



Information about the mountain

Name of the mountain	Kozjak
Country	Croatia
Region	Split-Dalmatia County
Altitude	Veli vrh (779 m)
Surface area	no official data
Surface of protected area	around 200m ²
Name of local organization in charge of management	Public Institution RERA SD for coordination and development of Split Dalmatia County
Number of municipalities	5
Institutional recognition	



Diocletian's Palace and the medieval Split
The historical core of Trogir

Traditional singing - Klapa
Mediterranean diet - Croatia is among 6 other Mediterranean countries which share the healthiest cuisine in the world.

Natura 2000; Site code HR1000027 as an especially important area for breeding birds of prey

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Project details

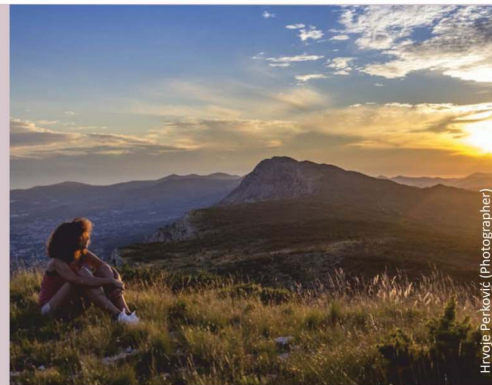
Project web-site & social media	www.emblematic.interreg-med.eu & www.emblematic-med.eu
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Kozjak

**A mountain with two faces
and countless stories**

Kozjak is a mountain with two entirely different faces. From the littoral side, it acts as a mighty rock barrier towering above the Bay of Kaštela, while on the greener, inland side, it is a winding highland ending with a sharp edge sloping towards the sea. South Rock (16km) is the most fascinating part of Kozjak as it is the longest in Croatia although relatively low in height (50-250m). The very edge of this highland, of an average height of 600-700 m, accommodates the highest tops of Kozjak. Five mountain structures are located on Kozjak. All of these, as well as the summits of Kozjak, offer extraordinary views of the Split and numerous Adriatic Sea islands. Kozjak thrills with outstanding views of the Kaštela Bay and an interesting historical locality, a chapel or an archaeological site can be found on almost all its peaks or underneath these. Therefore, touring Kozjak is simultaneously a voyage through time and space, reflecting a rich culture and an interesting history.



Proud Local People

Thea area in the Kozjak is very specific because of the fact that it developed around 7 settlements (Kaštel Štafilić, Kaštel Novi, Kaštel Stari, Kaštel Lukšić, Kaštel Kambelovac, Kaštel Gomilica and Kaštel Sućurac), two UNESCO sites – The Historical City of Trogir and Historical Complex of Split with the Diocletian's Palace, valuable archaeological site Salona and Klis Fortress. There are many organizations and institutions which enrich cultural life of the town throughout the year and at the same time witnessed how local people are proud on their city, mountain and heritage. This area has numerous creative events which brings communities together and makes them proud.

Reputation

Kozjak has own identity, culture and even a rich history of local food and wine. The combination of dry and rocky soil, the abundance of underground water due to the Kozjak mountain, the sunny climate and the closeness and safety of the Bay of Kaštel provide a background to popularity of this area. This region was settled early on, namely by the Neanderthals, which remains in the Mujina Pecina cave prove. The Greeks and the Romans developed civilisation and economy here. Shortly after Venice conquered Dalmatia in 1420, the Turks attacked and around 20 forts were built to protect the population and the fertile land. Each of these places has its own characteristics and manifestos.

Legends and Myths

As part of cultural tourism, numerous myths and legends increase the attractiveness of Kozjak. One of the most famous legends about wine sort Crljenak – "Mistery about hero" tells story about origin of the famous wine variety Zinfadel there in Kozjak slopes. Further, Miljenko and Dobrila, the Croatian Romeo and Juliet, is a most famous legend in this area about tragic romance. The history of the couple remains alive in the city as part of their cultural heritage. Kozjak area hides legends and many of established storytelling routes shows local attractions teaching participants about history and customs of the area in the past

Power of Inspiration

The beauty of the mountain Kozjak and its surroundings inspired many poets who described their beauty in many poems: Alberto Fortis: "Besides the beautiful coast and the rich field"; Friedrich August, King of the Province of Saxony in Germany: "Castles are among the most beautiful places in Europe". Traditional art colony on Kozjak viewpoints, Creative Spring in Kaštel, Romance in Salona - an event held every year in summer at the archeological site of Salona in footless of Kozjak and historical spectacle "Uskok Battle for Klis" in famous fortress on the Kozjak steep cliffs are just several examples how powerful inspiration Kozjak represent.

Picturesque Landscape

Kozjak is a mountain with two entirely different faces. From the littoral side, it acts as a mighty rock barrier towering above the Bay of Kaštela, while on the inland side, it is a winding highland ending with a sharp edge sloping towards the sea. The very edge of this highland, of an average height of 600-700m, accommodates the highest peaks of Kozjak. Five mountain structures are located on Kozjak. All of these, as well as the summits of Kozjak, offer extraordinary views. The most attractive mountaineering points are the summits Sv. Ivan Biranji, Veli Vrh and Sveti Juraj. Kozjak thrills with outstanding views of the Kaštela Bay, Adriatic Sea Islands and on Dalmatia hinterland.

Particular Ecosystem

In the most parts of the Kozjak vineyards fields, olive groves, cherries, figs and autochthonous Mediterranean vegetation trade places with monuments of natural heritage and park architecture. An olive (Olea Europea), more than 1500 years old grows in Kaštel Štafilić, which is called Mastrinka. It is considered that it was brought from Southern Italy or Greece. Due to the fact that estates of the Roman were in this area, it was presumed to be a remnant of an agricultural estate from those times. An oak (Quercus Pubescens Willd) by the Romanic church of St. Kuzma and Damjan in Kaštel Gomilica capture interest by its beauty and size. Part of Kozjak is under the Birds Directive (Natura 2020).

Mediterranean Cultural Identity

The Kozjak area preserved authentic Dalmatian architecture: houses with open front stairs, balconies, wine cellars, narrow streets and squares at their centres. Kozjak area has rich historical tradition, valuable cultural heritage and vivid Mediterranean spirit created and nourished through centuries. In this area, all the historical periods left their traces. Mediterranean identity remains evident in many villages and towns through tangible and intangible heritage. The Mediterranean identity is especially evident in traditional local Mediterranean gastronomy and popular Klapa multipart singing tradition (inscribed in UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity).

Sustainability and Anthropogenic Environment

The Kozjak is recognized as area with specific natural resources and ecosystems. A significant part of the Kozjak mountain is protected under Natura 2000 as an especially important area for breeding birds of prey. There are several endemic plants on Kozjak and among them the orchids. Mountain massifs Kozjak were formed by Alpine orogenesis. There are many speleological objects and other karst formations and has a complex structure of morphogenetic types of relief and complex orographic structure as a result of dynamic geotectonic relations, hydrogeological conditions, climate and anthropogenic influences.

Historic Places

Traces of all historic periods could be found in the area of the Kozjak; cavemen have hunted here (Mujina Cave on the western slopes with artifacts dating 45 000 years BC). There are many Illyrian stone heaps scattered over the Kozjak Mountain. Croats migrated to the gentle slopes of Kozjak in the 7th century and formed their first settlements. Old Croatian churches are the silent witnesses of that time. This region was settled early on, namely by the Neanderthals. The Greeks and the Romans developed civilisation and economy here. The most famous world recognized historic places are: Split, Trogir, Kaštela, Solin and Klis.