

"Owing to its exceptional natural diversity and natural values, Slovenia is no doubt a true jewel of Europe and one of the most remarkable countries in the world, which may already in the very near future become one of its most valuable resources."

(Narcis MRŠIČ: Biotic Diversity in Slovenia: Slovenia - the "hot spot" of Europe)



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA

MINISTRSTVO ZA OKOLJE IN PROSTOR

2004 PARKS IN SLOVENIA

Report on the activities in Slovenian parks



Slovenia is one of the countries with the highest biodiversity in the European Union. About 11% of the territory of Slovenia is protected under various protective regimes.

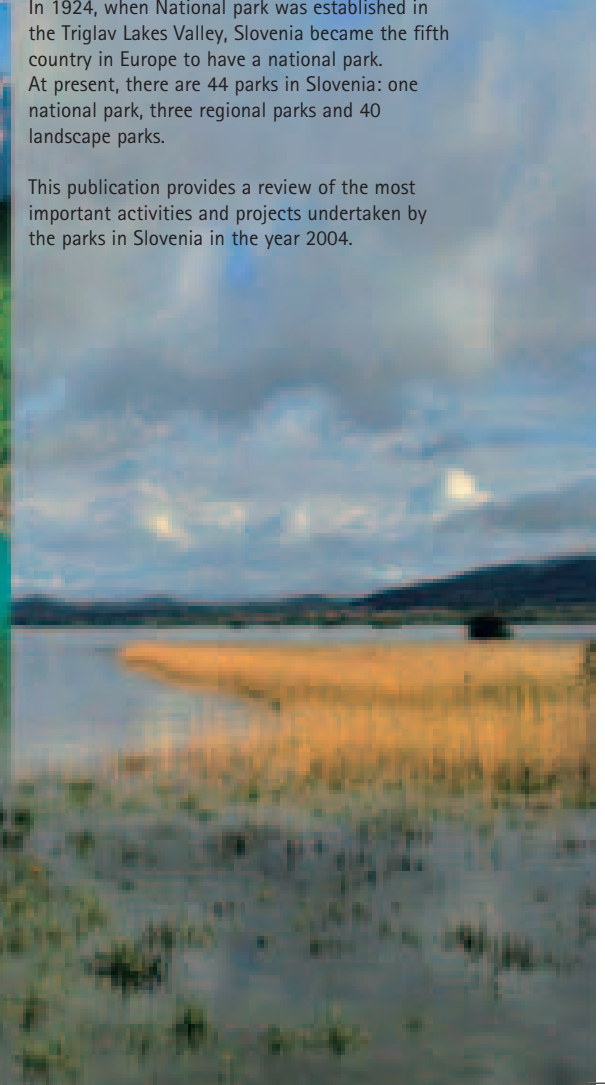
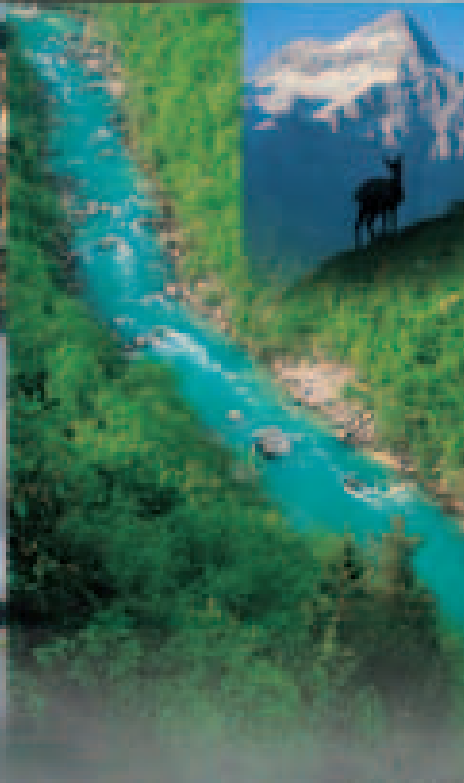
Protection of areas of exceptional value has been known for centuries and has remained the most commonly used measure in nature conservation practice to date.

Owing to their traditional role in the system of integral nature protection, parks are becoming increasingly important for the conservation of biotic and landscape diversity.

In 1924, when National park was established in the Triglav Lakes Valley, Slovenia became the fifth country in Europe to have a national park.

At present, there are 44 parks in Slovenia: one national park, three regional parks and 40 landscape parks.

This publication provides a review of the most important activities and projects undertaken by the parks in Slovenia in the year 2004.

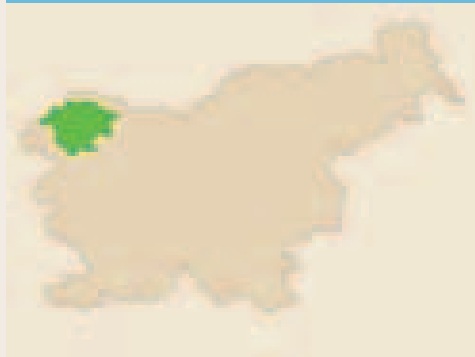


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Triglav National Park



The people who live at the foot of the highest mountains in Slovenia still tell the story of Zlatorog, the mysterious white chamois with golden horns, its immense treasure and magical gardens. It is in the kingdom of Zlatorog where myths and legends still live that the Triglav National Park was formed.



Main events of 2004

Events held in celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Triglav National Park (1924–2004)

- Triglav National Park's birthday celebration
- The Council of Europe awarded the European Diploma of Protected Areas for the year 2004 to the Triglav National Park. The award ceremony took place on 24 May 2004 in Trenta.
- Opening of a new footbridge at the saw mill in Trenta, as part of the Soča Trail
- Traditional nature science days in memory of Albin Belar (Belar Days)
- 2nd meeting of Slovene mountain farmers at Bača
- Three summer culture evenings at the Pocar Farmhouse in Zgornja Radovna

Other events

- Public Institution Triglav National Park has moved to new premises in the centre of Bled.
- In cooperation with the Nature Science Museum of Slovenia, Triglav National Park arranged the exhibition Nature of Slovenia – the Alps.
- King Gustav and Queen Silvia of Sweden requested a visit to the village Čadrg in the Triglav National Park on their official visit to Slovenia in June 2004.
- Meeting of three Alpine national parks – Triglav National Park (Slovenia), Les Ecrins (France) and Hohe Tauern (Austria) – which signed a partnership agreement in 1997.
- Opening of a new theme trail, the Radovna Cycle Route.



Projects

- Opening of a nature trail in the *Goreljek bog* marked the conclusion of the LIFE project *Peatbogs in Triglav National Park*.
- Junior Ranger programme has been running under the auspices of the Federation EUROPARC since 2002. In 2004, Trenta hosted an international junior ranger camp, and with the financial support of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning a continuation camp for junior rangers on NATURA 2000 was held in Bavšica.
- A moving exhibition was organized within the framework of the project *Children Discover and Learn about the Cultural Heritage of Pastures*.
- Development programme *Qualified Workforce – A Precondition for the Development and Integration of Nature Protection, Agriculture and Tourism*.
- Project *Three Thousand Years of the Iron Industry and Dairy Farming in the Julian Alps*.

Publications

- *Ecotourism in the Mountains Journal*
- *Annual Report of the Triglav National Park 2002/2003*
- Issue 3 of the newsletter *Svet pod Triglavom (World at the Foot of Triglav)*
- Reprint of the leaflet *TNP – UNESCO MAB*
- *Radovna Cycle Route and Pokljuka Trail* leaflets
- *Images of Triglav* wall calendar
- Issue 5 and 6 of *Triglavsko okno (Triglav Window)*, a newsletter of the Triglav National Park Research Service

Visitation

The Park welcomes approximately 2 million to 2.5 million visitors annually. In 2004 visitation figures dropped slightly due to unfavourable weather conditions.

Throughout the year, TNP-organized guided tours take visitors along the Park's theme trails and to high-altitude mountains.

PROFILE OF THE TNP

Size: 83.807 ha; 55.332 ha central area, 28.475 ha peripheral area

Settlements in the park: 25 settlements and hamlets (the largest is Stara Fužina in Bohinj)

Number of inhabitants in the park: 2.200

Ownership: private owners (incl. agricultural communes), municipalities, Republic of Slovenia (Fund of Agricultural Land and Forests of the Republic of Slovenia);

Proclamation: Triglav National Park Act – OG SRS 17/81, 18/81 – amended, and 42/86 and OG RS 8/90 and 35/01

Management body: Public Institution Triglav National Park

Address: Ljubljanska cesta 27, 4260 Bled

Tel.: +386 (0)4 57 80 200

Fax: +386 (0)4 57 80 201

E-mail: triglavski-narodni-park@tnp.gov.si

Internet site: www.tnp.si

Information Centres

Dom Trenta (Trenta Lodge) in Log in Trenta

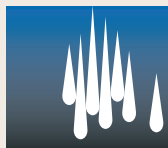
Open May to October, 10 am to 6 pm.

tel. & fax: +386 (0)5 38 89 330.

Pocarjeva domačija (Pocar Farmhouse) in Zgornja Radovna

Open 24 June to 15 September, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 6 pm; groups by prior appointment.

Škocjan Caves Regional Park



Park Škocjanske jame

*For everything is bright and right
in this rock-strewn land of mine:
to be, to live, and to fight,
and to be young and fine.*

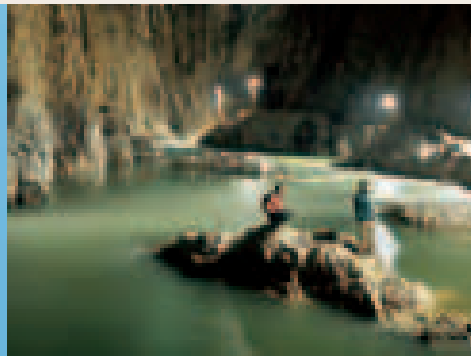
(Srečko Kosovel, Poems from Kras)



Main events of 2004

Events

- A celebration was held to commemorate the 18th anniversary of the inscription of Škocjan Caves on UNESCO's World Heritage List and inclusion of the Škocjan Caves Regional Park in the UNESCO Man & Biosphere programme. We also celebrated the 5th anniversary of the inclusion of Škocjan Caves in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, and the 100th anniversary of the discovery of Tiha jama (Silent Cave) in the Škocjan Caves System.
- The Škocjan Caves Regional Park celebrated the World Wetlands Day and hosted and helped to organize a seminar on wetlands for teachers.
- In cooperation with the schools located in the Park, workshops on bats, a writing competition, an arts workshop, a workshop titled "Ironing in the past" and several expert excursions were organized.



Projects

- In the programme Interreg II B a project, named Alpencom, was confirmed. It is aimed at preparing a joint presentation of ten protected areas from eight countries that are included in the Network of Protected Areas in the Alps, a part of which is also the Škocjan Caves Regional Park.
- In spring 2004, a karst pond in Matavun was cleaned and recoated with trampled clay
- In cooperation with the National Park Berchtesgaden from Germany, we renovated the old paths in Hankejev kanal (Hanke's Canal, named after Anton Hanke, a famous explorer of the Škocjan Caves).
- In August 2004, the automatic meteorological station Škocjan started operation. Supported by the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for the Environment, the station measures the quality and quantity of precipitation, wind, sun exposure, temperature, humidity and air pressure.
- In September 2004, the Hidden Treasure project titled Wetlands: From the Mountains to the Sea was finished.
- The project of habitat mapping, conducted in cooperation with the Centre for Cartography of Flora and Fauna, was completed in October 2004.
- For the purpose of long-term monitoring of air and water quality in the cave, initial measurements of temperature, humidity and carbon dioxide as the basic parameters of cave microclimate were made.
- In September 2004 preventive archeological excavations were carried out and resulted in the discovery of the remains of a Roman building below the former farm outbuilding. The building will be presented "in situ", in the scope of the



renovated Škocjan house number three, which has been turned into a nature science centre. Construction works began in October and are expected to have finished by July 2005. The building will house a geological, biological and archaeological exhibition and a nature science classroom.

Publications

- The Škocjan Caves Regional Park leaflet: *Man and Biosphere – Kras Biosphere Reserve*
- Minigraphy: A. Debevec et al: *Škocjan Caves at the Heart of the Classical Karst*
- Article published in the magazine Kras (Karst): B. Peric, T. Zorman: *Wind Power Plants in Kras?*
- Article published in the journal *Vode in turizem* (Waters and Tourism): B. Peric: *Škocjan Caves – Water in the Karst Terrain*

Visitation

The Park offers visits to the Škocjan caves, the education trail and museum collections (ethnology, history of the Škocjan caves and archaeology) in renovated barns. The majority of visitors only see the Škocjan Caves, and about a third also visit museum collections. In 2004, 89,744 tickets were sold, and in 2003 the number of tickets amounted to 75,395. Most visitors come from abroad.

PROFILE OF THE ŠCRP

Size: 413 ha protected surface area; 45.000 ha impact area/buffer zone

Settlements in the park: 3

Number of inhabitants in the park: 69

Ownership: Republic of Slovenia (15%), private owners (85%)

Proclamation: OG RS 57/96

Management body: Public Institution

Park Škocjanske jame

Address: Škocjan 2, 6215 Divača

Tel.: + 386 (0)5 70 82 100

Fax: + 386 (0)5 70 82 105

E-mail: psj@psj.gov.si

Internet site: www.park-skocjanske-jame.si

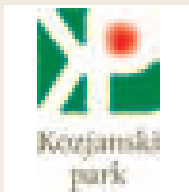
Information Centre

Matavun 12

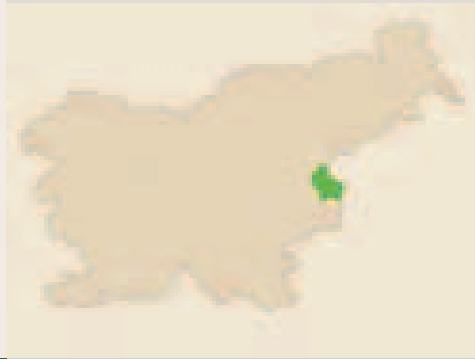
Open daily from 9 am.



Kozjansko Regional Park



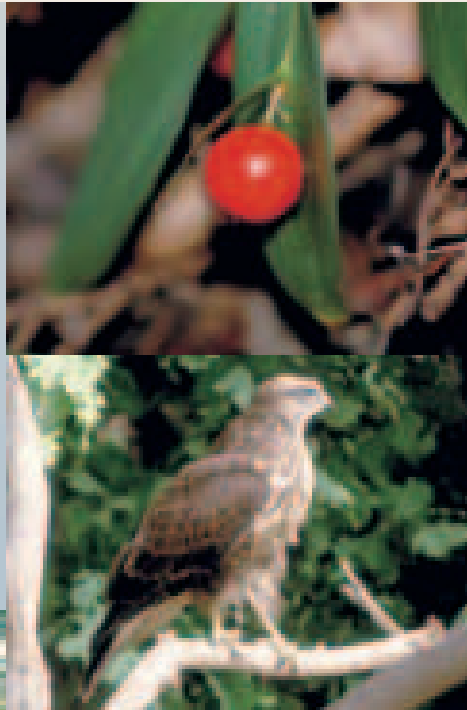
Sub-Alpine hills, vineyard-dotted knolls and plains of the Sotla basin, combined with the high biodiversity of the area, enhanced by rich cultural heritage and interesting tradition, make up this landscape of many faces – the Kozjansko Regional Park.



Main events of 2004

Events

- Easter and Christmas creative workshops.
- Research workshop for students on Natura 2000
- Nature science workshop for children at Sveti Lovrenc
- Concerts held at the Podsreda Castle.
- International symposium The Real China.
- Opening of the Trebče Memorial park.
- 1st Pranger Festival, a gathering of poets and translators
- The following walking trails were arranged and open to public:
 - the geological trail to Rudnica and Virštanj,
 - the walking trail Podsreda,
 - the education trail *Meadow* on Vetrnik, and
 - the walking trail Pilštanj.

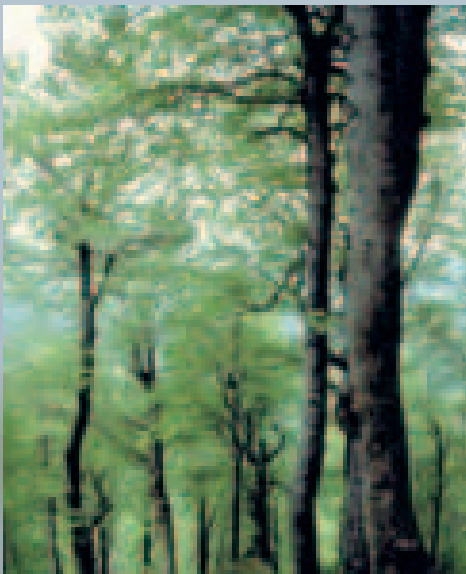


Publications

- *Geological Trail to Rudnica and Virštanj*, guidebook and leaflet
- *Dry Meadow Education Trail*, guidebook
- *Walking Trail Podsreda*, guidebook and leaflet
- *Map of Kozjansko Regional Park*
- *Municipality Bistrica ob Sotli*, leaflet

Visitation

Every year, the park welcomes approximately 35,000 visitors who can join guided tours of the Podsreda Castle, Levstik Mill, Slovene-Bavarian House and Trebče Memorial Park or visit the natural sights and cultural monuments as they follow the walking trails, cycling routes and wine roads in the area. In 2004, the park recorded an increase in the number of foreign visitors (from the EU in particular), trekkers and cyclists.



Projects

- **Kozjansko Apple Festival** is a traditional three-day international event with an expert workshop, a large fair and a rich cultural and entertainment programme. It is an opportunity for organic farmers, producers of local craft products, schools and music and cultural groups to present their work.
- In July and August, the Kozjansko region hosts **international music seminars** for transverse flute, horn and saxophone with introductory lectures by renowned professors and closing concerts by the students.
- The Podsreda Castle is a cultural and social centre of the Kozjansko Regional Park and its surrounding area. The **renovation** of the castle spans a number of years; in 2004, the Roman room, the outbuilding (partly) and a part of the facade were renovated.

Exhibitions

- **Relief Prints of a Castle Admirer**; by authors Tone Rožman and Nataša Ferlinc Krašovic.
- **Image of Small Freedom**; photographs by Andrej Blatnik.
- **Forest, Tree and Man**; nature science photographs by Jožica Mikek Veber.
- **Pikčers (Pictures)**; by Jože Slak.
- **Memories for a Copper Coin and More**; by Arven Šakti Kralj.
- **Ceramics in Slovenia 1964 – 2004**; the exhibition of decorative ceramics of the last four decades was prepared by the Society of Ceramic Artists and Potters.
- **From Sandor Erdödy's album**: Galleries of the Moslavina Museum, Kutina, and the Zagorje Museums.
- **Worlds in Holiness**; by authors Goce Kalajdžijski, Marjan Skumavec and Zoran Ogrinc.

PROFILE OF THE KRP

Size: 206 km²

Settlements in the park: 82

Number of inhabitants in the park: 11 000

Proclamation: OG SRS 1/81, 42/86, OG RS 56/99

Management body: Public Institution
Kozjansko Regional Park

Address: Podsreda 45, 3257 Podsreda

Tel.: +386 (0)3 80 07 100

Fax: +386 (0)3 80 07 108

E-mail: kozjanski-park@kp.gov.si

Internet site: www.gov.si/kp

Information Centres

Podsreda 45, 3257 Podsreda

Every day 8 am to 4 pm.

Grad Podsreda (Castle Podsreda)

Open daily, except Monday, 10 am to 6 pm; closed in winter.

Guided tours by prior appointment are available every day.





Sečovlje Salina Nature Park



*Over 700 years, nothing has changed here but the clothes of salters ...
Traditional salt-making in the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park ensures favourable conditions for the conservation of rich biodiversity of species and their habitats and preserves the unique cultural heritage and landscape of the salt pans.*

Main events of 2004

Events

- The Salina Festival was held at weekends near 24 April, 4 July and 30 August at Lera and in Piran. The festival is a celebration of salt-making tradition presenting the key phases of traditional salt production.
- On 2 February, International Wetlands Day, the entrance to the Park was free of charge. Visitors were given free information material and a lecture on wetlands was organized for school children.
- Throughout the year, arts events were held (theatre plays, openings of painting and photo exhibitions).
- The park organized a collection of waste and litter in the cold half of the year. Participants were given a free annual ticket to the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park.



Projects

- LIFE Nature project: *Conservation of species and habitats in the Sečovlje salt pans.*
- A multimedia information center will open at Lera in the summer of 2005. The centre will present the natural sights and salt-making at Lera. It will house a multimedia room, a hall for the presentation of movies on the Sečovlje salt pans and a small diner serving traditional salters' snacks.
- Three education walking trails have been arranged, another two will open in 2005. The trails measuring 1 km to 4.5 km are equipped with information boards. At weekends during the warm half of the year the park offers guided tours free of charge.
- Museum of Salt Making at Fontanigge operates as a dislocated unit of the Maritime Museum Sergej Mašera from Piran. It presents the cultural heritage of old Piran salt pans. Guided tours of the Museum of Salt-Making are available from 1 April to 31 October.



Visitation

- Visit to Lera grew from 8,000 in 2002 to 27,000 visitors in 2004; Fontanigge is visited by 16,000 people annually.

Publications

- Information leaflets
- Sečovlje Salina Nature Park Leaflet
- *Sečovlje Salt pans*, a book by I. Geister
- CD prepared by the Ornithological Society Ixobrychus
- "Let's get to know the birds of the Sečovlje Salina"; a birdwatching manual by Andrej Sovinc
- *Little Bird Guide*; a brochure on the birds of the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park

PROFILE OF THE SSNP

Size: 650 ha; 552 ha water surface, 98 ha of land

Settlements in the park: 0

Number of inhabitants in the park: 0

Ownership: Republic of Slovenia (98%), private owners (2%)

Proclamation: OG RS 29/01

Management body: KPSS SOLINE
Pridelava soli d.o.o.

Address: Seča 115, 6320 Portorož

Tel.: + 386 (0)5 67 21 330

Fax: + 386 (0)5 67 21 331

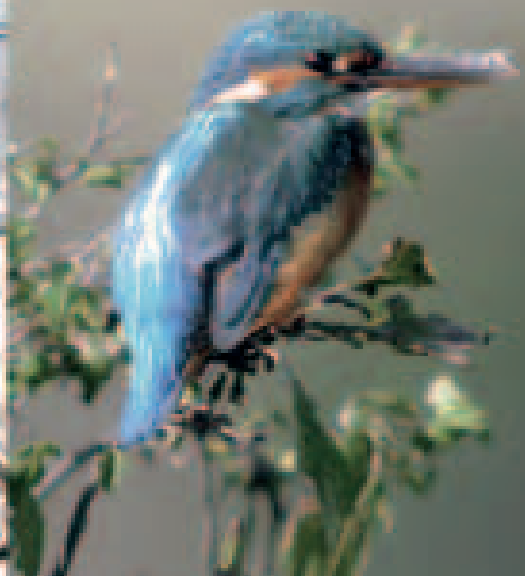
E-mail: kpss@soline.si

Internet site: www.kpss.soline.si

Information Centre

Museum of Salt Making at Fontanigge; a multimedia information center will open at Lera in the summer of 2005.

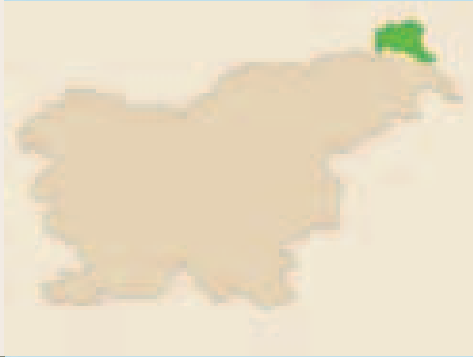
Opening hours: In the cold half of the year, the Park is, as a rule, open between 8 am and 5 pm, and between 8 am and 8 pm in the warm part of the year.



Landscape Park Goričko



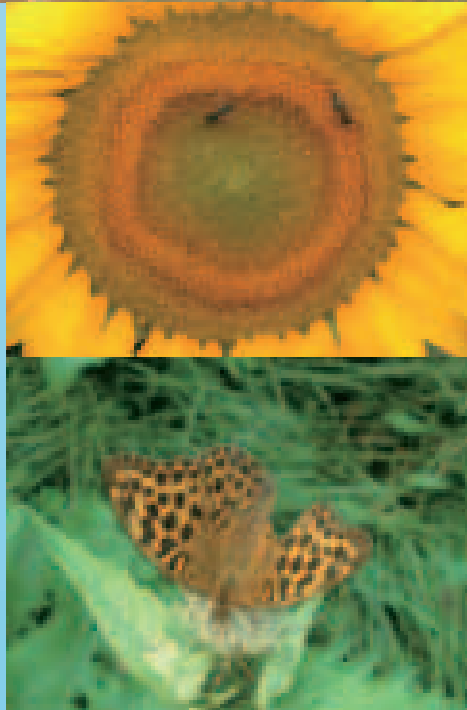
A rich interwoven pattern of cultivated areas and sustainably managed land creates an image of a lively mosaic. The cyclists and hikers who visit the Landscape Park Goričko carry this lasting image and the impressions of the park with them wherever they may go...



Main events of 2004

Events

- In April 2004, the **Three-Country Arts and Craft Exhibition** was moved from castle Grad na Goričkem to the Tabor Castle in the Austrian park Raab.
- In May 2004, the castle Grad hosted the first **international tasting of wines** produced in the three-country park Goričko-Raab-Orség and in the neighbouring wine-growing regions. The wine tasting was conducted by a commission of wine experts from **Austria, Hungary and Slovenia**. About 105 wines were tasted, and wine awards were presented at the Murska Sobota Festival (Soboški dnevi) on 25 June 2004. Wine tasting was held in cooperation with the Society of Wine-Growers Goričko and is planned to become a biannual event.
- **Grad 2004**, a **Mycological Meeting of Three Countries** was organized together with the Institute for Systematization of Higher Funghi between 21 and 24 October 2004. The purpose of the meeting was to learn more about the diversity of funghi in four growth sites in Goričko. Mycologists classified over **250 funghi** and prepared a two-day exhibition of mushrooms in the Knights Hall of the castle. The Mycological Meeting in Goričko will become a biannual event.



2004 Milestones

- On 8 January, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted a Decree on the establishment of the **Public Institution Landscape Park Goričko**.
- Acting Director of the park was appointed in January 2004.
- On 8 July, a founding meeting of the Public Institution was held and temporary management guidelines of the Park were confirmed.
- The **Statute of the Landscape Park Goričko** was adopted on 18 October.
- In December 2004, the park got its first employee.

PROFILE OF THE LPG

Size: 462 km²;

Settlements in the park: 90 villages, 11 municipalities, 2 administrative units

Number of inhabitants in the park: 23.000

Ownership: private and state ownership

Proclamation: OG RS 101/03

Management body: Public Institution Landscape Park Goričko

Address: Grad 191, 9264 Grad

Tel.: + 386 (0)31 354 149

E-mail: park.goricko@guest.arnes.si

Internet site: www.park-goricko.org

Information Centre

Castle on Grad

Guided tours of the castle are available every day between 9 am and 4 pm.



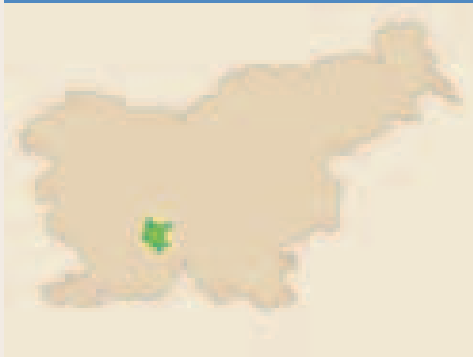
Notranjska Regional Park



NOTRANJSKI REGIJSKI PARK

Without any false modesty, I dare say that the story of Lake Cerknica is a true wonder of nature, and that it ranks, rightfully and without any bias, among the greatest wonders of the natural world.

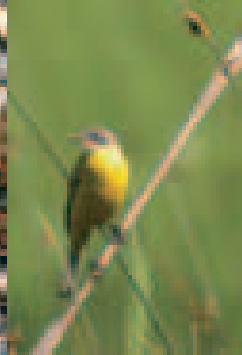
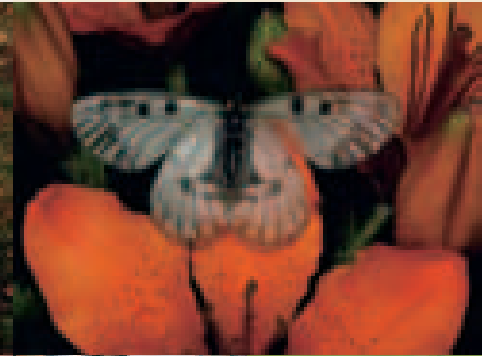
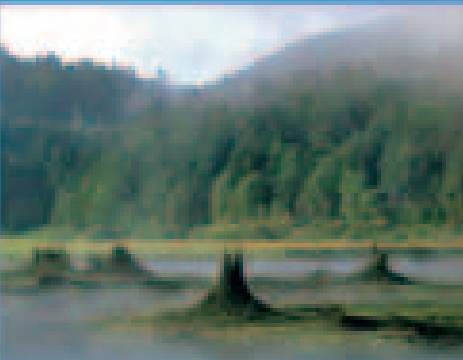
(Janez Vajkard Valvasor, 1686)



Main events of 2004

Events

- A two-day meeting was held within the framework of the project titled *Memories of Lake Cerknica* to which we invited all the people who have in any way contributed to raising the awareness and conservation of Lake Cerknica. The purpose of the meeting was an exchange of opinions on the possibilities and opportunities for the conservation of Lake Cerknica and a transfer of experience from the older generation of researchers and nature conservationists onto younger generations of experts.



Projects

- Implementation of the project *Memories of Lake Cerknica*, aimed at reestablishing the contacts among people who have been active in the area of the Notranjska Regional Park.
- Project Partner in the project Long-term protection of the Corncrake (*Crex Crex*) in Slovenia which is being implemented by DOPPS BirdLife Slovenia. So far, 30 ha of land has been purchased in the scope of the project.

Publications

- A CD-presentation of the *Notranjska Regional Park*
- Publication of the leaflet *Amphibians in Lake Cerknica*

Visitation

In 2004, we conducted 32 guided excursions and trips which were attended by 750 visitors from Slovenia and abroad.

PROFILE OF THE NRP

Size: 210 km²

Settlements in the park: 0

Number of inhabitants in the park: 0

Ownership: Municipality of Cerknica (1%) Republic of Slovenia (7%), private owners (92%)

Proclamation: OG RS 75/02

Management body: Public Institution
Notranjska Regional Park

Address: Tabor 42, 1380 Cerknica

Tel.: + 386 (0)1 70 90 626

Fax: + 386 (0)1 70 90 633

E-mail: info@notranjski-park.si

Internet site: www.notranjski-park.si



Logarska Dolina Landscape Park



In summer the gentle green of the valley floor turns into a blossoming meadow, framed by the dark green forest canopy, while above the valley the jagged grey peaks of the Savinja Alps pierce the blue sky.

(extract from Logarska Dolina Landscape Park, 1995)



Main events of 2004

Events

- In July 2004, the Logarska Dolina Landscape Park participated in the traditional event **Days of Tourism in Solčavsko** (the Solčava District) by organizing a presentation of charcoal burning at the charcoalburner's cottage near the Logarska Dolina Trail, a multivision presentation of Solčavsko and a presentation of the Logarska Dolina Nature and Ethnographic Trail.
- In the framework of the event **Study Days in Solčavsko 2004**, which took place in September 2004, Slovene and British postgraduate students learned about the region of Solčavsko, studied the differences between three periods and conducted an opinion poll among the inhabitants.
- The Logarska Dolina valley hosted the 15th **traditional cross-country skiing competition**. Favourable terrain and climate conditions make cross-country skiing the most popular winter sport activity in the park. In winter months, visitors are also drawn to Logarska Dolina by ice waterfalls, sleigh tracks, natural ice rinks and ski lifts.



Publications

- Leaflets: *Future of the Savinja Alps, Logarska Dolina Trail, Alpine Dairy Pasture Logarski Kot*
- *Logarska Dolina Nature Park Leaflet*
- Posters and postcards depicting the Logarska Dolina Nature Park

Visitation

In the summer of 2004, Logarska Dolina was visited by over 100,000 people, most of them one-day tourists. The programmes organized by the Information Centre were attended by 160 groups of altogether 4,000 people. Sixty groups or almost 2,000 people attended guided walks along the nature and ethnographic trail.

PROFILE OF THE LDLP

Size: 2438 ha
Settlements in the park: 0
Number of inhabitants in the park: 35
Ownership: Republic of Slovenia (10%),
 private owners (90%)
Proclamation: OG SRS 27/87

Management body: Podjetje za razvoj Logarske doline,
 Logarska dolina d.o.o.

Address: Logarska dolina 9, 3335 Solčava

Tel.: + 386 (0)3 83 89 004

Fax: + 386 (0)3 83 89 003

E-mail: logarska@siol.net;
 logarska.dolina@siol.net

Internet site: www.logarska-dolina.si

Information Centre

TIC Logarska dolina

Time of visit: (also by appointment)

November – April: 10 am to 1 pm.

May – June and September – October:
 9 am to 3 pm.

July – August: 8 am to 6 pm.

Info screen in Slovene, English and German.



Projects

- In 2004, an **Information Centre** was opened in the old wooden grain storage house in Logarska dolina.
- A study "**Future of the Savinja Alps**" was made on the basis of workshops with local inhabitants and a questionnaire in which they expressed their views on the present and future of the Savinja Alps and stated their standpoints regarding the establishment of a regional park in the area.
- The **cleaning device Plest**, placed at the end of the three-kilometre sewage system reaching as far as the main tourist buildings in the valley, has been upgraded to meet highest standards of waste water cleaning.
- **Construction of a cable communications system** presents an important part of infrastructure which provides local inhabitants and tourists with a modern connection with the rest of the world. In 2004 the buildings located at the entrance to the valley were connected to the network.

