



OLD MINING ROUTE



The old story goes that Gola peč above the Old mining route is hollow and that fairies live inside its chambers. Only their voices could be heard – in spring they would whisper to farmers when and how to plant their seeds to be able to enjoy an abundant harvest later. Go on and head out on a journey. Who knows, they might speak to you, too.



Chapel of St. Barbara – Two chapels are devoted to Saint Barbara, the patroness of miners. They stand at the beginning and at the end of the steepest part of the ore route.



Stara Sava – The very first forge was mentioned already in the 1381 Ortenburg Mining Order, which regulated the relationships between

a landlord, mine owners and workers in the territory of mining and iron extraction. The village carries the legacy of the family Bucelleni, which built the manor and the blast furnace with a forge in the 16th century and then in 1606 also the Church of the Assumption of Mary, and the family Ruard, which in the 19th century modernized the ironworks facilities, arranged the housing for workers in Kasarna (barracks), opened the ironworks school, arranged a small zoo next to the manor, and planted a linden tree in front of the church, where the locals would gather and exchange news.

Thanks to its rich ironworks heritage, the old ironworks settlement Stara Sava has been declared a cultural monument of national significance.



Embark on a journey in May and you will be able to admire white daffodils or “keyholes” as the locals call them. Daffodil-covered meadows among idyllic mountain villages annually attract visitors from near and far.

On your way, piece by piece, you will learn about the work of the locals miners and uncover the veils of the past. You might even chance upon the ironworks and mine owner by the name of Viktor Ruard or bump into the mining manager Heinrich around the corner. In the vicinity of the shaft you might even hear the sound of a pickaxe in the strong hands of the miner Tona.



If you find the shoes of a miner too heavy, visit Gornjesavski muzej Jesenice (Jesenice Upper Sava Museum) to learn even more about the history of mining and iron industry in this corner of the Gorenjska region.

The traces of hard work and life of the miners, ironworkers and others who were tightly connected to the once richest iron ore deposit in the region, can still be seen and sensed today. A walk that follows the Old mining route will take you back in time and reveal the fragments of everyday life of the people who excavated and transported iron ore in the region.

The Old mining route runs from the mines in Savske jame (Sava pits), through the mountain village Planina pod Golico, to the hamlet Pejce and onward to the blast furnace in Stara Sava.

Length of trail: 8,330 m
Difference in altitude: 600 m



Savske jame – “Reichenberg” – The Old mining route begins at the Savske jame mines. This area was once called “Reichenberg” – a rich mountain. The ore deposit site was around 1200 meters long, 400 meters wide, with the maximum depth of 250 metres. There were several mining facilities; roasting furnaces, wooden warehouses, a forge, residential building for miners, workshops, a barn, coal and gunpowder warehouse, and a sawmill. The mines were open until 1904, when they were closed due to the lack of high-quality iron ore (siderite) and excessive operating costs.



Tunnel – From numerous former tunnels (Valentin, Barbara, Francišek, etc.), only the lowest extraction, export and exploration tunnel Karel, also called the “Korl tunnel”, is still partly preserved.



Church of the Holy Cross – In 1624 the Ljubljana bishop Tomaž Hren marked the location of the church in Planina pod Golico with a cross. The construction began only 60 years later, when brothers Bucelleni kept their promise and built a church for miners, because they discovered new deposits

“Glajžni” – On the steepest part of the route there are still visible traces of cart brakes locally called “glajžni”. To transport ore, horse and cart drivers used carts called “žlajfe”, which had their rear wheels removed on a steep terrain, causing the cart to slide and thereby slow down.



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