RIJEKA AND SURROUNDINGS
mosaic of events
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mosaic of events
The city of Rijeka and the eight tourist destinations that make up the Rijeka Ring have it all. Here you can enjoy a great selection of theatre shows, exhibitions, concerts ... but also take a stroll, go hiking, ride a bicycle, ride horses, sail, dive and enjoy the beauty of untouched nature or admire the persistence of man in building dry walls.

Rijeka lives to the rhythm of the night clubs, but also radiates the sanctity of a shrine. You can arrive in Rijeka by boat, plane, road or rail, it is a stop for large cruise ships and little fishing boats sail out from the beautiful small towns of its Ring.

Here, taking a break from dynamic everyday life, you can be what you are, but disguised under a carnival mask, you can also allow yourself to be what you want to be without holding back - at least for a moment.

The traditional and the modern, city life and old town romance, cutting edge technology and the ancient watermill – so many faces of Rijeka and its surrounding area, so many reasons to come and dive into the worlds of art, imagination, religion, tradition, old towns and different worlds.

Indeed, life is beautiful!

Some cities have the sea. And this is why we love them. Others have a long list of cultural events. This is why we go there. Some are famous sanctuaries where we look for tranquillity and help, and feel gratitude. Others are places of dynamic events. Some destinations have beautiful beaches. In other places you can ski, go for walks or visit romantic medieval castles.

When you are in Rijeka and its beautiful Ring, formed of Kastav, Klana, Viškovo, Jelenje, Čavle, Kraljevica, Bakar and Kostrena, you can do all of these. And much, much more...

Simply, Rijeka and the Rijeka Ring have it all!
Rijeka is a city of rich history and dynamic present, new perspectives and the joy of life.

Alongside its newly acquired benefits as a tourist centre that has escaped from its former image of a port and industrial city, it adds old ones as well – excellent connections by road, boat, rail or plane, both as a means of arrival and as a starting point for new journeys.

In the historical image of the city, from prehistory and the Gothic, then the Baroque Rijeka and the strong influences of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, centuries have been deposited and each and every one of them has left its mark in its architecture, creating an interesting city nucleus rich in historical monuments.

Trsat, a part of Rijeka, is a very special place for citizens of Rijeka and their guests, as the oldest Croatian Marian shrine and a destination for many religious people, including the Holy Father John Paul II. in 2003.

WHAT TO SEE
Korzo, Trsat Castle, St. Vitus’ Cathedral, City Tower, City Market, the Shrine of Our Lady of Trsat and the Trsat Franciscan Monastery, the former Governor’s Palace, Astronomical Centre Rijeka, Breakwater, Peek&Poke - Computer Museum...
Rijeka has a rich history, yet is not its slave. Instead it pulsates with a dynamic rhythm of everyday life, which you can feel in the best way in the very centre of the city, on the always vibrant central promenade, Korzo. You can sit here and people, images and events are passing by... But even when the lights go out and many cities go silent, Rijeka lives intensely in cafes and restaurants with excellent gastronomic offers and, of course, in clubs where the party goes on until late at night for young people.

Rijeka’s calendar of events is overflowing throughout the year so regardless of the season, guests will find interesting and attractive music, drama, art... performances, as well as urban clubs for the younger generations that offer their kind of entertainment. Together with the traditional but always interesting summer events program, manifestations such as Rijeka Summer Nights (Riječke ljetne noći), Summer at Gradina (Ljeto na Gradini) and others will definitely occupy your attention as well. Visitors of all generations to the aforementioned events will enjoy a rich program of drama, music and art performances prepared by the most famous artists from Croatia and around the world. However, Rijeka lives intensely on its coast with its beautiful beaches. Exploring the city via planned walking routes or bicycle trails is also interesting.

Rijeka, to put it simply, has many faces - all of them are interesting and seductive and all of them are meant for you.
MOBILE APP

RIJEKACONNECT
A guide with navigation and augmented reality for the city of Rijeka and the surrounding area.

1. City Market
2. Astronomical Centre Rijeka
3. Principia at Tarsatica
Every generation will find entertainment to their liking and all of them will find cultural content that is an integral part of Croatian and world cultural heritage. In the historical image of the city, from prehistory and the Gothic, then the Baroque Rijeka and the strong influences of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, centuries have been deposited and each and every one of them has left its mark in its architecture, creating an interesting city nucleus rich in historical monuments. When in Rijeka, in the intertwining of the old and new, the contemporary and historical, you should not pass up St. Jerome’s Church and the place of today’s Dominican Monastery, the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes and the Capuchin Monastery, the Governor’s Palace that now houses the Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral Rijeka. The St. Vitus’ Cathedral, the patron saint of the city, is the only Baroque rotunda of monumental dimensions built on Croatian land. However, there is another reason why you should visit it - the portrait of St. Francis Xavier, patron saint of tourists, which is also there. He is your patron saint.

Rijeka is the location of the Shrine of Our Lady of Trsat - the oldest Marian shrine in the country and the largest pilgrimage in western Croatia, including the Holy Father John Paul II. in 2003. In his honour, a monument has been erected there.
Still, this is a city of rich industrial heritage. Maybe you did not know that the first torpedo in the world was invented here. Rijeka is also the location of the Astronomical Centre Rijeka opened in 2009 - the first astronomical centre incorporating an observatory and a planetarium, and the only one in Croatia and the wider region that uses digital technology.

Traveling through the centres of the Rijeka Ring, you will discover many valuable monuments and open the doors of treasuries that testify to a rich cultural tradition. Each of them has an inexhaustible tradition of cultural monuments, customs and regional museums, and in all of them you will discover a brand new world whose exploration is a task with many pleasures and with no end. You will be familiarized with old crafts, learn about musical tradition, revive the past and have a peek into life as it used to be. And then, stronger than ever, you will return to the present...

In short, each of these places will win you over with its personality, its special something - and together they have it all...

1. Trsat Castle
2. St. Vitus’ Cathedral
3. Blacksmith in Dražice
4. The Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral Rijeka
OUTDOORS

blue and green, the harmony of opposites

You take a special joy in sailing, diving or windsurfing? You would rather walk or cycle in cooler, greener areas? Or horses and riding are your thing? Powerful motorcycles and automotive racing? No, we are not asking you to choose – stay here and take your pick!
The outdoors is definitely one of the greatest assets of Rijeka and the Rijeka Ring. After all, that’s why you came! Arranged promenades are an opportunity for you to enjoy the ambiance of this area. The network of promenades of the city of Rijeka is carefully planned in order to take you on a tour of the greatest city attractions so you can combine two loves – of motion and of sightseeing - into one. Then add a third one – the promenades of Rijeka continue along the famous hiking trails. Rijeka also has arranged biking trails.

If you decide to leave the city and visit its Ring, you will find marked biking trails transversing Kastav, Jelenje, Viškovo, Klana, Čavle, or - if you want to replace the forest landscape with sea - Bakar, Kraljevica and Kostrena.

The biking Transversal - part macadam, part asphalt and linking all of the destinations of the Rijeka Ring - is the path we suggest. It is as difficult as you choose it to be - 64 kilometres long, or if you occasionally decide to take the surrounding roads, around one hundred kilometres. Traveling from the sea to the old towns in the higher places, along the coastline and in the forested sections - it combines many things into one: recreation, the beauty of nature, cultural monuments and a journey into tradition and many gastronomic temptations. Of course, just like the other smaller trails in each of the destinations, the Biking Transversal is marked and leads you in the desired direction, but also suggest stops in exceptionally interesting places.

If you would like to participate or at least be present during exciting automobile and motorcycle competitions, you should visit the Grobnik Automotodrom built in 1978, which meets the rigid criteria of the world automobile and motorcycle federation and is the site of many attractive competitions.

If you enjoy water or under-water sports, along with the city of Rijeka, your choice - always with expert assistance - should be Bakar, Kostrena and Kraljevica.
The Halubaj bell ringers are listed in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Namely, in the eastern part of the Kastav region, in Halubje, unique folk customs have been preserved - the bell ringers (“zvončari”) whose origin goes a long way back into history. They have specific attire - draped in sheepskin, with a bell on the lower part of their backs, and stylized masks on their heads - strange animal heads with horns and a red tongue sticking out. They are dressed in white trousers and sailor’s striped T-shirts and in their hands they hold a stylized mace. During the carnival, they go around the villages in a large group, with the common did you know that this is the place where the tradition of carnival customs originates? In their original and even in their derived form, they have become a real attraction.
goal of chasing away enemies, evil forces and the winter. Their impressive performance is a first-class tourist attraction. They are also regular participants in the most important event of this area - the Rijeka Carnival, which each year attracts more and more participants and visitors from all over the world.

The International Carnival Parade of the Rijeka Carnival, which has been taking place in Rijeka since 1982 in its restored form, has origins in ancient history. The first written record is a document from 1449 which forbids the covering of the face with a mask in order to prevent criticism of the government and to maintain peace and order.

The Sunday Times has listed the International Carnival Parade at the very top of the most attractive events in the world. During that season, known as the fifth season of the year, Rijeka becomes the carnival centre of this part of the world and the luxurious processions and allegorical wagons may be the most severe but also the most honest criticism of social reality.

Under masks, anything is possible!
Whether in fine restaurants or in inns and taverns, fast food or slow food gastronomic rituals, you will enjoy fresh food and superb service, always facing the difficult choice between Mediterranean and continental dishes.

When visiting the coastal areas, one of the first associations is definitely Mediterranean cuisine, available in many excellent restaurants and taverns. Seafood specialties, skilfully prepared fresh fish and a glass of quality wine are features of this region. However, you will find the offer of the continental part of the country equally interesting, such as venison and other types of meat, mushrooms and bakery products. For example, in Bakar you can try the famous “baškoti”. From the Grobnik region (Čavle and Jelenje) comes the tradition of potato polenta (“palenta kompirica”), which of course depends on the quality of the corn from which the flour is made, as well as the quality of potato, and the skills of the cooks. This is why the best polenta is here, at its regional origin, where there is even a Polenta and Cheese Festival dedicated to it.

However, many things typical of this region can be found at local markets or fairs. Everything or almost everything can be found at the Rijeka City Market, the popular Placa, which is not only the city’s pantry but also a first-class tourist attraction. This is where you can learn the most about the life of people, their habits and even their health...
Jewellery with the face of Moretto ("Morčić"), a distinctively designed and useful object, a bottle of wine or olive oil, cheese prepared in a traditional way, a book or a photo with your favourite motif... These are just some of the souvenirs you can take away from Rijeka and the places on its Ring as a memory of a pleasant time. After all, the basic purpose of souvenirs is to prolong a time of joy and, whenever you feel like it, carry you away from everyday life into the time when you lived more intensely and enjoyed a journey through different times, places and customs.

Rijeka and its Ring - so diverse and with so much personality - every story is special, different and told just for you. It is your treasury of precious memories and a promise of meeting again...
Just a few kilometres from Rijeka, on your way to the coast or to the forested Gorski kotar, you will stumble upon natural opposites that would hardly fit in such a small area elsewhere.

Unusually for a big city, Rijeka has beautiful and well-arranged beaches, one of which is fully adapted for persons with special needs. Swimmers with pets will also be satisfied because there are two beaches intended for them.

When you leave the city, you can stop at one of the bays, of which the smaller ones will be yours alone. The most famous beaches in this area are those of Kostrena and you will definitely find a beach there that is precisely what you are looking for. It is an opportunity to walk along the Kostrena promenade, another exclamation mark of this area.

The long tradition of health tourism and the benefits of the climate in Kraljevica also attract many tourists, just as you will be drawn to Bakar by the natural beauties and the personality of the area.

Kastav combines a sea view, promenades and biking trails that connect the two worlds of the Rijeka Ring - the Mediterranean and the continental.

The ambiance of the inland areas is completely different – beautiful forests, the unique vegetation at the point where the Mediterranean and the continental climate meet, and the extraordinary beauty of nature are features of the tourist destinations of Jelenje, Čavle, Viškovo and Klana. Visit the source of the river Rječina, walk along the promenades, enjoy nature and - just breathe!
KASTAV

a romantic time machine

For all romantics and those who are about to become one, Kastav is definitely the right place. A historical town only ten kilometres from Rijeka, and located at an altitude of 365 meters.

Here you will be at the centre of the dynamic Kvarner life and at the same time away from it. Or, to be more precise, looking down on it. It is a trip to a different time and a plunge into tradition, culture and old crafts that, being unable to resist the competition of industrial production, come to life only occasionally.

Kastav has preserved its rich history, culture and tradition, and many valuable architectural and other monuments such as the City Lodge, the Voltica city gate, Crekvina, the Holy Trinity Chapel, Kaštel... By remembering those who have been connected to it throughout history at the Aleja velikana (Lane of the Great Ones), Kastav expresses a different but equally devoted gratitude to its craftsmen, who have developed old crafts that you will be familiarized with through the Museum Collection of the Kastav region and the authentic spaces of the small regional museums (Mići zavičajni muzeji) - Osojnakova kotliarija, Vikotova bačvarija and Idičina peknjica.

WHAT TO SEE

Today this small town is an escape to the past but also a magnificent stage for cultural performances such as the Kastav Cultural Summer (Kastavsko kulturno leto), the Guitar Festival and the Kastav Blues Festival, reviving tradition and a meeting point for all those who enjoy good food, the comfort of staying in a boutique hotel, a family pension or private accommodation with a soul...
Recreational walkers, hikers and cyclists will find arranged and marked biking and walking trails which, together with the historical attractions they will find there, make Klana an interesting and important link in the Rijeka Ring. It is a place of beautiful nature and valuable historical monuments, so cyclists or walkers will have the opportunity to see the interesting sites of this area of dynamic history, connecting the love of nature and historical values. One of the sites is the Gradina archaeological site, located directly above Klana.

Also interesting to visitors are the fortresses and walls of the Liburnian limes, built in the 3rd and 4th century, then a historical collection of old weapons, an ethnological collection... Those who enter the Stara Rebar woods while taking a tour of the area will happily stop and take a break in the renovated, centuries old road house built on the model of the Istrian “kažun”, a specific construction prevailing in Istria.

This is also an area with a great number of small, romantic churches, of which we will mention the Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel built on the site of an apparition of Our Lady, where every year on 15th August, a procession passes through and mass is served.

To put it simply, history and the present, spirituality and the dynamics of life meld into one here and create harmony.
Viškovo is located on the north-western side of the city of Rijeka at a distance of 8 kilometres, next to the road from Rijeka towards Škalnica and Klana.

This road is one of the oldest in the Kastav region and it was first mentioned in the 16th century as the only path between Rijeka, Trieste, Ljubljana and all the way to Graz and Vienna. There are few written records about the beginnings of history in the area of today’s Municipality of Viškovo. Its biggest part - Halubje - is an area of pastoral tradition, as evidenced by its name which originates from the word “halupa”, meaning “shepherd’s hut”.

Viškovo is the home of two items of intangible cultural heritages that are on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity: Two-part singing and playing in the Istrian scale, and Zvončari, the annual carnival bell ringers’ pageant from the Kastav area, i.e. Zvončari from Halubje, permanent guardians of lent customs in the Halubje area.

Today, this area sees an interesting coexistence of the past and the present, an irresistible culinary blend of authentic dishes from the coast and the mountain region, but also modern gastronomic specialties.

Arranged promenades and walking and cycling trails are an invitation to pleasant walks through forest landscapes, on a holiday, recreation, biking and the pleasure of staying somewhere surrounded by nature.
Jelenje is located just 15 kilometres from Rijeka, a karst area at an altitude of around three hundred meters, which is the reason for its Mediterranean-continental climate.

The Parish Church of St. Michael is the oldest and biggest building of historical and cultural significance in the Jelenje Municipality. From the rich and carefully preserved tradition in Jelenje, which you will find comfortable and easy to journey through, we would like to emphasize the milkmaids (mlikarice) - women who have historically carried milk daily to sell in Rijeka. A special event has been dedicated to them in May – “A Lantern that has left its mark” (Feral ki je pušćal sinjal).

In Dražice there has been a “kovačija” for more than 70 years - the only blacksmith shop with its space preserved in its original form and today part of the tourist offer of Jelenje. It is interesting that the first owner, Antonio Marčelja, had a blacksmith diploma acquired through education in Vienna, in the period from 1913 to 1918.

With a story and testimonies of the old crafts, it is an interesting journey into the past...

JELENJE
a journey to the past

The speech of the indigenous population is the Chakavian speech of Grobnik, which was declared a protected intangible cultural heritage of the Republic of Croatia.

In Martinovo selo is the only surviving and working mill in the entire Primorje-Gorski kotar County – the Gašpar’s Mill, built 350 years ago.
The view is admirable when you take the historic Lujziana (Louisiana) road and arrive at the Buzdohanj plateau, from which you can see the Grobnik Alps - sometimes grey, other times green or blue, or (possibly the favourite of the citizens of Rijeka and their guests) snow white. It is an invitation to the slopes of Platak, Rijeka’s excursion site throughout the year, and a winter ski resort unique for skiing with sea view.

Due to the specific relief and geological structure and the differing vegetation, you will encounter Mediterranean plants and those typical of higher areas, such as linden and elderberry.

This is also an area of rich history. Walk through the Grobnik Field and you will find the remnants of the Roman limes. Many armies have passed through this area throughout history and many battles have been won, the most famous of which was with the Tartars in 1242. A legend says that it was here, as a memory of the battle with the Turks in the 16th century, where the distinctive Rijeka jewellery with the Moretto (“Morčić”, a black man with a turban) was created. Maybe a “Morčić” - in the form of earrings, pendant or bracelet - will be your souvenir from the Rijeka area as well.

Above Grobnik Field is where the town of Grobnik is located, a town of stone - a signatory of the oldest Vinodol Law, one of the oldest legal documents written in the Croatian language dating from 1288. The church of St. Philip and James, which has been standing here for 900 years, also testifies to the rich history and early Christianity. The only museum of contemporary art in the Rijeka area is also located in Grobnik.

The Grobnik Automotodrom, the meeting point of bikers from all over Europe, is also nearby, as well as a small airport – both a “rendezvous” for all lovers of fast driving, competitive spirit and adrenaline.
Kraljevica is an old small town in Primorje, located at the entrance to Bakar Bay, around twenty kilometres south of Rijeka. It has an indented coastline with green and lush vegetation, so it is famous for its beaches and its beautiful promenade.

During the summer, the two medieval castles and a church that are the legacy of the Croatian noble Zrinski and Frankopan families, are a venue for cultural and entertainment events and, together with the surrounding area, are a tourist destination for those who want a vacation, to swim, dive and, of course, to have fun and enjoy the cultural offer.

Kraljevica was mentioned in the 13th century as the place where the Hungarian King Bela IV took refuge from the onslaught of the Mongols in 1242, and it is known as an Austrian naval war base and the oldest shipyard on the Adriatic. The Sanctuary of St. Nicholas attracts religious people, especially seafarers who participate every year in the maritime pilgrimage. Thanks to its geographic position, natural beauty and healthy climate, Kraljevica was one of the first health tourism centres, dating from the end of the last century and a crucial part of the touristic development of Kraljevica. It was on the Oštro peninsula where one of the first bathing resorts in Primorje was built, receiving prizes in 1894 in Vienna and 1896 in Budapest.

**INTERESTING FACTS**
Among other things, the benefits of climate are an important reason for the tradition in health tourism, so in a description from the very beginning of the 20th century, the sea, air, sun and sand baths were mentioned and the influence of the bora wind on health was highlighted.
BAKAR

history for the present

The narrow streets and squares are layers of history left behind to paint this moment that belongs only to you.

Bakar, 13 kilometres from Rijeka, is one of the oldest towns in the northern Adriatic and was granted the status of royal town by Maria Theresa in 1779. It was built like an amphitheatre on a hill and its historical nucleus was declared a cultural monument in 1968.

Few know that the very peak of Risnjak and part of the Risnjak National Park, a true pleasure for all nature, recreation and adrenaline lovers, are located within the territory of the town of Bakar.

Bakar and Hreljin are also signatories of the Vinodol Law, the oldest fully preserved monument to customs law in the Croatian language dating from the 13th century.

You will remember Bakar by its flavours as well - the famous sparkling wine “Bakarska vodica” made from a specific Beline vine grown on stone walls built by diligent farmer’s hands - dry stone walls, recently declared an ethno zone and entered in the cultural register. Another famous product is the Bakar “baškot”, a toasted or fresh baked product shaped in a circle that was taken on longer fishing trips.

WHAT TO SEE

A long history has left many marks intertwined with the present. Take a tour of Bakar Castle, the Hreljin Fort, St. Andrew’s Church and its catacombs, and the Roman and Turkish House and many other cultural and historical attractions.
Kostrena, nine kilometres from Rijeka, is a destination any city with the pretension of being Mediterranean should have. A characteristic karst area with Mediterranean plants and the famous stone walls (“gromače”) of Kostrena, as well as a mild climate that sometimes gives in to strong gusts of bora wind, are features of this region.

Kostrena has always lived the rhythm of the sea, which has marked the life of its inhabitants, seamen, who have sailed many seas of the world. Numerous captains originate from this area, some of which history remembers well, including Captain Pavle Randić who was the first to pass through the Suez Canal when it opened. Erazmo Bernard Tićac took part as chief designer in the creation of the first nuclear-powered merchant ship, the «Savannah». Kuzma Franelić also made his contribution to the glory and courage of the local seamen by participating in the rescue of passengers after the shipwreck of the Titanic.

Kostrena is the peninsula of Kostrena is 10 kilometres long and has beautiful beaches along its entire length, a real magnet for swimmers.

Many esteemed shipbuilders and ship owners also originate from here. However, let’s leave history behind... the present of Kostrena is marked by tourism, swimmers and walkers who can find beautiful beaches and one of the most beautiful seafront promenades, while divers will be attracted by the diversity of undersea landscapes.
Rijeka and surroundings

Culture, tradition, experience
ACCOMMODATION

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