



Head On East

C R O A T I A





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HeadOnEast Croatia

*Become a hedonist– discover the charms
of the Croatian East*

*Are you thinking about an adventure that
is at your fingertips? About an unexpected
journey that starts right around the cor-
ner? About an experience that many seek
for thousands of kilometers but fail to find
it? Allow us to introduce you to the solution
to every doubt a traveler might have! Sla-
vonian and Baranja are a destination that
would transform even the toughest Spar-
tan into a lighthearted lover of life. As our
elders would say – HeadOnEast!*



▲ HEDONIST!

„Hedonist! A traveler that embraces joie de vivre, natural beauty, rich tradition, customs, adventures in the open air, pleasant conversations with hosts while raising a toast, trying out local cuisine and all this with a smile on their faces.“



Slavonia and Baranja – a real treat within your reach

Slavonia and Baranja is an undiscovered destination containing an abundance of magical natural beauties and scenery cultivated by man. You will not be shutting down your camera. Here you can find some of the last intact swamps in Europe, vast wheat fields, fruitful vineyards, and centuries-old oak forests. Osijek-Baranja valley is surrounded by two great Pannonian rivers, the fickle Drave, and the mighty Danube. The valley rises in the south towards the Krndija, the Papuk and the Dilj hills, and it barely noticeable blends with the Erdut and the Bansko Hill, which is also known as the „Mountain“ of Baranja (nicknamed so because it's only 243 meters high).



► STRAW LAND ART FESTIVAL

People from Slavonia and Baranja give their guests the most precious gifts – an honest smile and arms wide open as a sign of a warm welcome. Kindness and generosity are a part of every encounter, and the experience begins with a generous table, recommendations for spending your leisure time and general advice on how to travel the region like a true hedonist. The hosts will become and remain your friends here. In return, the guests quickly begin to talk about the local flavors, scents, and colors, as well as the delightfully slowed down rhythm of savoring each pleasure and the astonishing symbiosis of traditional and modern. Big hearts of people in Slavonia and the charm of people in Baranja are the greatest values of eastern Croatia.



▲ TRADITIONAL CLOTHES FROM BARANJA
► WINE & BIKE TOUR ERDUT



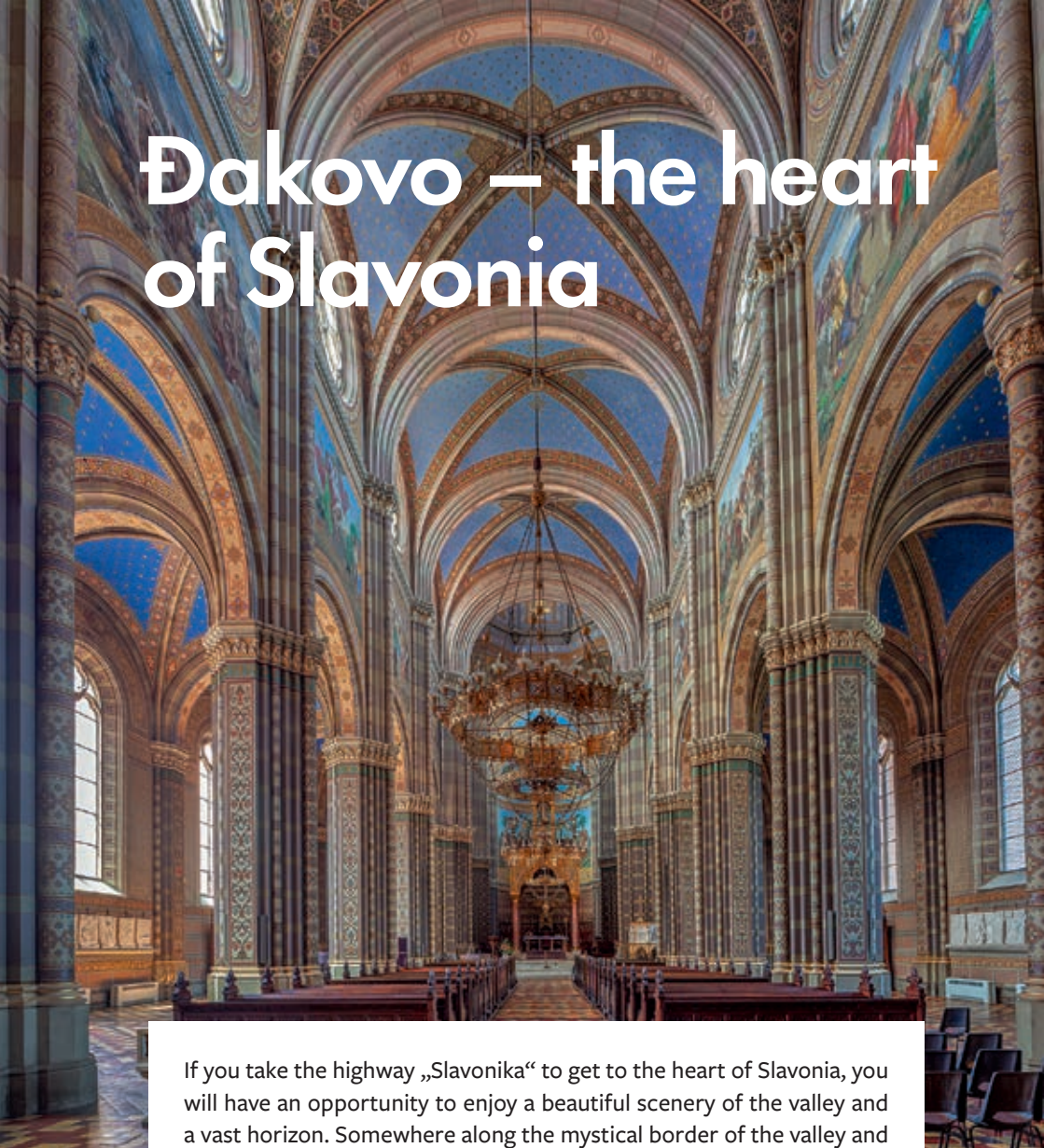
Although it is filled with oases of intact nature, peaceful corners, and rustic ambiances, the area of Slavonia and Baranja is well-connected. Osijek, the center of the region is connected by a highway, a railroad, and an airport to the rest of Croatia and Europe. There are three big international airports - airports of Zagreb, Belgrade, and Budapest at a distance of around two hours. Apart from this, you can travel to Slavonia and Baranja as a real hedonist-adventurer by motorcycle, bicycle, or boat. The Danube cruise ships and two EuroVelo bike routes are at your service!



▲ **PODOLIAN CATTLE OF SLAVONIA AND SRIJEM**
▼ **CERAMIC WORKSHOP „ASZTALOS“ IN SUZA**



Đakovo – the heart of Slavonia



If you take the highway „Slavonika“ to get to the heart of Slavonia, you will have an opportunity to enjoy a beautiful scenery of the valley and a vast horizon. Somewhere along the mystical border of the valley and the sky, you will find Ivandvor. Here, in the picturesque countryside, you can see a herd of Lipizzaner horses galloping and enjoying their unconstrained freedom. After the horses grow up, they are moved to the nearby State Stud Farm Đakovo founded in 1506. It is also one of the oldest stud farms in Europe. For example, it is 74 years older than the stud farm in Lipica known for this glorious horse breed.



In the words of F. Westermann, Lipizzaner horses are horses which „when you touch them, you are touching history“. The horses are an inevitable part of the year-round visit program of the State Stud Farm Đakovo. Apart from this, they are among the main attractions of the big annual events. The horses are used along with singers and dancers from many foreign lands to perform in the „Đakovački vezovi“ parade, a cultural and folklore performance with a half-century tradition. The neighing of horses is united with joyful singing of bećarac, a traditional Slavonian musical ensemble, and with clashes of sabers from a ritual dance of the Gorjani village beauties. They are also known as „ljelje“ or queens and are the last carriers of age-old custom, held in spring, in which girls present themselves to prospective suitors by dancing with sabers in their hands (something that might remind one of the choreography from Charlie’s Angels). An inevitable part of the parade in Đakovo is passing next to the Cathedral of Saint Peter, one of the most famous sacral buildings in Croatia. It is the essential part of the skyline of Đakovo. The building is 84 m high, built with seven million bricks, and 395 oaken pylons from Slavonia built-in its foundations. The inside of this neo-Romanic building is decorated with murals and sculptures of numerous artists, and in the crypt of the cathedral is the tomb of one of the most important Croat of the 19th century –Bishop Josip Juraj Strossmayer.



„Bećarac“ and the spring Parade of the „ljelja“ or Queens from Gorjani is under UNESCO’s protection as a part of intangible cultural heritage. Đakovački Vezovi is known as the biggest festival of authentic folklore in Slavonia, Baranja and Srijem. The festival gathers folklore dance groups from all parts of the world.

◀ ĐAKOVAČKI VEZOVI

▲ THE CITY OF ĐAKOVO

BEĆARAC

*Kad bećari šorom zapivaju,
penderi se širom otvaraju!*



► ANNUAL QUEENS OR „LJELJAS“ PARADE IN SPRING

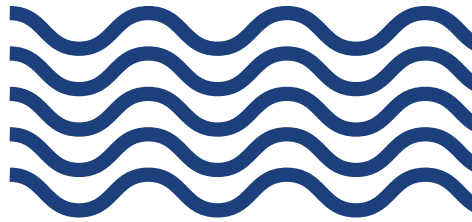


Osijek – Center for Hedonists

We are leaving Đakovo behind and moving on. „Slavonika“ is taking us through a scenery different each season. In spring the valley is colored in yellow by rapeseed flowers. In summer and in early autumn swarms of bees and bumblebees play in fields of sunflowers. Of course, the golden wheat fields are a memory one will certainly remember from this part of Croatia. And then, all of a sudden – a town. Osijek. The center of Slavonia and Baranja, located in the area between wheat fields and the Drave River whose flow it follows stretching from the west towards the east. It is one of those towns that are for a reason considered to be suited to people, especially if you consider yourself a family type of person. There are truly numerous reasons that make this city special. Nor too big, nor too small, rich with social and cultural events, airy and surrounded with natural beauties. In the words of Branko Mihaljević, a Croatian poet: „My Osijek full of sun, by the Drave peaceful and quiet, will forever remain poem and verse close to my heart“.

► CO-CATHEDRAL IN OSIJEK

Since ancient times, the area of the Pannonian Basin was a hotspot of civilization. During the Classical Period, it was settled by Romans, and later on in the Middle Ages by Slavs and Ugrics (Hungarians). In the middle of the 16th century, eight Wonder of the World was built here by the Ottomans who ruled Slavonia and a big part of Hungary. It was known as the Suleiman's Bridge and it was built out of wood. The bridge led from Osijek over seven kilometers of swamp area to Darda, the center of Baranja. In the late 17th century, the Ottomans were suppressed by the Austrians who burned down the bridge. It marked the beginning of a new architectural period in Osijek. The fortified, central part of the city, which consisted back then from three separate settlements became a military center. One of the biggest fortresses in Croatia, also known as the Tvrđa (the Citadel) was built in the swamp in 1722. Westwards and eastwards from it are the Upper and the Lower Town. These parts became the center of Osijek's economic and social growth after the city was united in 1809 and received the status of a free royal city. Until the middle of the 19th century, the capital of Slavonia will also become the largest Croatian city.



Not to be confused: in the cities by the river, such as Osijek, the adjectives „upper“ and „lower“ don't mark the plain and the elevated parts of the city, but the upstream and the downstream parts. As far as altitude goes, both parts are plain with no elevation in sight.

► EUROPEAN AVENUE





Who would not want to explore a place of such history! Nevertheless, before you do, respect the famous Croatian tradition of a cup of coffee (or possibly schnapps) before any successful sightseeing. You can drink it in some of the cafes in the city center (once known as the Upper Town) or in the taverns of the Tvrđa. Discover the place where coffee is served since late 1718!

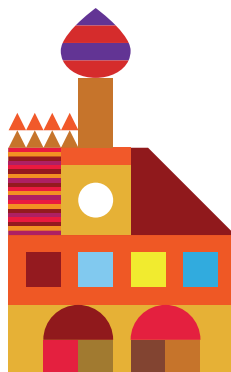
After a cup of coffee, we can get going. The skyline of Osijek is dominated by a church, the Co-Cathedral of Saint Peter and Paul. It is a bit younger than the Đakovo Cathedral, the traditional center of the Đakovo-Osijek Archdiocese. Osijek's co-cathedral is built in the neo-gothic period and it is the most lavish and highest parish church in Croatia, and probably elsewhere as well. It is 94 m high. It was probably due to its height that in 2008, exactly 110 years after it was built, the church was declared a co-cathedral. Although even before this nobody, mesmerized by its beauty, did believe it to be an ordinary church.

The Co-Cathedral, located on the main city square is connected to the Tvrđa (the Citadel) by a boulevard. It is considered



to be the longest stretch of art-deco city palaces in southeastern Europe built in the late 19th and at the beginning of the 20th century. The facades are decorated with murals depicting Slavonian fields and rivers, in front of the palaces are beautiful gardens, and the palaces are surrounded by luxuriously wrought iron fences. Perfect for an Instagram photo.

Life in the heart of the city is filled with numerous interesting places to visit. One of them is a visit to interesting restaurants which come as no surprise since we are in a place of delicious meat and vegetarian delicacies, as well as equally good wine. Since the whole city is built for walking and recreation there is no doubt you will become hungry. Walk from the parks in the city center to the promenade by the Drave. Visit the river's watermill, go down to the „kompa“, a ferry that will take you to the other side of the river. There you will find the Osijek ZOO which is famous for being one of the ZOOS with the biggest animal enclosures in Europe. During the summer heaths, while the lions and the tigers are cooling in their groves, people of Osijek go to refresh themselves in Copacabana, the Slavonian namesake of the famous Brazilian beach. Feel free to join them! Watch the most beautiful sunset from the walking bridge on the Drave while you are walking back to the city.



In 1912, in the eastern part of the city, Osijek's famous movie theatre „Urania“ was built as a project of Victor Axmann, an architect. The movie theatre still works today. It was the headquarters of the Masonic Lodge „Budnost“ which was founded in late 1773. On the unusually bent front of the theatre is a sculptural relief of an Egyptian sphinx, „the guardian of the temple“. A bit strange atmosphere of the theatre is contributed by the sculptures of two sphinx and a mythical Hindu heroine Shakuntala or as they call her in Osijek Sakuntala. The park in front of the movie theatre „Urania“ is named after Sakuntala.

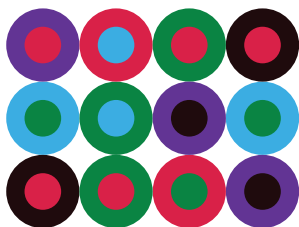
▼ SKYLINE OF OSIJEK





We already said a few words about Osijek's Tvrđa (the Citadel). Once it was a big military complex and today it is a fortress of culture and tourism. Here you will find several galleries, ateliers, and museums among which is the Museum of Slavonia, the largest general museum in Croatia. On the recently restored Vatroslav Lisinski Square is an educational and tourism center located in the Old Bakery building which is becoming a new popular place to visit in Osijek. The proverb „nomen ist omen“ is not true for the nearby Kazamat Gallery. You will not be imprisoned and tortured in the rooms of this former dungeon, but rather you will have the chance to see various works of art.

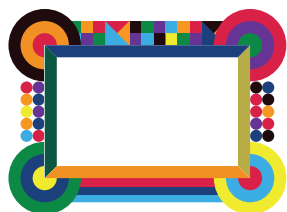
It is impossible to be hungry or thirsty with the broad offer of food and beverages around the walls of the Tvrđa (the Citadel). However, if you wish to make the most out of your stay here, it would be best to visit Osijek's Tvrđa on a Saturday especially if it is the first Saturday of the month.



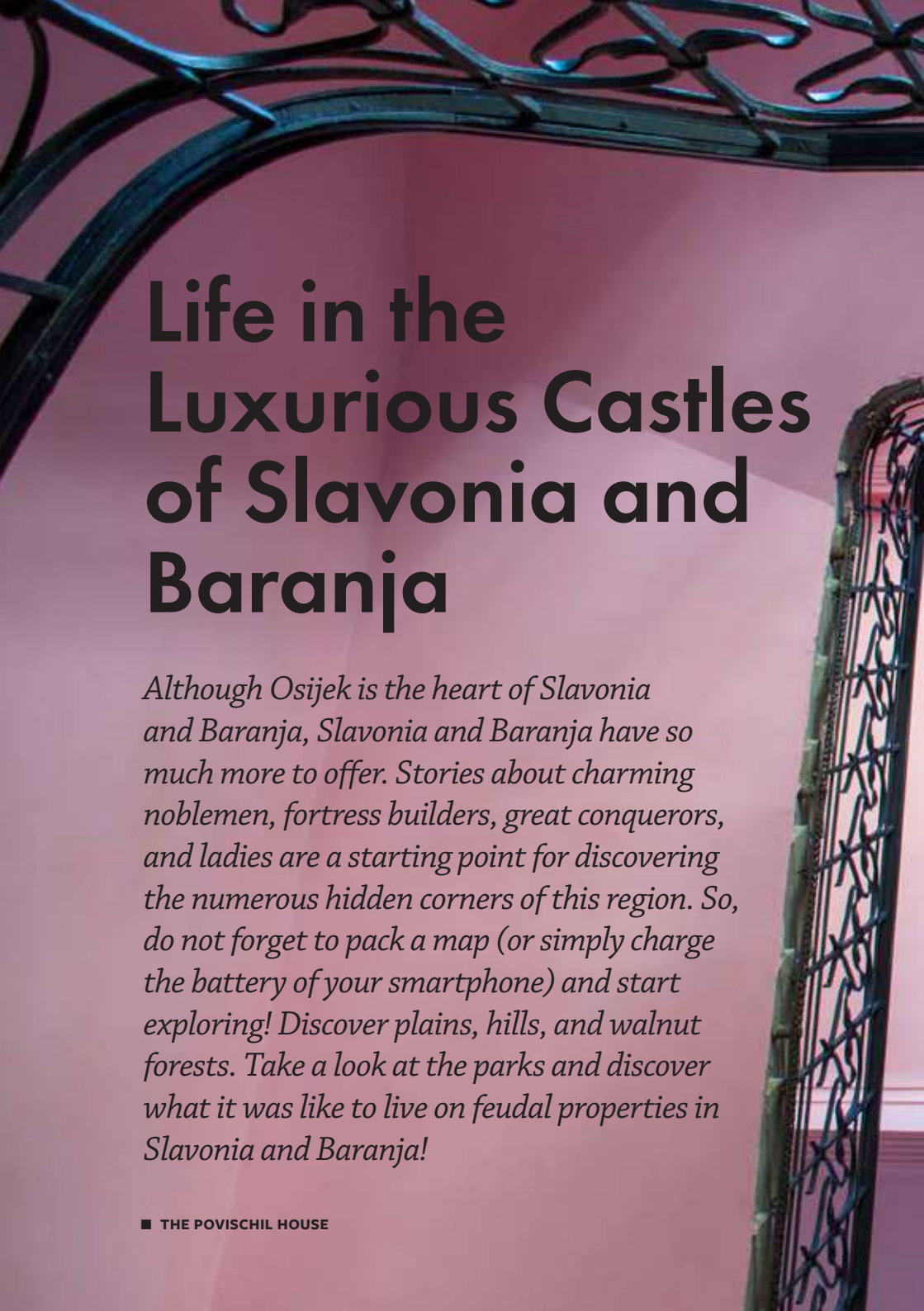
▲▲ A WATERMILL
ON THE RIVER DRAVE
▶ EUROPEAN AVENUE



Then the Tvrđa is transformed into a monthly antiques fair, and who knows maybe you will manage to strike a good bargain. The fair takes place on the Holy Trinity Square, which is decorated with a statue of the same name. It was built in memory of the fatal love of the Baroness Petraš and her husband Maximilian who died from the plague.



If you are at any moment tired of walking, feel free to explore Osijek by tram. The tram is a part of Osijek's public transport from 1884 and was also the first tram in Croatia. If you happen to run into a familiar face, feel free to give him one long „What's up lega“. Among the numerous slang expressions that are a result of the local dialect, the word „lega“ is the most famous one and in its own way the warmest one. Although the people who are originally from Osijek will say in an exceedingly phlegmatic manner, do not worry because they are greeting you with - „My friend!“.

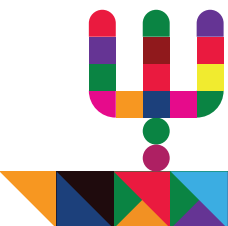


Life in the Luxurious Castles of Slavonia and Baranja

Although Osijek is the heart of Slavonia and Baranja, Slavonia and Baranja have so much more to offer. Stories about charming noblemen, fortress builders, great conquerors, and ladies are a starting point for discovering the numerous hidden corners of this region. So, do not forget to pack a map (or simply charge the battery of your smartphone) and start exploring! Discover plains, hills, and walnut forests. Take a look at the parks and discover what it was like to live on feudal properties in Slavonia and Baranja!



From the beginning of the 18th century, fertile Slavonian soil was given to numerous noble families by Austrian rulers. As a result, a vast number of feudal estates with a country house and a manor were built around the area. Although it was far from Vienna, the people here tried to keep up with the latest lifestyle trends in the center of the Habsburg Monarchy. On one side, salons were a gathering place for the gentlemen of Slavonia and were filled with hunting trophies and trophy firearms. On the other side, salons were places where ladies and children spent their days and were filled with sheet music, instruments, and shelves of family libraries. From Donji Miholjac and Valpovo to Našice and Erdut, nobility from the country discussed not only politics, economics, hunting but also art, education, and agriculture. Some of the noblemen from this area especially stand out. For example, the ones in Belje that took over almost the whole of Baranja that has continued to strive from 1697 until today. During the 18th and 19th century the area of this feudal property became one of the most productive properties in all of then Hungary.



▼ THE ERDUT CASTLE





Našice, a city located around 50 km west from Osijek is one of the places with the most cultural monuments in Slavonia. Here you can find a trace of medieval churches and monasteries, impressive castles where nobility lived and also one of the few English landscape parks in Slavonia. But the heritage of Našice is not only intangible. For the past 40 years here you can find a colony of art pottery, named after Hinko Juhn (1891-1940). He was a sculptor born in the nearby Pogorač and is known as the founder of Croatian modern art pottery. Even more famous is the memory of the first Croatian female composer, Dora Pejačević (1885-1923). Her inspiration was likely the result of the ambiance of a late baroque family castle surrounded by tree-tops of redwood, ginkgo, and wild chestnut. Today, there is a museum of local heritage in the castle. There one can discover the local ethnological collection and find out more about the history of Našice.



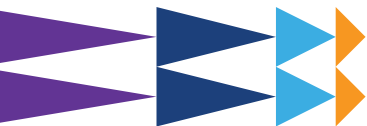
*Admirers of the good old Middle ages are to stop by in Martin in Našice!
There they can find an 800-hundred-year-old Templar house, the only
one that is preserved in Croatia.*

▼ THE PRANDAU – MAILATH CASTLE IN DONJI MIHOLJAC



*Fans of snacks,
you are not to miss
a visit to Donji
Miholjac where you
will find the largest
factory of potato
chips in Croatia!*

While Našice is located in the area where the valley blends with the Krndija Mountain, Donji Miholjac is located 30 km to the north where there is no mountain in sight and the valley prevails. It is the first place on the Drave River to which big riverboats can come. There is also an English park open for public as well as the youngest castle in Slavonia. It was finished in 1906 and it was allegedly built when the Count Mailath in 1901 made a promise to the Emperor Franjo Josip during his visit that the next time when he arrived a hunting castle would be waiting for him in Miholjac. What was said was also done. A building that reminds one of a portal to Wonderland is full of trophies and souvenirs from Africa





and Asia. It is furnished with lavish decorative woodwork, wall moldings, and fences. Today, all of this is enjoyed by the employees of the local government because the castle is the headquarters of the local government.



Valpovo is located 20 kilometers southeast from Miholjac. It is one of the oldest cities in Slavonia and one of the rare ones that has preserved tangible heritage from the Middle Ages. During the 18th and 19th century, a baroque-classical castle of the van Prandau family was built here. The castle is connected to the medieval fortress. An interesting blend of architectural styles and epochs was perfected at the beginning of the 19th century with a big English landscape park. It seems that the park was built because





of the Slavonian defiance because after an unpredictable fire on New Year's Eve in 1801, the Baron von Prandau decided that the renovated building will not only be more beautiful but also greener. The recently restored park is one of the most valuable examples of park architecture in Croatia. In the late 19th century the whole complex was passed on to the Normann family, from which it got the name it has today –the Prandau-Normann Castle.

The Castle of Valpovo is one of the most active historic scenes in Slavonia. Green-Room, Valpovo Craft Beer Fest, Reunite and Cheese, and Wine Festival are held there. The festivals are visited by those who enjoy urban music and delicious delicacies that are made by small farmers.



Belišće is located not far from its twin city Valpovo and its everlasting rival. Unlike its older neighbor, Belišće is the result of industrialization. It is a settlement built in the late 19th century for the need of exploitation of the surrounding forests. This small town developed into an industrial center that it is today under the government of the Gutmann family. But make no mistake, Belišće is more than just funnels and steam machines. Upon taking a selfie in front of the Gutmann Palace you will be convinced that the life for the Gutmann family here was quite good. Of



course, the workers lived a more humble life which can be experienced if you are to visit the street with seven preserved working-class houses dating to the end of the 19th century. Although the official address is, as expected, the S.H. Gutmann Street it is also known as Marmalade Street. The residents of the street used to make marmalade from elderberries and the scent of marmalade would spread throughout the whole town. Apart from this sweet memory, the people of Belišće have a special place in their hearts for Matija Ljubek, a kayaker who is known as a man who won the most Olympic medals in Croatia.



From Belišće on the right bank of the Drave River, we are continuing onto the left. We find ourselves in Baranja one of the most attractive destinations for hunting in Croatia. Even the old admirers of hunting knew this. This is the reason why Eugen of Savoy (1663-1736), the general who took over Hungary and Slavonia from the Ottomans, decided to build a hunting castle there at the beginning of the 18th century. The castle was also the seat of the earlier mentioned nobility of Belje. It was given to Eugen as a reward for his war effort. For the castle, he chose the village of Bilje, located around ten kilometers from Osijek. At the beginning of the 20th century, another hunting „čeka“ was built northeast of Bilje. It was the hunting castle of Tikveš, a castle visited by the members of the Habsburg House and the Karađorđević House as well as the communist „monarch“, Josip Broz Tito. Venison “perkelt”, hunter stew-soup or a stag prepared in a way specific for Baranja with bread dumplings left no ruler indifferent. Even their guests felt the same. Rumor has it that even Sophia Loren broke her diet because of the hunting delicacies from Baranja.

Where does „kulenova seka“ grow?

Since the beginning of time, Slavonia's valley has been known for the peasant that lived there. What grew in the ground and grazed the field was used to feed families in both the villages and the cities. Apart from the riches that came from the field, the heritage of Slavic, Hungarian, Germanic, and Ottoman cuisine became a part of the gastronomy of Slavonia and Baranja. The local culinary tradition consists of venison, different fish delicacies (fish soup known as „fiš“, carp on a stick), different stews such as „paprikaš“ and „čobanac“, but also farmer's food such as beans in a pot and dishes made from pasta. Preserved meat slices and homemade processed meat such as Kulen (Kulin), Kulenova Seka, sausages, pork rinds, and bacon are especially respected.





Before the making of the before mentioned products is the famous Slavonian process of preparing the meat. Even with the help of the omnipresent schnapps, this event is not for the faint of heart. However, those who experience it can be sure that they have experienced one of the key events in the life of the folk of Slavonia and Baranja. On the other hand, those who are more favorable of vegetarian delicacies will have to visit the markets of Slavonia's towns. The biggest one is the one in Osijek where fresh groceries are delivered from nearby villages from spring until late autumn. The short journey from farm to fork is one of the primary reasons for the attractive colors, aromas, and flavors of the cuisine in Slavonia and Baranja.

▲ „ŠOKAČKI“
BEANS IN AN
EARTHENWARE
POT



The special cured meat delicacy is made from processed meat from black Slavonian pig also known as the „fajferica“. When hands of the old masters mince the meat of this indigenous Croatian breed with ground pepper from Baranja, a masterpiece is created – Kulin from Slavonia and Baranja, a sausage which is under the EU geographical protection status.

There is not a lot of feelings that can be compared to enjoying the delicacies of Slavonia and Baranja in an authentic ambiance of today's rural households. Scholars might call this synesthesia, but we call it the taste of Kulen on your palate, the smell of an almost done beef stew (čobanac), neighing of horses in the background, the beauty of a blossomed garden in front of your eyes and a bit more of Kulen, cheese, wine and fresh salad in your hands! Rest assured that surrounded by this even Beckett would have met Godot, and Proust would not have needed seven volumes to find the lost time. Moreover, in Karanac, one of Baranja's most picturesque villages it would already have waited for him – at a full table in the Street of Lost Time.





▲▲ FISH STEW
▲ A CAULDRON
ON A FIRE

What do people from Slavonia eat? Every proper meal starts with an aperitif, a homemade melon, plum, pear, apricot, walnut, or sour cherry schnapps. Partly because it would be a sin to try just one and partly because of its beneficial influence on the atmosphere at the table several toasts are usually raised. This lasts until some of the delicacies described in the previous paragraph are not brought to the table. Some kind of a seasonal salad or pickled vegetables is always eaten with the main dish. They also do not save calories on the dessert. Typical desserts for you to choose from are dumplings with plums, poppy seed noodles, „taške“ (a dish similar to ravioli but often with sweet filling) or a walnut roll. Imagine yourself enjoying delicious food and wine with the sound of bagpipes, tambourines, or a violin in the background...

Traditional food recommendations

Hedonism for the palate

APPETIZER

- Kulen
- Greaves
- Langošice
- Smoked river fish

MAIN COURSE

FISH DISHES

- Fish paprikash
- Carp on the spit
- River fish perkelt
- Perch Orly
- accompanied by pasta with cheese and bacon

MEAT DISHES

- Čobanac
- Game Perkelt
- Beans in a bowl
- Roast duck
- Roast stew
- Dishes made from black Slavonian pig

DESSERT

- Taške
- Poppy noodles
- Plum dumplings

■ FISH STEW

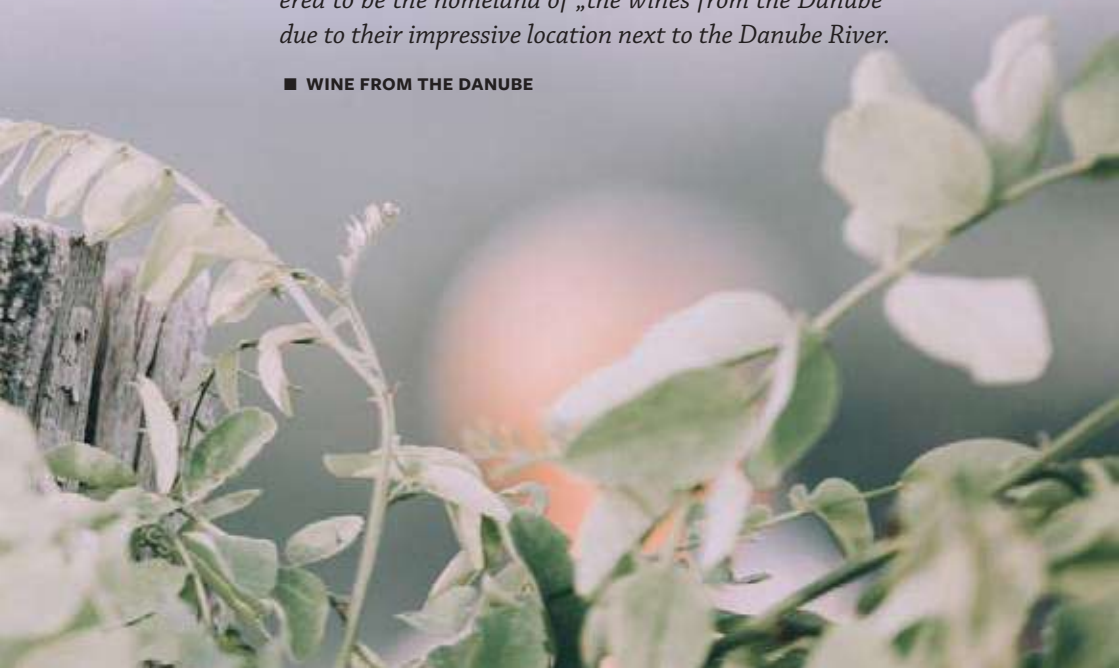


Wine Heaven for Hedonists

Trivia quiz question: What was the Square of the Holy Trinity in Osijek once called? If you take into account the former soldiers' love for good wine the answer is unambiguous – The Wine Square. During the time of the Habsburg Monarchy, later known as the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, wine from Baranja was delivered here to the innkeepers and the soldiers every Saturday and Wednesday. And today? Today right next to Tvrđa's water gate, the last out of four gates built at the beginning of the 18th century, you will find the Regional Wine Store. This is a place where you can try wines from the vineyards of Slavonia and Baranja and get a diploma of a vigorous hedonist. Here history and wine culture meet lifestyle of contemporary urban people. An attempt to resist them is in vain.

Wines of Slavonia and Baranja have been more attractive and respected over the past few years. Four vineyards dominate the region: western or the vineyards of Ferinački, southern or the vineyards of Đakovo, northern or the vineyards of Baranja and the eastern or the vineyards of Erdut. The vineyards of Baranja and Erdut are also considered to be the homeland of „the wines from the Danube“ due to their impressive location next to the Danube River.

■ WINE FROM THE DANUBE





▲ WINE ROAD „BELJE“

„Bor“ which means „of wine“ and „anya“ which means „mother“ are Hungarian words that coin the name of the Baranja region – the mother of wine. The wine culture is a part of Baranja’s identity, and it is apparent at almost every corner. Therefore, it is easily noticeable in some places. Discover the viewpoint on BANSKO HILL, one of the most beautiful Croatian wine roads. Take a look at its center, a wine cellar in Kneževi Vinogradi also known as the biggest wine cellar in Croatia. Then take a break in Suza, a picturesque village whose beauty will bring tears to your eyes. Do not be afraid of emotions, they are a virtue of true hedonist! Besides this a visit to Zmajevac, a village on the Danube River in Baranja known for its wine will once more align your emotional compass. There you will find „gators“, wine cellars located in small and narrow canyons created by water, also known as „surduk“. In these cellars the Mother of Wine will reveal all the secrets of its white and red charms: Riesling, Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Traminer, Chardonnay, Rhein Riesling, Sauvignon as well as Frankovka, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Pinot Noir. Along the way, you might even find out about the Red Martha, known as the evil mistress of the vineyards and the godmother of Zmajevac (the Hungarian name of the village is Vörösmart or The Red Martha).



The Gator Fest is held each year at the beginning of June in Kneževi Vinogradi, Suza, and Zmajevac! It is a festival of fine wine, good living, and interesting activities. The organizers of the festival take the well-being of its visitors into consideration, which is why every year the visitors can participate in a relaxing Wine & Walk Tour.



The tradition of vineyards in Đakovo dates back to the Middle Ages. The mystery around it and its excellence in flavor have been preserved to this day. Right next to the Đakovo Cathedral you can find the Archbishop's Palace as well as the wine cellar of the Đakovo – Osijek Archdiocese. There you can try the famous altar wines from Đakovo that make every Eucharistic celebration even more divine. In the vineyards of Đakovo, white wine varieties that stand out are Riesling and Traminer, latter known as one of the favorite wine varieties of eastern Croatia. Apart from these, Chardonnay, Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Silvaner and Rhein Riesling can also be found here. The main red wine varieties are Zweigelt, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Merlot.



▲ **THE WINE CELLER OF THE ĐAKOVO-OSIJEK ARCHDIOCESE**

◀ **THE ERDUT VINEYARDS**

The scenery of the Danube meander in the area of the Erdut District is a protected landscape area. It is also the place where famous wines of rich flavors and aromas are produced. The cultivation of grapevine here dates back to the time of the Roman Empire. Today the vineyards in Erdut are dominated by wine variety Riesling, besides which Traminer, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot, Muscat Ottonel, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris, and Rhein Riesling also stand out.

Out of red wine varieties Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Noir, and Zweigelt are grown here. Among several events that present the enological and gastronomic offer in Erdut, „Erdut – the city of wine“ attracts the most attention. It is a medieval fair taking place each May during which medieval heritage and wine culture are united as the two most prominent features of this area.



One of the largest European wooden barrels is carefully stored but also still used in the wine cellars of Erdut. It is as large as a one-bedroom apartment and can store 75,000 liters of Riesling!



▲ **A BARREL FROM ERDUT**

▼ **THE FERİČANCI VINEYARD**

The winemaking tradition is also cherished since the 13th century around the Feričanci district, located at the slopes of the Krndija Mountain. Even today top-quality wines are produced traditionally there. In the vineyards of Feričanci, the ratio of red to white grape varieties is almost equal, although the red wine variety Frankovska stands out. Apart from it and Riesling, other wine varieties attract attention as well. Those are white wine varieties such as Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc, and Pinot Gris and out of the red wine varieties, those are Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, and Pinot Noir.



The countries of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy were linked by Kaiser & König, but also by Frankovka, a wine variety that spread from Austria and the Czech Republic to Vojvodina and Romania. Although Frankovka originated from a white grape variety Weisser Heurnisch (in Croatia also known as Belina Velika), it is a red wine variety and the best red wine in continental Croatia.



Apart from the traditional wine celebrations such as the Vinkovo in January, there is a growing number of modern wine manifestation which unite hedonism, art, and active vacation. Among them, Osijek's WineOs, Wine and Art Nights, Wine & Bike Tour Erdut, Wine BorMarathon in Zmajevac and Frankovka Festival in Feričanci stand out.



WineOS – the International Festival of Wine, Delicacies and Pleasant Living

Every January, over the last few years, the Festival of Wine, Delicacies, and Pleasant Living is being held in Osijek. All good-willed hedonists gather to uncover little secrets from leading wine and gastronomic manufacturers from all regions of Croatia and neighboring countries. Their products are presented and tasted at the festival, and many experts pass on their enological knowledge and love to younger generations through educational workshops.



▲ WINE AND ART NIGHT

◀ WINEOS FESTIVAL

Wine and Art Night

May, July, and October are the months during which theme nights that unite wine and art are organized in Tvrđa. Thousands of visitors taste wines from Slavonia and the Danube Region, but also from surrounding wine regions, Vojvodina and Hungarian Villányja. The wine selection is followed by indigenous gastro-delicacies, jazz or blues performances, as well as with an art program in the Waldinger and Kazamat galleries, along with light installations on the walls made by an artist from the nearby Hungarian Pecs.



Wine & Bike Tour Erdut

Every year at the beginning of September, during the grape picking season, Wine & Bike Tour Erdut is held. It is a manifestation which draws in a larger number of visitors to the Erdutian Vineyards every year. It is a Dionysian celebration of wine, art, friendship, and multiculturality on the coasts of

the large Danube. Visitors can enjoy a rich mosaic of events: theatrical performances, concerts in the vineyards under the stars, wine – tasting, wine – cycling races, and open cellars of Erdutian wineries. In the end, do not tell anyone, but this is where Josipa Lisac discovered where the Danube kisses the sky.



◀ WINE MARATHON

Wine Marathon

Wine Marathon in Zmajevac, a village in Baranja, is one of the most popular wine manifestations in Slavonia and Baranja. Every year, at the end of September, it attracts guests from all over Croatia, as well as from neighboring countries (most notably from Hungary). The marathon combines elements of gaming-tours and active tourism, since the goal is to win Zmajevac's wine cellars before other competitors. The winner of the Marathon is commemorated with glory, while other participants find comfort in the superb wines from Zmajevac. Some say it is even better than winning.





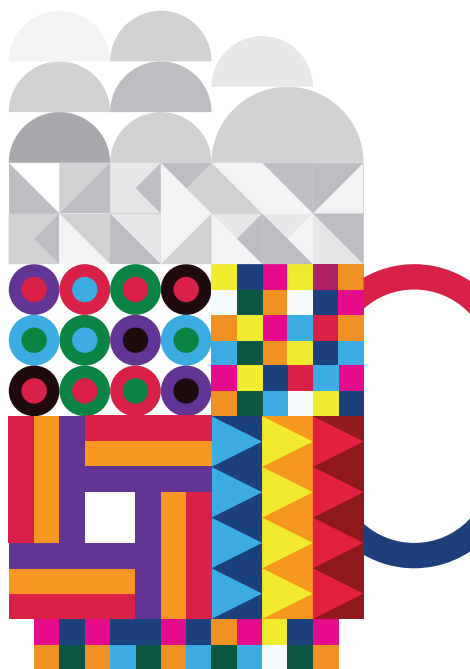
Festival of Frankovka

The main eno-manifestation of the Feričanci vineyards is the Festival of Frankovka which is also held in late September. The manifestation combines recreation and enjoyment in wine through some thematic events: Mountain meets „Trough forests and vineyards“, a race, and cycling through the vineyards („Feričanci Wine Run, or „Feričanci Bike & Fun“). You may taste the famous Frankovka from Feričanci in wine cellars, followed by amazing gastronomic offer and a music program.



Slavonian Beer Scene

In the last few years Slavonia turned into a small incubator of specialized pubs and breweries. Try Osijek's craft beers –the Legionar, Beckers and the Small Giant! Đakovo's Black Hat is not inferior at all! If you like them, and in the meantime wish for a little extra fun for you and your friends, do not miss out on Osijek's beer festivals: Craft Beer, Hombre – Homebrew, and The Days of the First Croatian Beer.



The first Croatian beer was brewed right here in Osijek! When the Ottoman ruled, a handful of Osijek's citizens immigrated to the territory of today's Germany. They returned home with a valuable skill – the art of making beer. History remembers a certain Mr. Bauer who produced beer in Osijek in 1664. In other words, all beer brewers were craft brewers at some point!

An aerial photograph of a wide, calm river with a light-colored, rippled surface. On the right side, there is a dense, green forested bank. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Green Hedonism

They say that the energy of green color eliminates the feeling of restraint, creating a soothing effect. Why wait then – only ten kilometers from Osijek, in the far southeast of Baranja, there is a green oasis - the Nature Park Kopački rit, the oldest one in Croatia (1976). Swamps, damp lawns, river sleeves, meanders and sandbars make the magic zone one of the last pristine European wetlands. Briefly said, your dose of anti-stress therapy awaits you, available without a prescription in unlimited quantities.

Kopački rit was shaped by the Danube, and to a lesser extent by the Drave. The water levels also determine the rhythm of life in the Rit. To a visitor eager of discovery and excitement, this means that at any time of the year they will be greeted with special sights like blossoming flowers, sunken canopies, deer bellow, with thousands of bird species led by the white – tailed eagle, and its wingspan which two and a half meters... Not surprisingly, Kopački rit is also a dream destination for all nature and photography lovers.

The area of the Rit is the biggest nursery and hatchery of fish in the Danube region, and consequently a particularly important ornithological reserve (to many birds there, fish is the number one specialty). Here, every year about 140 nesting bird species, and many linger here during seasonal intercontinental migrations. Obviously, they also know that it is best to rest in the east!





You can explore Kopački rit more immersively by participating in numerous educational programs, canoeing, bird watching, through a photo safari, listening to deer bellow. It is possible to rent boats and bikes, as well as recreational fishing areas especially designated for it. Visiting Kopački rit by water, with expert guidance, is a treat not to miss. The visitor's experience is further enhanced by the offer of the Tikveš Presentation and Education Center (Sophia Loren not on the guide list still).

▲ KOPAČKI RIT



In the immediate vicinity of the Nature Park, since 2006, the Straw Land Art Festival is held every August. Gathered under the bright sky, artists create sculptures from numerous bales of hay, designed to enrich the public places of the Slavonia and Baranja towns thereby contributing to the integration of art, heritage, and principles of sustainable development.



Along the northern part of the Rit lies the Eco-Center Zlatna Greda. Their Nature House is a former administrative building of one of Baranja's waste, production and agricultural complexes built during the 19th century (remember the story of the successful Belje estate). Zlatna Greda offers visitors a variety of activities: team building, horseback riding, cycling, bird and animal watching, rowing. There is also an adrenaline park, the first in eastern Croatia, and a remarkably interesting school in the nature, dedicated to biodiversity, ecology, and sustainable development.

Where the Danube enters Croatia, in Batina, there is a monument to the largest battle of World War II in this region. The stories of local villagers say that the Danube was red in those days. Still a more beautiful picture today: from the site of the monument there is a beautiful view of the green border of Croatia, Hungary, and Serbia.

▲ THE AMAZON OF EUROPE - THE MOUTH OF THE DRAVE RIVER INTO THE DANUBE RIVER

▶ ADRENALIN PARK „ZLATNA GREDA“

◀ KOPAČKI RIT

◀ THE BATTLE OF BATINA MONUMENT



Spirit Hedonism



In Slavonia there are well-known religious centers, destinations of numerous pilgrims. In addition to the before mentioned churches of Đakovo and Osijek, the sanctuary of Our Lady of Refuge stands on the bank of Danube in the village of Aljmaš. The symbolism of this special place is enhanced by the impression of the nearby Drave estuary into the Danube, as well as the proximity of the Erdut vineyards and medieval ruins there. On the other hand, in the west of the Osijek-Baranja County, also along the banks of the Drave River, there is a “place of peace, prayer and rest” - the Shrine of St. Anne in Bistrinci. According to the legend, this secluded and wooded shrine was chosen by Ana herself, by letting her image float down the Drave River and remain floating just before the Bistrinci, despite the speed of the river.

The language spoken in Slavonia and Baranja

Multiculturalism is an inseparable part of the identity of Slavonia and Baranja. Therefore, the jargonisms created by the influence of different languages and numerous language exchanges pervade here. Talking to your host, you will come across numerous Turkisms, Germanisms, and Hungarianisms - amiable terms that are still used today.



◀ **TRADITIONAL WALL
PATTERN**

(Oh my, grandma was talking on the street, but she saw through the door when my spoon fell into the cauldron!)

Slavonia and Baranja speech mixes linguistic influences from all over the world. One of the places where you can easily come across it is certainly the Ethnological Center of Baranja Heritage in Beli Manastir, which originated from a middle ground where Croatian, Serbian, Hungarian and German cultures blend in, among others.





qiv

OAKLEY

NIXON



NIXON

CROATIA
SKATE PARK

CROATIA
SKATE PARK

Active Hedonism

Run, exercise, pedal!

Dobrih dan!
Zagrebačka banka
Official Partner

ORACLE

Slavonia and Baranja are intertwined with roads that cyclists and cyclo-tourists use to travel to their favorite destinations: nature parks, picnics, or Saturday lunches in the countryside. We offer a growing number of Bed & Bike accommodation and campsites that have content tailored to the needs of this type of tourists. The region is bordered by two EuroVelo routes, no. 6 (Atlantic-Black Sea) and no. 13 (Iron Curtain Trail). The increasing popularity of cycling in Slavonia is evidenced by the increasing number of local recreational cyclists and hikers. They are joined by an increasing number of runners across the Slavonian - Baranja plains, hills, and valleys.





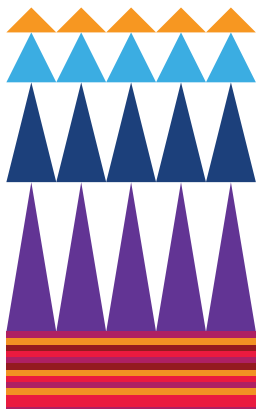
- ◀ HORSEBACK RIDING
- ▶ DEER&BIKE



The season of active-tourist delicacies begins, of course, with spring. April brings the Osijek Half Marathon event, and May brings the Tour de Slavonia & Baranja cycling race. The longest cycling race in Slavonia is also an opportunity for a dynamic panoramic view of the area between Donji Miholjac, Našice, Valpovo, Osijek and Baranja. The Pannonian Challenge, a festival of extreme sports and music, the largest of its kind in the whole of southeast Europe, has been held in Osijek for years. The event consists of BMX, SKATE, and INLINE competitions. One of the most generous prize pools in Europe attracts the biggest names from the world scene, and consequently a large number of visitors (more than 300,000 so far). The early autumn (September) is reserved for the Baranja Half-Marathon, which is organized in the beautiful setting of Kopački rit.

Since 2009, the FIG World Challenge Cup has been held in Osijek every May. How could it not, when the oldest gymnastics club in Croatia was founded in 1865 - the "First Gombalacah Society". Today, the Gymnastics World Cup - DOBRO World Cup Osijek is being transmitted to over 70 countries worldwide, reaching more than half a billion households. You can watch it live in Osijek's sports hall, City Garden, and if the world's best gymnasts inspire you, go ahead – we eat fine in Slavonia, but we are also happy to exercise.

The EuroVelo 6 (Atlantic - Black Sea) route in Croatia is also known as the Danube route. It starts from the Croatian-Hungarian border, along the route Batina - Osijek - Vukovar - Ilok, to the border with Serbia. It is about 150 km long. The EuroVelo 13 route is also known as the Drava route in Croatia. It extends from the Croatian-Slovenian-Hungarian three-border line, along the Gola - Sopje - Donji Miholjac - Petlovac - Batina route, all the way to the border with Serbia. It is about 190 km long. It largely overlaps with the route also known as the "Amazon of Europe" Bike Trail.





Horseback Riding, Fishing, and Hunting

People from Slavonia and Baranja have always lived with noble animals - horses. Once upon a time, working horses used to live and farm in the backyards, and today they are taken care of by recreational and sports horse lovers. Horses are bred out of love on many farms. Visitors can ride them or walk along the wooded paths.

Fishermen and hunters are happy to go to riverbeds and rivers, but also to Slavonian and Baranja oak forests. Rivers, lakes, and ponds are especially rich in freshwater steelhead such as carp, perch, pike, and catfish. The largest fish ponds in the County are near Donji Miholjac and Našice, while the favorite fishing spots are Borovik and Josava lakes in the vicinity of Đakovo, Našice, Lapovac and the former Baranja river backwaters - Topoljski Dunavac near Draž and Stara Drava near Bilje. Not far from Bilje, in Kopačevo, the manifestation Fishermen's Days has been held for about twenty years. In addition to fishing, Slavonia and Baranja have a rich hunting tradition. The forests here are rich in trophy game, among which stands out the magnificent Baranja deer, followed by roe deer, wild boar, and other feathered and small game.



▲ A DEER OF BARANJA

Podunavlje - Podravlje hunting ground was founded in 1697, when Prince Eugen Savoy received the Baranja prize from Emperor Leopold I. He soon built several hunting mansions and the already mentioned Bilje Castle. The hunting ground is still the destination of many exclusive guests, including a large number of crowned heads.



River, Sand, Sun

When was the last time you walked barefoot on a sandy pond, looking for bird tracks, watching the river flow and the poplar swinging in the breeze? The slightly untamed nature of Slavonia and Baranja will do just that - a rest for your body and soul. This is especially true of Slavonian-Baranja rivers and lakes. Have you heard of “bistrigine”, for example? It is a Pannonian “picigin” played by smiling men on the most beautiful Drava sand beach, the one in Bistrinci. In other words, a summer vacation on the continent can be a real treat, as you can simply enjoy



the cultural heritage, the beauties of nature, the eno- and gastro-specialties, by swimming in the Drava, the Danube or numerous lakes.

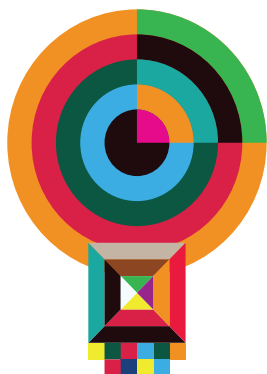
Along the Baranja village of Draž, on the very intersection of Croatia, Hungary and Serbia, you will come across the most attractive Baranja beach, located along the 10 km of the Topolski Danube mentioned above. When it comes to town beaches, except Osijek's Copacabana, you can enjoy the pools in Kneževi Vinogradi, Beli Manastir, Belišće, or Đakovo.



▲ THE SPA CENTER IN BIZOVAC

Bizovac Spa - Perfect for Relaxation

Thanks to a source of salty, mineral-rich water, the village of Bizovac, located westwards of Osijek, has become a center of continental health tourism. Experts consider thermal mineral water from Bizovac to be unique in the world. With a temperature of 84 ° C, it is the hottest iodine hyperthermal water in Europe, and it is three times saltier than the sea. In addition to spa facilities, Bizovac Spa also offers the opportunity to enjoy attractions of the indoor and outdoor pools of the so-called Aquapolis, or sauna and massages. There is also the possibility for recreation on the sports fields, or in short, enjoyment for the whole family 365 days a year!



The village of Brođanci, not far from Bizovac, has been hosting the unique Olympics of Ancient Sports for almost half a century, taking place on the last weekend in August. The aim of this event is to preserve the old games of Slavonian villages from oblivion, and few which will be lost. However, after successfully adopting the theory and practice of clawing, senses, banges, turners and other 15 disciplines, you will be glad to discover the secrets of old culinary recipes.

Mystical Slavonia and Baranja



Red Martha

Fiery, her lush hair whirling in the wind, a pale tan, and a gloomy look, an evil mare, and an unfortunate fate. According to legend, the Red Martha of Zmajevac was the cruel ruler of vineyards in Baranja. She oversaw the crossing on the Danube. Those who could not pay to cross in gold coins would end up working in her vineyards. The arbitrariness of the cruel Martha was eventually attempted by King Matthew Corvinus. Fleeing before him, Martha flew over the edge of a cliff in a carriage full of gold coins. She had enough of the fortune.

The Secret of the Medieval Fortress Kolođvar

Not far from Osijek are the remains of a medieval fortress, for which a legend says that hissing and snickering laughter of a snake-woman can be heard under the moonlight around its swamp-enclosed walls. The curse comes from the actions of the great Philip Korogy, who walled his own daughter in the tower, in order to guard the treasure that he could not bring, while fleeing before the enemy. The unfortunate woman eventually turned into a snake-woman which lured children with

songs, then choked them with hair and devoured them in order to survive. Inspired by its medieval heritage, the “Return of the Knights to the Kolodvar Fort” is held every September in the ruins of Kolodvar. In the case that it should be noted, the event is kids friendly.



The Legend of Valpovo’s White Lady

Testimonies of unusual events in the Valpovo castle, in July 1838, speak of the apparition of the ghost of a young girl killed long-ago, whose body was thrown between the icicle and the city chapel, with her head down. The spirit allegedly claimed that he would not calm down until the body was dug up and buried on the sanctified land. How did this story end? Find out more on the spot, at the Prandau-Normann Valpovo Castle!

General Von Beckers

In the early 18th century, thousands of soldiers began the construction of ramparts and canals around the Fortress, under the supervision of General Stephan von Beckers. The general was an avid builder, and his last wish was for his body to be built into the Fortress’s outer ramparts. Even today, in the wee hours of the night, the clatter of horseshoes and the footsteps of soldiers’ boots can sometimes be heard.

There is a Lengthy List of Pannonian Attractions...

Eltz Castle and Museum of Vučedol Culture

Vukovar, a hero city on the banks of the Danube, is marked by a number of sights. In addition to heritage of multiculturalism and memorials related to the Homeland War, one of the most beautiful baroque buildings in Croatia is located here - the Eltz Castle, today home to the Vukovar City Museum. If you head five kilometers downstream, you will find the Museum of Vučedol Culture. Its exhibition is dedicated to the history of Vučedol, one of the civilization centers of prehistoric Europe. How did a Vučedol house look like, the oldest European four-wheeled car, the first batch of metallurgical production in the world, and the oldest European calendar (contemporary of Sumerian and Ancient Egyptian), you will find out everything at this fascinating archaeological-museological site.



- ▲ NATURE PARK
„PAPUK“
- ◀ THE MUSEUM OF
THE VUČEDOL
CULTURE

Old Cellar in Ilok

In Ilok, a town in the province of Syrmia, impressively raised on a terrace above the Danube, the Old Cellar also found its place under the sun, more precisely the ground. It was built in the 15th century, at the height of the power of the medieval then royal city of Ilok. The fierce Ilok red wines, one of the sources of the city's wealth, are kept here. Not far from the Cellar is the Odescalchi Castle, built during the 18th century, today home to the City Museum. Apart from its wines and rich material heritage Ilok is also known as Croatia's easternmost point. In Ilok you will find buildings from the medieval, Ottoman, and Austrian periods and wine that cannot be found anywhere else in Croatia. In short, a must see.



Perhaps the most glorious moment in the history of Ilok wines happened on June 2, 1953, when the most famous Ilok wine, the Tram, was toasted in London, at the enthronement of Queen Elizabeth II!

◀ ILOK



Eco-ethnic Village Stara Kapela

The village of Stara Kapela is situated on the slopes of Požega Mountain, in the County of Brod-Posavina. It is known for its nine springs of drinking water, a hiking-biking trail and preserved traditional houses, barns, and gazebos. You can also spend the night in some of them, and then have a home-made breakfast from the farm gardens. Stara Kapela also offers you an opportunity to participate in rural duties, just like they were done in the old times. Something interesting can be found for everyone.



Kutjevo

Active holidays, exploring the rich past, a visit to the Lipik State Stud Farm, enjoying the Duboka Adrenaline Park and Papuk Nature Park are just some of the reasons why you should head to Kutjevo. Turković Castle is one of the most beautiful monuments of its kind in Slavonia. In addition, it houses one of the oldest wine cellars in Croatia, built in 1232. According to tradition, Empress Maria Theresa performed various misconceptions with the famous Grandees Franjo Trenk,. How could we blame her? The legendary Kutjevo Graševina is all but the wine of the innocent. You can go out on Megdan (Graševina, not Maria Theresa) every May, by visiting the Kutina Festival of Graševina.

▲ THE CASTLE OF
KUTJEVO

Secrets of Green Papuk

The Geo Info Center in Voćin and the Jankovac Resort are favorite destinations for lovers of active lifestyle and nature. The Papuk Nature Park, also the first Croatian UNESCO geopark, provides the curious with a lot of fun, adventure, and interesting insights about natural heritage. If you wish to complement the experience of the most interesting Slavonian Mountains with cultural content, we recommend that you descend from Papuk to the newly renovated Pejačević Castle and park in Virovitica.





▲ JANKOVAC,
NATURE PARK
„PAPUK“

Novi Sad, Subotica, and Sombor

Like Osijek, Novi Sad has a rich history as well as an urban story within its Petrovaradin fortress, where many festivals are held today. At the same time, rich in gastronomy and rural customs that are hidden on the nearby farms and chardas and along the wine routes of Fruška Gora. The European Capital of Culture 2021 is located in Serbia, an hour, and a half drive from Osijek. It is an ideal destination for a day trip, during which you can visit Subotica, a Secession pearl in the north of Bačka, and Sombor, a well-known Danube town famous for the greenery and bohemian life of ancient Pannonian hedonists.

Pecs

The Hungarian city of Pecs is the capital of the historic province of Baranja, and only an hour away from Osijek. The 2010 European Capital of Culture title made this charming city a well-known excursion destination for innovative, yet it traditionally marked tourist offerings. It highlights the contents of the Zsolnay Cultural Center, a former porcelain industrial plant.

Villany

The adjacent wine gem in the Hungarian Baranya, Villany, is ideal for hikers and wine lovers. A visit to the idyllic town will reveal why they call it the most fascinating European story of wine tourism. The most famous local wine variety is Cabernet Franc. Those who, apart from wine, adore water, will not miss a visit to spa centers in the nearby towns Siklós and Harkány.

Do not miss out on:

- Gallery “Petar Smajić” in Ernestinovo
- Cultural and Science Center “Milutin Milanković” in Dalj
- Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Slavonia, and the Archaeological Museum in Osijek
- Gloria Maris - the Museum of shells and the world of water in Osijek
- Šokačka kuća in Topolje
- Asztalos Family Ceramic Workshop and Mill in Suza
- Castle Esterházy in Darda
- Museum in Belišće
- Bizik Zoo in Markovac Našički
- Memorial Museum of Bishop Josip Juraj Strossmayer in Đakovo
- Diocesan Museum of the Bishopric of Đakovo
- Franciscan Monastery and the Church of St. Anthony of Padua in Našice
- Ethno Village Bocanjevi
- Ethno Village Karanac



Osijek proudly talks about Nobel laureates Prelog and Ruzička, double Oscar winner Branko Lustig, famous avant-garde artist Julius Knifer, and football icon Davor Šuker. The Baranja residents emphasize Otti Berger, an artist of the renowned Bauhaus Art School, while the entire Erdut Peninsula boasts Milutin Milanković, a geophysicist and a world-renowned astronomer.

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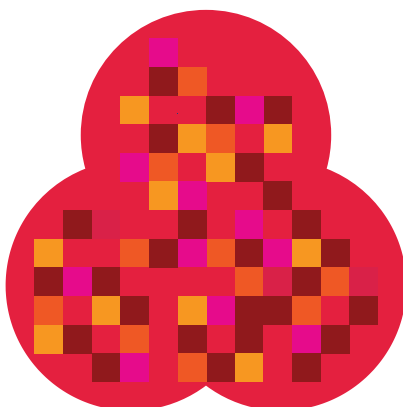
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Nature Park Papuk Archive

DESIGN, LAYOUT, ILLUSTRATION

Symbol d.o.o. za promidžbu i dizajn

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**VISIT
SLAVONIA & BARANJA**

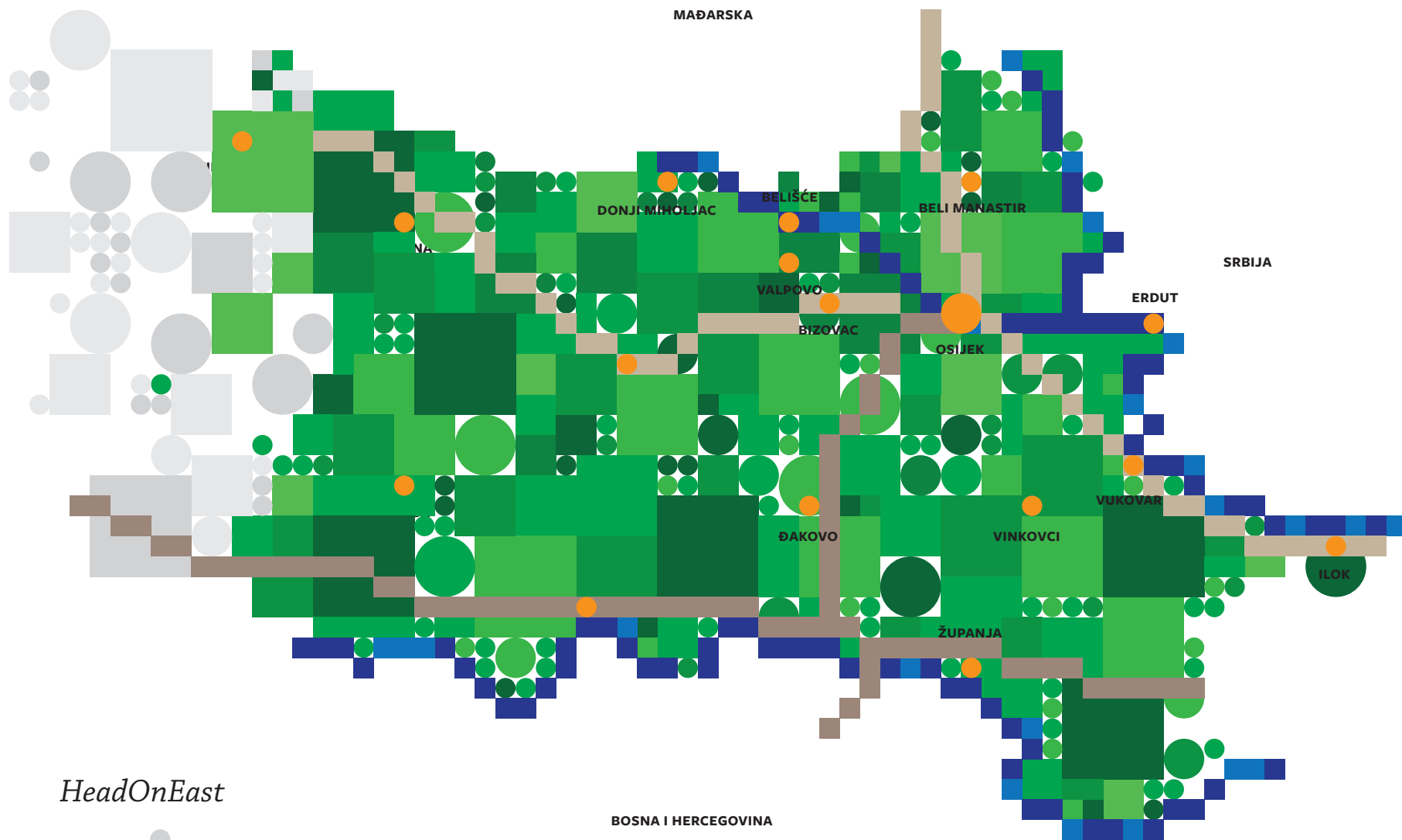
OSIJEK-BARANJA COUNTY
TOURISM BOARD

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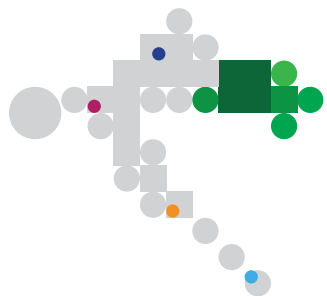
C R O A T I A







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