 Labin Old Town	Labin
22 Bronza	on the Vodnjan-Fažana road
23 Mutvoran	Mutvoran, Marčana
24 Stari Rakalj	Marčana
25 Brdo	Raša, above Skitača