



Come and  
explore

the Bjelovar-Bilogora  
region on horseback



# Horse-trekking trails in Bjelovar-Bilogora County





# Bilogora horse-trekking trail

The first internationally certified equestrian tourist trail in Croatia stretching over 90 km with "horses welcome" spots.

*Enjoy the adventure!*



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## Discover and explore the Bjelovar - Bilogora region on horseback

**Y**ou can find and explore Bjelovar-Bilogora County on horseback. This is the easternmost county of Central Croatia, which spreads over the slopes of the Bilogora, Papuk and Moslavacka mountains. We have pleasure in presenting you with local internationally certified bridle paths, village tourism family farms and equestrian clubs, resting areas, wineries, restaurants, ethno-houses and other features of the cultural and historical heritage dotted along the trail.

All the areas are connected by hilly landscapes. Quiet streams. Fishponds and the accompanying birdsong. Paths that wind through tall woods. More and more interest is added with each new season. An abundant traditional table of good food, prepared by skilful hands, enhanced with excellent wine. Certainly one of the best ways to get to know this region, keeping closest to nature, in a sea of green – is on horseback.



## Vinia Agritourism and Campsite – Šapić Family Farm



In the idyllic hills of Bilogora near Bjelovar there is Vinia Agritourism. This small family farm is a true paradise on earth, with an atmosphere of village life, fresh air and the beautiful countryside. It offers everything you need to get away from the everyday hustle and bustle and spend unforgettable moments.

There are 5 comfortable rooms of grade four category (4 stars), an apartment, a campsite, a restaurant for 80 people, and a wine cellar, where you can taste different home-produced types of wine. For the youngest you can find a play area and additionally equipped space for children's birthday parties. Have fun playing volleyball on the sand, badminton, skittles with a swinging ball, five-a-side football, or riding a bike. You can bring your pets and enjoy your time with them. But the biggest pets of the Šapić family are horses. In the stables there are 9 beautiful ones: Arabian horses, Friesian and Croatian warmblood horses that are ready to take you through the countryside and terrains of Bilogora. In line with your experience in horse riding, the Šapić family will help you choose one of their horses and will arrange the best option for your ride. Trekking can be done with or without an escort. But if it is a question of tourist riding, including visits to the tourist destinations of Bilogora, you will be escorted by the head of the tourist horse-riding section. The little ones and those a little less secure, who have not yet learned to ride, can experience their first encounter with horses in the ring under guidance. For lovers of riding, many special one-day and several-day trips are available.

The treks can be tailored to your needs: choice of terrain or duration of trek, length of your stay or number of riders. For those who would like to bring their own horses we can offer accommodation for your horses, too. Your leaders will be certified Vinia Horse Club riders. You will be welcomed by Anemoon, Frula, Gio, Sandini, Trenton, Magic, Rain, Egzotika and Shogun!

### Option 1 (one-day trip)

- Arrival at Vinia Agritourism (8:00 am at the latest)
- Traditional Bilogora breakfast (fresh cheese and cream, home-cured bacon, pork cracklings, sausages, homemade jam...)
- Tour of the stables and choosing a horse
- Four hours of trekking on the hills of Bilogora
- Return and homemade specialties for lunch at Vinia Agritourism
- (shorter treks of 1.5 hours and a picnic are also possible)

### Option 2 (two days/one night stay)

- Arrival at Vinia Agritourism in the afternoon (checking into room, apartment or campsite)
- Tour of the stables, training and picking a horse
- Homemade Bilogora specialties for dinner, overnight stay
- 8:00 am – Breakfast – Traditional Bilogora breakfast
- 10:00 am – Start of trek – 4-hour route: Vinia – Vidikovac – Romany House – Planinarac
- 2:30 pm – Return and lunch prepared from homemade food at Vinia Agritourism (or an optional picnic on the trek)



## ENGEA Croatia - Veliko Trojstvo Equestrian Club



In the Bilogora valley and the surrounding hills of Veliko Trojstvo at the Pirin family farm, there is the first branch of the European Association of Equestrian Tourism established in Croatia – ENGEA Croatia, a member of ENGEA, which operates in 7 countries and has more than 35,000 members. Engea Croatia has eight internationally certified tourist riding leaders and the first equestrian tourist trail certified according to European standards - "BILOGORA EQUESTRIAN TRAIL", 90 kilometres long. The Veliko Trojstvo Equestrian Club has members who are owners of horses and family farms in the municipality of Veliko Trojstvo. It was founded in 1999 with the aim of improving the breeding of sport horses and promoting equestrianism in Bilogora. The Pirin family farm, home to ENGEA Croatia and the Veliko Trojstvo Equestrian Club, is dominated by the stables where riders can take a break and gather after their rides and where also some events are organised. Next to the eco stables there is a fenced arena and walking area for horses. Guests of ENGEA Croatia and the Veliko Trojstvo Equestrian Club can find refreshments there in the form of specialties of the Bilogora region, taste Bilogora wine and enjoy the pleasant and welcoming atmosphere.






## Veliko Trojstvo Ethno Park



The ethno park in the centre of Veliko Trojstvo is a unique complex consisting of a structure which used to be a museum and which housed an exhibition of the period when Josip Broz Tito lived and worked there. The house today is an indigenous ethno-collection with many exhibits (about 1,000 different items) that faithfully depict the life, culture and customs of Bilogora's past, including a special part of the ethno-collection of Gordana and Juraj Matunci. Behind the museum there is an ethno-garden and a traditional display of the rural way of life and architecture. An old Bilogora house, a barn, a shed, a bread oven, a storage for corn, and a well, all surrounded by a wicker fence, are preserved to the last detail and kept in the condition they were in a long time ago. These exhibits, illustrating the history of rural architecture, together with the exhibited ethno-collection, add to the special cultural value of the Bilogora region.





 Čačija Winery, founded in 2005, located in Maglenča, in the municipality of Veliko Trojstvo, is the proud producer of the first premium wines with the geographic origin of Bilogora vineyards – Graševina (Riesling) and Cabernet Sauvignon. Within an area of 5 hectares of vineyards, 22,000 vines are cultivated which produce two types of white wine: Graševina (Riesling) and Chardonnay, and three types of red wine: Cabernet Sauvignon, Zweigelt and Portugieser. The peculiarity of the location and the favourable microclimate make this place and the wine from it very special. The Čačija Winery cellar has a capacity of 45,000 litres of high quality premium wines, the majority being Graševina (Riesling). There is also an area where you can taste the wine. The winery includes a village house, a picnic area and a wine shop where you can savour Čačija wine and taste culinary specialties.





## Romany Ethno House



The Romany ethno house is an authentic house belonging to the Lovari Roma people, one of eight groups of Roma who live in Croatia nowadays. Not only is it the first such house in Croatia, but it is also the first in Europe. It is a unique tourist and cultural structure that is an attractive and authentic attraction which presents the unknown Romany history, traditions, language and customs as part of the rich Croatian heritage. Also on display are many products for which the Lovari Roma used to be famous (e.g. lavender as a traditional Romany crop). Opportunities are presented to see and taste original Romany food and drink. At the entrance to the whole area, there is a symbolic signpost with directions to major European cities where the Roma are still looking for their place under the sun, and the entrance to the house itself faces the east where the sun rises. In front of the entrance there is an apple tree as a symbol of fertility and prosperity in the family. These, and many other legends, myths and irrefutable facts about the Roma will become familiar to you as you visit this destination where you are always welcome...



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## Kamenitovac Mountain Lodge

**K**amenitovac Mountain Lodge was opened in 1951 and since then it has been a favourite spot for many inhabitants of Bjelovar, mountain climbers, hikers and other visitors. It was built on the crest of a hill above the village of Maglenča on the edge of the woods, which ensures a unique position, and provides guests with special moments of relaxation in the countryside at 242 m above sea level and offers a beautiful view of the Bjelovar valley, Kalnik and Prigorje. The Mountain Lodge has been fully renovated; on the first floor there are newly appointed rooms and there is a restaurant on the ground floor, which offers local cuisine and game specialties. Near the lodge there is a large play area for children and a beautiful woodland for long and pleasant walks.





## Mihoci Family Farm "Vrata Bilogore" (The Gateway To Bilogora)



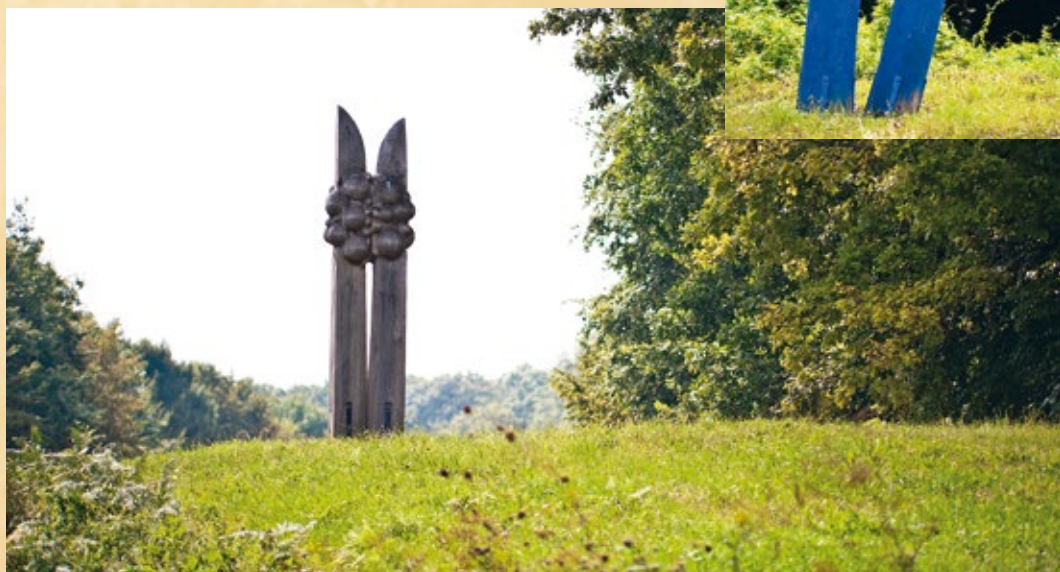
**T**he Mihoci family farm "Vrata Bilogore" (Gateway to Bilogora) offers many opportunities to enjoy fine cuisine, with the welcoming hosts providing local Bilogora produce from their own garden with a fine glass of Bilogora wine. It is situated on one of the highest Bilogora points from where the view stretches all the way to Sljeme and Kalnik over Medvednica and Ivančica. Your soul will be touched by one of the most attractive sunsets. You will enjoy an unhindered view of the breathtaking scenery. The Bjelovar - Bilogora region offers well-kept secrets and one of them is this romantic village farm, an ideal place to take a break for horses and riders, cyclists, walkers, and hikers.





## "Svijetle pruge" - Gallery of wooden sculptures in the open air

**A**long the forest roads on the edge of the woods, 4 kilometres from Kamenitovac Mountain Lodge towards the village of Šandrovac, there is a wooden sculpture park called "Svijetle Pruge". Svijetle Pruge is the only gallery of outdoor wooden sculptures in this part of Europe. They were created over the last decade, and made from the trees in the woods where they are now placed. They were crafted by students and teachers of the Sculpture Department at the Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb, hosting students from around the world as part of the sculpting colony organised in the true atmosphere of the surrounding woods. The sculptures are a symbol of our forests and the unique landscape of the Bilogora region and reflect the inner artistic experience of the authors in the very environment where the sculptures were created. There are forty-three wooden sculptures, and visitors on horseback, and those cycling or just walking can enjoy their unusual form and originality as well as the beauty of untouched nature and of the woods themselves.





## "Kukavica" (Cuckoo) Sports and Recreation Centre

Located in the heart of the woods, "Kukavica" Sports and Recreation Centre provides a holiday in the countryside and a getaway from our daily hectic lifestyle. The Centre got its name from the cuckoo that used to live in the woods in the area. The Centre is surrounded by cycling and equestrian trails, which stretch along the woods, hills, fertile fields, meadows, streams and fishponds which testify to the nature conservation of the Bilogora region and to its biodiversity. The Centre consists of the following facilities: a hostel with 46 beds, conference rooms, restaurants, sports and recreational grounds and large stables for horses. Various events, training, competitions and gatherings related to horses and equestrian tourism have been held in the Centre for a number of years.





## Pisanica Eco-Ethno Trail

**B**ordered by woods and natural meadows, the Pisanica eco-ethno trail connects the tourist destinations of Velika Pisanica, giving visitors the opportunity to stay for just a few hours or for several days. Woods, fields, meadows, streams and fishponds, testify to the nature conservation and biodiversity of the Bilogora region, whose landscape is traced by the Pisanica eco-ethno trail. The trail mostly passes soft woods and fields, natural meadows, hills, slopes and ploughed land. You can follow the trail on foot, by bicycle or on horseback, or you can do longer treks for a half-day, a full day, or over several days. The trail passes through all 8 villages within the Velika Pisanica municipality. Its full length is 52 kilometres, marked by 30 ecological, wooden and handmade signs in total, which help all visitors to reach their chosen destination.



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## Babinac Hunting Lodge

**I**n the natural environment of the woods and mountains of Bilogora, in the heart of the "Pisanička Bilogora" hunting grounds, you can find the Babinac Hunting Lodge, about 20 km southeast of Bjelovar, in Babinac, in the municipality of Velika Pisanica. The building is one of the most modern and best equipped facilities for hunting tourism in the Republic of Croatia. The hunting lodge has a restaurant with a hall that can accommodate 35 people. The first floor has 8 luxury rooms. The building is an open type facility and, by booking in advance, you can enjoy a wide menu of high gastronomy. The Lodge is also suitable for various business and private meetings. Besides hunting, guests can engage in recreational activities, go walking, running or horse riding on the beautiful slopes of Bilogora in the picturesque landscape of meadows, pastures and woods.



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## Agritourism "Na Malenom brijegu" – The Vladimir Ujajinić Family Farm



**N**a Malenom Brijegu is located on the hills of Bilogora in the small village of Ribnjačka. The village is surrounded by hills covered in woods and colourful farms and it seems as if it is from a fairy tale. Guests are offered accommodation in a rural holiday home "Bakina vikendica" (Grandma's cottage) and traditional food prepared from produce grown on the farm. To make your stay at Maleni Brijeg fun and more interesting, the hosts offer several activities such as "Country Life" and "The Hidden Treasure of the Ved Giants of Bilogora", which takes you into the world of the mythical creatures of Bilogora to search for their hidden treasures. The main activity of the family farm is horse breeding. Seven beautiful horses amaze all generations of visitors. The farm offers riding, starting with beginners, for the brave who would like to try riding, to experienced riders capable of longer, even several-day treks on the certified Bilogora equestrian trails. Meet these noble animals by grooming them, listening to stories, caring for and feeding them ... Fall under their dominion, and experience the true relationship of a human and a horse. Come with your friends, enjoy the local food, walk in the countryside, learn a lot about horses and try riding!

### "Weekend riding for friends" – for 4 people:

- Welcoming glass of homemade liqueurs and brandies with the story of the family farm and interesting facts about the region
- Lunch - homemade soup, barbecue – pork neck and chicken, side dish, salad, homemade bread, cake, a glass of homemade wine
- Dinner - lepinja (flat bread), homemade jams, ajvar (pepper relish), cheese
- Breakfast – home-produced ham, bacon, sausages, eggs, cheese, ajvar, bread
- Horse riding - riding lesson from the basics to riding in the field through the beautiful Bilogora woods and meadows
- Spending the night in a rural holiday home\*\*\*
- Panoramic ride on a tractor for half an hour
- Tour of the farm:
  - Agricultural production - rearing of 7 horses and 55 sheep, poultry, vegetable production over 15 hectares (plough fields, meadows, pastures, woods, vineyards, orchards)
  - Introduction to the mythical creatures of Bilogora – the Ved, Bergmandel – the earth spirit, and other mysterious creatures from folk tradition







## The Coner Winery And Restaurant



**T**he Coner Winery is located in the heart of Bilogora, surrounded by woods, meadows and vineyards. Carefully selected wine varieties planted on six acres of the slopes of Bilogora produce the best grapes and wine. The winery has a restaurant, where you can try traditional meals prepared in just the right way, starting with produce from their own farm or from farms in the area. Accommodation includes 5 rooms and 3 apartments. Two lecture halls can accommodate up to 160 guests and they are equipped for meetings, workshops and presentations. Near the winery there are children's play areas and sports grounds, walking areas around the vineyards, picnic meadows, viewing points, and bicycle, rambling and equestrian trails. The range of services of the winery is constantly changing.





## Stara kuća

**S**tara kuća is located in the small village of Maglenča, away from the noise, surrounded by woods, meadows and pastures. Opening hours can be arranged and the capacity is 40 people. The hosts prepare traditional meals of the Bilogora region, from produce grown on local farms. Specialties include grilled food, meat roasted "under the lid", and food prepared in a baker's oven. Guests can go for a walk, jog, or ride a horse or bike through untouched nature and the surrounding countryside. The hosts can organise group bicycling tours of Bilogora.



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## Zrinski Equestrian Club - Zrinski Topolovac

**Z**rinski Equestrian Club organises cultural and tourist events in the municipality of Zrinski Topolovac. At the Commemoration of Zrinski and Frankopan, which is held on 30 April every year, there is a horse race, horse games, dressage and riding on the slopes of Bilogora within the municipality of Zrinski Topolovac. In the area of Zrinski Topolovac there is a marked trail 20 kilometres in length. The Equestrian Club, along with accommodation for about ten horses also has an area for training horses and in the centre of the municipality there tying-up spots for twenty horses.



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## Agritourism "Bilogorska Čarolija" – The Rebić Family Farm



Just as its name implies, this is a beautiful farmhouse in the heart of Bjelovar-Bilogora County, about ten kilometres from Bjelovar, in a hilly area surrounded by the woods and vineyards of Bilogora, combining a wonderful harmony of rural architecture and natural beauty. The house has a kitchen, a bathroom, a living room and two bedrooms (four beds). It is suitable for weekend breaks for ramblers, hikers and families. Horse lovers will have at their disposal the whole farm with horses (with opportunities to get to know the animals and ride).





## "Vila Bilogore" rural house



**V**illa Bilogore is tucked away among oak woods, located on Rekić Hill in the village of Mala Dapčevica, near the town of Grubišno Polje. Preserved in its original form, with a large garden, woods and meadows that surround it, and with a lot of effort, work as well as love having been invested into it, it has been transformed into an oasis of peace and beauty, for all hedonists and lovers to enjoy the unique countryside and to taste traditional culinary specialties of this region. The owners offer accommodation, wedding ceremonies, one-day and two-day trips, team building, business lunches, parties and other celebrations, including themed children's birthday parties with entertainers. All those who love the pure and untouched beauty of nature can come and enjoy walks and rides in the peace and quiet of the scented woods.







# DARUVAR

## Trail rides and horse trekking on the slopes of Papuk

**D**aruvar is a famous spa town with a tradition of healing that dates back over two thousand years, featuring a combination of urban greenery, new and historic buildings and a wide selection of recreational facilities. In ancient times, Daruvar was the capital of the Republic of Iassa, and in Roman times, as Aquae Balissae – "very hot springs" – it was well known as a health resort and a place of relaxation for the noble. At the time of the Turkish occupation, Daruvar was an important strategic point and it later became a trading centre, while at the time of Count Janković, who is considered as the founder of today's town, it was transformed into a centre for crafts and trade. It spreads along the basin of the River Toplica, at the point where Central and Eastern Croatia meet. There are also rivers and lakes, and the woods and meadows of Papuk mountain where, with your hosts from the equestrian clubs, you can go riding and horse trekking.





Daruvar SPA , Vila Arcadia



Daruvar SPA, Central mud bath



## AMB Horses stable



The AMB Horses stable is at the entrance of the town of Daruvar from the direction of Pakrac. With the newly built stables there are also halls for horse dressage, where both beginners and advanced horse riders can enjoy themselves. The stables have 10 purebred horses for a high class of sports and recreation. There are half-day, full-day or several-day treks in the surrounding gentle countryside. Sports riders or advanced recreational riders have an arena for training and there is fine accommodation for their four-legged friends, of course with the top quality and professional care. A special offer provided by the owners includes "AMB mare's milk", a natural and unique beverage rich in vitamins A, B1, B2, B6, B12, C, K, E, and minerals - iron, calcium, phosphorous, potassium and others. It contains 60 times more Vitamin C than cow's milk, vitamins A, D, E and F, large amounts of magnesium, calcium, phosphorus, potassium and zinc.





## "Hrvatski Sokol" Equestrian Club



The "Hrvatski Sokol" Equestrian Club is located in Vukovije, in the municipality of Đulovac, near Daruvar. The club trains riders in sport, recreational and rehabilitation riding and improves and develops horse breeding. It is the main organiser and participant in the ENDURANCE race, a marathon for horses and riders, which was held in Croatia for the first time in 2006 at Petrov Vrh near Daruvar. Experienced riders can safely embark on the adventure of trail riding and horse trekking on the hilly slopes of Papuk accompanied by members of the "Hrvatski Sokol" Equestrian Club. The club can accommodate groups of up to 7 people, and there is the possibility of accommodation for your own horse. Riders are offered the 15 km trail, from Vukovije to the nearby medieval fortress - Stupčanica Tower.







## Equestrian roadway trail "Čazma-Lonjsko polje"

**T**he thematic trail area stretches from Čazma to the northwestern part of the Lonsko Polje Nature Park, near Stružec, directly along the River Česma, and partly along the River Preloščica and the River Lonja, including a number of villages and farms and tourist attractions such as the Salaj family's famous Christmas Fairy Tale, the Franjo Matašin Gallery in Bojana, the Pirak Family Farm - Zmajevo Gnijezdo, the Tonković Ethno House, and so on. The equestrian roadway trail includes the southwest area of the Town of Čazma, the northeast and southeast area of the Municipality of Križ, and the western part of the Municipality of Velika Ludina and the southwest area of the Municipality of Popovača.



## "Husar" Equestrian Club, Čazma



**T**he "Husar" Equestrian Club was established in 2001 in Čazma on a ranch owned by Branko Kovačić, President of the "Husar" Equestrian Club, Čazma. The ranch includes stables, club rooms, an enclosed arena of 50m x 20m, and more than 3 hectares of fenced pasture. The club offers a riding school (to train new riders under the supervision of members of the club), riding in the arena (riding for beginners and for those who are still a little insecure), horse trekking (longer rides outside the ranch for those who are a bit more experienced), and accommodation for horses (in stalls on the ranch).





## Salaj family estate



## Pirak rural tourism







TOURIST BOARD  
OF BJELOVAR-BILOGORA COUNTY

**CROATIA**  
*Full of life*

**Publisher:** Turistička zajednica Bjelovarsko-bilogorske županije

**For the publisher:** Jasna Vaniček-Fila

**Photographs:** Leon Hribljan, Delimir Hrestak, Damir Bakarić, Željko Smešnjak,  
fotomanbj, Davor Kirin, Štefan Brajković, Predrag Uskoković,  
Ratko Vuković, TZ BBŽ

**Photo on the cover:** Srećko Štruk

**Expert associates:** Vladimir Vlajinić (Konjički savez BBŽ)

**Graphic design:** ***BJELOVARAC** novi* / Mario Kapelac

**Translation:** Gloria d.o.o.

**Printed by:** Kerschoffset, Zagreb

**Print run:** 800 copies





## Tradition, hussars, and Gidran horses



The long equestrian history of this region belongs to the heritage of the Bjelovar border guards - Husari 1756. As a picturesque historic military unit, they perform at numerous general and commemorative events in the country and abroad and spread the spirit and the history of the cavalry of this region.

Besides the Bjelovar border guards – Husari, closely related to them and also well-known is their horse breed called the Gidran. This is a very interesting and very rare breed of horses that originated at the time of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in the Pannonian Basin. Based on this, members of the Gidran breeding associations are working on getting the Gidran horse recognised as an autochthonous Croatian breed whose population is most numerous in Bjelovar-Bilogora County. Selected and bred for military needs, this breed nowadays is arousing great interest in tourism. Having a highly attractive appearance, distinguishing colours, with a calm and courageous character, it is a reliable partner in creating an unforgettable experience in exploring Bjelovar-Bilogora County on horseback.