



Forest trail Bliznec

Croatian National Tourist Board, 2021

- Active cooperation with other tourism stakeholders in the accessible tourism area
- Database creation
- Use of marketing channels
- Raising of public awareness
- Co-financing of accessible tourism projects with the tourist board system
- Participation in working groups
- Advisory role



MEDVEDNICA NATURE PARK



Medvednica Nature Park was founded in 1981 by the Croatian parliament, and Public Institution Nature Park Medvednica manages the Park.

Basic phenomena are **well preserved natural forests and forest communities**, covering 81% of the total Park area.

The Park spreads over the area of the City of Zagreb, Zagreb's and Krapinsko-zagorska districts, the area of 17 938 ha.

It is also a NATURA 2000 protected area (HR2000583 Medvednica).

More than 1 000 000 people visit the Park annually.

The Park has exceptional ecological meaning for Zagreb and is a huge forest and recreational area.

Traditionally citizens of Zagreb visit Medvednica, especially on weekends.



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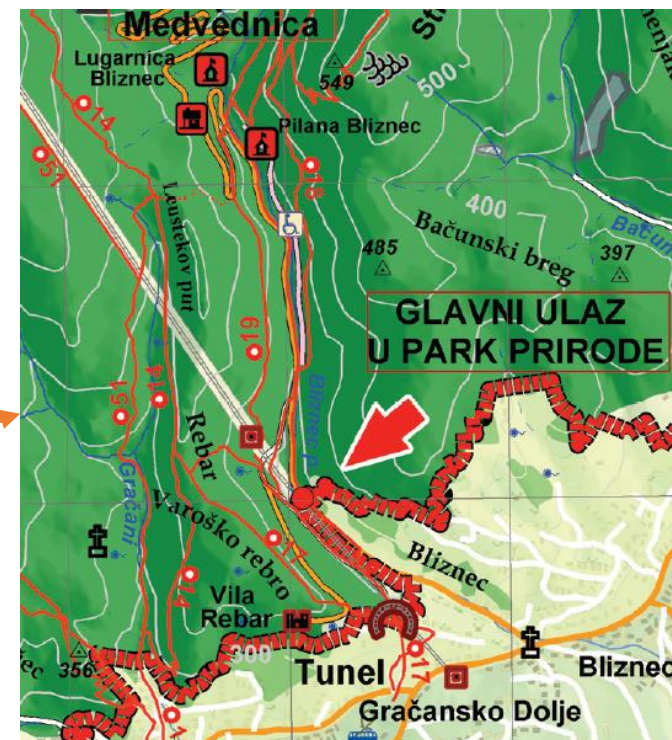
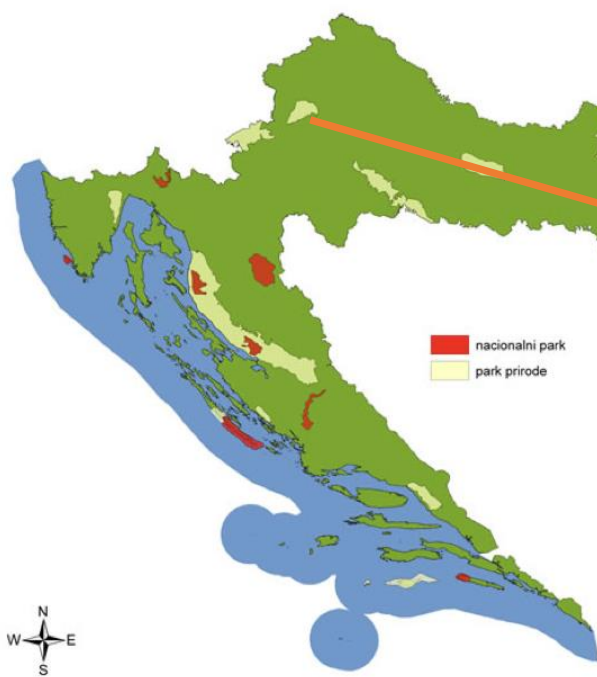


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FOREST TRAIL BLIZNEC

Forest trail Bliznec is the first educational trail in Croatia, completely, in construction and content, **adapted to persons with disabilities.**

Location:



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Background information and partners

- The trail begins **at the main Park entrance**, at parking lot Bliznec, and continues along the Bliznec stream.
- Includes Info point, parking space, the trail and a restaurant.
- Co-founders and partners on Forest trail Bliznec project apart from Public Institution Nature Park Medvednica were: City of Zagreb; Hrvatske šume (Croatian Forests) Ltd. and telecommunication company VIP (today A1).
- The trail was completed **in cooperation with Croatian Alliance of Physically Disabled Persons Association.**



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Šumska staza Bliznec

Forest trail Bliznec



Pravila ponašanja
Code of conduct

Stazo koristite na vlastito odgovornost.

POČE
BEE



INFO CENTAR BLIZNEC







Accessibility

- The trail is **800 m long**, it overrides the stream on several points and partly goes above the stream itself.
- **Seven bridges** are made out of Medvednica oak and constructed in a traditional way, typical for this area.
- The pavement is made out of **concrete panels in contrast color** with an elevated curb stone.
- As an additional safety measure, the **wooden fence** is built along the whole length of the trail with special reinforcements along the bridges.



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Accessibility

- There are several **resting places** along the trail. Resting places are parts of double width, and their function is enabling passing by of the wheelchairs and movement along the trail in both directions.
- Each resting position is furnished with benches and **information tables in Croatian and English**. Information tables are adapted in accordance with the special purpose of the trail. They are **in lower position**, ensuring easy reading from the wheelchairs, and next to them are **wooden books** with the same texts written in **Braille alphabet**.
- The trail can be crossed by all-electric and non-motorized wheelchairs, as well as by visitors with canes and walkers. It can be easily accessed by car on several points, thus permitting easy intervention in case of emergency.



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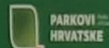


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Bioraznolikost Biodiversity

Starac s podstanarima

An old man with tenants

Svako staro stablo dom je brojnim manjim životinjama, pticama i biljkama. Duglje, ukoje, pakuće ili odgnute kora stabla, trula i vjatra valna su mikrostaništa za mnoge vrste.

Every old tree is a home to numerous small animals, mushrooms and plants. Cavities, notches, cracked or lifted tree barks, rotten or dried out wood and wind or ice caused damage, usual for old trees, are important microhabitats for many living species.

Staro stablo sastoji se od različitih slojeva kore, drva i lišća. Svaki sloj ima svoju funkciju i stvara različite uvjete za život različitih vrsta. Na primjer, pukotine u kori su često domovi za male životinje, a lišće pruža hranu i utočište za insekte.

Some of the habitats created by dead or dying trees are: hollows, notches, cracks, and decayed wood. Each of these habitats is important for different species. For example, hollows in the bark are often homes for small animals, and leaves provide food and shelter for insects.

Zanimljivo ...
Često se događa da se u starijim stablima nalaze i staništa za ptice. To su često velike šupljine koje su nastale zbog gnijezdenja ili drugih razloga. Ptice koriste ove staništa za odgoj mladih i kao utočište pred neprijateljem.



Interesting to know ...
Leaving standing and lying dry trees in the forests, as well as old healthy trees with cavities, is one of the important measures for the protection of the forests' biodiversity.





Accessibility

- The trail has **lights** along the path so it can be visited at night as well.
- In time, the educational trail got another attraction, **the way of the Cross**, along with texts in Braille alphabet.
- The trail **ends at Bliznec sawmill**, a restaurant with facilities for persons with disabilities.
- **Additional attractions** of the Trail are strong sounds of the stream, the nearby waterfall, rustle of the leaves, bird songs, as well as the smell of mushrooms, cyclamen, elder and other flowers, bushes and trees.
- The Forest trail Bliznec allows **physically challenged individuals** to have the same experience as others, **enjoying the Nature Park Medvednica**.



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XIII. ČAVLI

*Klanjamo Ti se, Kriste, i blagoslivljamo Te!
Jer si svojim svetim Križem otkupio svijet!*

Otupjeli su čavli. Božja ljubav omekšala je čelik ljudske zloće. I Pilat je omekšao.

I vojnicima je svega dosta. Žele se riješiti tog križa i tog mrtvog tijela. Umorili su se čineći zlo. možda nisu bili svjesni svojih čina. I sam Isus traži opravdanje za njih moleći Oca:

Oprosti im jer ne znaju što čine.

Isusovi prijatelji Josip i Nikodem riješili su ih brige o mrtvom tijelu. Tako su i Isusovi neprijatelji, Pilat i vojnici, riješili svoje probleme. Odstranili su Boga iz svijeta. Tako oni misle. No Bog ih nije napustio. Njegovo brižno oko je tu.

*U tvom društvu uz križ stati,
S tobom jade jadovati
Želja mi je jedina.*

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Actions and achievements

- Forest trail Biznec is planned and constructed as a trail for persons with disabilities, but it welcomes everyone. The trail is **frequently visited** by persons with various disabilities but also by families with small children and elderly people.
- **The Easter pilgrimage** is held on the trail every year, with a large number of participants, many of them being persons with disabilities.
- Public Institution Nature Park Medvednica developed the **interpretative walking program** along the trail for kindergarten and school children.
- Different corporations often come for their **corporate volunteering** and help to maintain the trail.
- The first **Open Days** were organised on Forest trail Bliznec in 2019. The theme was Accessibility and Inclusion for all visitors of protected areas.
- The value of Forest trail Bliznec is recognized by the wide Croatian public, and in 2002, Public Institution **received an award** from the Ministry of Environment Protection, Physical Planning and Construction for achievements in the area of environment protection.



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Shortcomings

- legal **ownership** of the land on which the trail was constructed,
- **financing** all stages of the construction as well as funding the maintenance of the trail once it was finished,
- **vandalism** and damaging of the infrastructure on the trail,
- natural **hazards** (storms, flood...).



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Lessons learned

- choose the location that meets the needs of persons with disabilities,
- plan well construction and maintenance financing,
- keep the construction simple and safe,
- collaborate with different associations for persons with disabilities,
- consider natural hazards and vandalism.

Benefits

- the trail has inspired others in Croatia to create similar ones,
- it has drawn other visitors to come and walk the trail (other than persons with disabilities),
- it helped **raise conscience and awareness** of needs and difficulties that persons with disabilities experience,
- it is transferable and a **good practice example** for others to follow, we will gladly share our experience.

Forest trail Bliznec will celebrate its 20th birthday in 2022!



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CNTB's FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN THE ACCESSIBLE TOURISM AREA



- Further cooperation with all stakeholders in tourism
- Industry support (PR and financial)
- DMO's support and cooperation in future projects
- Promotion of the Accessible Tourism
- Projects with UNICEF
 - ✓ the first EU NTO that signed the agreement with UNICEF
 - ✓ Communication tables across the country for easier access to tourism facilities



SAFE STAY IN CROATIA



In February 2021, Croatia implemented the **Safe stay in Croatia** project in order to position itself as a well-prepared and safe tourist destination.

All interested parties are able to search through the website <https://www.safestayincroatia.hr/en> for all the tourism sector stakeholders that bear the label **Safe stay in Croatia**, find relevant information about health and safety protocols in seven basic categories, and also find information on how to proceed in case of suspected COVID-19 infection.



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**ŠPIILJA
VETERNICA**



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THANK YOU



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