

1

GPS:
14.64362 E
46.29801 N

Na vrhu On the summit



2 | 10 min

**Pastirjeu dan
The herdsman's
day**



11 | 25 min

**Vetrnici
The Vetrnica caves**



**PROGRAM
RAZVOJA
PODEŽELJA**
Evropski kmetijski sklad za razvoj podeželja: Evropa investira v podeželje

Projekt sofinanira Evropska unija iz Evropskega kmetijskega sklada za razvoj podeželja in Republika Slovenija v okviru Programa razvoja podeželja 2014–2020. Za vsebino je odgovorna Občina Kamnik. Organ upravljanja, določen za izvajanje Programa razvoja podeželja RS za obdobje 2014–2020, je Ministrstvo za kmetijstvo, gozdarstvo in prehrano.

Po stopinjah pastirjev *In the footsteps of herdsman*

Občina Kamnik | Municipality of Kamnik | Obliskovanje in priprava vsebin *Design and preparation of content*: D.C. Studio | Besedilo | Text: Borut Peršolja | Prevod | Translation: Amidas d.o.o. | Projekt je nadaljevanje študentske naloge, nastale v okviru projekta Po kreativni poti do praktičnega znanja, Filozofska fakulteta Ljubljana, 2016. *The project is the continuation of a student project that originated as part of the Creative Path to Practical Knowledge initiative at the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Arts in 2016.*

HARMONIJA GORA, KI JE NAVDIHOVALA ŽE STAROSELCE

Se sprašujete, katera točka v bližini vašega stojišča je najvišja? Morda tista z razgledno rozo ali katerakoli druga, saj je stožasti vrh z več strani zaprt z enakomerno visokimi skalnimi pregradami, ki jih prerašča ruševje. Mehko obliko plitvega kraterja boste najlepše občutili, če se sezujete in bosi poiščete namišljeno sredinsko točko. Predstavljajte si, da so na vse strani dvignjeni robovi del utrjene starodavne naselbine, nekakšnega obrambnega plota. Da ob vas tli ognjišče in da je ta naravna ograda skromen, a dokaj varen dom za ljudi in njihove domače živali. V ta divji gorski svet so se v davni povzpeli bodisi najpogumnejši bodisi tisti, ki jih je strah pred zavojevalskimi plemeni pregnal iz doline. Naši predniki torej, ki so se prilagodili zahtevnim življenjskim razmeram in dali pokrajini ime.

Gradišče in Njuvice, starodavni zemljepisni imeni vrha, kjer stojite, nakazujeta arheološko zgodbo, ki je zaenkrat še nikomur ni uspelo razvozlati. Zagotovo pa drži, da so razgled na Grintovce ter Kamniško bistriško ravan naši predniki užili na enak način kot sodobni človek: s pogledom, ki zajema svet od Jadranskega morja, Dinarskega sveta vse do Panonske nižine.

Naš 1667 m visoki vrh je navkljub trem uram in pol hoje, kolikor jih paš potrebujemo iz Stahovice po eni od najstarejših poti, planinsko pohlevem. Obiskujemo ga vsi: otroci, mladostniki, odrasli in starejši.

MOUNTAIN HARMONY THAT INSPIRED EVEN THE FIRST SETTLERS

Are you wondering which is the highest point near where you are standing? Perhaps the one with the lookout compass, or maybe one of the others, for the conical summit is surrounded on all sides by lofty walls of rock overgrown with mountain pines. The best way to perceive the soft shape of the shallow crater is to take your shoes off and, barefoot, seek the imaginary centre point. Imagine that the raised edges all around you are part of an ancient fortified settlement, a kind of defensive enclosure. That a fire glows nearby and that this natural enclosure is a modest but relatively safe home for people and their animals. Back in the mists of time, those who climbed up into this wild mountainous world were either very brave or were driven from the valley by their fear of invading tribes. Our ancestors, who adapted to

the difficult conditions and gave the landscape its name.

Gradišče [“Hill Fort”] and **Njuvice** [“Little Fields”], the ancient geographical names of the summit where you are standing, indicate an archaeological story that no one has yet succeeded in unravelling. One thing that is certain, however, is that our ancestors enjoyed the view of the Grintovec group and the Kamniška Bistrica plain as much as we do today: a view that encompasses an area from the Adriatic Sea to the Dinaric Alps and all the way to the Pannonian lowlands.

Despite the three and a half hours it takes to get here on foot from Stahovica, following one of the oldest paths, our 1,667 metre peak is not demanding in mountaineering terms and is popular with everyone: children, teens, adults and the elderly.



Velika Planina is a 1,000 hectare low-mountain karst plateau in the Kamnik-Savinja Alps and one of the oldest and largest pasture areas above 1,200 metres in Slovenia's Alpine region.



2

GPS:
14.64987 E
46.29522 N

Pastirjev dan The herds- man's day



3 | 2 min
Arhitektura
Architecture



1 | 10 min
Na vrhu
On the summit



PROGRAM
RAZVOJA
PODEŽELJE
Evropski kmetijski sklad za razvoj podeželja: Evropa investira v podeželje

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I AM HAPPIEST WHEN UP IN THE MOUNTAIN PASTURE



he herdsman's day is a long one, with ceaseless walking up hill and down dale, keeping the fire burning in the stove, and gazing constantly at the sky. The weather, the temperature and the length of the day determine both what the herdsman wears each day and what tasks he decides to perform. It would be hard to find a herdsman who does not welcome newcomers happily and heartily. The herdsman knows how to enjoy the solitude of his own thoughts and at the same time likes teasing pampered valley-dwellers, who will long remember the encounter.

The typical herdsman's day goes something like this:

- 5.00 a.m.** Gets up, milks the cows, pours the milk for souring and drives the animals to pasture.
- 7.00 a.m.** Puts the cowshed in order and eats breakfast.
- 8.00 a.m.** Does chores (eradicates poisonous plants and bushes, repairs fences, clears rocks and stones from the pasture).
- 12.00 p.m.** Eats lunch and does his rounds to see where the cattle are grazing.
- 2.00 p.m.** Uses sour milk to make cottage cheese and cheese, makes butter from cream, makes hard *trnič* cheeses.
- 5.00 p.m.** Gathers medicinal plants and fruits.
- 6.00 p.m.** Gives the cows their evening milking and secures them in the cowshed.
- 9.00 p.m.** Socialises with the other herdsman and goes to bed.

The total number of cattle at pasture on Velika Planina is smaller (around 380 head of cattle in 2015) than it was before the Second World War (by way of comparison, in 1875 the number was around 560) and fell to its lowest level in the 1990s.

Today most members of agrarian communities keep livestock in order to produce meat. Milk production is a complementary activity that brings variety to the diet of the herdsman and, above all, the daily visitors to the mountain pasture. Most herdsman are old but very tough.

The advantage of life in the mountain pasture is that it teaches hard work. It teaches the herdsman to look after themselves and their cows – and to find entertainment in the smallest things.



Torila
Wooden
bowls



Pastir pri molži kraue
A herdsman milking a cow



Pinja in deža
Churn and tub

© Robert Novak

© Peter Naglič (1932); hrani Matjaž Šporar

MOJE NAJVEČJE VESELJE JE NA PLANINI

Pastirjev dan je dolg, povezan s stalno hojo čez drn in strn, z ohranjanjem ognja v štedilniku ter nenehnim pogledovanjem v nebo. Vreme, mraz in dolžina dneva krojijo tako vsakodnevno opravo pastirja kot izbiro opravil. Pastirja, ki ne bi veselo in prisrčno pozdravil prišleka, zlepa ne boste srečali. Pastir zna uživati v samoti lastnih misli, prav tako pa zna nagajivo zbosti razvajenega dolinca, da bo srečanje še dolgo pomnil.

Pastirju so koraki dneva odmerjeni takole:

- 5.00** Vstane, pomolze živino, nalije mleko za kisanje in živino odžene na pašo.
- 7.00** Počisti hlev in poje zajtrk.
- 8.00** Opravi tlako (odstranjuje strupene rastline in grmičevje, popravlja ograje, pobira kamenje s pašnikov).
- 12.00** Poje kosilo in na obhodu preveri, kje se pase živila.
- 14.00** Predela kislo mleko v skuto in sir, naredi iz smetane maslo, izdeluje trniče.
- 17.00** Nabira zdravilne rastline in plodove.
- 18.00** Zvečer živino pomolze in priveže v hlev.

3

GPS:
14.65137 E
46.29474 N

Arhitektura Architecture



4 | 3 min

Vrtača velikanka
Giant doline



2 | 2 min

Pastirjeu dan
The herdsman's
day



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PODEŽELJA
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LESENO ZAVETJE, KI S TOPLOTO POVEZUJE UDOBJE IN SUROVOST PREŽIVETJA



Velika planina s svojo izjemno kulturno krajino je posebnost v celotnih Alpah. Sedem še vedno živih planin s pastirskimi naselji, njihovo leseno arhitekturo in svojstveno rabe tal pripoveduje zgodbo iz preteklosti.

Človek je na planini prisoten že od prazgodovine. Takrat so verjetno postavljali preprosta zavetišča iz lesa ali šotore za občasno bivanje. Arheologi so posamezne tlorise stanov odkrili na zavetnih legah z razgledom, na prisojah in ob skromnih izvirov. Najdbe, kot so novci, brusni kamni, konice, žebli, obeski, prstani, keramika govorijo o načinu življenja, številni kemblji in zvonci pa dokazujejo navzočnost živine. Zgodovinski viri planino prvič omenjajo leta 1538 z imenom Die Gross Ross Albenn (Velika Konjska planina).

Najbolj samosvoj obraz Velike planine in njene bivalne kulture razkriva pastirski stan. Tloris te edinstvene in unikatne »avtohtone pastirske bajte z ovalno šotorsko streho« je šel v korakih: **krog → oval → polkrog → pravokotnik**, torej izhajajoč iz simbolne popolnosti kroga. Prvotni stan je imel preprost osrednji prostor za pastirja, z odprtim ognjiščem brez dimnika (čato imenovana tudi »ognjiščnjica«), stropa in oken, okrog pa lopo za živino, v celoti prekrito z ovalno skodelasto streho (smrekove ali macesnove deščice). Ko so v začetku tridesetih let 20. stoletja odprli stransko lopo za živino in v izbo vstavili okna, se je začel proces, ki je stan na koncu spremenil v pravokotnega, s tradicionalno delitvijo prostora v bivalni in gospodarski del.

Spomladi leta 1945 na celotnem območju ni bilo nobenega stanu več, saj so jih pozimi Nemci in domobranci požgali. Cela ni ostala niti kapela Marije Snežne, ki je bila zgrajena leta 1938 po načrtih arhitekta Jožeta Plečnika. Nova je bila postavljena in blagoslovljena šele leta 1988. Zadnji ohranjeni ovalni stan v Alpah je po vojni avtentično obnovljen Preskarjeva bajta. Tradicionalnemu izgledu je sledila kasnejša gradnja počitniških koč v okolici Gradišča in Zelenega roba, za kar je zaslužen arhitekt **Vlasto Kopač**.



© Primož Hieng

Generacije različnih raziskovalcev, od arheologov do geografov, raziskujejo Veliko planino. Najbolj temeljito se ji je posvetil etnolog dr. Tone Ceuc. A številna uprašanja še vedno ostajajo brez odgovora.

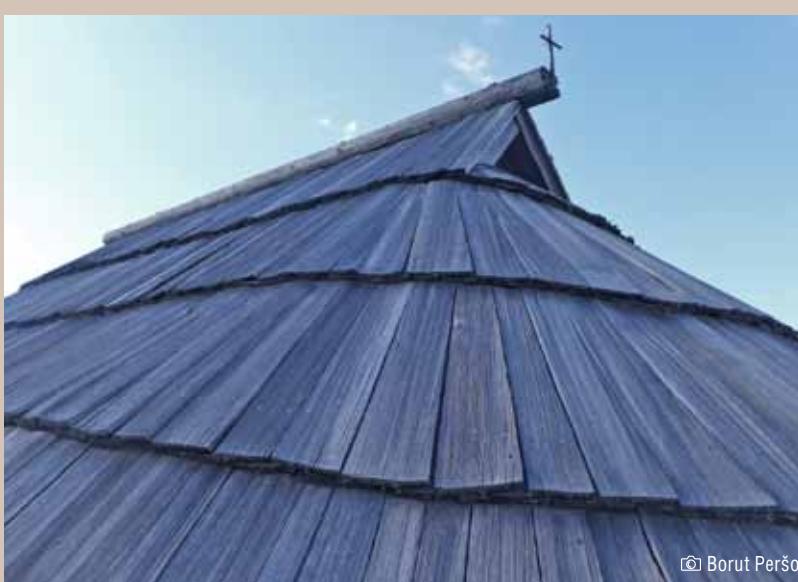
Generations of researchers of different kinds, from archaeologists to geographers, have researched Velika Planina. The most thorough research has been that conducted by the ethnologist Tone Ceuc. Nevertheless, many questions remain unanswered.



Ovalni stan
Oval hut



Pravokotni stan
Rectangular hut



A WARM WOODEN SHELTER THAT COMBINES COMFORT AND THE RAWNESS OF SURVIVAL



The extraordinary cultural landscape of **Velika Planina** is something unique in the Alpine region. The seven still-functioning pastures with herdsman's settlements, with their distinctive wooden architecture and unique use of the land, tell a tale from the distant past.

Man has been present in these highlands since prehistoric times. To begin with, people built simple shelters out of wood or rigged bivouacs. Archaeologists have discovered individual ground plans of dwellings in sheltered positions commanding a view, in sunny exposures and by small springs. Finds such as coins, whetstones, sharpened tools, nails, pendants, rings and pottery vessels tell us about their way of life. Numerous clappers and bells prove the presence of cattle. Historical sources first mention the pasture in 1538 as "Die Gross Ross Albenn" ("Great Horse Pasture").

The most unique face of Velika Planina and life in the pasture is revealed by the herdsman's hut. The ground plan of this unique "indigenous herdsman's hut with an oval tent-like roof" developed in stages: **circle → oval → semicircle rectangle → rectangle**. It developed, in other words, from the symbolic perfection of the circle. The original hut consisted of a simple central room for the herdsman, with an open chimneyless fireplace and no ceiling or windows. Surrounding it was a shed for the livestock, entirely covered by the hut's oval shingled roof (with pine or larch shingles). In the early 1930s the opening up of the part of the animal shed running along the side of the hut, and the insertion of windows in the wall of the living quarters, marked the start of a process that would eventually transform the shed into a rectangular structure within which the space was traditionally divided into living quarters and a working part.

When spring arrived in 1945, no hut was left standing anywhere on the plateau, since they had all been burnt down by German troops and their local collaborators during the winter. Not even the chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Snows – built in 1938 to a design by the architect Jože Plečnik – was spared. A new chapel was not built and consecrated until 1988. The last surviving oval herdsman's hut in the Alps is Preskar's Hut (*Preskarjeva bajta*), which was authentically renovated after the war. The holiday cottages that were later constructed in the area around Gradišče and Zeleni Rob ["Green Edge"] were based on the traditional appearance of the herdsman's huts – thanks to the efforts of the architect **Vlasto Kopač**.

4

GPS:
14.65202 E
46.29398 N

Vrtača velikanka Giant doline

 **5 | 10 min**
Prisluhni
Listen



 **3 | 3 min**
Arhitektura
Architecture

IZ SKLEDE NE UIDETA NE ČLOVEK NE VOLK

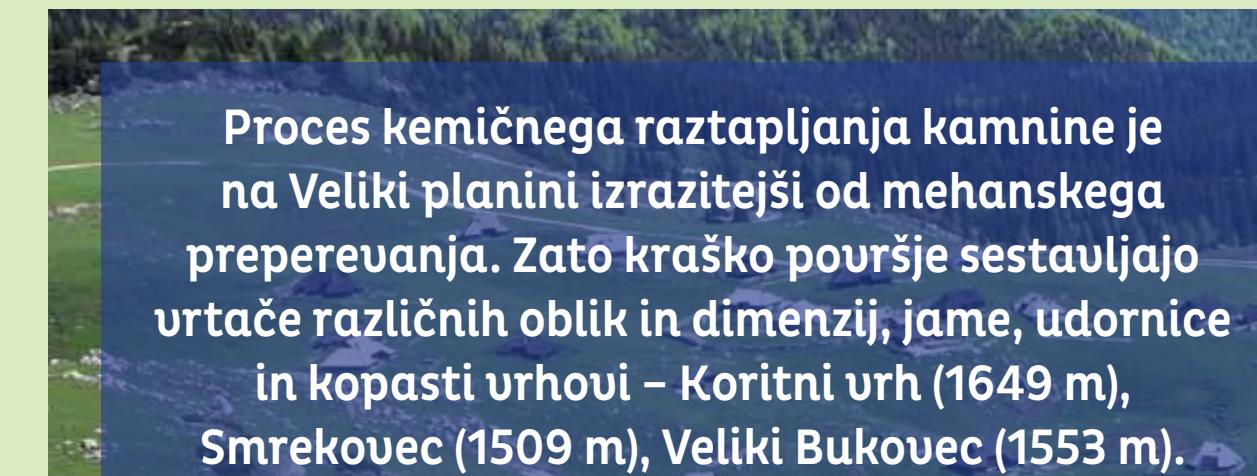
Ob veličastnem pogledu na Ojstrico, Planjavo in Brano so nekatere oblike površja spregledane. Ali pa zaživijo šele, ko se prepletejo s priповedjo iz ne tako davne preteklosti.

Velika planina je nastala zaradi gubanja in prevračanja kamnin iz morskih usedlin. Takoj po nastanku se je zaradi padavinske vode v obliki dežja, snega in ledu začelo **kemično raztopljanje** apneca in dolomita ter mehansko zniževanje površja. V dnu vrtač, kjer se nabirajo večje količine snega, se je po zadnji ledeni dobi (10.000 let) površje znižalo za en meter. Pričevanje o nastanku vrtače velikanke se tako pretaka s padavinsko vodo, ki ob pronicanju skozi tla širi razpoke v kamnini ter pod zemljo izvrtli brezno. Zaradi ploskovnega zniževanja površja se je strop brezna udril, kasnejše zmanjševanje naklona obodnih sten pa je vodilo v nastanek sprva lijakaste, kasneje pa skledaste kotanje, ki jo imenujemo vrtača. Tako je nastala tudi Vovkova jama (Woukowa jáma) pod Žrelom (plitvo sedelce

nasproti našega stojača, kjer je v ograji prehod v Konjsko dolino). Danes je s travo poraslo pobočje vrtače prepredeno z obodnimi stezicami, ki so jih po plastnicah uhodile krave.

Pričovedi, povezane z vrtačami

- Pred več kot sto leti, ko je bil na Veliki planini že redek gozd, so krave pogosto napadali medvedi in volkovi. Pastirji so jih ponoči odganjali z gorečimi poleni. Da so ostali budni, so noč presedeli na dvonožnih stolih, za obrambo pa so imeli pri sebi manjšo sekiro. Predrnji volk se je nazadnje nespretno ujel v past, v do dva metra globoko jamo v dnu vrtače, ki so jo pastirji zakrili z vejami.
- Pozimi, v snežnem neurju, je utrujeni domačin zašel v vrtačo, taval v krogih, brez uspeha skušal priti po strmini iz nje, izgubil čevalj in obležal z napol odpeto obleko. Umrl je zaradi izčrpanosti in podhladitve, nakar ga je prekril sneg in zmaznenega so ga našli šele spomladvi ...



Proces kemičnega raztopljanja kamnine je na Veliki planini izrazitejši od mehanskega preperevanja. Zato kraško pouršje sestavlja vrtače različnih oblik in dimenij, Jame, udornice in kopasti urhou - Koritni urh (1649 m), Smrekovec (1509 m), Veliki Bukovec (1553 m).



Chemical weathering is more pronounced than mechanical weathering on Velika Planina. Accordingly, the karst relief consists of dolines of different shapes and sizes, caves, collapse dolines and conical peaks - Koritni Vrh (1,649 m), Smrekovec (1,509 m), Veliki Bukovec (1,553 m).

NEITHER MAN NOR WOLF CAN ESCAPE THE BOWL

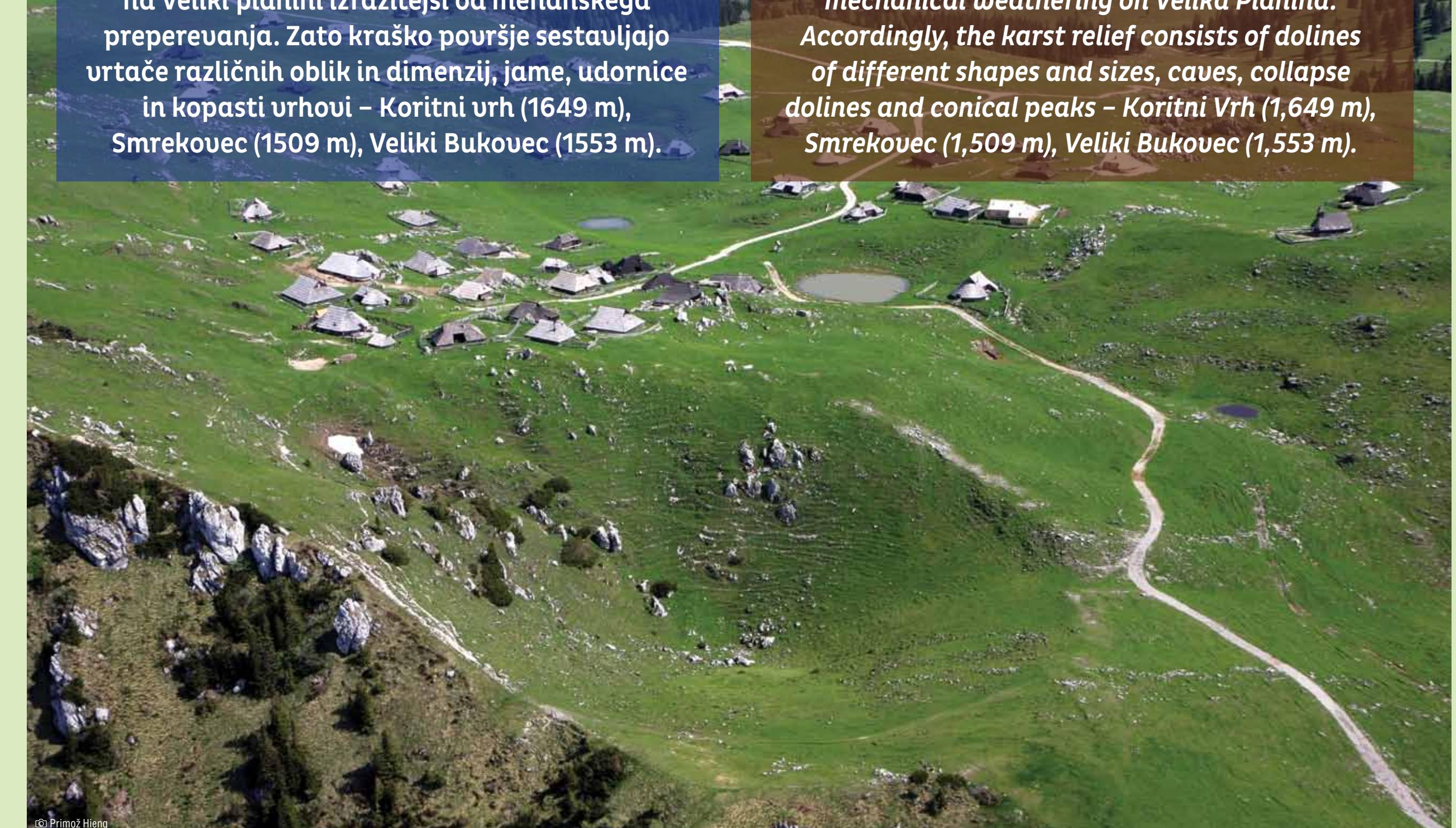
Compared to the magnificent views of Ojstrica, Planjava and Brana, some aspects of the relief are overlooked. Until, that is, they become entwined with a story from the not so distant past.

Velika Planina formed as a result of the folding and thrusting of marine sedimentary rocks. Immediately after its formation, as the result of precipitation in the form of rain, snow and ice, a process of **chemical dissolution** of limestone and dolomite began, combined with the mechanical lowering of the relief. At the bottom of dolines, where large quantities of snow collect, the surface has sunk by one metre since the last ice age (10,000 years). The story of the formation of the giant doline (hollow or basin) is one of precipitation trickling through the soil, widening cracks in the rock and hollowing out chasms. The uniform lowering of the surface resulted in the ceiling of one of these chasms or potholes collapsing. Later, a reduction in the inclination of the surrounding walls led to the formation of an initially funnel-shaped and later bowl-shaped hollow known as a doline. This same process led to the formation of Vovkova Jama (Woukowa jáma)

below Žrelo (the shallow saddle or col opposite where we are standing, where a gap in the enclosure leads into Konjska Dolina ["Horse Valley"]). Today the grass-covered slope of the doline is criss-crossed by the little paths worn by the hooves of cows around its contours.

Stories linked to dolines

- More than a hundred years ago, when trees were already sparse on Velika Planina, cows were frequently attacked by bears and wolves. At night, the herdsmen drove them away with flaming logs. In order to stay awake, they would spend the night sitting on two-legged stools. Each would have a small axe with him to defend himself. One night an overbold wolf fell into a trap: a pit two metres deep at the bottom of the doline which the herdsmen had covered with branches.
- One winter, during a snowstorm, an exhausted local man strayed into the doline, where he wandered in circles, unsuccessfully trying to climb the slope and escape the doline, losing his shoe in the process. Eventually he lay on the ground, his clothes half undone, where he died of exhaustion and exposure and was then covered by the snow. His frozen corpse was not found until spring.



5

GPS:
14.65444 E
46.28924 N

Prisluhni Listen



6 | 10 min

Kamnita vrata
Stone doorway



4 | 10 min

Vrtača velikanka
Giant doline



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© Robert Novak

ZVOKI, KI RAZKRIVAJO RAZPOLOŽENJE PLANINE

Dolga zima zaznamuje pastirja in planino. Ko pastir spomladi stopi na starodavno gonsko pot, ga objame tišina, prežeta z mogočno navzočnostjo planine. Iz zamaknjenosti ga zdrami zvok kravjih zvoncev, prisluh, ki budi prijetne spomine.

Spomni se, kako je njegov ded nekoč v rokah držal **pisave** in z njimi opisoval (krasil) **trniče**. Podolgovate kratke letvice, na obeh straneh do polovice izrezljane, so čustveni svet naredile otipljiv: rastlinski motivi, srce, križ ... Par trničev je ded prinesel svojemu dekletu, kasnejši ženi, ki jih je še dolgo hranila v skrinji. Zvestoba, ljubezen in dar – trije deli velikoplaninskega zaklada žlahtne tradicije.

Pastirjevi stiki z dolino so bili redki, odhod na planino je bil za tisto poletje dokončen. Ob nedeljah so se zato pastirji zbirali na robeh in poslušali **zuonjenje cerkuenih zuonou**. Misli in osebne molitve so uhajale k domačim, h kmetiji, k živini na paši in željam po kakem priboljšku.

Cingljanje na planinah ustvarja posebno razpoloženje, dve velikosti kravjih zvoncev z značilnim zvenom pa pričata o prefijnenem posluhu pastirja. Izkušen pastir je med številnimi zvoni nemudoma razločil zvonec svoje živine in v meigli usmeril svoj korak k ta zvončasti – kravi vodnici. Zvonec, ki naj bi odganjali tudi zle duhove, so pastirji na daleč sporočali, če je živina nemirna, če se pase ali ležerno počiva.

**Vsako govedo je imelo tudi suoje ime,
ki je zaznamovalo njegove zunanje
lastnosti, na primer barvo, obliko rogov,
način uedenja ...**

**Pred neznanim človekom je pastir
nerad poklical živo in, imenu pa je vedno
sledil uabilni klic:
Siuka, na, na, heda, hej!**

SOUNDS THAT REVEAL THE MOOD OF THE MOUNTAIN PASTURE

The long winter leaves its mark on the herdsman and the mountain pasture. When the herdsman steps onto the ancient drovers' path in spring, he is enveloped by a silence that is pregnant with the mighty presence of the mountain pasture. He is roused from his reverie by the sound of cowbells, something that awakens pleasant memories.

He remembers his grandfather and the wooden **pisava** he used to decorate the hard **trnič** cheeses he made. The pisava was a short strip of wood carved on both sides for half its length that rendered the emotional world tangible: plant motifs, a heart, a cross. His grandfather brought a pair of *trnič* cheeses to his sweetheart, later his wife, who kept them in her trousseau chest for a long time. Fidelity, love and a gift – the three parts of this noble tradition of Velika Planina.

The herdsman's contacts with the valley were rare. Once they had set off for the mountain pasture, that was it for the summer. On Sundays, the herdsmen would gather at the edges of the plateau and listen to the **tolling of church bells**. Their thoughts and personal prayers ran to those at home, to their farm, to their cattle at pasture and the desire for some treat.

The **jangle** of cowbells in mountain pastures creates a special mood. Two different sizes of cowbells, each with its own distinctive sound, are evidence of the herdsman's highly developed hearing. An experienced herdsman can immediately distinguish the bell of his own livestock among the many bells he can hear and direct his steps – in fog, for example – to "ta zvončasta" – the lead cow that wears the bell (zvonec). Cowbells, which were also said to drive away evil spirits, told the herdsman from far off whether the animals were restless, or grazing, or lazily resting.

Every cow had its own name, chosen on the basis of characteristics such as its colour or the shape of its horns, or its behaviour... Herdsmen did not like to call their cattle in front of strangers. The name was always followed by a traditional cattle call:

Siuka, na, na, heda, hej!

Trniči in pisave

Trnič cheeses and the wooden pisave used to decorate them



© Tomaž Lauko

6

GPS:
14.66006 E
46.28654 N

Kamnita vrata urata Stone doorway

→ **7 | 18 min**
Rastje
Flora



← **5 | 10 min**
Prisluhni
Listen

KAMNITA VRATA – PRESTOPAMO SVETOVE

Poselitev Velike planine je dokaz večtisočletnega racionalnega odnosa človeka do gorske narave. V višje lege so ljudi silile zemljiske razmere, saj so gorske pašnike potrebovali kot nujno dopolnilo **preskromni dolinski paši**. Na gručasto razvrstitev pastirskev stanov so vplivale vremenske razmere, oblika površja in potreba po medsebojnih stikih. Vsaka kmetija je na planini lahko imela le toliko živine, kolikor jo je v dolini prezimelo v domačem hlevu. Pravica do paše in uživanja srenske planine je bila vezana na kmetijo.

Pastirji so bili nabiralcji užitnih rastlin, gradiv in znanja. Vedeti so morali, katera živila so hranljiva, od katerih človek zboli in katera zdravijo. Prepoznati so morali opozorilne znake pred nevihto in sušo, si znati izdelati kamnit nož, zakrpati ogrinjalo, nastaviti past za lisico, se soočiti z neurjem ali divjo zverjo. Njihovim očem ni ušel noben brlog, nobena mlaka ali nahajališče uporabnega kremera ...

Človeštvo ima danes veliko več znanja od starodavnih skupnosti, vendar pa so na osebni ravni v znanju in spremnosti nekdanji pastirji neprekosljivi. Obvladovali so svet živali, rastlin in predmetov ter notranji svet svojega telesa in lastnih čutov. Bili so **bistroumni opazovalci narave**, obdarjeni s prefinjenim čutom za poimenovanje najrazličnejših oblik površja. Ohranjena zemljepisna imena govorijo o njihovem miselnem zemljevidu. Skalnati samotarji, okamnele babe in dedci ali skrivnostna kamnita vrata so del tega bogatega duhovnega sveta. Neredko so pastirji na teh posebnih prostorih puščali votivne darove, izvajali obredja in opravljali prehode, ki jih povezujemo s pomembnimi življenjskimi mejniki, letnimi časi in živinorejskim krogom.

Odprta vrata vabijo, da jih prestopimo. Vendar ne pozabimo, da smo tu samo gostje, zato se tako tudi obnašajmo.

STONE DOORWAYS TO OTHER WORLDS

Human settlement on Velika Planina is evidence of a rational attitude towards the mountain landscape that dates back several thousand years. Land conditions forced people into the highlands, since they needed mountain pastures as an essential complement to the **inadequate pasture in the valley**. The clustered arrangement of herdsmen's huts was influenced by weather conditions, the shape of the relief and the need for human contact. Each farm could only pasture as many cattle in the mountains as spent the winter in the cowshed at home in the valley. Grazing rights and the right to use common pasture were strictly tied to the farm.

Herdsmen were collectors of edible plants, material and knowledge. They had to know which plants were nutritious, which caused sickness and which had the power to cure. They had to be able to recognise the warning signs of a storm or a dry spell, know how to make a stone knife, patch a cloak, set a trap for a fox, face a storm or a wild beast. No animal's lair, no pool of water, no deposit of useful quartz escaped their notice.

People today have far more knowledge than ancient communities, yet at the personal level the herdsmen of old are unsurpassable in terms of knowledge and skill. They knew the world of animals, plants and objects and the inner world of their own body and their senses. They were **shrewd observers of nature**, with a sophisticated knack for naming the most diverse relief forms. Surviving geographical names tell us much about their mental map. Rock hermits, petrified hags and old men, or mysterious stone doorways are all part of this rich spiritual world. In these special places, herdsmen would often leave votive offerings, perform rituals or complete rites of passage – associated with the seasons, the farming year or important milestones in life.

An open doorway invites us to pass through it. But let us not forget that we are only guests here, and should behave accordingly.





7

GPS:
14.66331 E
46.28967 N

Rastje Flora



8 | 10 min
**Živali
Fauna**



→ 6 | 18 min
**Kamnita vrata
Stone doorway**



HIGH FOREST MAKES LIFE IN THE MOUNTAIN PASTURE POSSIBLE

Forest is the predominant and most characteristic vegetation of mountainous areas. It protects the habitat and the forest environment from erosion, retains water and supplies the herdsman with wood. The original forest was mercilessly **felled or burnt** for the needs of pasture or mining (and later for ski tourism). Pastures were created in areas of cleared Alpine beech forest with larch and pine. The original vegetation is recalled by the old geographical name Bukovec (from *bukev* meaning "beech"), the summit (1,553 m) that represents the triple border between the three pastures that make up Velika Planina.

Today there is no thick forest on Velika Planina – the healthy kind in which trees can live for hundreds of years, sharing nutrients and water. Sparse forest and individual trees prevail – the latter more exposed

to stormy gusts of wind, downpours and the heavy weight of snow. As a result, the treetops have taken on a characteristic asymmetric shape. On the windward side there are practically no branches, since the longer ones are snapped by the wind and prevented from growing, leaving only stumps jutting from the living trunk. On the sheltered, downwind side the branches move with the wind, develop normally and retain their usual shape.

Here and there, **storm-shattered trees** stand out against the landscape, their tops split by lightning, but with tough roots that no force can pull up. Trees endure in isolation or above precipices, despite the poor conditions. Their beauty is not to be found in luxuriant treetops but in their unbending nature and eternal defiance.



Navadne pogačice
Globeflowers
(*Trollius europaeus*)



Kamniška murka
Kamnik orchid
(*Nigritella lithopolitanica*)



Spomladanska resa
Winter heath
(*Erica carnea*)

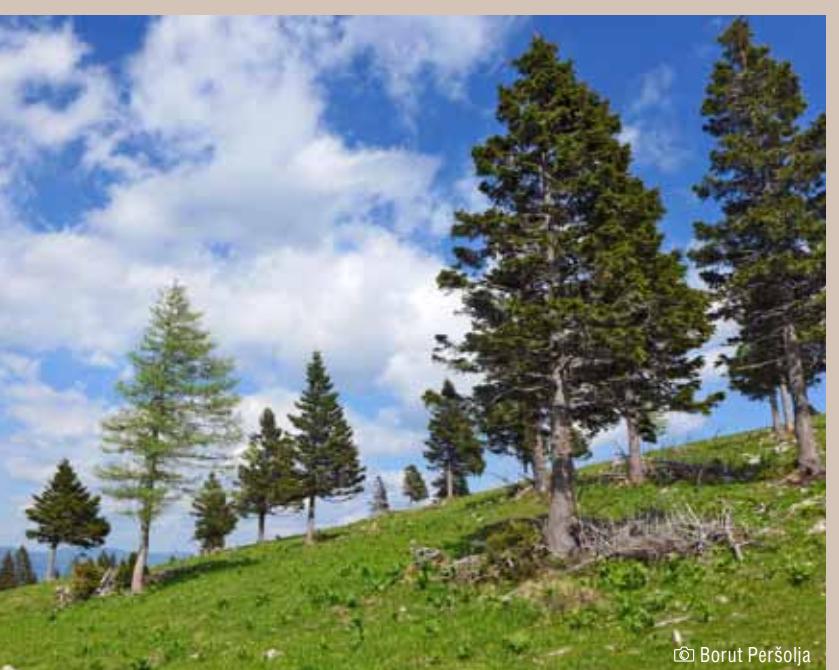
VISOKOGORSKI GOZD OMOGOČA PLANINSKO ŽIVLJENJE

Gozd je prevladujoče in najznačilnejše rastje gora. Varuje rastišča in gozdno okolico pred erozijo, zadržuje vodo in oskrbuje pastirja z lesom. Prav zaradi paše in rudarjenja je bil prvotni gozd neusmiljeno **posekan ali požgan** (kasneje tudi zaradi smučarskega turizma). Na krčevinah alpskega bukovega gozda z macesnom in smreko so nastale pašne planine. Na prvotno rastje nas spominja staro zemljepisno ime – tromejni vrh Bukovec (1553 m). Sedaj na Veliki planini ni gosto raščenega gozda, ki je bolj zdrav in drevesa v njem lahko dočakajo na stotine let, saj si med seboj delijo hrnilne snovi in vodo. Prevladuje redek gozd in posamezna drevesa, ki pa so veliko bolj

izpostavljeni nevihtnim sunkom vetra, močnim nalivom in težkemu bremenu snega. Krošnje dreves so zato pridobile značilno asimetrično obliko. Na privetrni strani vej skorajda ni, ker daljše polomi veter in jim ne dovoli, da bi zrasle, zato iz živega debla štrlijo samo štrclji. Veje na zavetri strani z vetrom plapolajo, se normalno razvijajo in obdržijo običajno obliko.

Iz pokrajine izstopajo **viharniki**. Z razklanimi krošnjami, ki jih lomijo strele, a z žilavimi koreninami, ki jih nobena sila ne izruje. Drevesa v samoti in nad prepadi vztrajajo navkljub skromnim življenjskim pogojem. Njihova lepota se ne razcveta v krošnjah, temveč živi v njihovi neupogljivosti in večnem kljubovanju.

Med najlepše prizore sodita gozdni rob ter prehod listnatega v iglasti gozd, kjer se nenadoma prav use spremeni. Obiskovalci lahko skoraj na vsakem koraku občudujemo raznoliko alpsko cvetje (botaniki so našteli več kot 150 rastlinskih vrst): od redkih, zavarovanih do endemičnih rastlinskih vrst. Nabiranje zdravilnih rastlin dobiva razsežnost, ki že presega njihovo obnovitveno sposobnost.



Viharnik
Storm-shattered tree

8

Živali Fauna



9 | 7 min

Pripovedna bitja
Fabulous beings



7 | 10 min

Rastje
Flora



PROGRAM
RAZVOJA
PODEŽELJA
Evropski kmetijski sklad za razvoj podeželja: Evropa investira v podeželje

Projekt sofinanira Evropska unija iz Evropskega kmetijskega sklada za razvoj podeželja in Republika Slovenija v okviru Programa razvoja podeželja 2014–2020. Za vsebino je odgovorna Občina Kamnik. Organ upravljanja, določen za izvajanje Programa razvoja podeželja RS za obdobje 2014–2020, je Ministrstvo za kmetijstvo, gozdarstvo in prehrano.

Po stopinjah pastirjev *In the footsteps of herdsman*
Občina Kamnik | Municipality of Kamnik | Oblikovanje in priprava vsebin *Design and preparation of content:* D.C. Studio | Besedilo Text: Borut Peršolja | Prevod Translation: Amidas d.o.o. | Projekt je nadaljevanje študentske naloge, nastale v okviru projekta Po kreativni poti do praktičnega znanja, Filozofska fakulteta Ljubljana, 2016. *The project is the continuation of a student project that originated as part of the Creative Path to Practical Knowledge initiative at the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Arts in 2016.*

DIVJI ŽIVALSKI SVET V KRALJESTVU KRAVE

Zivalski svet v gorah – v tleh, na površju, v zraku – je slikovit in zanimiv, čeprav se marsikomu, ki glasno hiti do pastirskega naselja, zdi, da je območje ob gozdni in drevesni meji pusto. Sledi v snegu in razmočenih tleh dokazujejo, da je življenje vsenaokrog!

Je pa res, da zahtevne **živiljenjske razmere** tudi od živali zahtevajo prilagojenost. Ekstremne temperature, padavine, močan veter, skromna tla, omejena hrana ... vplivajo hkrati in neposredno. Naravi so se morale prilagoditi tako divje živali kot pastirji z domačimi živalmi – kravami, prašiči, v preteklosti tudi ovcami in konji.

"Ta je priden kot mravlja," pravijo. Mravlje gradijo mravljišča vsepošvod, tudi v manj prijaznih naravnih okoljih, kot je gorsko. Iz suhih iglic, koščkov smrekovih vejic ter prsti vzniknejo mravljišča na dvignjenih mestih, ob panjih ali pod krošnjami smrek, najraje na prisojnih (JV-V-JZ) legah. Mravlje so hrana sesalcem, ptičem (izstopajo žolne, kukavica, divji petelin, ruševec, gozdni jereb in belka), plazilcem in žuželkam. Po gomili radi brskajo jazbec, kuna in lisica, nad mravljišči se znašata jelenjad in srnjad, po njih rijejo divji prašiči. Planina je domovanje planinskih zajcev in gamsov, ki jih preletavajo netopirji, planinske kavke, krokarji, sove in čuki, občasno celo planinski orel. Zaskrbljujoč je upad števila živali iz rodu kur, zaradi hrupa, ki ga povzročamo obiskovalci.

Že stoletja približno sto dni na leto na planini kraljujejo krave. Pred drugo svetovno vojno je bila prevladujoča pasma cika, ki se je zaradi majhnega trupa, čvrstih parkljev in nizke teže odlično znašla na planini. Zadnjih trideset let je na pašnikih prevladovala lisasta pasma krav, ki so teže (nad 600 kg) in zato manj primerne za to okolje.

**Cika, s telesno maso 300 do 450 kg,
se u večjem številu spet vraca
na planino.**

**Ne uznemirjajmo divjih živali in
ne motimo domačih živali na paši.
Pse imejmo ves čas na urvici in ne
dovolimo, da zaidejo v kale z vodo.**



Kauka
Jackdaw
(*Corvus monedula*)



© Borut Peršolja



Mravljišče u gozdu
Forest anthill

WILD FAUNA IN THE KINGDOM OF NATURE



ountain fauna – in the soil, on the surface, in the air – is picturesque and fascinating, although to many visitors hurrying noisily towards the herdsmen's settlement, the area at the edge of the forest and the tree line can appear to be desolate. Yet tracks in the snow or on the wet ground prove that there is life all around us!

It is true that the **difficult conditions** here mean that animals also have to adapt. Extreme temperatures, precipitation, strong wind, poor soil and limited food have a simultaneous and direct impact. Both wild animals and the herdsmen with their domestic animals – cows, pigs and once also sheep and horses – have had to adapt to nature.

"As busy as an ant" goes the saying. The hardworking ants build their anthills everywhere, including in less friendly environments such as the mountains. Anthills emerge out of dry pine needles, pieces of pine twig and soil in elevated locations, by tree stumps or under the pines, usually in sunny exposures (SE-E-SW). Ants are food for mammals, birds (notably the woodpecker, the cuckoo, the capercaillie, the grouse, the forest partridge and the ptarmigan), reptiles and insects.

Badgers, martens and foxes forage over the mounds. Red deer and roe deer destroy anthills, and wild boar root through them. The mountain pasture is home to mountain hares and chamois. Bats, Alpine choughs, crows, owls and sometimes even a golden eagle fly overhead. The decline in the number of birds of the Galliformes order – a consequence of the noise caused by visitors – is worrying.

For centuries cows have ruled the mountain pasture for around a hundred days each year. Before the Second World War the dominant breed was the Cika, whose small body, strong hooves and low weight made it ideally suitable for the mountain pasture. In the last 30 years, however, the Simmental breed has predominated. These cows are heavier (weighing over 600 kg) and are therefore less suited to this environment.

The Cika, which weighs between 300 and 450 kg, is returning to the pasture in greater numbers.

Do not alarm wild animals or disturb domestic animals at pasture. Keep dogs on the lead at all times and do not allow them into ponds or watering places.



Divji petelin
Capercaillie
(*Tetrao urogallus*)

© Adobe Stock

9

GPS:
14.66353 E
46.29686 N

Pripovedna bitja *Fabulous beings*

→ **10 | 15 min**
Nebeškanje
“Nebeškanje”



← **8 | 7 min**
Živali
Fauna

SEM MOŽ, A GOVORIM JEZIK, KI GA NE RAZUME NIHČE

Ko zapustimo ceste in široke kolovozne poti, se vse redkejši gozd umakne zaplatam ruševja in zelenim pašnikom z viharniki, ki ponekod prehajajo v kamnito pečevje. Pogled čez odprto pokrajino seže daleč, a našo pozornost pritegne nekaj nenavadenega – sredi cvetoče ravnice zagledamo droben, navihen obraz ... in za mehkim robom nas pričaka otoček čudno zloženega kamenja. So to okammeli možje in žene? Na Veliki planini ni bilo pastirja (z moškim spolom so tradicionalno poimenovane tudi pastirice), ki ne bi »bajal« ali vsaj slišal pripovedovati o dovivijih) možeh in ženah, žvižgajočih škrateljčih, ukletniku in belih ženah. Ne, to niso izmišljene pravljice, to je živo pripovedno izročilo, ki govori o »resničnih« dogodkih, v katerih so se pastirji srečevali z nerazumljivimi naravnimi pojavi in duhovnim svetom prednikov.

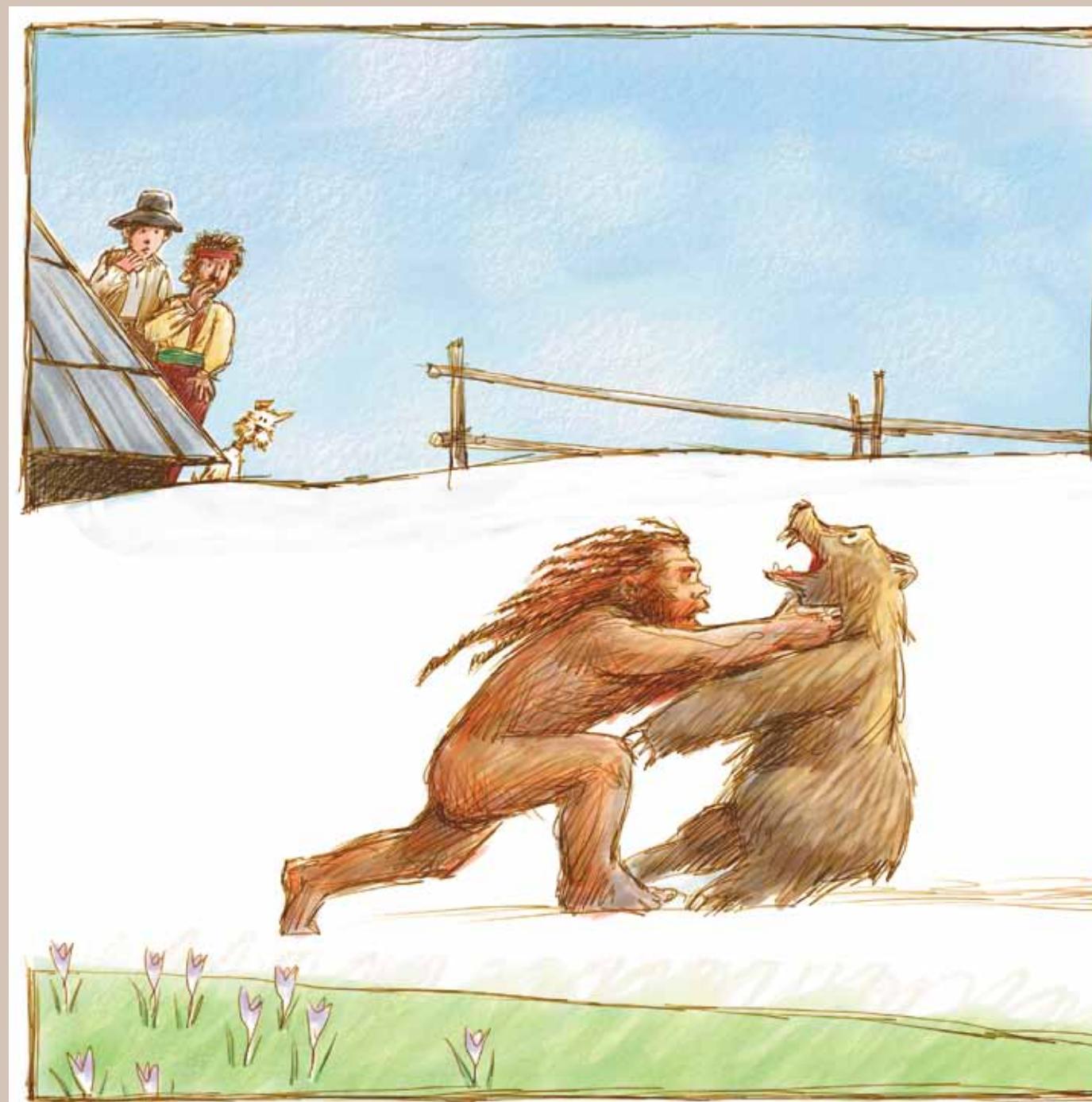
DOVJI MOŽJE

K nekemu kmetu na Planini je hodil dovji mož. Vse mu je pojedel. Enkrat pa pride tja tudi komedijant z medvedom. Ko pride dovji mož, se spusti z medvedom v pretep. Vse sta polomila. Ko je dovji mož odšel, je medved crknil. Čez leto pride spet dovji mož in vpraša kmeta: „Ali imaš še hudo muco?“ „Še,“ odgovori kmet in dovjega moža ni bilo nikoli več.



Povedka in ilustracija (Kostja Gatnik), iz knjige Veronika z Malega gradu – Kamniške povedke in pravljice; izdala Matična knjižnica Kamnik (sedaj Knjižnica Franceta Balantiča Kamnik); 1999

**Ste ob hoji kje naleteli na štor podrtega drevja, na katerem je urezan križ?
Na širšem območju Velike planine je doma divja jaga. Tako so ljudje poimenovali srhlju lajež psou, ki je najprej zelo oddaljen, a se z veliko naglico približuje ...**



I AM A MAN, BUT I SPEAK A LANGUAGE NO ONE UNDERSTANDS

When we leave the roads and broad tracks, the ever sparser forest gives way to patches of dwarf pine and green pastures with the occasional storm-shattered tree, in places transitioning to rocky crags. The view stretches far over the open landscape but our attention is caught by **something unusual** – in the middle of a flowery plain we catch sight of a cunning little face, and beyond the soft edge a little cairn of strangely piled stones awaits us. Are these petrified men and women?

There was not a herdsman (female herders were also traditionally referred to in the masculine) on Velika Planina who did not tell stories of (or had at least heard tell of) wild men, whistling sprites, giant builders and “white women”. These are not invented fairy tales, they are a living narrative tradition that tells of “real” events in which the herdsmen were faced with incomprehensible natural phenomena and the spiritual world of their ancestors.

WILD MEN

Once upon a time there was a wild man who used to visit a herdsman on Velika Planina and eat up all the food in his hut. It happened one day that a travelling entertainer with a bear stopped at the hut. When the wild man arrived, he and the bear fought furiously, smashing up everything. After the wild man had gone away, the bear lay down and died. A year later the wild man returned and asked the herdsman: “Have you still got that fierce cat?” “Yes,” said the herdsman, and the wild man was never seen again.



Story and illustration (Kostja Gatnik) from the book *Veronika z Malega gradu – Kamniške povedke in pravljice* published by Matična knjižnica Kamnik (today the France Balantič Library, Kamnik); 1999

Have you come across a tree stump with a cross carved on it when out walking? The spirits of the dead are abroad on Velika Planina. This was how people explained the eerie barking of dogs that could be heard a long way off and would then suddenly get nearer...

10

GPS:
14.65709 E
46.29797 N

Nebeškanje “Nebeškanje”

→ 11 | 25 min

Vetrnici
The Vetrnica caves



← 9 | 15 min

Pripovedna bitja
Fabulous beings



PROGRAM
RAZVOJA
PODEŽELJA
Evropski kmetijski sklad za razvoj podeželja: Evropa investira v podeželje

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Po stopinjah pastirjev *In the footsteps of herdsman*
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ROČNA SPRETNOST IN SREČA VODITA V NEBESA

Prostega časa, kot ga poznamo danes, pastir na planini ni poznal. Številna čreda je terjala celega človeka ves teden. Pastirjem so **dnevi minevali** v nepretrganem delu. Ob lepem vremenu so v pečeh nabirali zdravilne rože. Ponoči so radi hodili na prepovedan lov in se zjutraj vračali z gamsom ali srnjakom na hrbitu.

Ob nedeljah in praznikih so se zbirali po bajtah in vso noč plesali polko, valček in lisičji rep. Godli so si na citre, harmoniko in pero. Tla so se močno tresla zaradi topotanja cokel. Zelo radi so se igrali dve pastirski igri: svinko bit in nebeškanje.

»Pwajš«
»Pwajš« cape

© Robert Novak



Pri igri nebeškanje sodeluje več igralcev. V tla zapičijo meter dolgo ravno vejo, ki so ji prej obrezali vse vejice, da so ostali le kratki štrclji. Nanje obešajo iz rogovil narejene kljukice. Vsak pastir ima svojo kljukico zaznamovano. Za igro potrebuje še kratko, po sredi preklano paličko. Nato menjaje mečejo ti dve polovici v zrak. Kadar padeta na tla tako, da je belo obrnjeno navzgor, pomakne igralec kljukico za stopnjo navzgor. Če padeta polovici s temnim navzgor, mora pomakniti kljukico navzdol; če padeta vsaka drugače, igralec ne premakne kljukice. Kdor pride prvi s kljukico do vrha, je **zmagal in prišel v nebesa**, kdor pride do dna, izgubi in pride v pekel.

Kadar je moral pastir v deževnem vremenu za živino, si je nadel **ličnat plašč (pwajš)**, ki ga je dobro varoval pred dežjem. Izdelovali so jih doma iz dolgih, ozkih pasov lipovega lubja. Več takih trakov so nabrali v šop in jih navezali na lipov jermen. Plašč so si ogrinjali okoli ramen in je segal pastirju do kolen.

**Za otroke so na planini iz
uej rušeuja izdelovali lesene
kravice, ki so jim rekli buše
(manjše pa so imenovali
cike). Pastirji so na paši
rezljali preproste lesene pipe,
najspretnejši med njimi pa
tudi cokle.**



SKILL AND LUCK LEAD TO HEAVEN

Free time as we know it today did not exist for the herdsman in the mountain pasture. His large herd demanded his entire attention throughout the week. The herdsman's **days passed** in uninterrupted work. In fine weather, he would pick medicinal flowers among the crags. At night he would go out poaching, returning in the morning with a chamois or deer on his back.

On Sundays and holidays, the herdsmen would gather around their huts and spend the night dancing the polka, the waltz and the foxtail, to the music of the zither, the accordion and the feather. The ground would shake as they stamped their clogs. Two traditional herdsmen's games were very popular: "svinko bit" and "nebeškanje".

The latter was a game for several players. To play it, they would drive a straight branch around one metre long into the ground, having first trimmed all its twigs so as to leave only short stumps. Next they would hang hooks made of forked twigs on these stumps. Each herdsman had his own hook, marked so that he could identify it. Finally, they needed a short stick split down the middle. To play the game, they would take it in turns to toss the two halves of the stick into the air. If these fell on the ground with the light, inner side facing upwards, the player would move his hook up one level (i.e. to the next twig stump). If the two halves fell with the dark, outer side facing upwards, the player had to move his hook down a level; if the two halves fell differently – one showing the light side and the other the dark side – the player's hook would remain where it was. The **winner** was the first player to reach the top of the branch (known as "heaven", or *nebesa* in Slovene, hence the name *nebeškanje*, meaning something like "getting to heaven"). A player whose hook reached the bottom of the branch – known as "hell" – was eliminated from the game.

Because herdsmen had to tend their herds in all weathers, even when it was raining, they used to make themselves a **special cape, called a pwajš**, to protect themselves from the rain. They made these at home using the inner bark of the lime tree or linden, taking long, narrow strips of bark, gathering them in bundles and tying them to a strap. These capes, which they wore round their shoulders, would reach down to their knees.

They would also make little wooden cows for children from pine twigs. These were called Busha or (the smaller ones) Cika, after the traditional breeds of cow. Herdsman would also carve simple wooden pipes, while the more skilful among them would make clogs.



11

GPS:
14.64611 E
46.30047 N

Vetrnici The Vetrnica caves



1 | 25 min

Na vrhu
On the summit



10 | 25 min

Nebeskanje
“Nebeskanje”



PROGRAM
RAZVOJA
PODEŽELJE
Evropski kmetijski sklad za razvoj podeželja: Evropa investira v podeželje



Projekt sofinancira Evropska unija iz Evropskega kmetijskega sklada za razvoj podeželja in Republika Slovenija v okviru Programa razvoja podeželja 2014–2020. Za vsebino je odgovorna Občina Kamnik. Organ upravljanja, določen za izvajanje Programa razvoja podeželja RS za obdobje 2014–2020, je Ministrstvo za kmetijstvo, gozdarstvo in prehrano.

Po stopinjah pastirjev *In the footsteps of herdsman*
Občina Kamnik Municipality of Kamnik | Oblikovanje in priprava vsebin Design and preparation of content: D.C. Studio | Besedilo Text: Borut Peršolja | Prevod Translation: Amidas d.o.o. | Projekt je nadaljevanje študentske naloge, nastale v okviru projekta Po kreativni poti do praktičnega znanja, Filozofska fakulteta Ljubljana, 2016. The project is the continuation of a student project that originated as part of the Creative Path to Practical Knowledge initiative at the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Arts in 2016.

NIČ NI STALNEGA RAZEN SPREMINJANJA

Lep dokaz nenehnega spremenjanja in razvoja površja sta **Velika** in **Mala Vetrnica**, udorni, med seboj povezani snežni jami, ki se nadaljujeta v brezno, v katerem se sneg in led ohranjata v poletje. V ne tako davni preteklosti so ob suši pastirji v koših nosili sneg do bajt, ga tam topili in tako za silo napojili živino. Velika planina zaradi svojega kraškega značaja nima površinskih voda – potokov in izvirov, zato je bil ta vir pitne vode še kako pomemben. V zadnjih desetletjih sneg v udornicah skopni že sredi poletja, sušo pa pastirji rešujejo s prevozi vode iz doline v cisternah.

V geološki preteklosti se je nad temnim podzemnim prostorom zrušil strop, nastalo je novo svetlo **živiljenjsko okolje**. Kljub odprtosti se v Vetrnicah vse leto zadržuje mrzel zrak (nekoč so tu shranjevali tudi meso), zato je prisoten izrazit temperaturni in posledično rastlinski obrat.

Tako kot površje se tudi podnebje spreminja. Manj je snežnih padavin, v topli polovici leta pa več dežja pada v krajšem času v obliki močnih nalivov. Temperaturni skoki **nad in pod ledišče** so pogosteji, kar pospešuje mehansko preperevanje, ki je lepo vidno na stropnem oboku udornice (pri obisku je potrebna velika previdnost, odveč ne bo niti čelada). S popolnim izsekanjem gozda, ki ima varovalno vlogo zadrževanja vode v tleh, so se še dodatno poslabšale neugodne vodne razmere na zakraseli planoti. Posledica krčenja gozda je tudi večja moč vetra. Gre za primer, ko si je človek z lastnimi posegi v ekosistem otežil živiljenjske pogoje.



Rastlinski obrat u Vetrnicah se kaže tako, da najdemo na nižji nadmorski višini rastline, značilne za višje nadmorske višine in obratno.

Poznavalci opozarjajo na prve podnebne begunce oz. domnevno selitev alpske mastnice (*Pinguicula alpina*) iz nekoč vlažnih traunikov v okolici stanov u vlažno in hladnejše okolje Vetrnic.



Alpska mastnica
Alpine butterwort
(*Pinguicula alpina*)

The vegetation inversion in the Vetrnica caves is demonstrated by the fact that we find plants typical of higher altitudes at lower altitudes, and vice versa.

Experts have also noticed the first “climate refugees”, in other words the presumed migration of the Alpine butterwort (*Pinguicula alpina*) from the once humid meadows around the herdsman’s huts to the cooler and damper environment of the Vetrnica caves.



Ledeni kapniki u Veliči Vetrnici
Ice stalagmites in Velika Vetrnica



CHANGE IS THE ONLY CONSTANT

A fine example of the constant change and development of the relief is provided by **Velika** [“Big”] and **Mala** [“Little”] **Vetrnica**, two linked collapse caves that continue into a pothole in which snow and ice remain until summer. In the not so distant past, herdsman would carry snow in baskets to their huts during dry spells. There they would melt it and use it as an emergency water supply for their cattle. Because of its karst nature, Velika Planina does not have any surface water – streams or springs – so this source of drinking water was all the more important. In recent decades, the snow in the collapse caves has already melted by the middle of the summer and herdsman transport water from the valley in tankers during droughts and dry spells.

In the geological past, the ceiling above this dark underground space collapsed, resulting in the creation of a new, light-filled **habitat**. Despite their openness to the light, the air in the two Vetrnica caves remains cold throughout the year (at one time herdsman used to store meat here), so a clear temperature inversion is present, and along with it a vegetation inversion.

Just like the relief, the climate is changing too. Snowfall is decreasing, while in the warmer half of the year more rain falls in a shorter period in the form of heavy downpours. Temperature jumps **above and below freezing** are more common, which speeds up mechanical weathering, as may be clearly seen on the ceiling of the collapse cave (caution is advised during visits to the cave, and a helmet is a good idea). The total clearance of the forest, which plays a protective role by retaining water in the soil, has further worsened the already unfavourable hydrological conditions on the karstified plateau. Another consequence of forest clearance is that winds are stronger. This is an example of how human beings have made living conditions worse through their own interventions in the ecosystem.