

1. Lekan's house
2. The Chapel of the Sacred Heart
3. The Church of St Michael
4. St Mary's Chapel in the hazels
5. Vranja jama - cave
6. Skednena jama - cave
7. Najdena jama - cave
8. Mačkovića - cave
9. Logarček - cave
10. Stota jama - cave
11. Natural bridge
12. Putick's wells
13. Speleo-camp
14. The village museum and pottery work-shop



Edited by Turistično društvo Lanski vrh
and Občina Logatec
Design: Tena - Daša Lavrič
Photography: Franc Novak, Milan Jeran, Joerg Prestor,
Tena - Daša Lavrič, Marcello Noterzberg, Primož Jakopin,
Franc Facija, Janez Godeša, Alojz Skvarča,
Notranjski regional park archive
Text: Vanda Lavrič
Translatio: David J. Lowe
Print: VZA - GO & VPD
Printed in 1000 copies
Laze, March 2008



Speleo-camp

The spectacular underground karst around Planinsko polje attracts a steady stream of cave explorers from all over the world. Most of them find comfortable and equitable lodgings at the Speleo-camp, on the north-eastern slope of Jakovica Hill, close to Laze.



The village museum and pottery work-shop

The celebrated potter Nataša Prestor established her creative base at Tršarjeva domačija (Tršar's home) at Laze. She transformed the attic into a local museum and gallery, displaying a permanent collection of historical cultural exhibits that reflect the former peasant lifestyle of the area. On special occasions local craft workshops are held here and, after the events, examples of the traditional arts and crafts remain on display to the public.



Scilla litardierei

Planinsko polje is the only location in Slovenia that still hosts this extremely rare plant. At the beginning of June its pale blue blossoms paint a small part of the polje's flat floor. The plant grows the best on pastures that are regularly mown and periodically flooded but which are not treated with fertilizer.



Plants and animals



Besides *Scilla litardierei* the natural botanical heritage of Planinsko polje includes *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*, *Plantago major*, *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, *Gentiana pneumonanthe*, *Peucedanum coriaceum* ... Firs, spruces and beeches dominate among the various types of tree.

Among the animal species the most significant are brown bear, lynx and wolves. whereas the most numerous are roe deer and red deer. Many types of butterfly are found on the polje floor, among them *Maculinea teleius*, *Zerynbia polyxena*, *Euphidrias aurinia*. Freshly cut beech timber provides a perfect cradle for the eggs of various large beetles.

Many different birds nest in the grassland, including: *Gallinago gallinago*, *Alauda arvensis*, *Saxicola rubetra*, *Sylvia communis*, *Crex crex*. The polje provides a resting place for various passing migratory birds, including storks, herons and egrets, ducks, teals, and relatives, Kingfishers. From time to time, eagles (*Haliaeetus Albicilla*) appear in the Polje.

Crex crex

Crex crex is a unique bird, dwelling in Planinsko polje, but otherwise a threatened species on the worldwide scale. For this reason alone the polje has acquired the status of being an IBA (Important Bird Area). Suitable habitats for this species are wet, less heavily fertilized and late-mown pastures.

LAZE AND JAKOVICA





Laze

The village stretches along the Ljubljana-Cerkljara road, touching the edge of Planinsko polje just at the level reached by the annual floods of the Unica river. Some of the more remote houses are clustered together to form the hamlet of Ravnik, close to the Planina railway station.



Jakovica

The small village of Jakovica lies on the slopes of Jakovski hrib (Jakovica Hill). At the foot of the hill a by-road connects it to Laze, whereas an ancient path crosses the hill top, offering a magnificent view of Planinsko polje.



**Lekan's house
(Lekanova hiša)**

Built in the 16th century this is the oldest surviving residential building in Laze. It is protected as part of the Slovenian cultural heritage. The house's wooden-panelled ceiling is particularly cherished.



**The Chapel
of the Sacred Heart
(Kapela Srca Jezusovega)**

The chapel was built by the local people at the beginning of the 20th century, and it belongs to the Planina parish. Those who look carefully may gain the impression of a vertically compressed church tower embossed within the chapel's portico, with its face fashioned as a symbol of faith, hope and love. Every year, during May, ceremonies dedicated to St Mary are performed there every day, and masses are performed every Saturday throughout the year.



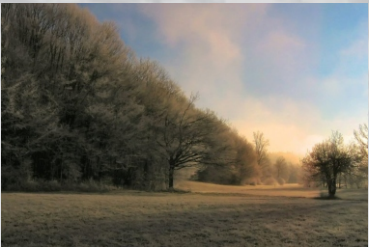
The Church of St Michael

The church sits on top of Jakovica Hill. Records of its existence date back to at least 1526. During 1998 the building underwent radical renovation, and ever since it has been floodlit during the night. Reflecting its location on top of the hill, it can be seen from miles around.

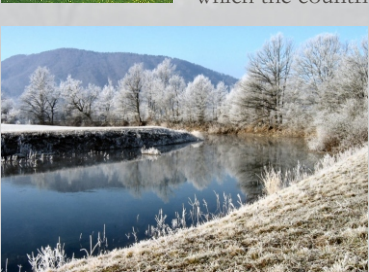


**St Mary's Chapel
in the hazels**

The Chapel lies on the northern slope of Jakovica Hill, just a minute's walk from St Michael's Church. Through a succession of reconstructions it has evolved from a primitive ring of stones around a pond, testifying to its pre-Christian origin.



Planinsko polje



The Unica river

After emerging from the Planinska jama cave and the Malni karst spring the Unica crosses the polje by way of many picturesque meanders. However, its water begins to disappear as soon as it touches the limestone on the north-eastern flank of the polje flat. Even so, the remaining flow is sufficient to reach the main ponors, known as »Pod Stenami«. In spring and autumn the river frequently spills over its banks and changes the valley into a lake.



Caves

Most of the local caves lie on the eastern and northern sides of the polje, and in some areas their density exceeds 50 caves per km². The best known are Vranja jama with Mrzla jama, Skednena jama, Najdena jama, Mačkovića and Logarček. In the cave known as »Stota jama« (cave No.100) there is a flowstone formation that looks just like an elephant.



Štekljev spodmol

The present form of the short cave known as Štekljev spodmol is reminiscent of a natural bridge. In reality the arch is the last remnant of a cave that collapsed and brought about the formation of the nearby collapse dolines known as Lovrinova dolina and Štekljeva dolina. Such karst phenomena are being formed and erased literally before our eyes.



**Putick's wells
(»catavothres«)**

Putick's wells are two circular artificial shafts, each about 10m deep, protected by iron grids. They were built in 1889 according to plans created by Wilhelm Putick (Viljem Putik), in order to hasten the drainage of the flood waters in Planinsko polje, a plan that is explained by an inscription carved in the rock. Being part of the Slovenian cultural heritage Putick's wells were later designated as monuments to technical innovation.