

# PAST KARST MEADOWS AND VILLAGES

## Komen – Štanjel

Length: 11 km

Duration: 3 – 4 ure

Difficulty level: easy trail, great for outdoor fans and those interested in local Karst architecture and history. The trail is suitable for families with small children, mountain bikers and trekking bikers.



### Starting point

Central square in Komen



The hike starts on the central square in Komen which is overlooked by the impressive St George's Church from 1768 (1). We continue east on the main road toward Štanjel. After approx. 300 meters the road descends to a left bend where we notice a sign for the local woodworking workshop Mizarstvo Makovec. We make a right turn and after 200 meters turn left to the gravel path that leads through the Cirje Forest Park (Gozdni park Cirje) (2). To the left we should soon see a large, overgrown watering hole ("kal"), and to the right we make sure to stay next to the wall that used to belong to a tree nursery. The gravel path ends in the lovely village of Diviči where we turn right onto the asphalt road. Right at the start of the asphalt road, we will immediately notice another watering



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hole (3) with an inviting bench to the right. Walking eastbound down the village, we come across the village well and the signature Karst houses with newly renovated exteriors. One notices typical plants such as grapevines, figs and sage. The local honey brand “Kraški med” is harvested from the beehives from this area. We pass by the wayside column shrine from 1889 and the partly restored dry stone walls. Shortly, we catch first sight of modern vineyards to the right. We follow the gravel path along the edge of the woods, with the vineyards staying on our right (4). Soon, a romantic Karst meadow unfolds itself before us with a magnificent chestnut tree and the famous pilgrimage Church of Virgin Mary in Obršljan from the 16th century in the background. If the church is open, it is possible to view the 18th century frescoes, and the fine wax statue of Mary and Jesus dating to the 19th century (5).

Next, we continue over a shaded walking path through the forest of Obršljan that begins on the east side of the cemetery (hiking marker). After about 500 m of forest, we glimpse our next stop, the village of Tomačevica, to the left across the meadow. The trail gently descends to the village, all the while running along meadows, a cattle enclosure, small vegetable plots and old fruit trees. About 200 m before the first houses, right to the right of the trail, we can see an overgrown sinkhole that was used for storing ice in the past. The trail gradually ascends past the first houses to the main road which we cross carefully in the bend. On the other side of the road (markers on the concrete post next to the stop sign), we immediately turn to the first alley on the right and after 100 meters make another right turn in the first junction. From there, we follow the straight village road to the village piazza next to the Komen-Štanjel main road. On the piazza is a memorial to the fallen in the national liberation struggle (NOB), and an ornamented column from 1937. Keeping the monument on our right, we turn from the piazza to the street on the left and continue over the

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Komen - Comeno  
Štanjel - San Daniele del Carso  
Kobjeglava - Cobbia

semicircular street past the timber storage to our left. Just before we return to the main road Komen-Štanjel, a wooden signpost for Zajčevca-Grižnik directs us to the wide gravel path (6). The path first runs through an oak forest but the vegetation gradually becomes lower. We stick to the wide gravel path toward Zajčevca, and after about a kilometer from the last house turn right to Kobjeglava, following the markers for the Spacal Trail (7). For the next 2 km, we follow that trail which in some places narrows to nothing more but a path. Next, we are treated to a hike across lovely meadows and pastures, passing by signature Karst dry stone walls until we reach the quintessential Karst village of Kobjeglava. Right at the beginning of the village, we can take a break on a bench shaded by a magnificent chestnut tree next to the chapel shrine from where we catch a sweeping view of west Karst (8). After the break, we continue on the main road through this picture-postcard village, taking in the regional architecture, wells, the surviving hand pump and the old-school livestock watering holes sprinkled around in the area. In the centre of the village we can't miss the Church of St. Michael with its gothic frescoes. In front of the church is a stone shepherd's cottage amidst typical vegetation (9). On the main square in Kobjeglava stands a striking monument to the national liberation struggle made to look like a traditional Karst cottage. There are informative signs and a chapel shrine nearby. From here, we head toward the sign for the inn named Gostilna Kobjeglava. From the inn, i.e. approx. 60 m from the main square, we head right and walk on to the near-by cemetery. From the cemetery, we follow the gravel path and the markers for the Spacal Trail in the direction of Štanjel. The trail leads through a forest past vineyards and pastures, with native pines throwing lovely shade (10). We end the hike in the parking lot, and from there take in a final view of Štanjel Castle. After a nice cup of coffee, you can head over to the renovated castle and its surroundings (11).