

ALONG KARST VILLAGES IN ITALY

Monrupino / Repentabor – Prepotto / Praprot

Trail length >> 10 km

Duration >> 3,5 hours

Difficulty >> medium, great for hikers who are interested in the Karst's natural beauty as well as Karst architecture, history, and the lives of people in the region. Also suitable for mountain and trekking bikers.



Starting point

Monrupino / Repetabor – the Church



We meet just downhill from the Repentabor Church, near the information billboard. We descend to the valley, but avoid the main road, where we left our car, and instead take the narrower path (1). Repentabor (Monrupino in Italian) is a settlement in the Trieste region in Italy. Most of its inhabitants are of Slovenian nationality. The village is most famous for its Church of St. Mary, situated on a 418 meter-high hill named Tabor.



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Interreg



ITALIA-SLOVENIJA



AGROTUR II

Progetto standard co-finanziato dal Fondo europeo di sviluppo regionale
Standardni projekt sofinancira Evropski sklad za regionalni razvoj

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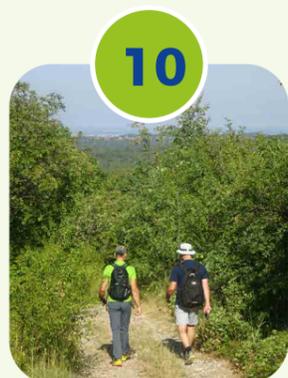
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For most of the trail we follow the blazes for the Gemina foot-trail (Karst Countryside Ways), but in the opposite direction. The foot trail, which starts at the square in Mavhinje, got its name from the former Roman road that connected Oglej to Trieste. It is marked in both directions, with boards with green arrows on yellow surface pointing the way (2). At the foothill of Tabor we turn towards Slovenia. The paved road takes us through the first crossroads, then we follow the markings for the Gemina foot trail, which leads us to the village of Repen. At Repen 31 there is an old Karst House, which is a well-preserved example of the Karst's characteristic and spontaneous architecture (<http://kraskahisa.com/eng/index.php>). Karst House is open between April and October on weekends and public holidays from 11 to 12:30 and from 15 to 17 (3). We continue through the village, with the main square on the left, but take a right, away from the main square, following the red and white blazes (4). We slowly leave Repen village. Near the last houses we stop next to the watering hole. The paved road ends here, and we continue on gravel. The main road for Repen intersects our gravel road, and we cross it, continuing onward (5). We still follow the markings for the Gemina foot trail. Soon we arrive at the quarry at Repentabor, the source of Karst marble, which can be found along the whole area (6). The quarry board says that three different types of marble are obtained here, differentiated by the size of fossils preserved in its patterns. Repentabor marble is a light grey limestone with a very hard structure, and characteristic rudist fossils (bivalve molluscs from the Cretaceous period) (7).

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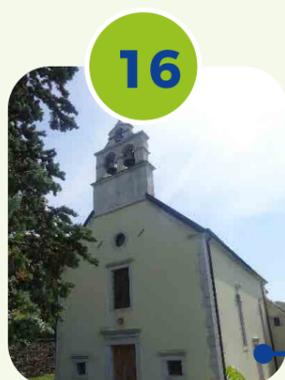


Passing the quarry, we make right turn towards a small hill. The quarry is now on our right, and a gravel path is before us, taking us past the Karst country and the vineyards towards the village of Zgradec. Even though the Milič tourist farm that the trail leads to is an inviting spot to rest, as the Milič family has some fine wines on offer, as well as prosciutto and other meat products, home-made juices and seasonal vegetables (<http://www.hoteldobregaterana.si/Hotel/ID/65/Turisticna-kmetija-Milic>), we continue without stopping. After a few hundred meters of walking past vineyards we take a left at the junction and head on the main road out from the village of Zgradec (8). After about half a kilometre we depart from the main road and continue on a gravel road, still following the markings (9). The path leads us past the village of Prenič (on our left), back to the main road, which we only take for a dozen meters or so, then we make a right turn and head off the main road.

We come onto a trail that turns left and down, towards Zgonik village and onto the sea, which we can already spot in the breaks in the tree canopy (10). We soon reach the village of Zgonik (<http://www.comune.sgonico.ts.it/index.php?id=8308&L=1>) at the winery. Behind it is a small square with a monument to fallen partisan soldiers, as well as a map of the village and the surroundings (11). Past the winery and the square we depart from Zgonik and take the narrow gravel road, keeping right at all the junctions. After a short path past the vineyards we again reach the main road. We can see the signs for the villages Koludrovca, Zgonik, and Salež, and head straight for Koludrovca (<http://www.comune.sgonico.ts.it/index.php?id=8311&L=1>).

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At Koludrovca we take a look at the small model village, then turn left. We are still following the Gemina foot trail in the opposite direction (12). Once outside the village, we turn left. This is a bit of a shortcut. Walking past the abandoned watering hole, we reach the same path as we would had we stayed on Gemina (13). Now it leads us past characteristic Karstic fences, meadows and vineyards to the edge of the village of Salež (<http://www.comune.sgonico.ts.it/index.php?id=8313&L=1>). We do not go towards the centre, but turn right at the crossroads on the village edge, heading outbound (14). Past Salež is another crossroads where the sign alerts us that we are only 400 meters from the state border (15). On the right, uphill, is the path towards Komen in Slovenia. We stay on the Italian side, heading straight towards the village of Samatorca. Just before the village in the peaceful and idyllic Karst setting is a small church of St. Ulrich (16). We soon reach the village of Samatorca (<http://www.comune.sgonico.ts.it/index.php?id=8314&L=1>). Past the Samatorca bus stop is a crossroads, where we continue straight for about 100 meters. Soon we reach the edge of the village, where the paved road ends. We continue ahead on the gravel towards the village of Trnovca (17). At the end of the gravel road are the outskirts of Trnovca, and we can already spot the first houses. Turning left onto the paved road, downhill, we soon reach the main road. Two dogs greet us at the house with a large garden, and we turn right. Another 500 meters ahead on the main road is the sign for the village of Praprot. This is where our trail ends (18).