

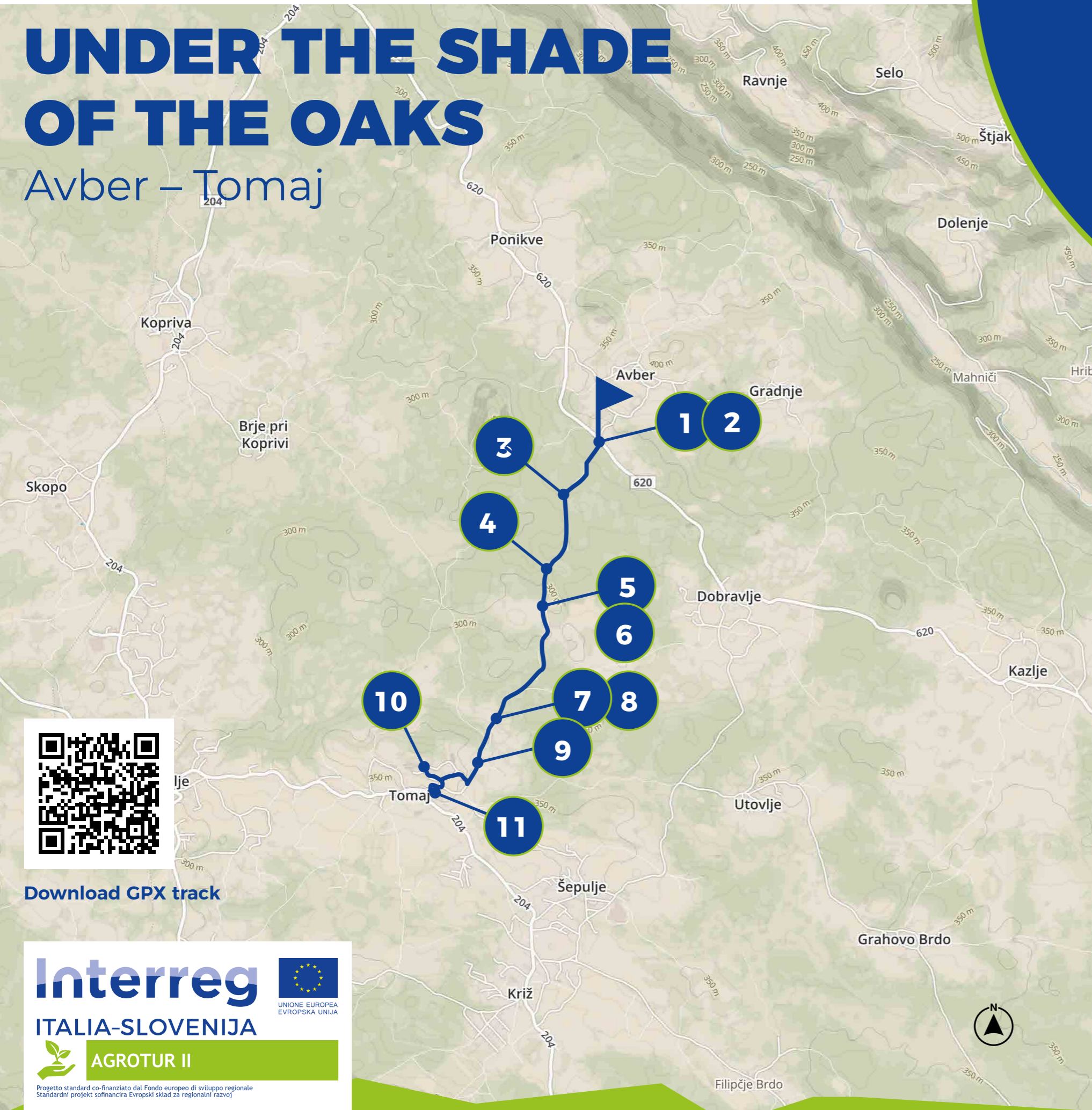
# UNDER THE SHADE OF THE OAKS

Avber – Tomaj

Trail length >> 4,5 km

Duration >> 1 hours

Difficulty >> easy, great for small children and families.



Download GPX track

**Interreg**



ITALIA-SLOVENIJA



AGROTUR II

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



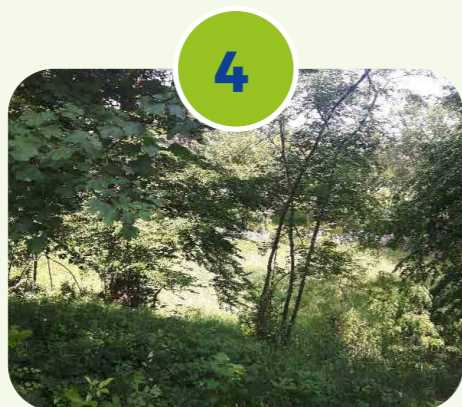
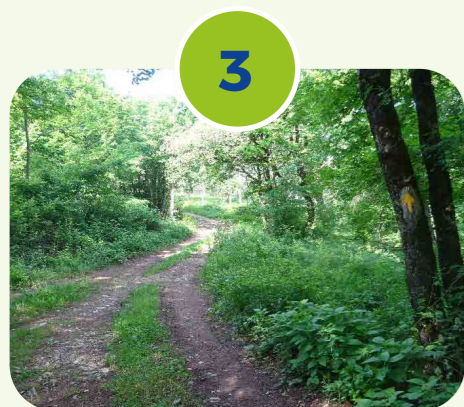
Starting point

The junction for the village of Avber, along the Štorje – Štanjel road, next to the bus stop and the chapel (1).



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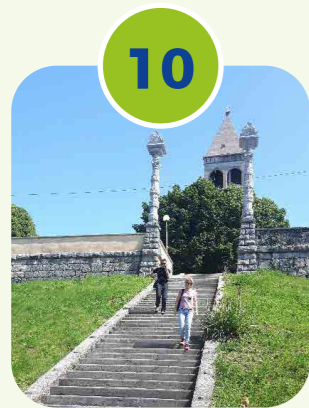
Avber – Tomaj



We take the gravel road, which is mostly flat, and therefore also suitable for children. We follow the blazes for Jacob's Trail (2). For the first half of the trail we mostly hike through woods. The canopy of mighty oaks shields us from the sun (and the bora winds), while birdsong accompanies us along the path (3). Karst used to be covered in oak trees, as well as beech and maple. Deforestation, overgrazing and the resulting water and wind erosion lead to Karst becoming barren in the 19<sup>th</sup> century ([https://giam.zrc-sazu.si/sites/default/files/zorn\\_kumer\\_ferk2015.pdf](https://giam.zrc-sazu.si/sites/default/files/zorn_kumer_ferk2015.pdf)). Planned reforestation with black pine was successful, even though it is not native to the Karst (<https://4d.rtvlo.si/arhiv/glasovisvetov/174263370>). Nowadays the most thriving species are acacia, the downy oak and bushes overgrowing abandoned farming grounds (4). As we get closer to Tomaj, the characteristic Karst sinkholes become more prominent along the path (5). Next we run into a heard of goats grazing in a fenced pasture. Just a few meters ahead, on the other side of the path we are greeted by a drove of Mangalica pigs. This is an old breed, indigenous to Hungary and Serbia, known for its curly long hair and a thick layer of fat, which makes the meat produced by this breed highly prized (6). A bit further ahead we can spot the first Karst "latnik" trellis on this trail. ([https://issuu.com/visart.studio/docs/arhitektura\\_slovenije\\_5\\_-\\_kraski\\_sv/180](https://issuu.com/visart.studio/docs/arhitektura_slovenije_5_-_kraski_sv/180)).

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Avber – Tomaj



In the Karst, where wine is a staple, the latnik trellis is a characteristic method of grape cultivation; about 4 to 5 vines have a strong pole on each side, with a horizontal plank fastened on top, connecting the two sides. In recent years the latnik is slowly yielding to new advancements in wine cultivation on the Karst (7). Soon the gravel road leads to a paved one at the edge of Tomaj. We continue for about 50 meters ahead, then turn right at the crossroad towards the centre of Tomaj, enjoying a great view of the town (8). If we instead opt to go left, and continue a bit further back, we can see the mighty Nanos, weather permitting (9). Continuing towards Tomaj centre (<https://kraji.eu/slovenija/tomaj/slo>), climbing up to the famous late-Gothic church of St. Peter and Paul, built in 1446, with interior frescos painted by Tone Kralj in 1929 and 1930 (10). This hour-long moderate hike concludes at the Tomaj inn, on the Sežana – Nova Gorica road (11).