

Unknown Krka

hidden treasures of the upper and middle
course of the Krka River



Project user:



KRKA
Nacionalni park - National Park

Project partner:



TURISTIČKA ZAJEDNICA
ŠIBENIK-KNINSKE
ŽUPANIJE



PARKS OF CROATIA



BRIJUNI
National Park
Nacionalni park

UČKA
National Park
Nacionalni park

RISNJAK
National Park
Nacionalni park

ŽUMBERAK SAMOBORSKO GORJE
National Park
Nacionalni park

MEDVEDNICA
National Park
Nacionalni park

KOPAČKI RIT
National Park
Nacionalni park

PLITVIČKA JEZERA
National Park
Nacionalni park

LONJSKO POLJE
National Park
Nacionalni park

PAPUK
National Park
Nacionalni park

SJEVNI VELEBIT
National Park
Nacionalni park

VELEBIT
National Park
Nacionalni park

PAKLENICA
National Park
Nacionalni park

TELAŠĆICA
National Park
Nacionalni park

KRKA
National Park
Nacionalni park

VRANSKO JEZERO
National Park
Nacionalni park

DINARA
National Park
Nacionalni park

KORNATI
National Park
Nacionalni park

BIKOVO
National Park
Nacionalni park

LASTOVSKO OTOČJE
National Park
Nacionalni park

MLJET
National Park
Nacionalni park

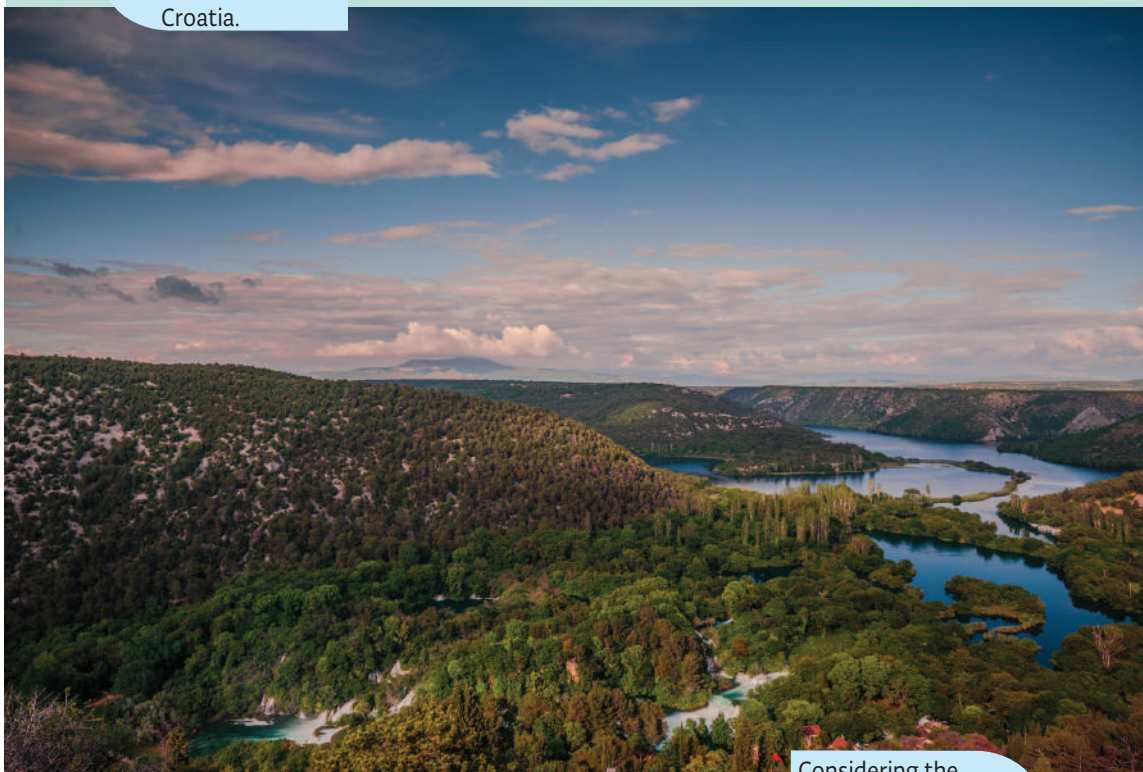
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National Park of Europe

The Natura 2000 ecological network in Croatia covers about 37% of the land area and about 16% of the coastal area of Croatia.

Croatia is one of the richest countries in terms of preserved nature thus we proudly call it 'the national park of Europe'. The Nature Protection Act protects 409 areas on a total of 817,383.34 ha, which is 9.3% of the total territory of the Republic of Croatia. A third of the Croatian territory is also part of the largest network of protected areas in the world, the ecological network of the European Union Natura 2000.



National parks are vast, predominantly unaltered areas of land and/or sea of exceptional and multiple natural values that include one or more preserved or slightly altered ecosystems. They are intended to preserve the original natural and landscape values, and have scientific, cultural, educational and recreational purposes. Interventions and activities that do not endanger the originality of nature are permitted in the national park, and economic use of natural resources is prohibited.

Considering the biodiversity, geodiversity and preservation of the landscape, Krka National Park area is an indispensable part of the mosaic of both the national and Natura 2000 ecological networks.

Krka National Park - green oasis of Dalmatian karst

Krka National Park encompasses the most beautiful part of the Krka River and the lower reaches of the Čikola River. Due to the exceptional geomorphological, hydrological and landscape values, this area was declared a national park in 1985. The fundamental phenomenon of Krka National Park is tufa, a type of limestone which is formed when minerals precipitate out of water, which, along the entire course of the river, formed seven enchanting tufa waterfalls (Bilušiča buk, Brljan, Manojlovački slap, Rošnjak, Miljacka, Roški slap and Skradinski buk). Thanks to its geographical position and a large number of different habitats, there is a diverse and picturesque flora along the Krka River. The fauna of Krka National Park consists of numerous endemic, rare and endangered species, which ranks the Krka River among the most valuable natural entities in Croatia and Europe. Along the course of the Krka River there are more than a hundred caves and pits, eighty-two of which are in the National Park.

Spiritual centres are located in the lake-like parts of the river's course: the Franciscan monastery with the church of Our Lady of Mercy on the islet of Visovac and the monastery of the Holy Archangel in Carigradska draga, an important spiritual centre of the Orthodox Dalmatian eparchy. Along the Krka River are the remains of several old Croatian forts from the 14th century: Kamičak, Trošenj, Nečven, Bogočin and Ključica. Upstream from the Roški slap waterfall, next to the river are the remains of the Roman military camp Burnum.

Krka National Park is located in central Dalmatia, in the Šibenik-Knin County. It is framed by a triangle whose vertices are formed by the cities of Knin, Zadar and Split. The backbone of the Park is the Krka River, which rises near Knin and flows into the sea near Šibenik.



Nature protection, sustainable development and education

Krka National Park is managed by a public institute whose primary mission is its protection. On the basis of the Nature Protection Act, the Ordinance on the Protection and Conservation of Krka National Park and the Management Plan, as well as legal and strategic documents, the public institute ensures the undisturbed development of natural processes and the sustainable use of natural resources.

The Public Institute of Krka National Park has defined and strengthened its principles, which are based on nature protection, sustainable development and education. The main challenge in management is harmonizing the protection of the sensitive ecosystem with the provision of a quality Park visiting system. Spatial and temporal dispersion of visitors play a key role in this and Krka National Park is the first protected area in the Republic of Croatia that took and implemented measures to limit the number of visitors with the aim of protecting the fundamental phenomenon and increasing the quality of the visitor's experience. In parallel with that, a strong valorisation of the middle and upper course of the Krka River took place, the crown of which is the *Unknown Krka* project.



Valorisation of the upper reaches of the Krka River

The discovery of the Burnum archaeological site, where thousands of items belonging to Roman soldiers who lived there two thousand years ago were found, marked the beginning of better valorisation of that once strategically important area. Reconstruction of the military amphitheatre has begun, a restoration workshop has been opened, and the Archaeological Collection in the former barracks in Puljane has been installed and opened. In the immediate vicinity of Burnum is the highest Krka waterfall, Manojlovac, which was visited in 1875 by the Austro-Hungarian emperor Franz Joseph I and his wife Elizabeth of Bavaria during their trip through Dalmatia. In commemoration of the Emperor's visit, in 2011, a renewed memorial plaque was ceremoniously placed on the newly opened footpath that leads to the viewpoints from which you can see the Manojlovac waterfall. There is also a lookout point at the exit from the canyon, which offers a view of the Brljan waterfall and the Brljan Lake. There is also an educational hiking trail that leads to the first of the seven waterfalls, Bilušića buk, only nine kilometres away from Knin.



A river that reveals itself

The project *Unknown Krka: hidden treasures of the upper and middle course of the Krka River* (KK 06.1.2.01.0003) brings together everything that the Public Institute of Krka National Park needs to address. Nature protection, sustainable development and infrastructural investments, **visitor** management, cooperation with the local community, and educational and presentation activities are combined in a project that aims to have a positive impact on the development of the entire area of the middle and upper reaches of the Krka River.

By building the infrastructure and capacity of key stakeholders and developing new educational visitor products and services, the project aims to activate the unused tourist and economic potential of the northern part of Krka National Park and achieve better spatial and temporal distribution of visitors, as well as the overall social, economic and ecological improvement of the area.

The project is implemented in the northern part of Krka National Park and rural areas along its edge. The area is characterized by numerous infrastructural, economic and demographic problems, so the project indirectly affects the economic life of the area: the creation of new jobs, an increase in the number of overnight stays (due to the increased number of visitors), the expansion of catering and commercial services, etc.



Gate to the northern part of Krka National Park

Krka Eco Campus in Puljane is an educational visitor centre with a reception capacity. It is intended for children, students, volunteers, researchers, i.e. visitors interested in learning more about the rich natural, cultural and historical heritage of Krka National Park. As part of the *Unknown Krka* project, the existing buildings of the former military complex were remodelled and repurposed into a modern interpretive, educational and volunteer centre.

Krka Eco Campus in Puljane can be reached via the access road that joins the county road Ž6055 just above the Brljan waterfall, on the left bank of the Krka River. County road Ž6055 can be accessed from state road D33 on the left bank of the Krka River or from state road D59 on the right bank of the Krka River. On the county road Ž6055 Oklaj - Brljan, follow the sign for Krka Eco Campus before descending into the canyon or, if coming from the direction of Brljan, turn right at the exit from the Krka canyon.



Krka Eco Campus in Puljane

The *Unknown Krka* project connects the two banks of the river, the municipalities of Promina and Bukovica, Krka Eco Campus in Puljane and the Nature Interpretation Centre 'Krka - well of life' in Kistanje. There is also a crossing over the Krka River which in ancient times connected Bukovica and Promina and was part of the network of Roman roads in Dalmatia. On the right, Bukovica side of that crossing are the remains of the Roman military camp Burnum, and on the left, Promina side the remains of a prehistoric hill fort in Puljane, the centre of the Liburnian community of *Burnistae*. Located on a plateau above a steep, high rock, the hill fort covers an area of about 5,000 m². It is protected on two sides by the Krka River, while to the south it is surrounded by an embankment 160 meters long by 30 meters wide at the base, and 6 meters high. The foundations of about fifty dwellings are still visible on it. The ancient writer Pliny mentions it under the name *Castellum Burnum*. Undoubtedly, it was an important centre in the border area of the Delmats and Liburni, from which the crossing over the river was monitored. The large amount of pre-Roman and Roman pottery found in the hill fort bears witness that it continued to exist after the Roman conquests and the establishment of the military camp (*castrum*) Burnum on the opposite bank of the river.



- | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|
| 1 | INFO PUNKT
INFO POINT | 8 | DJEČJE IGRALIŠTE
PLAYGROUND |
| 2 | PARKIRALIŠTE
PARKING | 9 | POZORNICA U PRIRODI
STAGE IN NATURE |
| 3 | GEOVRT
GEO GARDEN | 10 | KONGRESNA DVORANA
CONGRESS HALL |
| 4 | POSJETITELJSKI CENTAR „HRAM PRIRODE“
TEMPLE OF NATURE VISITOR CENTER | 11 | INTERNET KAFIĆ
INTERNET CAFE |
| 5 | ARHEOLOŠKA ZBIRKA „BURNUM“
BURNUM ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTION | 12 | TOALET
TOILET |
| 6 | INTERAKTIVNO IGRALIŠTE
INTERACTIVE PLAYGROUND | 13 | VOLONTERSKI CENTAR
VOLUNTEER CENTER |
| 7 | EDUKACIJSKO-INTERPRETACIJSKI CENTAR „LABORATORIJ PRIRODE“
NATURE LABORATORY EDUCATION-INTERPRETATION CENTER | | |

The Public Institute of Krka National Park has been continuously investing funds in the reconstruction and arrangement of the campus. The complex consists of several building complexes, some of which have already been reconstructed and repurposed. In 2010, the Archaeological Collection was opened, and since 2013, a building with a multimedia conference hall, a facility for accommodation of researchers with two apartments, a parking lot and accompanying communal infrastructure have been in operation.

The *Unknown Krka* project included infrastructure investments related to the reconstruction, interior design and installation of the natural history collection The Temple of Nature, interior furnishing of the educational and interpretation centre Nature Laboratory, the Titius Volunteer Centre with hostel-type accommodation facilities and laboratories for researchers, auxiliary buildings next to the centre and interior decoration and furnishing of the dining room and Internet cafe. As part of the project, the water supply and hydrant network was reconstructed, storm water drainage and the faecal drainage system were completed, as well as horticultural and landscape works.

Krka Eco Campus can be visited accompanied by an employee throughout the year or independently with the help of a map of the locality. In Puljane you can buy a ticket for Kistanje/Bur-num/Puljane or for all land sites, and there is a free parking lot and a toilet for visitors.



Natural History Collection The Temple of Nature

Using interactive technology and design solutions, the Natural History Collection The Temple of Nature interprets the richness of the biological diversity of the protected area.

The exhibition space consists of six themed rooms located in the basement and on two floors. Such a configuration of the building inspired the exhibition display that represents the area of Krka National Park through the creation of a living world. The central information desk of the collection is located on the first floor, where the entire exhibition can be viewed through a virtual walk through the Temple of Nature.

The collection is interactive to the maximum extent. The visitor will find himself in the role of a researcher who, by playing different roles, discovers the exhibition by activating the contents implemented in it: at one moment he is a speleologist who uses augmented reality technology to explore the interior of the cave, at another a biologist who, wearing special glasses, walks through the habitats of the Krka National Park and meets their inhabitants.



Burnum Archaeological Collection

The first phase of works on the renovation and decoration of the complex in Puljane began in 2005, on the building that now houses the Archaeological Collection, and the newly renovated museum space was officially opened in 2010. The second phase was completed in April 2019 after the completion of the construction works that had the characteristics of reconstruction, but outside the *Unknown Krka* project. An elevator and access ramps have been installed in order to provide access to the exhibition spaces for people with disabilities or reduced mobility.

The exhibition space of the Burnum Archaeological Collection is arranged over two floors. It displays objects belonging to Roman architecture, objects for everyday use, stone and epigraphic monuments, exhibits belonging to the amphitheatre, cavalry and Roman legions, as well as the daily life of Roman soldiers and their customs. The second floor of the collection provides interactive and multimedia technology with educational and didactic purposes, primarily intended for children and young people.



Nature Laboratory

The educational and interpretation centre Nature Laboratory enables the organization of various educational, creative and popular scientific programs for a wide audience, especially for groups of preschool and elementary school children.

The permanent interactive exhibition has an interpretation and educational purpose, lectures and workshops can be held in the modernly equipped multifunctional hall, children's works can be displayed in the exhibition hall, various games can be played on the themed playground, and screenings can be held outdoors thanks to the multimedia system for outdoor cinema Amphitheatre for the curious.

The Amphitheatre for the curious is an external extension of the Nature Laboratory. It includes outdoor space for screenings, plays, recitals and similar events. It has the shape of an amphitheatre, and consists of stands for participants covered with a wooden pergola and a platform for lectures with a panel for outdoor projections.



Volunteer Centre

The Titius Volunteer Centre is a modern multipurpose facility with a fully equipped laboratory for naturalists and archaeologists and hostel-type accommodation for thirty-eight people. It is intended for volunteers, researchers, study groups, scientists and artists, i.e., all those interested in studying the diverse ecosystem of the protected area. They can get involved in activities in the protected area through various volunteer programs.



There is a laboratory on the ground floor, a living room with standard rooms and rooms for disabled persons on the first floor, and rooms with a bathroom on the second floor. The Volunteer Centre has a dining room and an Internet cafe. The newly built auxiliary building has a toilet for visitors.



Conference hall

In the ambient setting of the Eco Campus there is also a multifunctional hall for conferences, symposia, lectures and workshops. The hall has one hundred and twenty seats. It can be partitioned or turned into a smaller hall and boasts modern audio-visual equipment. Thanks to its technical performances, it guarantees a high professional level and the uniqueness of its events.

Volunteer programs

The volunteering program is a step forward in the valorisation of the Krka Eco Campus in Puljane. As a significant educational complex with a reception capacity, the campus will encourage the development of volunteer activities in the Park area, i.e. enable interested individuals to actively participate in numerous activities in the protected area.

There are four volunteering programs: Market researcher, Krka riverbank cleaner - waste collector, Archaeological associate and Educational creative assistant.



Access for disabled people

The infrastructural components of the Krka Eco Campus were designed in accordance with the Ordinance on Ensuring the Accessibility of Buildings for Persons with Disabilities and Reduced Mobility, in order to ensure accessibility, equal opportunities and social inclusion to all facilities on campus for the persons to whom this regulation applies.

Water and hydrant network and drainage system

The sewage system in the Eco Campus complex brings the sewage from all facilities to the main sewage treatment plant, which was previously financed and built by the Public Institute of Krka National Park. For the purpose of fire protection, an internal and external hydrant network was laid with twelve overhead hydrants with separate pipelines. All buildings in the centre are supplied with potable water and in front of each of them there is a shaft with connections from the main water to each individual building. Two ducts were laid for telecommunication lines together with other installations.

The concept of complete landscape and architectural design

The circular pedestrian circulation of the Krka Eco Campus connects the main presentational and informative elements of the area. The project created a multifunctional 'Welcome Plateau' with a pavilion connected by paths to a themed children's playground and the Nature Laboratory. New dry stone walls were built, symbols of traditional construction in this region. The art of dry stone walling was included in UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2018. Informational and educational boards were erected, as well as a well and a watering place for birds. Interactive devices present interesting things from the field of physics, such as a vortex column, wave generation, moiré disc or strip mirror. An educational board is attached to each one. Particularly interesting is the forest fountain, a modular system consisting of tall masts with different spray nozzles, a see-saw and a pump. In order for the water in it to reach the nozzles, it is necessary to use the body's strength and move the long pump handle or ride up and down on a see-saw.



Three footpaths

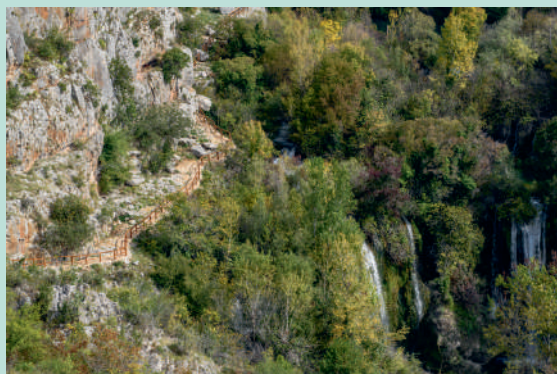
The arrangement and equipping of footpaths expanded the range of facilities for visitors in the northern part of the Park. The historical trails Rimski put, Brljan - Manojlovac and Perice are ideal for brisk walks. They lead to stunning water falls in that part of the stream, and connect the Nečven fortress with the left bank of the Krka.

Roman path trail (630 m)

The parking lot is accessed from the direction of Ivoševci, next to the Kistanje - Knin road, on the right bank of the Krka River.

This is initially a gravel trail and then a field trail to the Krka River, with a steep ascent/descent.

A return to the starting point should be planned.





**Brljan - Manojlovac trail
(910 m)**

The parking lot is located at the bend of the Oklaj - Kistanje road, just above the Brljan waterfall. This is initially a gravel trail and then a field trail to the Krka River, with a mild ascent/descent at the beginning of the trail.

A return to the starting point should be planned.

Perice trail (1800 m)

The trail can be reached from Nečven on the left bank, in the direction Oklaj - Kistanje.

Parking is available in a clearing in the immediate vicinity of the village.

This is a gravel trail that descends steeply to the Krka River and returns along the same route.



Downstream of the Krka River: Electrification of boat transport

As part of the wider project *Unknown Krka: hidden treasures of the upper and middle course of the Krka River*, the Public Institute of Krka National Park acquired two electrically powered catamarans. They are important for preserving the biological diversity of the Krka River because, when it comes to protected areas, electrically powered boats have proven to be the most acceptable ecological solution. In addition to reducing the emission of harmful gases and increasing the capacity of transporting visitors, the new electric boats made it possible to effectively redirect visitors to the localities of the middle course of the Krka River along the excursion route from Roški slap waterfall to Visovac.

Inland passenger boats are used for daily navigation on inland waterways for the transportation of visitors in Krka National Park. Boats are driven by electric motors, powered by on-board battery packs. Each boat can accommodate fifty passengers and two crew members, as well as two persons using wheelchairs on the deck. Electric boats were built in a Croatian shipyard according to the latest ecological and technological standards, confirming the centuries-old skill of Croatian shipbuilders.



In Krka National Park, boats transport tourists from April to October, depending on weather conditions and the water level of the Krka River.

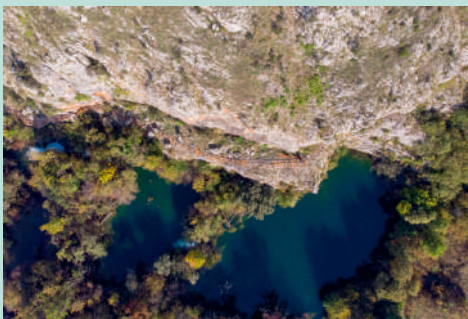


Krka - well of life

The Nature Interpretation Centre 'Krka - well of life' is a unique complex that uses innovative interactive technologies to draw visitors' attention to probably the most global topic in the world: the importance of water conservation for sustaining life on Earth.

The nature education and reception centre in Kistanje combines several interpretation elements located in three two-story buildings into a thematic whole. The exhibition frames the story of water as a fundamental theme and of the Krka River, which is an example of water power, its use and importance for life. The space is divided into six units: Reception, Secrets of water, The good spirit of Krka, Water meditation, Flora and Fauna, each interpreting the theme of water in its own way through interactive elements and educational materials. Although it is an external part, the courtyard space was used as an additional interpretation in the space surrounding the Park, but also as a kind of souvenir shop. It primarily hosts local produce stalls offering home made products from Kistanje and the surrounding area.





Other completed project activities include:

- ITLS and SWART trainings with employees, a study trip to the United States of America, workshops with tourist guides and tourist boards, and educational workshops 'Vratimo djecu prirodi' (Let's return children to nature)
- Four souvenir production workshops for local residents
- Presentation of the Krka Eco Campus for principals of primary schools, travel agencies and the media
- Two round tables attended by representatives of the scientific community
- Development of a three-year plan of educational activities
- Production of a survey 'Visiting Management Action Plan'
- Production of a transport connectivity survey
- Creation of a catalogue of tourist products
- Development of the marketing plan of the Krka Eco Campus
- Development of a marketing strategy
- Procurement of three multimedia kiosks for project presentation
- Successful media campaign
- Creation of the project's web page
- Printing of promotional materials
- Procurement of medical and rescue equipment
- Creation of an audio guide application for visitors
- Three opening ceremonies and an introductory conference



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Public Institute of Krka National Park

PROJECT PARTNER:

Tourist Board of
Šibenik-Knin County

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