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For more information visit
www.frankopani.eu, www.strukturnifondovi.hr



THE ROUTES OF THE
Frankopans

About the project

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'The Routes of the Frankopans' cultural tourism project is inspired by the legacy of the Frankopans, a famous Croatian noble family who left numerous traces of their influence and power in the area of present-day Primorje-Gorski Kotar County from the beginning of the 12th century until the second half of the 17th century.

The project was started by **Primorje-Gorski Kotar County** to help the renovation, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the tangible and intangible heritage of the Frankopans.

This cultural tourism route **includes 17 castles and three religious buildings**. Each of them contains a story about the lives of the Frankopans, their loves, passions, conspiracies, intrigues, religion and power.

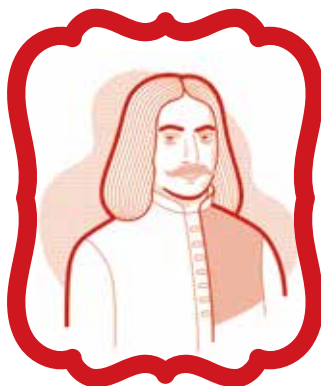


Let's meet the Frankopans!

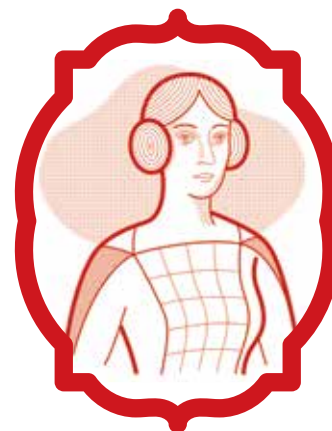
Dujam I Frankopan
(1118 – 1163)



Franjo I Frankopan
(1536 – 1572)



Elizabeta Frankopan
(1386 – 1422)



Barbara Frankopan
(unknown year of birth – 1504)



Fran Krsto Frankopan
(1643 – 1671)

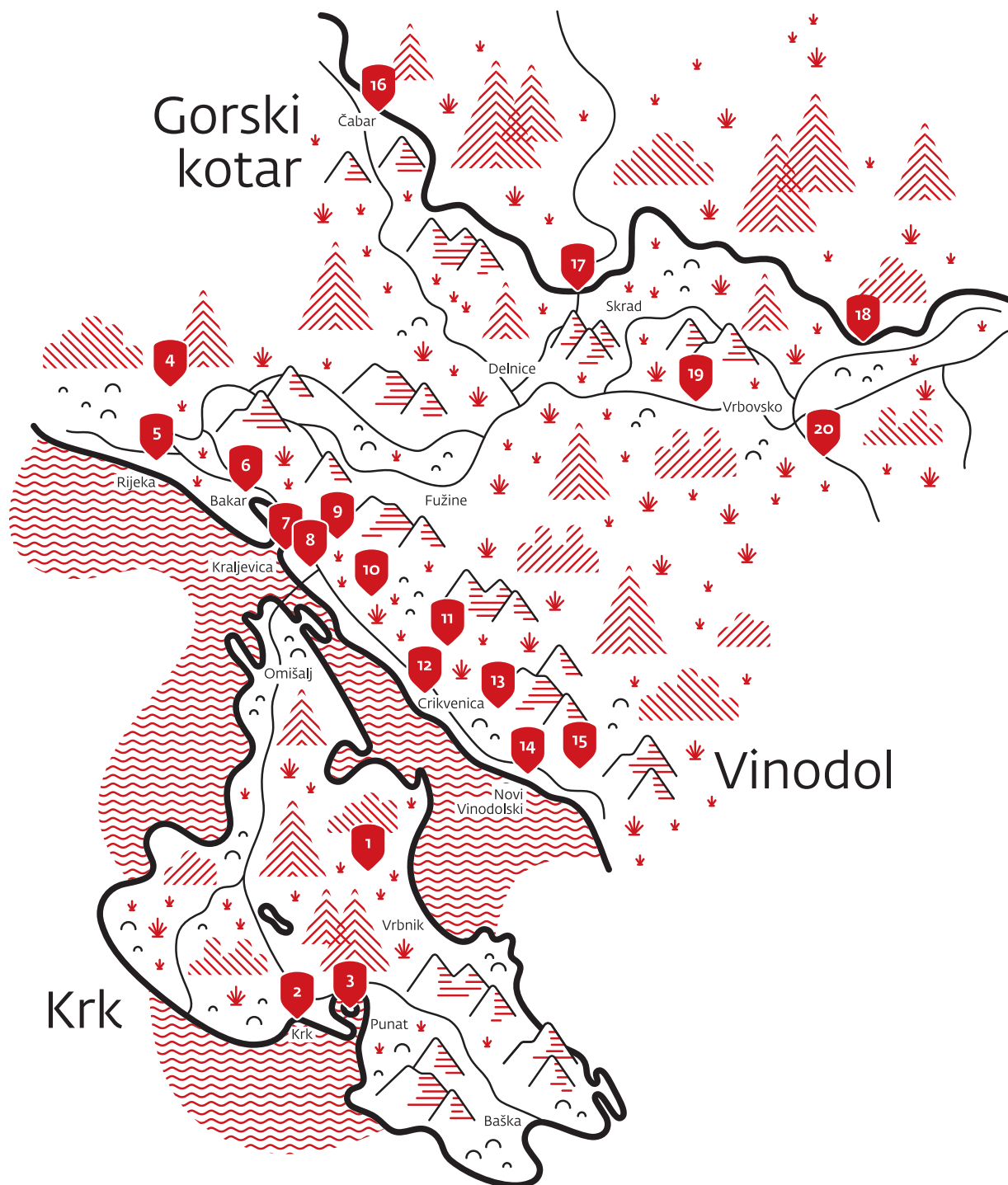


Ana Katarina Frankopan
married Zrinski
(1625 – 1673)

In the role of counts, governors, bans, warriors and politicians, but also writers, orators, poets, lawmakers, publishers of religious and secular books, illustrators and painters, the Frankopans formed Croatian history and culture for five and a half centuries, leaving behind an immense tangible and intangible legacy. They built numerous forts and helped develop many towns. They

were the benefactors of many churches and monasteries, and married into the Zrinskis and other influential European families. Without the Frankopans, our landscape would be significantly different; local museums and sacral collections would be emptier, the Croatian language poorer, and history books thinner.

Frankopan properties in Primorje-Gorski Kotar County



ISLAND OF KRK

Gradec Castle
Castle in Krk
Košljun Franciscan Monastery



The island of Krk is the cradle of the Frankopans. Initially, they were known as the Counts of Krk and had properties in Krk, Baška, Dobrinj, Omišalj and Vrbnik.

12th century

Construction of Gradec Castle

15th century

The Counts of Krk change their name to Frankopan



1118

First mention of the name 'Counts of Krk'

12th century

Beginning of construction of the castle in Krk

15th century

The Frankopans bring the Franciscans to Košljun Monastery



Let us begin our journey along the Routes of the Frankopans where the story of the family began. Their first estate was Gradec Castle.

1. Gradec Castle 12th century



In the beginning, the Counts of Krk had a coat of arms with a six-pointed star.



Imagine

Far from the coast, while walking towards the cradle of the Frankopans, you spot a forest on the edge of a plateau close to the Plain of Vrbnik. It is located above a beautiful valley in which a stream flows. In the middle of the forest, hidden from view, there lies Gradec Castle with an impressive eight-metre-high wall and a pleasant atrium on the ground floor.

After entering the castle, you see the inner courtyard. You continue through the kitchen, where meals are being prepared for the nobility, and enter the main room, where the lords of the castle are gathered around a large table to make important decisions.

In the past, Gradec was a centre of military, political and administrative power on the island. Decisions could also be made at assemblies with the representatives of all the Krk municipalities, and the ecclesiastical and Venetian authorities.

And today?

Although Gradec is today a ruin, it still looks imposing and gives off an impression of power. It can be approached by car from the villages of Garica and Risika, and then on foot for 200 m.

Once you're here

Visit **Klančić, the narrowest street in the world**, in the centre of Vrbnik, and also the Vrbnik Ethno House, where you'll learn what life was like in this area in the 15th and 16th centuries.

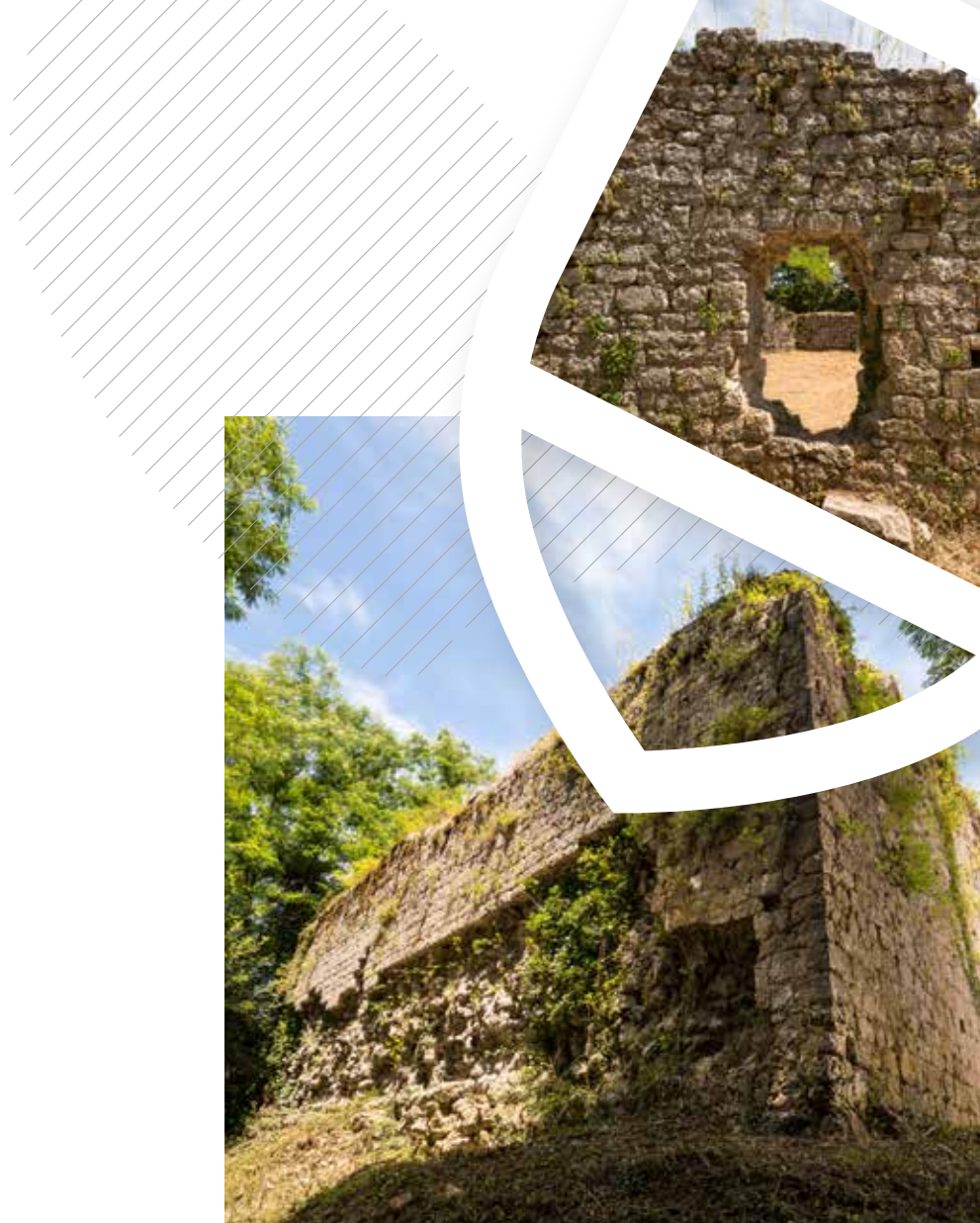
Go for a swim on one of the dozen beaches in the vicinity of Gradec, such as the ones in the **coves of Melska, Sv. Marak** and **Supovica**. For those with a more adventurous spirit, there's a more demanding **cycling trail from Klimno to Gradec Castle** and also **four walking trails**: the Vrbnik Mountain Trail, the Pilgrimage Path, the Routes of the Vrbnik Peasants, and the Vrbnik-Gradec Trail.

This area is known for its Vrbnička Žlahtina wine, which you can taste in the wineries and restaurants in Vrbnik and all over the island of Krk.

Don't miss

Gradec in the Moonlight

This annual event brings Gradec back to life and takes visitors on a journey back in time to the Middle Ages. The event takes place on a full moon night in July, and includes a special music and theatrical programme inside the walls of the castle.



See the wider picture

The castle in the town of Krk is only 30 minutes' drive from Gradec.

Gradec
Castle



14.6 km



Castle
in Krk

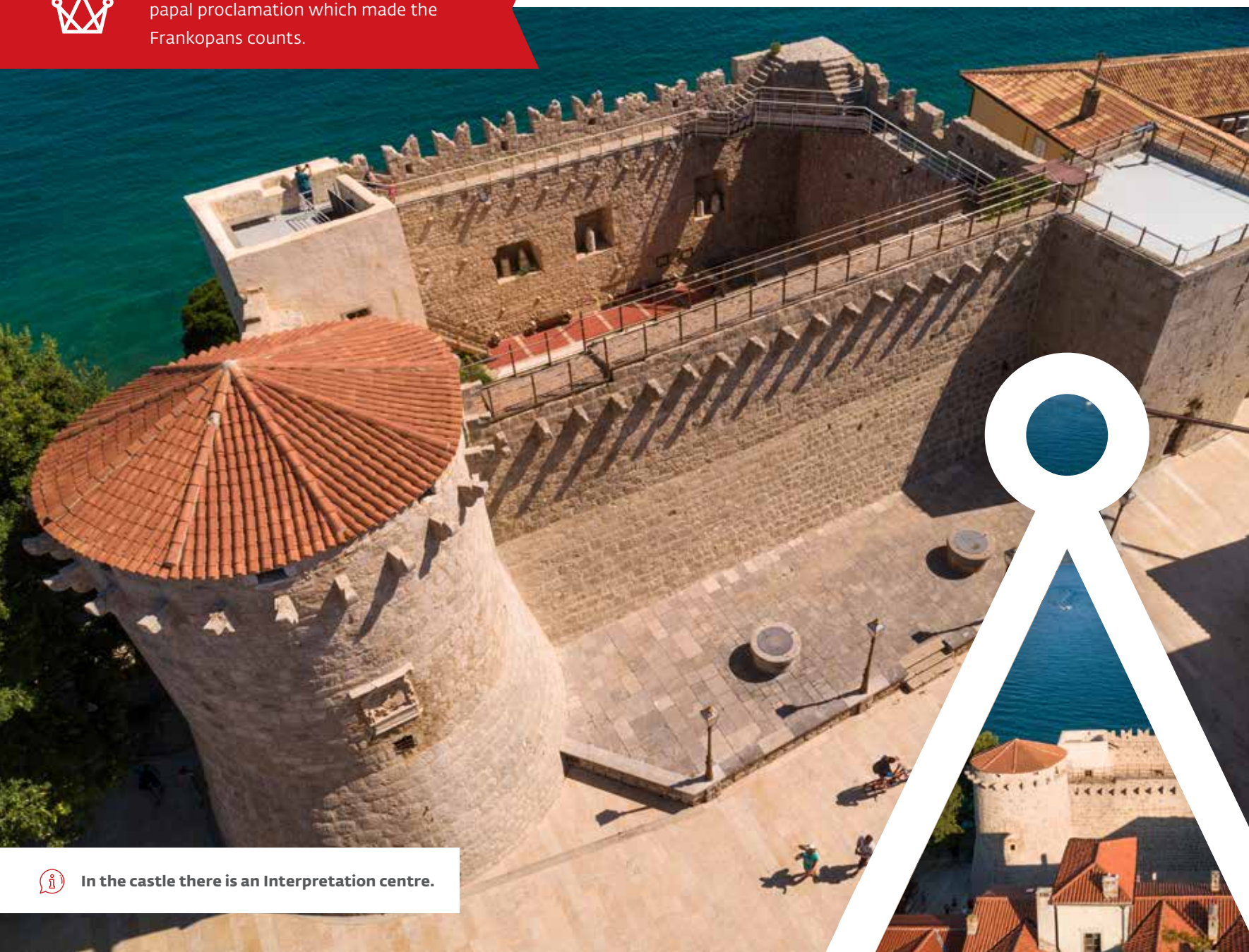
2. Castle in Krk

12th – 15th century



The crown is the symbol of the papal proclamation which made the Frankopans counts.

Built into Roman town walls, the castle in Krk is an impressive structure consisting of three different towers, walls, and a spacious atrium with a water cistern where soldiers and citizens used to hide in case of danger.



In the castle there is an Interpretation centre.

Once you're here

Visit one of the nine beaches in the vicinity. Rent a boat and sail to a secluded pebbly beach, or simply take a walk to the town beach. There are around 30 bars and restaurants nearby, so make sure you visit one of them and **taste šurlice homemade pasta**, which is typical of the island of Krk. Put on a helmet and experience Krk by bike on **seven cycling trails**, ranging from moderately demanding mountain bike trails to less demanding roads. Take a walk through the olive fields along the **'Trail of the Golden Drops'**.

Don't miss

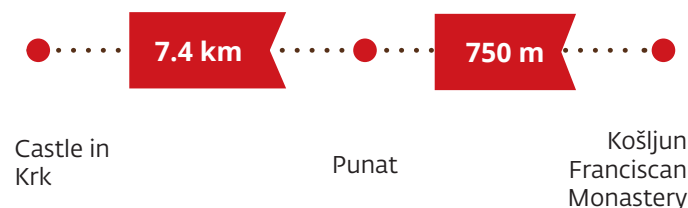
Krk Fair - Lovrečeva

Would you like to experience medieval times first-hand in the company of islanders from the past? You can do so during the Krk Fair - Lovrečeva. Believe it or not, this three-day fair has taken place ever since 1524. It lasts from 8 to 10 August and revives the Frankopan age right in front of us. Medieval scenes with knights, blacksmiths, maidens and winemakers take us back in time, making us become part of this ancient story. And what about today's story? It's all about a public festival and Croatia's first *pršut* ham slicing competition.



See the wider picture

Take a 15-minute-drive to nearby Punat, where every hour you can take a boat to the small island of Košljun, which is home to another Frankopan property.



3. Košljun Franciscan Monastery

15th – 16th century



The chalice symbolises the Christian liturgy and the alliance between the Frankopans and the Catholic Church.



Its position in Punat Bay makes Košljun 'an island on an island'. It is home to a Franciscan monastery and the Church of the Annunciation, a monastery building, and the Chapel of St. Bernardine. There are also the remains of a Roman wall, a medieval fortification, a park and a quay.

Marija Katarina Frankopan was buried on Košljun, but only after the Venetian authorities allowed it – nine years after her death.



Once you're here

Košljun is protected as a special forest vegetation reserve. Apart from the monastery, here you can also visit a collection of stuffed animals, which includes a two-headed lamb, or the **botanical garden** with its 400 plant species.

If you're looking for an adrenaline kick of another kind, in Punat Bay you can also try **water skiing**, including wakeboarding.

Take a bicycle and ride along one of the **six cycling trails in the surrounding area**. Punat offers two short but demanding trails and a light trail, which is suitable for families. Baška has an easy trekking trail and two more demanding mountain bike trails.

See the wider picture

Would you like to visit another Frankopan property on the island of Krk? In only 30 minutes by car, you can reach Baška and climb up to the Church of St. John, and then sunbathe on the most beautiful beach on the island, which is almost two kilometres long. Round off your day with a visit to Jurandvor close to Baška. Its small Church of St. Lucy features a copy of the **Baška Tablet**, a famous Glagolitic monument.

From Krk, head off to Rijeka and start exploring the area which is the richest in Frankopan heritage – historic Vinodol!



How did the Frankopans lose the island of Krk?

When the war between the Venetians and the Frankopans was over, the treacherous Venetians wanted to take over the island of Krk and so prepared a trick for the Frankopans. One day, Venetian ships sailed across the Adriatic and arrived beneath the town of Krk. When the Venetians disembarked in the harbour, they invited Ban Ivo Frankopan and his son Nikola to board the ships for a feast.

When the good-hearted Frankopans were on board, the ships suddenly sailed off in the middle of the feast, taking away the count and his son. They could only curse as they looked at their town and the island to which they would never return. The ships sailed around the island of Cres and across the Adriatic to Venice, where Ivan Frankopan lived with his son until his death. He never saw Krk again.

(Vejske legende, 15th century)*

** The Legends of Krk, early Croatian mythical stories from Antiquity and the Middle Ages*

Croatian Glagolitic Script

Ⱶ

az / a

Ɱ

buki / b

ⱶ

vidi / v

Ɀ

glagole / g

Ȿ

dobro / d

ⱺ

(j)est / e

ⱻ

živite / ž

ⱼ

zelo

ⱽ

zemlja / z

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ljudi / l

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mislite / m

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reci / r

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slovo / s

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tvrdo / t

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črv / č

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jat / ja i(je)

Ȿ

jus / ju

Ȿ

jest-je

VINODOL

Grobnik Castle
Trsat Castle
Castle in Bakar
Nova Kraljevica Castle
Zrinski Old Town
Hreljin Old Town

Drivenik Castle
Grižane Castle
Pauline Monastery, Crikvenica
Tower in Bribir
Castle with Kvadrac Tower, Novi Vinodolski
Ledenice Old Town



The Frankopans **achieved their greatest success** in the area of the former Principality of Vinodol. However, this is also where **their sad end began**. Their 12 properties that have been preserved, including castles, towers, churches and monasteries, bear witness to their past days of glory.

1223

Beginning of the construction of Trsat Castle



1288

Signing of the Law Code of Vinodol

1412

Nikola IV Frankopan establishes the Pauline Monastery in Crikvenica

1651

Beginning of the construction of Nova Kraljevica Castle

1225

Grobnik Castle becomes the property of the Counts of Krk

Hreljin Old Town becomes a possession of the Counts of Krk

First mention of Grižane Castle

Ledenice Old Town comes under the rule of Prince Vid

13th century

Construction of the tower in Bribir

Stone construction of Drivenik Castle

Construction of the castle and Kvadrac Tower in Novi Vinodolski

1557

Bakar Castle comes under the rule of the Counts of Zrinski

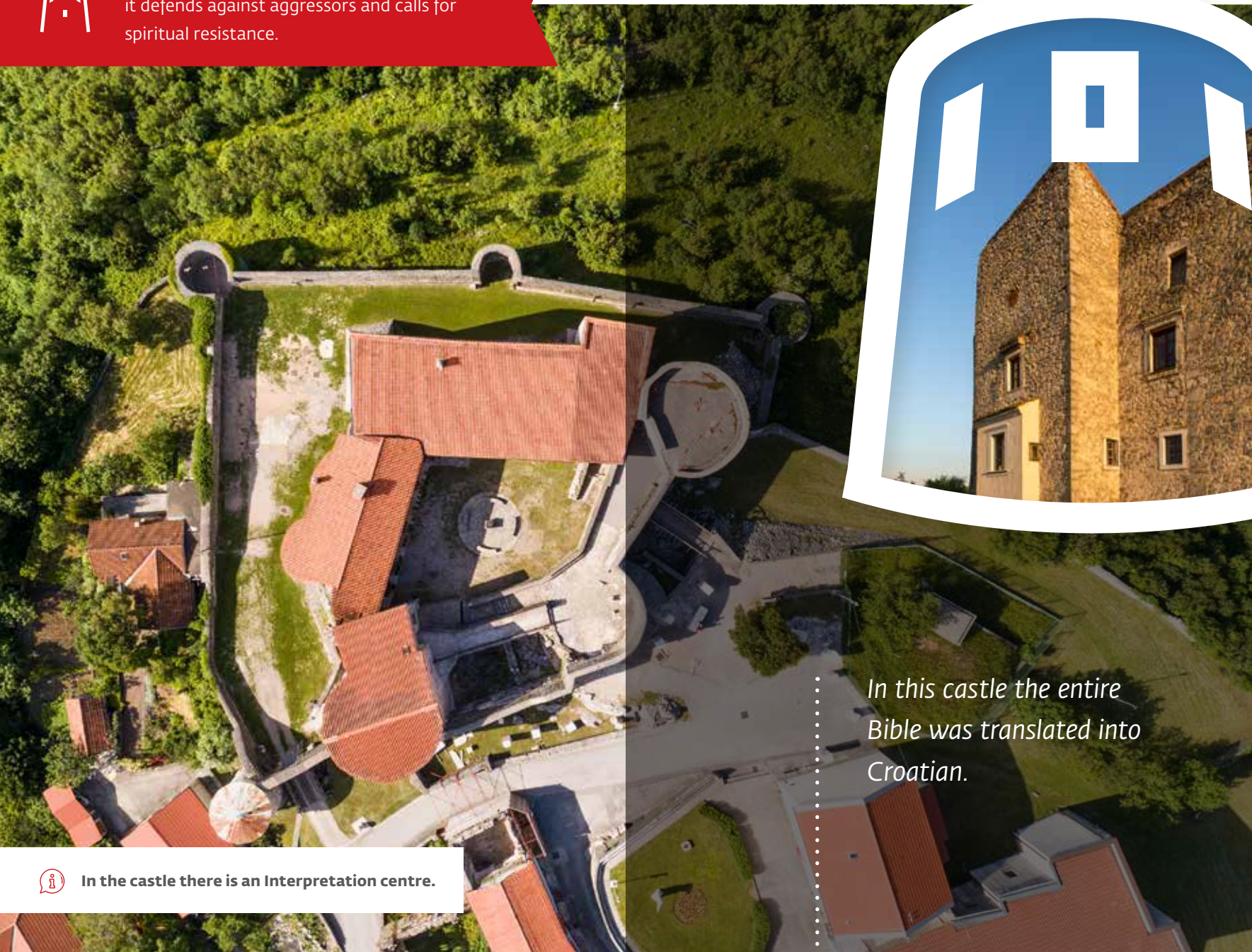
4. Grobnik Castle

15th – 17th century



The tower as a symbol has a double meaning: it defends against aggressors and calls for spiritual resistance.

Grobnik Castle is the starting point for the Frankopan route in the Vinodol area. Grobnik is a strategically important military point on a 466-metre-high hill. After some time, the Frankopans handed it over to their relatives from the Zrinski family.



In this castle the entire Bible was translated into Croatian.



In the castle there is an Interpretation centre.

Once you're here

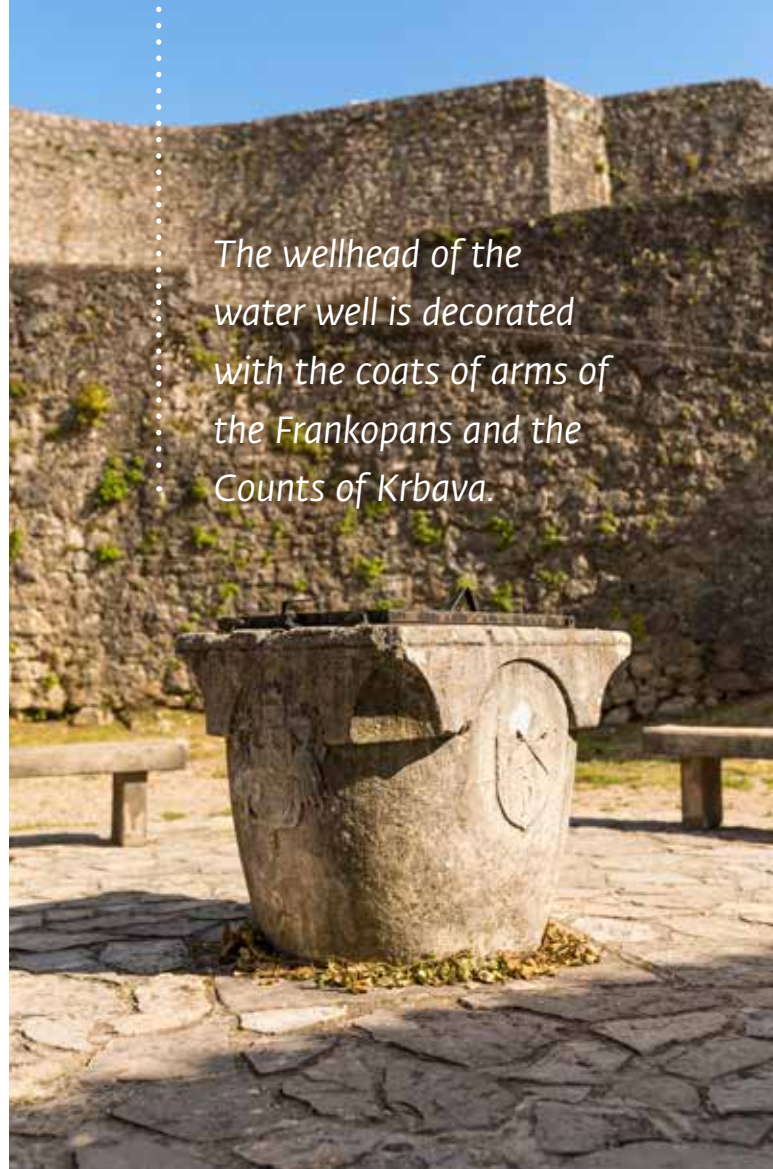
If you like rock climbing, you can conquer Kamenjak or Vela Peša above Grobnik Plain. Kamenjak offers 37 climbing routes from 7 to 45 m in height (with a 60-metre rope), while Vela Peša offers 19 climbing routes from 12 to 32 m in height (with a 65-metre rope).

In the vicinity, you'll find **Automotodrom Grobnik**, a race-track popular with motorcyclists from all over Europe, and also a small airport. If you'd like to enjoy the fresh mountain air, the **Platak excursion area**, with its walking, hiking and cycling trails that cater for different tastes, is only a 20-minute drive away.

Don't miss

Filipja – Wine & Pršut Day

Every year on the first of May, the Grobnik Castle hosts the Filipja event, during which you can sample various wines from all over Croatia.



The wellhead of the water well is decorated with the coats of arms of the Frankopans and the Counts of Krbava.

See the wider picture

The next stop is only a 20-minute drive away: the famous Trsat Castle, which overlooks the city of Rijeka, the centre of Primorje-Gorski Kotar County.

Grobnik Castle



12.7 km



Trsat Castle

5. Trsat Castle 13th century



The shape of the Gothic window that can be found on the entrance tower to Trsat Castle indicates the relationship between the Frankopans and the Catholic Church.



Trsat Castle overlooks Rijeka Bay from a hill 138 m above the sea. It was given to the Frankopans by Andrew II, King of Hungary and Croatia. This was one of the strongest Frankopan fortresses in the littoral region, and over time acquired a cultural importance.



In the castle there is an Interpretation centre.

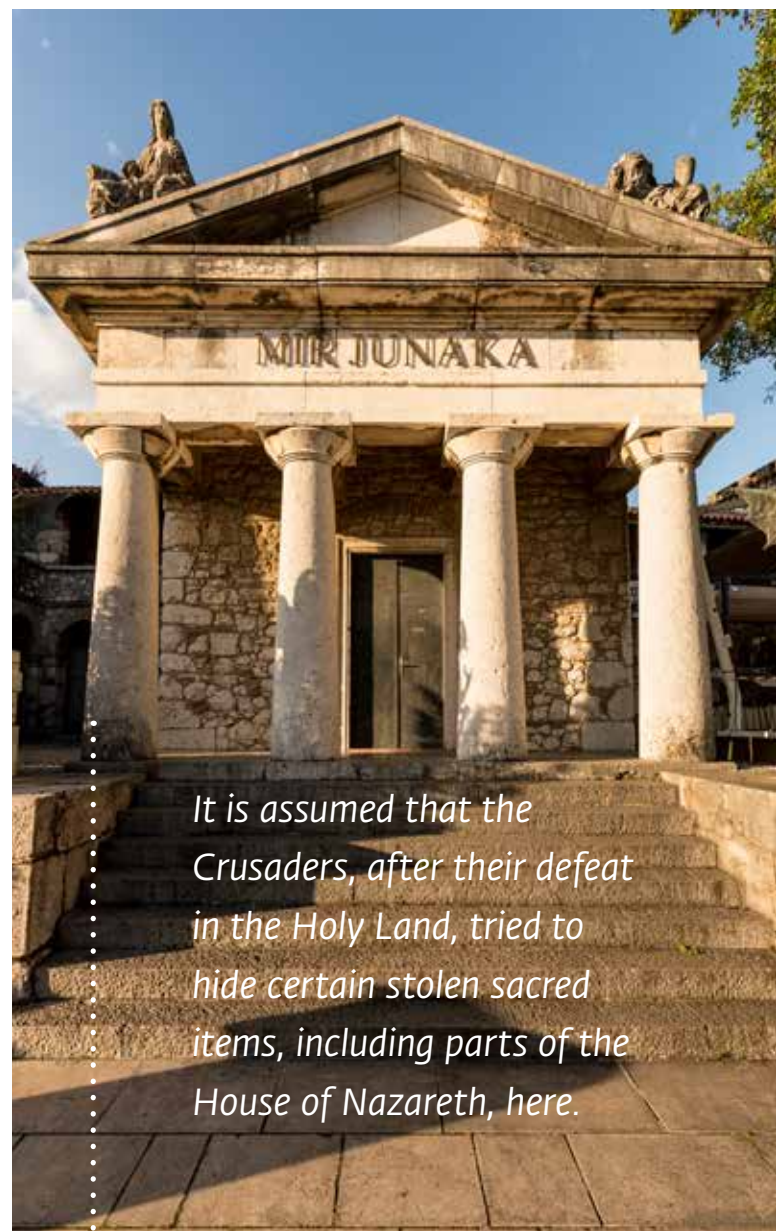
Where did the Holy House go?

Legend has it that in the late 13th century, the birth house of the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared in Trsat. This is the Holy House that was previously located in Nazareth.

Inspired by this event, people started to go on a pilgrimage to the hill of Trsat. The Count of Krk sent a delegation to Palestine to verify the truthfulness of the event, which reported that the House had indeed disappeared from Nazareth. Three years after it appeared in Trsat, the House was carried 'on the wings of angels' to Loreto.

Ivan Frankopan eventually had a chapel built in Trsat, and his son Martin a Franciscan monastery with a church.

Today's appearance of the castle was most influenced by Count Laval Nugent (1777-1862), the owner of several estates in Vinodol, whose mausoleum with the inscription 'Peace of the Heroes' can still be found today at Trsat. He ordered **two bronze basilisks, dragon-like fantastic creatures**, from the sculptor Anton Dominik von Fernkorn. The creatures hold symbols of power: a shield and sceptre.



It is assumed that the Crusaders, after their defeat in the Holy Land, tried to hide certain stolen sacred items, including parts of the House of Nazareth, here.

Once you're here

Trsat overlooks **Rijeka, the 2020 European Capital of Culture**. This is a city that caters for visitors of different interests. It offers numerous beaches, for example Kantrida and Pećine, the **Rijeka Carnival**, various museums and churches, a varied culinary offer, a strong pop culture, a variety of places to visit in the evening, and numerous sport activities.

We recommend a walk along the harbour's main **1,707-metre-long breakwater**, which offers a view of the town from an unexpected perspective.

During the Advent season, Trsat Castle is decorated with glittering lights that create a magical atmosphere for visitors.

Don't miss

Return of the Frankopans

This all-day event in April offers a walk through an old crafts fair with medieval garments, dancing court ladies, and knights' games. This is when Trsat Castle travels back in time to the Middle Ages as if it had never left this period of history.



See the wider picture

The next Frankopan property, the one in Bakar, is only 15 minutes' drive along the highway.

Trsat
Castle



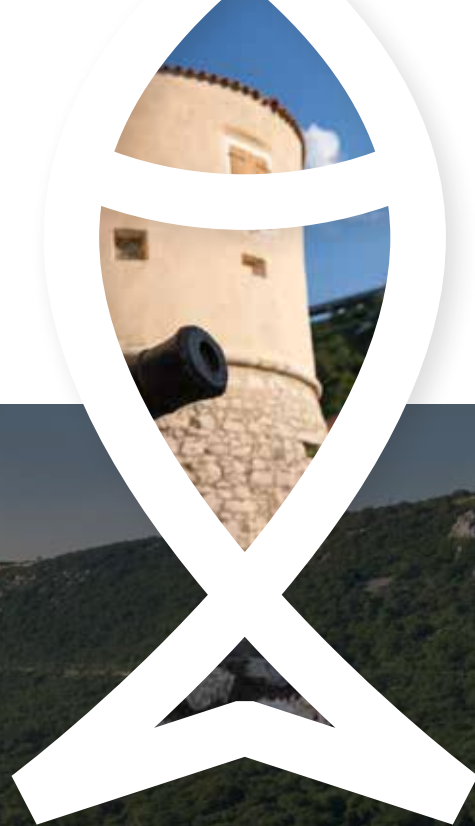
Castle in
Bakar

6. Castle in Bakar

13th – 18th century



The symbol that represents Bakar shows the strong connection between the Frankopans and the sea.



This fortress with its irregular **triangular layout**, located on a hill 50 m above the sea, obtained its present appearance after an earthquake in 1750. In the past, the castle had four kitchens, a water cistern in the courtyard, two dungeons, and several spacious halls.

Members of the Frankopan noble family had many interests, with Bakar standing out for its fishing, especially for tuna. There used to be tuna observation posts in Bakar Bay.



In the castle there is an Interpretation centre.

Once you're here

Visit one of the oldest buildings in Bakar, the **Roman House** in the immediate vicinity of the castle, the exceptional **Turkish House**, and the catacombs beneath the Parish Church of St. Andrew. The town is known for its **Bakar Baškot** ring-shaped bread buns and **Stara Bakarska Vodica sparkling wine**.

The "tunera", tuna observation post in Bakarac, today protected as a monument of culture, attests the local tradition of tuna fishing, which dates back to the times of the Frankopans.

Don't miss

Margaret's Summer

This event takes place every year from mid-June until the end of July and includes a 'Walk through History', a **spectacular naval battle**, and a popular competition entitled 'Bakar Encounters'.



See the wider picture

The magnificent Nova Kraljevica Castle, the place that should have been the cradle of a new Croatian state, is only ten minutes' drive away.

Castle in Bakar



Nova Kraljevica Castle

7. Nova Kraljevica Castle

17th – 19th century



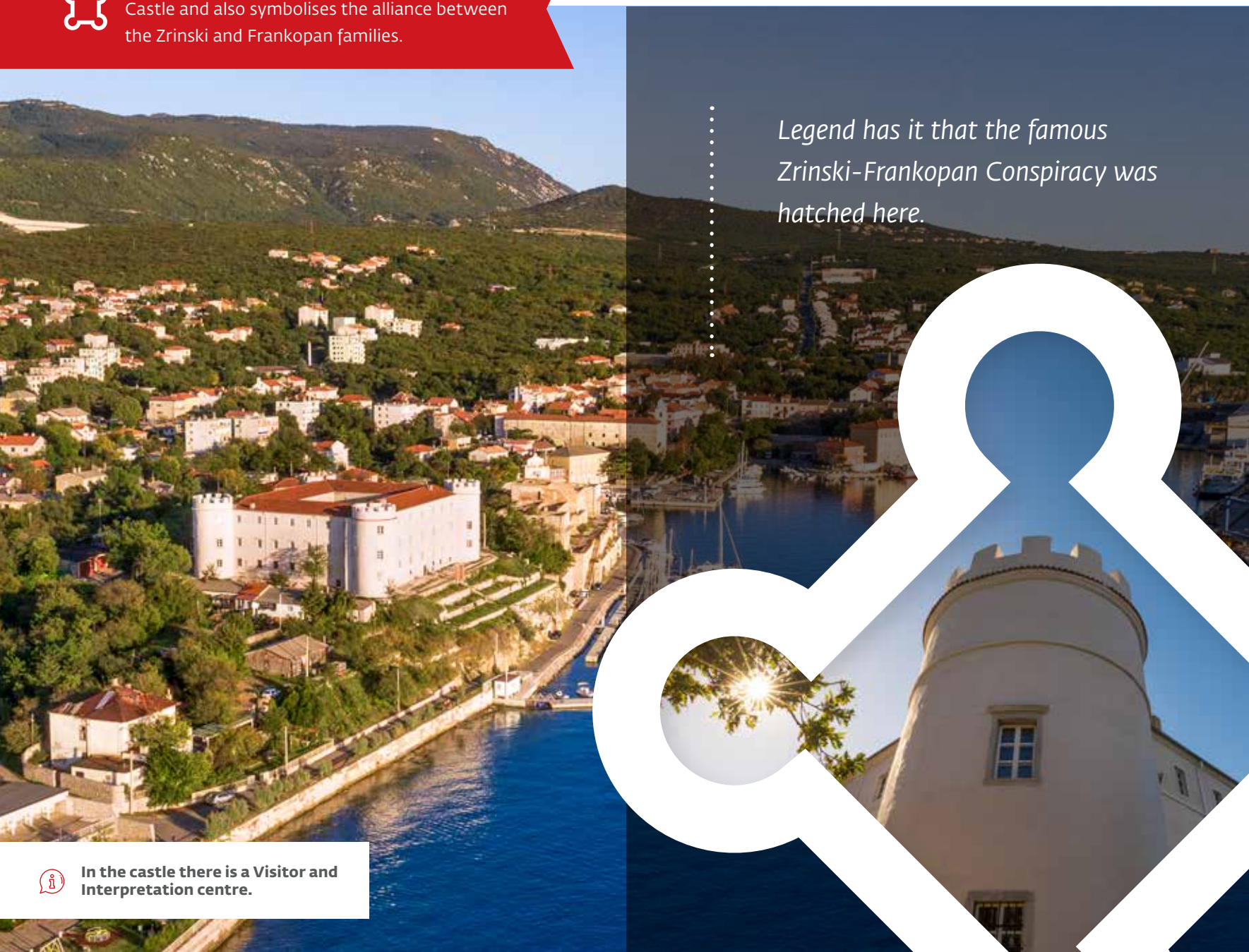
The pictogram represents the layout of Kraljevica Castle and also symbolises the alliance between the Zrinski and Frankopan families.

Nova Kraljevica is one of the most beautiful Frankopan castles. It is said that its interior was arranged by Ana Katarina Zrinski.

Legend has it that the famous Zrinski-Frankopan Conspiracy was hatched here.



In the castle there is a Visitor and Interpretation centre.



The Zrinski-Frankopan Conspiracy

In the second half of the 17th century, the Croatian and Hungarian nobility stood against the absolutist policy of the Habsburgs.

The first conspiracy was led by Ban Nikola Zrinski. However, after he had unsuccessfully sought help in France, Poland and the Ottoman Empire, the conspiracy ended with him being killed during a wild boar hunt. Many believe that this was not an accident but that he was killed on the orders of the court in Vienna.

The second Zrinski-Frankopan Conspiracy was led by Nikola's brother Petar Zrinski and his brother-in-law Fran Krsto Frankopan in 1669. After it became clear that once again they could not count on any help from the Ottomans, Frankopan and Zrinski decided to try to make peace with the Emperor and headed for Vienna. However, once they had arrived, they were imprisoned and their properties in Croatia confiscated and afterwards robbed by imperial forces. Petar and Fran Krsto were sentenced to death by beheading for treason. They were executed on 30 April 1671. The death of Fran Krsto meant the end of the Frankopan male line.

He who dies honourably, lives forever.

This line is inscribed on Fran Krsto Frankopan's tomb in Zagreb Cathedral.

Imagine

A magnificent castle with four large towers and a well in the centre, and inside a **salon with gilded leather wallpaper and marble fireplaces**, mosaics on the floors, and black and white marble door frames.

And today?

The ground floor of Nova Kraljevica Castle today hosts a visitor centre dedicated to the Routes of the Frankopans. The castle's next owners, the Jesuits, added a second floor in the 19th century. Today, the only item that still reminds us of the castle's original owners is a fireplace made of Egyptian black marble.



See the wider picture

The next Frankopan property can be reached in five minutes on foot. Kraljevica is the only town that prides itself on having two Frankopan estates!

Nova
Kraljevica
Castle



Zrinski
Old
Town

8. Zrinski Old Town, Kraljevica 17th century



The well is a symbol of life and also a place of gathering.



The present-day Church of St. Nicholas in the Old Town was once a Frankopan salt warehouse.

Zrinski Old Town is like a stone-built time machine. It consists of the Lower and Upper Castle, which were built in different periods.

The lower part, once a small fortress with the Chapel of St. Nicholas, dates back to pre-Frankopan times, while the construction of the Upper Castle saw the medieval structure partly renovated in the Baroque style.

Once you're here

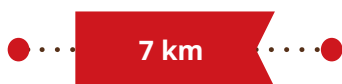
Put on a swimsuit and head to one of the **six nearby blue-green coves** in Kraljevica, such as Črišnjeva or Grabova (Uvala Scott), where you can rent a pedal boat, windsurfing board, and other equipment. For a special experience, visit Cape Nirvana and go for a swim **beneath the former Napoleonic fort**.



See the wider picture

A 15-minute-drive uphill will take you to Hreljin.

Zrinski
Old Town
Kraljevica



Hreljin
Old
Town

Letter by Petar Zrinski to his beloved Ana Katarina

My dear soul!

I most humbly beg of you, that you would not grieve your self to excess, at the sight of this Letter. To morrow, Ah Madam, I must tell it you, Alas! To morrow about ten of the clock in the morning, we must lose our Heads, I, and your brother. To day we have taken our last farewell each of other; and now I come also to take leave of you, my dear Soul, for ever; entreat- ing you that you will please to pardon me all things, whereby in all my life time, I have ever offended you. God who hat created me, will have pity on me, whom I will also beseech, for I hope I shall to morrow be in his presence, that we may see each other in eternal glory before his Throne. As to any thing else, I can write nothing, neither concerning my Son, nor any disposal of what I have in the World, having resigned all to the will of God. Afflict not your self beyond measure, for God will have it so. Newstadt, the last day of my life: Being the 29th. of April, at 7 a clock at night, in the year 1671. God preserve you and bless you, and my Daughter Aurora Veronica. Amen.

Peter Count of Zerín

Written in the evening before his execution, the letter was unfortunately never delivered. Over time, it has been translated into several languages and is today regarded as one of the most moving love letters.

9. Hreljin Old Town

13th century



Hreljin Tower shows the boldness of the Frankopans, who built this town on a steep hill above the sea.

Hreljin is one of the seven Liburnian towns that existed back in Roman times. Legend has it that it was founded by Hercules (Hrelja would be the Croatian form of his name) after he arrived here from Greece.

The Frankopan town of Hreljin is located **on a steep hill 321 m above the sea**. It was an important point along the route between the coast and the interior of Croatia. At the time of the Zrinski family, Hreljin was an important fortress in the defence against the Ottomans.

The oldest part, the castle itself, is located in the south-eastern part of the town. It has a square and a round tower. Today, only the **ruins of the town walls**, the remnants of the church and bell tower of St. George, and the **restored Chapel** of the Blessed Virgin Mary remain.

Once you're here

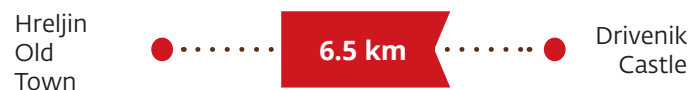
From the castle, take the 'Put Gradine' 1.6-km-long walking trail, which is of medium difficulty (20 minutes' walk), and enjoy its stunning nature and views of Bakar Bay. Its northern coast is distinguished by fascinating 17th-century **Bakarske Prezidi dry stone walls**. A part of the walls, called Takala, has been declared a monument of culture because of its exceptional quality.

Explore the hinterland of Bakar and visit the **natural phenomenon of Ponikve** and enjoy the amazing diversity along the 8.5-km-long educational trail.

Cycling enthusiasts can choose from among **nine marked trails**, which are rather demanding due to the difference in elevation, and which have an overall length of more than 160 km.

See the wider picture

The next castle is in Drivenik, 10 minutes' drive from Hreljin.



10. Drivenik Castle

13th – 15th century



Drivenik is distinguished by a loophole that provided a more secure position for its defenders against the Ottomans.



The name Drivenik reminds us of the Croatian word 'drven' which means 'wooden'. Indeed, this castle was initially made of wood, and then of stone in the second phase of its construction.

In the past, the castle was entered via a drawbridge over a moat. It had a defensive wooden corridor that ran along its interior walls. From there, one could enter the towers, and then go down into the interior of the castle.

Beneath the fort, there is the 15th-century Church of St. Stephen, and also the Baroque Parish Church of St. Dominus (Sveti Dujam).

Once you're here

Explore another route that will take your breath away. The **six 'Eyes of Vinodol' vantage points** are located across the Vinodol area and offer a view of this area from a bird's eye perspective. The first one, Mahavica (781 m), can be found above Drivenik. A narrow street leads uphill along magnificent stone boulders, and the view stretches all the way from Novi Vinodolski to Mount Učka. The vantage points have signposts and a car park area. A tour of all of them by car, including walks and breaks, takes approximately seven hours.

Don't miss

Vinodol Summer Evenings

In the summer months, at several locations across the Vinodol area, including some of its castles, there are concerts, theatrical performances, and varied entertainment programmes.

See the wider picture

Grižane Castle can be reached from Drivenik in 15 minutes by car.

Drivenik
Castle



8 km



Grižane
Castle

11. Grižane Castle

13th – 17th century



The eight-rayed circle symbolises Grižane as a place between the sun and darkness.



The name Grižane indicates that the castle was built next to solid rocks (griže in the local dialect).

Of all the Frankopan castles, Grižane suffered the **most unfortunate fate**. It was struck by a major earthquake, landslides, robbery, and finally the abolition of all its privileges, which made people abandon the castle.

In its better days, the castle had a square shape with round towers at its corners. Its irregular layout is due to the specific configuration of the land. Today, only ruins remain, yet they still overlook Vinodol in a magnificent way.

Once you're here

Take the **circular 'Stone Steps Trail'** from the centre of Grižane and discover a landscape that will leave a lasting impression on you. This rather demanding 10-km-long trail takes five hours of walking and features more than 1,300 stone steps chiselled into the rocks. It leads past two attractive caves and through the **birthplace of the painter Juraj Julije Klović (Giorgio Giulio Clovio)**, the Croatian 'Michelangelo of the miniature' (opening hours 10:00-14:00).

Take beautiful photographs at Pridva vantage point (573 m), the second of the 'Eyes of Vinodol'. For those looking for more adrenaline, there's a paragliding take-off site between the Pridva and Mahavica vantage points.

See the wider picture

Grižane is ten minutes' drive away from the second (out of three) Frankopan religious property – the Pauline monastery in Crikvenica.

Grižane Castle



Pauline Monastery in Crikvenica

12. Pauline Monastery, Crikvenica

14th – 15th century



Bread broken by two lions on the Frankopan coat of arms.



Juraj Julije Klović, the 'Michelangelo of the miniature', was one of the pupils at the Crikvenica monastery.

Nikola IV Frankopan had a **monastery for the Pauline Fathers** built in the area of what is today Crikvenica. Since this was a time of war, the monastery has certain characteristics of a fort. Over the years, the structure has served as a hospital, children's home, rest home, and finally a hotel.

However, its front entrance still features the Pauline Order coat of arms.

Once you're here

Fall in love! Crikvenica is a romantic town that offers everything from the 'Mediterranean Labyrinth of Love' and the 'Love Path' (8 km, an approximately two-hour walk of medium difficulty) to as many as **ten 'Kissing Spots'** for moments with your loved one.

Take a ride along the recreational **Blue Cycling Trail** that leads from Novi Vinodolski via Bribir, Tribalj and Drivenik, passes through Crikvenica, and returns via Selce, Bribirsko and Novljansko Polje back to Novi Vinodolski (38 km).

Put on your best swimsuit and refresh yourself on one of the **twenty or so beaches** in Crikvenica. If you have a pet, there's also a dog beach.

Visit one of the four health tourism facilities and see for yourself why Crikvenica is known as an oasis of well-being. This tradition was started by the Pauline monks.



See the wider picture

A 15-minute-drive along the coastal road will take you to the neighbouring Frankopan property – the tower in Bribir.

Pauline
Monastery in
Crikvenica



Tower in
Bribir

The six Vinodol trails

This area offers great opportunities for an active holiday and walks with stunning views. Put on a pair of comfortable shoes and head along one of the six marked trails in Vinodol:

1. THE KARST AND SAGE TRAIL – leads from Novi Vinodolski via the hilly ridge of Sv. Juraj, Drenin, Gavranova Stijena and Sopalj all the way to Jadranovo (medium difficulty, 28 km, walking time 7 hours). Don't take this route in hot weather and when there's a strong wind.

2. THE CLIFF TRAIL – leads from Vinište via Ledenice along the cliffs of Vinodol all the way to Zebar above Drivenik (very demanding, 29 km, walking time 8 hours). Don't go when there's a strong northerly wind.

3. THE GREEN TRAIL – leads from Luka Krmpotska via the mountain peaks of Rujnik, Sitovnik, Zagradski Vrh and Kanculova Glava to Medviđak (very demanding, 45 km, walking time 10 hours). Don't take this route in the winter.

4. THE HEAVENLY TRAIL – leads from Luka Krmpotska via the highest peaks in this area to Medviđak (very demanding, 53.7 km, walking time 12 hours). Don't take this route in the winter.

5. THE DEGENIA TRAIL – leads from Sibinj through Vodna Draga to Kozica (medium difficulty, 10 km, walking time 4.5 hours). Don't take this route if there's a wind of medium strength or stronger. Picking protected plants is strictly forbidden.

6. THE ROMAN TRAIL – leads from Crikvenica to Čandri behind Drivenik, for the most part following the course of the Dubračina stream (an easy trail, 15 km, walking time 3 hours).

The access paths to the vantage points are rather steep and should therefore be used only in the morning and evening in the summertime. The trails are gentler on the sea side and steeper on the Vinodol valley side. The access path from Drivenik towards the Cliffs Trail is not recommended for people who are not in good physical condition.



13. Tower in Bribir

13th century



The symbol of Bribir is a Glagolitic character, as Bribir was once home to a Glagolitic scriptorium.



Imagine

If you had visited Bribir at the time of the Frankopans, you would have seen a fort surrounded by double walls. It had a long and narrow courtyard, a residential and administrative building, and two towers – a round and a square one.

And today?

Of the two towers, only the square one, known as Turan, has survived. Its **interior was turned into a prison**, which is attested to by its narrow cells. Loopholes have been preserved on all its sides.

Once you're here

Take a picture of the memorable view from the Slipica vantage point in the hinterland of Bribir (446 m above the sea). In Bribir, you'll also find natural water sources and traditional washing sites where people would take water for drinking and their other needs. There are thirty such sites across Vinodol.

Don't miss

The tower features an **attractive exhibition** of coats of arms, medieval weapons, stamps, and flags of the Frankopan and Zrinski families. Next to the tower, there is a Frankopan-themed children's playground.

See the wider picture

The castle in Novi Vinodolski was the venue of one of the historically most important events for Croatia at that time. What happened there? The answer is only 10 minutes' drive away.

Tower in Bribir



Castle with Kvadrac Tower, Novi Vinodolski



In the tower there is an Interpretation centre.

Once you're here

Swim to the **small island of San Marino**, with its Gothic church, located only 205 m from the coast of Novi Vinodolski. A **3rd-century stone inscription** was found here.

Visit another two of the 'Eyes of Vinodol': Sviba (753 m) beneath the peak of Sviba and Kuk (301 m) close to Krmpote.

Find yourself and your place under the sun while walking in the **'Celestial Labyrinths'**. In the village of Omar, close to Krmpote (20 minutes' drive from Novi Vinodolski), there are 10 labyrinths connected by an 800-metre-long walking trail. They are said to encourage positive changes and heal physical and health problems. There's also a distinctive glass chapel nearby.



See the wider picture

The last Frankopan property in Vinodol is 15 minutes' drive from Novi Vinodolski. To visit it, you'll need a pair of comfortable sport shoes.

Castle with
Kvadrac
Tower Novi
Vinodolski



Ledenice
Old
Town

Law Code of Vinodol

In the past, there used to be disputes between the Counts of Krk, Modruš and Vinodol. In order to determine the rights and obligations of the parties involved, representatives of the nine Vinodol municipalities met on 6 January 1288 and drew up the Law Code of Vinodol.

The nine municipalities were Novi Vinodolski, Ledenice, Bribir, Grižane, Drivenik, Hreljin, Bakar, Trsat and Grobnik.

The law, written in the Glagolitic script, is today one of Croatia's most important monuments of culture. It stipulated a system of penalties, contributions, and mutual rights and obligations for peasants and lords. The document also included provisions on women's rights and their personal and moral protection.



15. Ledenice Old Town

13th century



A white flag of St. Ursula with a red cross was found in the area of Ledenice.



The ruins close to Ledenice in Vinodol today still remind us of the glory days of the town. The local history ranges **from a Roman settlement to a fort that defended Kvarner** from the Ottomans.

The square tower in the centre of the castle is locally known as the donžon, which means 'dungeon'. Such towers were the best guarded and safest places, which is why they were used to keep prisoners in. This means that **the tower was both a defensive facility and a prison**. In order to be able to make it quickly inaccessible in case of danger, the tower could be entered by means of additional steps or via wooden access ramps.

To inform their neighbours in Novi Vinodolski of any danger, the guards would light bonfires on the tower as a signal.

Once you're here

Enjoy the best view of the castle from the Gradina vantage point (379 m), the last of the 'Eyes of Vinodol'.

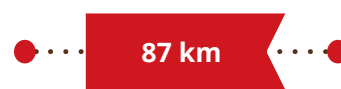
Descend 140 m from Ledenice to the **remnants of an old cemetery** with an unusual circular shape.

Visit the scenic Ledenice Plain and **Dobra drinking water source** beneath the castle.

See the wider picture

Your journey across Vinodol has come to an end. But don't worry, there are five more interesting Frankopan properties waiting for you in Gorski Kotar. The first stop is in Čabar.

Ledenice
Old
Town



Zrinski
Castle in
Čabar

GORSKI KOTAR

Zrinski Castle in Čabar
Zrinski Castle, Brod na Kupa
Severin Castle

Stara Sušica Castle
Gomirje Monastery



A quite different world, far from the sea and coast, rich in dense forests in all shades of green, with fresh air and natural resources, attracted the Frankopans to Gorski Kotar. The same is true for us today.

In Gorski Kotar, the Frankopans developed trade, built roads, exploited the land, forests and mineral resources, and processed, forged and melted down metals.

15th century

Construction of Zrinski Castle in Brod na Kupa

1558

First mention of the castle in Severin na Kupa

15th-16th centuries

The Frankopans built Stara Sušica Castle

1600

Establishment of the Gomirje Monastery

17th century

Petar Zrinski built Zrinski Castle in Čabar



In the past, Gorski Kotar was known as 'Hortus Diabolicus' (the 'Devil's Garden') because it was completely impenetrable, so the Romans called it a land that only the devil could enter. This name remained until the 18th century. The Frankopans had a great influence on the development of the area.

16. Zrinski Castle in Čabar 17th century



The mining pickaxe symbolises the skill of the members of the Zrinski family who made Čabar one of the manufacturing centres of Croatia.

The entrepreneurial Zrinskis knew how to use the resources of Gorski Kotar. They not only built a castle in Čabar but also an iron smelter, sawmills and mills.

The castle consists of four buildings arranged around a courtyard and two towers connected by a defensive wall. The curia, parts of the defensive walls, the towers and the vaults on the ground floor of the central part of the castle have been preserved to the present day. The building houses a local museum and a gallery of paintings by the renowned artist Vilim Svečnjak.



In the castle there is an Interpretation centre.

Once you're here

Čabar offers **seven educational trails** along which you can learn more about, for example, the miners of Tršće (6.5 km), forest predators in Tršće (1.7 km), the local flora on the 'Tropetarska Stijena' trail (walking time 1 hour), or energetic points on the Trbuhovica trail (7.5 km) in Prezid.

Try out some new sports. You can **go hunting** in the surroundings of Čabar (licence required) on four hunting grounds, **or opt for archery, fishing** along the River Čabranka, **hiking, or extreme cycling** on five enduro bike trails.

In Prezid, you can visit the local museum, the Vesel ethno house, and a Roman defensive wall.

Risnjak National Park is also nearby, which, among other attractions, also includes the stunning **source of the River Kupa**.



SECRET TUNNEL

Although there is no official record of a secret tunnel in the castle in Čabar, local people claimed that before it was filled up, a tunnel led from the ground floor to the rock of Tropetarska Stijena above Čabar. The tunnel had the role of an emergency exit. Old weapons and even human bones were allegedly found there.

See the wider picture

A 40 minute-drive through the scenic landscapes of Gorski Kotar will take you to Zrinski Castle in Brod na Kupa.

Zrinski
Castle in
Čabar



32.8 km

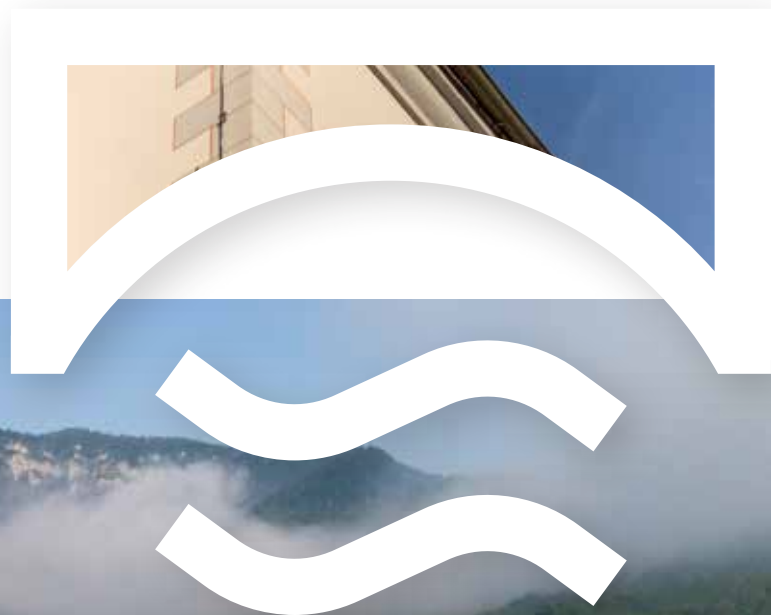


Zrinski
Castle, Brod
na Kupa

17. Zrinski Castle, Brod na Kupi 17th century



The bridge is a metaphor for the combination of the Adriatic and continental building traditions present in the castle.



A good example of the close relationship between the Frankopan and Zrinski families is Zrinski Castle in Brod na Kupi. The Frankopans built it as a wooden structure, while Petar Zrinski inherited it and fortified it against Ottoman attacks.

The castle had loopholes on all sides and a breteš – an opening for pouring hot lead or oil or throwing stones on the enemy. The area was surrounded by a defensive wall, and later on the Church of St. Mary Magdalene was also built. Today, there is a permanent exhibition of Rijeka Natural History Museum here, entitled 'Wilderness with a View of the Sea'.



In the castle there is an Interpretation centre.

Once you're here

In the village of Homer, not far from Brod na Kupi, you can visit a **trout farm** and buy fresh fish.

Experience the River Kupa by joining a **rafting or canoeing excursion** that ends in a recreational picnic area close to the village of Čedanj.

The next castle, the one in Severin na Kupi, can be reached along a 37-km-long cycling trail with a total elevation gain of 900 m. The area of Delnice has numerous cycling trails, ranging from easy to more demanding ones.

To learn how people used to live here in the past, visit the Rački House (the oldest house in Delnice) or the Popović Mill (by prior arrangement).



THREE SECRETS OF THE CASTLE

The castle had not one but three secrets in the form of underground passages that served for escape. The exits were in the centre of the parish church, on the banks of the River Kupa, and in the cave of Vučja Jama. The tunnel that was used for running away is still visible and partly passable.



See the wider picture

Continue your journey to the castle in Severin na Kupi, which is 45 minutes' drive away.

Zrinski
Castle, Brod
na Kupi



37.4 km



Severin
Castle

18. Severin Castle

17th century



The leaf symbolises the ability of the Frankopans to blend in with the untouched Gorski Kotar landscape.



From the Frankopans to the Zrinskis and back, this castle changed owners several times. Today, we can enjoy its beautiful park which has been declared a **monument of park architecture**.

The castle has one floor, towers at its corners, and an inner courtyard with arcades. In the interior, there is the Chapel of St. Florian.

This is where **Fran Krsto Frankopan** played as a child and grew up.

Once you're here

Embark on a rafting or kayak adventure on the River Kupa. Those looking for a greater challenge can try a timber raft trip of three or more days along the river's rapids through unspoilt nature.

Visit **Lukovdol**, the birthplace of the poet Ivan Goran Kovačić. His birth house has a museum and an attractive amphitheatre next to it.

Don't miss

Severin Evening

'Severin Evening' takes place every year on the first Saturday in September, giving visitors the opportunity to enjoy enactments of historical events and customs, and to try the grape specialities and traditional sweets of the area.

See the wider picture

The most magical castle that you can see in Gorski Kotar is located in Stara Sušica, 30 minutes' drive away.

Severin
Castle



Stara
Sušica
Castle

19. Stara Sušica Castle

17th century



This fortified castle withstood Ottoman attacks, partly thanks to the impenetrable forest to which this symbol is dedicated.

Stara Sušica Castle has a glorious history. In the past, it withstood a major Ottoman attack. Surrounded by an intact forest, the castle exudes a particularly charming, fairy-tale atmosphere.



In the 19th century, it was owned by Count Laval Nugent, an Irish aristocrat fascinated by the spirit and legacy of the Frankopans. History also remembers him for restoring Trsat Castle. In 1890, Stara Sušica was bought by the Rijeka merchants Feliks and Josip Neuberger, who **renovated it in a romantic style**, adding a tower and spire to the building.

Once you're here

In the immediate vicinity of the castle, there is the **'Large Carnivores'** visitor centre with a permanent multimedia exhibition about the three large carnivores that live in Gorski Kotar – the **wolf, bear and lynx**.

Visit the **Javorova Kosa excursion site with its Božji Studenac ('God's Well') water source**, which is said to have healing properties.

Only 25 km away, there is **Zeleni Vir** (the 'Green Source'), a strong spring beneath a tall picturesque rock down which a stream of water gushes, and **Vražji Prolaz** (the 'Devil's Passage'), one of Croatia's most stunning gorges with its wild romantic atmosphere.

In one of the three nearby eating establishments, you can try the **culinary specialities** that are typical of this region: game, mushrooms, fruits of the mountains, and blueberry strudel.

Take a walk along the 'Fruits of the Mountains' educational trail in the vicinity of the centre of Ravna Gora. The trail is 1.5 km long and suitable for children.



See the wider picture

If you have visited all the sites along the route – congratulations! The last of the Frankopan properties, Gomirje Monastery, is 20 minutes' drive away.

Stara
Sušica
Castle



Gomirje
Monastery



20. Gomirje Monastery

17th century



The distinctive symbol of Gomirje Monastery is its bell tower, which originally belonged to the Catholic Church but eventually took on the features of Eastern Christianity.



How did this former Frankopan castle, with its Church of St. Mary, become **the westernmost Orthodox monastery in Europe** with its Church of the Nativity of St. John the Forerunner?

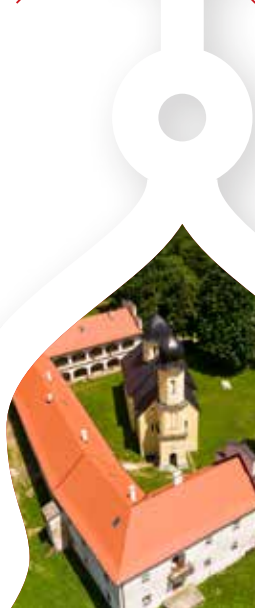
There's an interesting story behind this about loss and community. After the Ottomans had destroyed the castle and church during one of their invasions, the settlement was demolished and its inhabitants scattered. Refusing to accept this situation, the Frankopans brought in warriors of the Orthodox faith to defend the area.

The monastery was established for their religious needs. After that, a tower was built that was eventually turned into a belfry, and the church was expanded.

Once you're here

Visit **Kamačnik protected landscape** with its crystal-clear stream of water, and take a walk along the musical trail with romantic small suspension bridges that will acquaint you with the local plant and animal species. A walk along the Kamačnik canyon is 6.8 km in both directions and requires 2 to 3 hours of walking.

After that, you can drive to **Lake Čogrljevo**, which can be reached along a path that connects the historic roads of Karolina and Lujzijana. These roads used to lead from Karlovac towards the sea. After 9 km, you'll arrive at Moravice; in the vicinity, there's the hamlet of Tiči and Lake Čogrljevo. Next to the lake, there's a walking path with benches to sit on, and at its end there is Vede Waterfall.





Addresses

GRADEDEC CASTLE

Risika, 51516 Risika
+385 51 857 479
www.vrbnik.hr
www.ala-su.com

CASTLE IN KRK

Trg Kamplin 7, 51500 Krk
+385 98 726 884
Opening hours:
From Monday to Saturday 08:00-17:00,
closed on Sundays
www.tz-krk.hr
www.krk.hr

KOŠLJUN FRANCISCAN MONASTERY

Košljun, 51521 Punat
+385 51 854 017
Opening hours:
From 1 April to 31 October
From Monday to Saturday 09:00-17:00,
on Sundays and holidays 10:30-12:30
From 1 November to 31 March
From Monday to Saturday 09:30-15:00,
on Sundays and holidays 10:30-12:30
www.kosljun.hr
www.tzpunat.hr

- Island of Krk -

GROBNIK CASTLE

Trg Zrinskih i Frankopana 1, 51219 Čavle

+385 51 549 120

+385 99 809 3250

Opening hours:

From 1 June to 31 August

From Tuesday to Friday 09:00-13:00 and
18:00-21:00,

on Saturdays and Sundays 18:00-21:00,

on Mondays and holidays closed

From 1 September to 31 May

From Monday to Friday 09:00-15:00,

on Saturdays and Sundays on request

www.tz-cavle.hr

TRSAT CASTLE

Partizanski put 9 A, 51000 Rijeka

+385 51 217 714

Opening hours:

From 1 June to 30 September: 09:00-20:00

From 1 October to 31 May: 09:00-17:00

1 January, 1 November and 25 December closed

www.visitrijeka.hr

- Vinodol -

CASTLE IN BAKAR

Frankopanska bb, 51222 Bakar

+385 51 761 111

Opening hours:

on request

www.tz-bakar.hr

NOVA KRALJEVICA CASTLE

Dvorac Nova Kraljevica, Rovina 6,

51262 Kraljevica

+385 51 281 800

Opening hours:

on request

ZRINSKI OLD TOWN, KRALJEVICA

Zrinski trg bb, 51262 Kraljevica

+385 51 282 078

Opening hours: 08:00-20:00

www.tzg-kraljevica.hr

HRELJIN OLD TOWN

+385 51 761 111

www.tz-bakar.hr

- Vinodol -



DRIVENIK CASTLE

Drivenik bb, 51242 Drivenik

+385 51 248 730

Opening hours:

on request

www.tz-vinodol.hr

GRIŽANE CASTLE

+385 51 248 730

www.tz-vinodol.hr

PAULINE MONASTERY, CRIKVENICA

Frankopanska 22, 51260 Crikvenica

+385 51 241 051

Opening hours:

on request

www.rivieracrikvenica.com

- Vinodol -

TOWER IN BRIBIR

Bribir 34, 51253 Bribir

+385 51 248 730

Opening hours:

on request

www.tz-vinodol.hr

CASTLE WITH KVADRAC TOWER, NOVI VINODOLSKI

Trg Vinodolskog zakona 1,

51250 Novi Vinodolski

+385 51 244 266

Opening hours:

From Monday to Friday 09:00-12:00,

Saturdays and Sundays on request

www.tz-novi-vinodolski.hr

LEDENICE OLD TOWN

Ledenice, 51251 Ledenice

+385 51 248 730

www.tz-novi-vinodolski.hr

- Vinodol -

ZRINSKI CASTLE IN ČABAR

Narodnog oslobođenja 2, 51306 Čabar

+385 98 461 406

Opening hours:

From Monday to Friday 07:00-15:00,

Saturdays, Sundays and holidays on request

www.tz-cabar.hr

ZRINSKI CASTLE, BROD NA KUPI

Kralja Tomislava 1, 51301 Brod na Kupu

+385 51 629 301

+385 51 553 669

Opening hours:

on request

www.prirodoslovni.com

SEVERIN CASTLE

Purga bb, 51329 Severin na Kupu

+385 51 875 984

www.tz-vrbovsko.hr

- Gorski Kotar -

STARA SUŠICA CASTLE

Karolinska cesta 85, 51314 Ravna Gora

+385 98 170 4179

Opening hours:

on request

www.tz-ravnagora.hr

GOMIRJE MONASTERY

Ribnjak 23, 51327 Gomirje

+385 51 875 984

+385 51 878 188

+385 91 7814 314

Opening hours:

on request

www.tz-vrbovsko.hr

- Gorski Kotar -

Pictograms

(lat. pictus – painted, portrayed) is the image of an object as a symbol of a particular term or word.



represents **sea waves**.

The island of Krk is the cradle of the Frankopans. The Count of Krk Dujam I was the first in a line of rulers who from the 15th century called themselves the Frankopans. Dujam was the first count from the Frankopan family.



represents the **layout of Nova Kraljevica Frankopan Castle**.

This is an impressive building from the time of the strong alliance between the Zrinski and Frankopan families. The castle celebrated the social status of its owners by following a building concept that was at the time popular among the European nobility. The luxury interior was probably arranged by Ana Katarina herself.



represents a **crown**.

The crown symbolises authority, the rule of the Frankopans and their political power that for many centuries was exercised on the international political stage. Croatian history is unthinkable without the Frankopans – counts, bans, viceroys, warriors, poets and more.



represents a **star**.

A six-pointed star was part of the old coat of arms of the Counts of Krk until 1430. This coat of arms was divided horizontally: its upper red field featured a six-pointed star, and the lower field was silver or gold.

By taking the name of Frankopan in 1430, the family did not renounce the old coat of arms but continued to use the old and the new one simultaneously, even combining them and thus creating interesting heraldic solutions.



represents the **Glagolitic letter O**.

The Glagolitic script is a very important aspect of the Frankopans' activities, the heritage of the island of Krk, and Croatian literacy in general. This pictogram represents the endeavours of the counts in the development of literacy and the preservation of Croatian identity. For centuries, they took care of the cultural and spiritual development of the people and encouraged the construction of monasteries and also the cultural work of the priesthood and Glagolitic priests. They translated books into Croatian, ranging from prayers, poems and fortune telling to Molière's comedies.



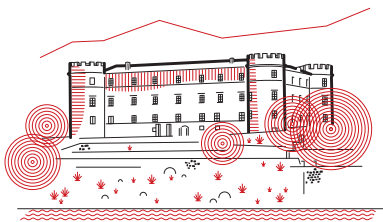
represents a **lion**.

The Counts of Krk took the Frankopan name after having been present in this area for three centuries. The Lion of Saint Mark, the symbol of Venetian dominion and rule, can be found all along the Adriatic coast.



represents **bread**.

Some historians believe that it was the fashion of the time to take a name that originated from Roman times. This family took the name of the Roman patricians de Frangepanibus and then changed their coat of arms to present two lions breaking bread (*frangere pane*).



Nova Kraljevica Castle



Severin Castle



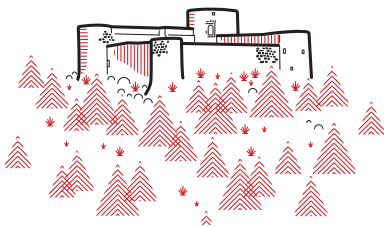
Stara Sušica Castle



Zrinski Castle in Čabar



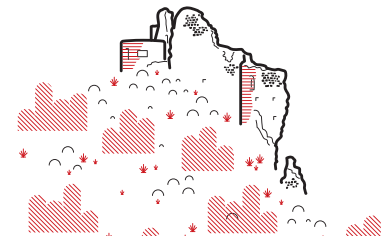
Košljun Franciscan Monastery



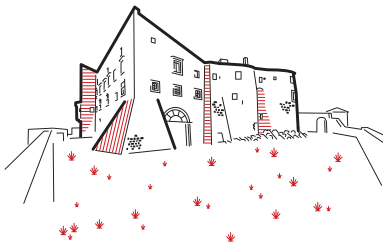
Drivenik Castle



Gradec Castle



Grižane Castle



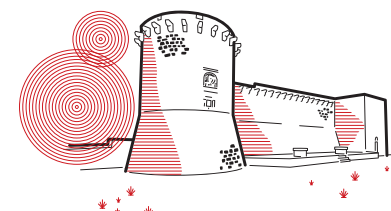
Grobnik Castle



Trsat Castle



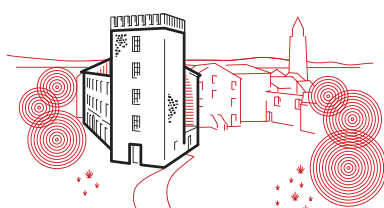
Castle in Bakar



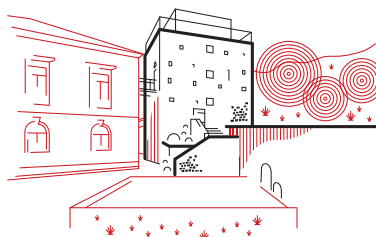
Castle in Krk



Zrinski Castle, Brod na Kupa



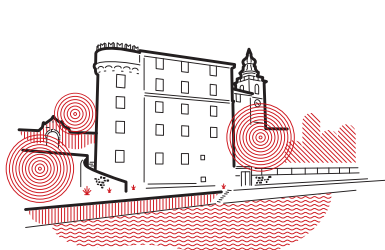
**Castle with Kvađrac Tower,
Novi Vinodolski**



Bribir Tower



Gomirje Monastery



**Pauline Monastery,
Crikvenica**



Hreljin Old Town



Ledenice Old Town

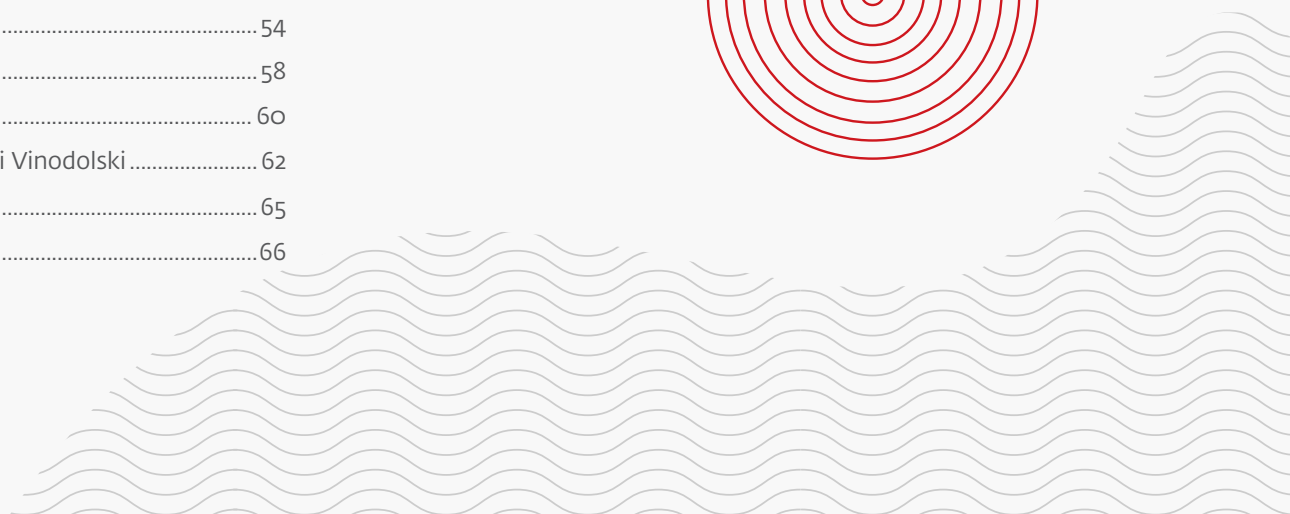
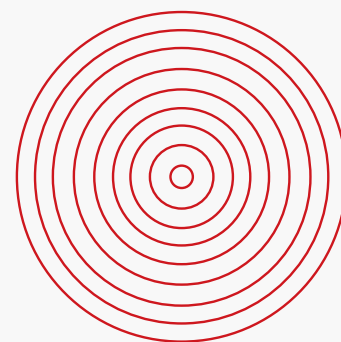


Zrinski Old Town, Kraljevica

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**Heroes might
die, but the
stories about
them don't!**



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