



**BIKING ROUTES**

**P L A V**

Play





## IMPRESSUM

All the data in this guide are product of careful research. Given that the conditions related to marking, trails and signalization can be changed, we do not guarantee the correctness of the information in this guide. Use this guide on your own responsibility. In case you are not sure, please approach experienced guides for assistance. We appreciate all comments and suggestions you might have, and you can address them to e-mail [office@bjelasica-komovi.co.me](mailto:office@bjelasica-komovi.co.me).

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**Maps:** Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro





A wooden pier extends from the right side of the frame into a body of water. In the background, a person wearing a blue jacket is in a kayak on the water. The water is calm with some ripples. The sky is not visible.

## THE MOUNTAIN BIKING ROUTES IN THE REGION OF PLAV

If you have already enjoyed pedalling in some of the other regions of Montenegro, Plav and its surroundings will not disappoint you; on the contrary, it will offer you new inspiration.

But if you also want to try the taste of Montenegrin starters on two wheels for the first time, this region is an excellent place for something like that. Here we will find easy and amusing tours for beginners, some slightly more demanding for "apprentices" in their love according to the formula "mountains + two wheels", and at the end also there are routes at which the eyes of already experienced mountain bikers will light up.

However, the kilometres and fresh air are not the only things which feel good here: the region of Plav is a carpet woven of rich green and fascinating blue threads, a mosaic of

cultures, customs, religions and an interesting history, home to kind people and a treasury of good food.

To the south – the mighty mountain range of Prokletije into which the valleys of Ropojana and Grebaja boldly rush; to the north side as a counterbalance and counterpoint – stands the round, bushy profile of Mt. Visitor, whereas in the middle the blueness of Lake Plav sparkles, whose apparent fragility can easily deceive you: because that blue, calm water just like a sinkhole at the bottom of a pool, sucks both Prokletije and Visitor into a swirling orbit around it. But it pulls not only them but also the little towns of Gusinje and Plav, the local people, the pastures and the horses on them, the gastronomic scents of herbs and the healing aroma of ćevapi (kebabs) ... all this is



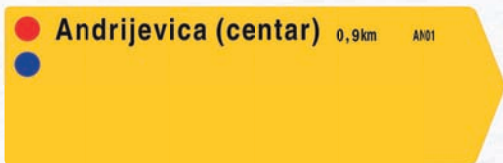
constantly falling into the lake, and never completely emptying through it, and there is always enough of it to put together a new day above the Plav Valley.

The whirling will certainly possess you as well – it will throw you onto the waters of Lake Hrid, swing you onto Memina planina (Mema's Mountain) or onto the peaks of Visitor, and leave your imprints in the cracks of Prokletije – but in the end, like everything else, it will always bring you back to Lake Plav. And in order to find your way through that irresistible whirlpool and use its strength in a better way, we offer you this guide. You will definitely find something that suits you in it, and the detailed descriptions will allow

you to better assess the difficulty and the conditions, and therefore to start your tour more relaxed.

In order to stop you worrying when you are out and about, we have tried to mark all the routes you will find here with a quality system of signposts. However we also recommend you download the GPS database from our website, which will considerably facilitate both your planning and orientation on the terrain, giving you, in addition, greater freedom to change your plans on the spot, to skip from one route to another if you want to, to shorten or extend your ride – without having to worry about whether you will make it or not.

## SIGNPOSTING



## WEB PAGES

[www.biking.bjelasica-komovi.me](http://www.biking.bjelasica-komovi.me)

[www.biking.toplav.me](http://www.biking.toplav.me)

[www.tt3.bjelasica-komovi.me](http://www.tt3.bjelasica-komovi.me)

## Route PL 01

### Plav – Gusinje – Plav

#### Route Characteristics:

- » *length: 29km*
- » *total ascent: 260m (the route is flat so it does not require an elevation profile)*
- » *surface: asphalt (26km), macadam and a track across fields (3km)*
- » *biking conditions: throughout the year, except in the event of heavy snowfall. (In the event of heavy rain we will skip a short section over the Zanože Peninsula, because of the local dirt track).*

Everyone can go on this interesting and easy "figure-of-eight", and it is particularly suitable for those who do not normally ride a bike and are not sure of their physical ability when it comes to longer tours. Along the northern shore of the lake the traffic is pleasantly light, and on the southern side (Gusinje – Kruševo – Hakanje – Plav) there is almost no traffic.

We head from the roundabout in the centre of Plav, and about 2km later we cross the bridge over the River Lim and then turn left (to the right is the main road towards Andrijevica). This is the only section with slightly heavier traffic.

The road soon brings us near the mouth of the River Ljuča at Lake Plav. In this place, 3.3km from the start, we will go past the Aqua Pansion (on the left) in which there is also a restaurant with a very nice view of the lake and town of Plav. An easy trundle towards Gusinje and we

will continue between the high and steep mass of Mt. Visitor on the right and the marshy green kingdom of birds on the left. Passing the little village of Martinovići we come quite close to the River Ljuča which restlessly winds through a spacious, flat and wide valley, conquering and weaving in that space a special world which belongs neither to the mountains nor to the plain but to itself only, and in which it rules with full sovereignty. 7.5km from the start, in the little village of Martinovići, we abandon the main road and turn left: in order to make the tour more interesting we will not go directly to Gusinje but we will venture into the first loop of our "figure-of-eight". At the very beginning we will go along a few hundred metres of macadam, and then a new asphalt road will take us through the marsh area towards the other side of the lake. Up to that point is just slightly more than a kilometre, but we will want this section to go on much longer: low stone walls, the shade of the trees and fresh greenery all around us – those are the beats of the heart on which the lake's water lies. On the River Ljuča and the River Lim there are protected areas for fly-fishing (fish: trout, grayling and huchen), so fly-fishing fans





in the same day may nicely put two passions together – that of pedalling and that of casting their lines...

On the other side there is the little village of Višnjevo where we get onto the road along the southern side of the lake. We will turn right, towards Gusinje. Not long after we cross the River Ljuča, and slightly later, at the entrance to Gusinje, we come across a junction at which we should proceed straight on. But to the left there is a route to the nearby Ali Pasha's Springs, and that is a short detour which is worth making if time allows us (for details, look at Route GU 04).

Gusinje, a small town through which a famous caravan road from Constantinople (Istanbul) to Dubrovnik once led, definitely deserves to have some special

time devoted to it. And like former merchants and caravan travellers, after we enter the place we may well first search for refreshment. A pastry shop in the centre will serve that purpose magnificently, because of two important things: the great burek (an Oriental mince pie), and even better cakes. Here we can leave our bikes as well, in order to take a slow and delightful stroll along the short high street on which almost everything is happening, and in which almost everything that locals should buy is packed up, and almost everything that a visitor should see is located. A few times along it, and we will almost become like the natives...

From Gusinje we return again to the northern road by the lake, until we reach Martinovići again and the shortcut to the other side





of the lake already familiar to us. Has it been nice passing along it? Yes? Well then we will not mind doing it once again – we should start the final loop of our “figure-of-eight”, and anyway, maybe we missed earlier seeing some tiny gem of beauty scattered by the road. We turn right, and there we are soon again in Višnjevo: this time we will turn left there, towards Plav.

We still have several kilometres of our lovely, tranquil and winding ride through an idyllic area along which the hamlets of Hakanje and Vojno Selo are scattered. The road occasionally ascends onto small knolls which offer a better view of the lake and Plav than from the opposite, northern side.

Passing the households of the long Vojno Selo and peeking into their yards, in which something is always going on, after slightly more than 3km we will reach the place where we will turn left – onto a macadam road which sneaks amongst the village

houses, and which will soon take us onto the spacious and flat peninsula of Zanoje. It is covered with meadows and wetland vegetation through which the River Ljuča bends and whispers, adorned with the occasional herd of cows or flock of sheep. While we coast along its green high sea, we may choose which part of the river bank we will stop at and let the quiet gurgle of water, in which the reeds dance and restless branches of willows weave the wind, put a spell on us and hypnotise so that we forget about time. On autumn and spring days we may end our exploration of the island at the wooden fence and gate which prevents the cattle from passing. However, in the summer the gate will be open so we may proceed a little bit further, almost to the very place at which the indecisive River Ljuča finally flows into the lake. Along the same road we will return back to the asphalt, and then we soon reach Plav.



## Route PL 02

### Plav – Đurička Rijeka – Lovnočelo – Kofiljača – Bogajiće – Plav

#### *Route Characteristics:*

- » *length: 28km*
- » *total ascent: 1050m*
- » *surface: macadam (18km) , asphalt (7.5km) and dirt road (2.5km)*
- » *biking conditions: from spring to autumn, except during and after heavy rains.*
- » *a section of the route leads through an uninhabited mountainous area and forest so one should always bring along a basic bike toolkit, a spare tyre, a torch, a map and a navigation device (a GPS device or at least a compass). Riding in a group is also recommended.*

A very beautiful tour which fascinates with the diversity of the landscapes through which it leads, so even the pickiest will find something here for them – open spaces with distant views, gentle meadows covered with thick deposits of tranquillity, a deep and always slightly mysterious forest peace... In return, it demands a decent level of fitness, but even to those who are not fit enough, we recommend you try at least the first part and ride as far as your enthusiasm lasts, and then take the same way back. And those who complete the entire circuit definitely will not regret it. Beyond the villages of Završ and Bogajiće, a narrow and quiet asphalt road leads us along the

green slope above Đurička rijeka (the River Đurica), through an irresistible area which on a sunny day radiates joy. At 1.7km from the start there is a sporadic spring which may or may not have water when we pass it, so one should not count on it for sure. But there is a second spring (at 4km), and then also a third (at 5.1km) near the junction where the asphalt ends. That last spring is located just after the bridge along which we cross over the river, on the left side.

At the deserted edge of the village of Jasenica, near the small household with a sawmill we turn left. An intensive climb which starts here represents the hardest leg of the tour. It is about 6km long, and there is a 400m gain in elevation to tackle. There is a chance to stock up on water at a spring 9.4km from the start (a plastic hose from which water runs into a concrete trough). At the junction which is situated 11.3km from the start we will continue straight ahead and gently downhill (a grassy road on the left goes more steeply downhill). We have passed the most difficult section of the ascent and to the ridge of Konjski obor (Horse Pen), but a little bit of riding up and down over the green knolls is still left. The macadam along which we came here will melt away now into a grassy trail which winds along a meadow.

11.7km from the start we will turn left and downhill (the right



trail soon turns backwards, towards the village of Husejnović) and follow the track through fields through a wonderful area on the north-eastern side of Konjski obor. Some two hundred metres further on there is a junction at which a new spring is located (on the right, the water runs into a wooden trough) and where one should turn right. Another two hundred metres on and we reach a little wooden cabin in the meadow beyond which there is a new junction (at 12.1km). Having proceeded straight in this place we enter a young forest in which the trail becomes narrow and dense with vegetation, so it may be necessary to get off the bike in certain places. However, this section is not long – once we pass the place where a bridleway

forks left (12.2km), we will get onto an open slope – covered in ferns – which drops steeply towards Lovnočelo and Jasenica. During the summer the lush vegetation here might present some difficulties. After about 1km we reach the edge of coniferous forest and a junction (13.4km) at which we get onto a forest track made of crushed stone – we head along it to the right. At 13.7km we join a broad macadam forest road. There we will turn right again, and soon go past a memorial spring called Bejtova česma (Bejto's drinking fountain). Further on we slowly descend along the northern side of Konjski obor, covered in dense forest. 15.2km from the start there is an important junction where one should turn onto a dirt road on





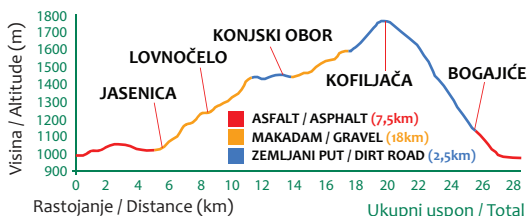
Vojno selo

the right (the left road goes up-hill). We still have a climb of just over 4km to Kofiljača, with an elevation gain of around 290m. After 19.4km we reach a junction which is also the spot with a highest elevation on this tour – 1,770m. There the road towards Ruža Spring and Lake Hrid forks right, and we turn left and start a nearly 9km-long descent towards Plav along the

immense, open and steep slope of Cecunske strane (Cecuni Slopes). The route is still predominantly on dirt road, occasionally poor, but in general of a decent quality. At the beginning of the 25th kilometre in Bogajići we go past a new spring, and 500m further an asphalt surface starts – then even Plav is not far away any more.

## PL02

## PLAV - KOFILJAČA – PLAV (28km)



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## Route PL 03

### Plav – Mema's Mountain – Plav

#### *Route Characteristics:*

- » *length: 22km*
- » *total ascent: 1,000m*
- » *surface: dirt road(13km), macadam (4km) and asphalt (5km)*
- » *biking conditions: from spring to autumn, except during or after heavy rain*
- » *the route partly leads through an uninhabited mountainous area and forest so one should always bring along a basic bike toolkit, a spare tyre, a torch, a map and a navigation device (a GPS device or at least a compass). Riding in a group is also recommended.*

A very “green”, but also strenuous tour which those who love testing their physical abilities will enjoy. In addition, the road to Memina planina goes to the places from which there is an excellent view of Plav and Lake Plav, and the highest point of the route – the katuns below the 2,074m high summit of the mountain – may be the start of an interesting hike to the summit itself. Along a good portion of the route one rides through the forest, which will certainly be convenient during the summer heat.

After only about 300m from the centre of Plav we leave the asphalt and turn left, onto a macadam road towards the village of Budovica. The road immediately starts climbing, and its quality decreases – patience and enthusiasm are necessary for the shaking

along the road surface which is a combination of poor macadam and rough cobblestones. But however the view of the lake and Plav which is soon left behind in the depths below us, will make up for a lot of things. At the beginning of the second kilometre the poor macadam track turns into a dirt road. After 2.7km there is a junction at which one should proceed straight on and soon one goes past a spring, on the left side of the road. (The spring is not clearly visible, so one should look carefully.)

At the graveyard as you leave Budovica, a picturesque village with houses of stone and wood, we should leave the relatively flat and wide road along which we have gone so far and turn left, more steeply uphill. From here the most difficult section of the ascent, about 4.4km long, starts. First we will pass a semi-abandoned katun, and then we enter the forest where we will encounter a challenge in the form of a whimsical dirt road, mainly of a decent quality, but occasionally covered with a thick layer of leaves or ploughed up by tractor wheels. On this 4km there are also shorter, flatter sections which will give us an opportunity to ride really fast, but in general one should be ready for some serious effort. After a section with numerous short serpentines and another patch of forest, we will eventually get into a large open amphitheatre below the summit of Memina planina. It takes about







Hridsko Lake

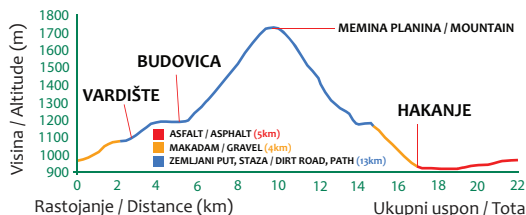
30 minutes of energetic walking to reach the summit of Memina planina from the katuns which are situated in this place.

We come back to Budovica along the same road, where now we will turn left and start the descent towards the village of Hakanje and towards the Plav–Gusinja asphalt

road. The road along which we descend is a macadam of acceptable (though not great) quality. Once we find ourselves on the road along the lake we turn right and after a short ride (quite appropriate for relaxing our insulted muscles) we are soon in Plav again.

## PL03

## PLAV - MEMINA PLANINA – PLAV (22km)



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## Route PL 04

### Plav – Lake Hrid – Plav

#### Route Characteristics:

- » length: 50km
- » total ascent: 1,630m
- » surface: macadam (25km), asphalt (23km) and stone trail (2km)
- » biking conditions: from spring to autumn. The ride is generally possible after rain as well, but one should expect some sections with more mud.
- » a section of the route leads through an uninhabited mountainous area and forest so one should always bring along a basic bike toolkit, a spare tyre, a torch, a map and a navigation device (a GPS device or at least a compass) – so that a minor defect on the bike or unnecessary wandering around will not spoil our day. Riding in a group is also recommended.
- » the route along a 14km-long section (from 24.8km to 38.8km) goes through the territory of the Prokletije National Park, so before departure one should check in at the office of the national park which is located in the centre of Plav. Anyway, we can always obtain useful information there on the condition of the route as well as other details which may be relevant.

Probably the most attractive tour in the region of Plav. A rich programme for a full day's excursion, many different landscapes and

magical areas, but it also requires a good fitness level. For those who do not possess it, in this case as well our recommendation is to start it and go as far as you think that it suits you: beauty awaits you at every kilometre. The real exotica, however, starts beyond Babino Polje: the wild lines of ridges and the peaks of Mt. Bogičevica are an ornament and crown on every view.

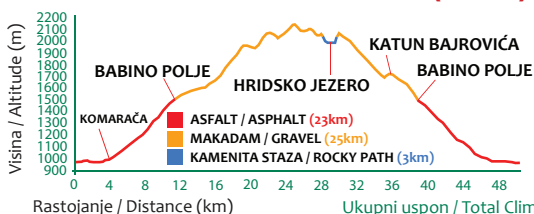
2.7km from the start we pass a spring. Beyond the village of Komarača (at 4.1km) the ascent becomes more serious – around 7km long, with an elevation gain of about 500m. Near Babino Polje there is still an opportunity to replenish our supplies of water: 6.7km from the start there is a memorial drinking fountain, at 7.9km there is a spring on the right, at 9.1km Bečova česma (Bečo's drinking fountain), and then at 9.3km another spring on the right.

The asphalt ends immediately before an important junction (11.6 km from the start) at which we will later close the circuit around Lake Hrid. Now we will proceed straight on from here. At the beginning the road surface is some sort of rough cobblestone in poor condition. After slightly more than one kilometre it will become somewhat better, and there we come across another spring – the Seljimina memorial drinking fountain (on the left side). Just before it, also on the left



## PL04

### PLAV - HRIDSKO JEZERO – PLAV (50km)



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side and near the road, in a place called Maslo (where there are several weekend houses and shepherd's huts or katuns) a mountain hut run by the Hrid Mountaineering Club is situated as well. It is worth staying overnight at this hut – it is open if necessary (one's arrival should be previously announced to the Hrid MC), and it also offers a charming interplay of wood and stone, a drinking fountain, a convenient campsite... At 14.3km we pass the smiling and friendly katun of Bajram-

durovi pjeskovi, set back about 100m from the road, on the left side.

The end of the 15th kilometre brings us to a large junction at which one should turn left, cross over the nearby little bridge, and after it, continue straight on at another junction which is located there. From there a new intense climb starts which lasts about 9km, with an elevation gain of around 530m.

At the initial, hardest section of the ascent, we reach a junc-



amphitheatre. After 24.8km we reach the highest point of the tour – a 2,165m high mountain pass below the enormous, stone crown of Krš Bogičevce peak. In this place we also enter the territory of the Prokletije National Park. A short and steep descent will take us past a former army watchtower (and a future mountain hut). After the place from which we see the blue water of Lake Hrid for the first time we come across a spot (at 28.2km) at which we

amphitheatre. After 24.8km we reach the highest point of the tour – a 2,165m high mountain pass below the enormous, stone crown of Krš Bogičevce peak. In this place we also enter the territory of the Prokletije National Park. A short and steep descent will take us past a former army watchtower (and a future mountain hut). After the place from which we see the blue water of Lake Hrid for the first time we come across a spot (at 28.2km) at which we

turn right, onto the trail which descends to the lake. The trail is very steep and narrow, so we can leave our bikes in the vegetation beside it, just below the road. A walk around the lake (along a narrow route which in certain places is lost in greenery and rocks, but it can always be found again) along with the return to the road is about 1.7km long (this

distance has been calculated into the total length of the tour). If we have enough time, we should also follow a path which goes from the eastern side of the lake to the nearby spacious meadow called Tepsijica – a soft quilt of luxurious grass spread below the mighty verticals of Hridski krš (Hrid Rock) peak. 35.2km from the start there is





a rather inconstant spring, on the right side of the road. Soon after this spot the road becomes poorer and again turns into a rough cobblestone surface. We go past Lijepa luka (a nice rest spot), and then through Bajrović katun (at 35.7km) and Kolašinski katun (36.7km, a lovely view). At all these locations there are springs with drinking fountains.

38.8km from the start, we will finally descend to the junction which we passed earlier on the ascent from Plav, and that marks the end of the territory of the national park. Now we turn left there (the asphalt starts soon after that) and then return to Plav with a wonderful descent down the road along which we came here. •





20





## Route PL 05

### Plav – Lake Visitor – Plav

#### Route Characteristics:

- » *length: 38km*
- » *total ascent: 1,190m*
- » *surface: asphalt (16.5km), macadam (12.5km) and dirt road (9km)*
- » *biking conditions: from spring to autumn. The ride is generally possible after rain as well, but one should expect some sections with more mud.*
- » *the route partly leads through an uninhabited mountainous area and forest so one should always bring along a basic bike toolkit, a spare tyre, a torch, a map and a navigation device (a GPS device or at least a compass). Riding in a group is also recommended.*

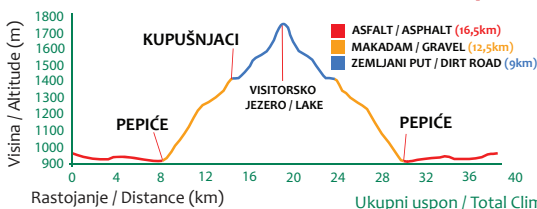
The lake is located in a wonderful place and it is worth a visit, but the road leading to it is poor, and the ascent is difficult. Therefore this is a tour for very fit cycling enthusiasts, that is to say, those

who are always willing to test their abilities and tackle challenges. The inspiration will definitely be Mt. Visitor itself which is an unavoidable, challenging and attractive ingredient of every view from Plav – and if we stay in that little town only for a short time, we will certainly wish to scale it. We head from the usual place, the roundabout in the centre of Plav, along the road towards Andrijevića. After 8.2km, in the village of Pepiće we will turn left, onto the macadam along which we immediately start our ascent towards the lake. The road surface is rather poor – it is often a combination of macadam and dirt road. We ascend through the forest, only occasionally getting onto open ground.

Around 2.7km from the turn, that is to say, 11km from the start, we reach a place called Nizamska kula (Nizam Tower). It was named after the ruins of a medieval tower situated there, near the metal mobile telephone mast. Here is also the junction

**PL05**

#### PLAV - VISITORSKO JEZERO – PLAV (38km)



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at which we will turn right. The road is somewhat better from here, but it is still not great. At 14.5km, on the right there is a little cottage which serves as a shelter for mountain climbers and other passers-by. Inside there are a few beds with stairs, a hearth and some crockery, and the door is always unlocked. The macadam road here turns into a dirt road, which is in decent condition in dry weather.

18.2km from the start, we abandon the road which goes towards

Mramorje katon, and the rest of the route to the lake is along a path which climbs steeply for the next 700m. Physically fit and technically skilled cyclists may test themselves on their bike in that section as well, but the majority will have to continue on foot. Before the lake itself (18.9km) there is a junction at which a footpath forks left towards the summit of Visitor. The lake will instantly captivate us with its serene beauty and unique atmosphere. But it also





has a magical power to clear one's thoughts and to strengthen lives: shyly hiding in the shadows of the surrounding trees, it will unselfishly return to us every conversation which we cast onto its blue mirror; it will complete our words with an echo and sometimes even say instead of us that the things we did not want to or could not say out loud. Therefore, in this place we should think carefully and without haste about everything that is important to us – and since that is the secret

of a good life, that is proof of the power which we mentioned. Sensing this, we will surely spend a lot of time here, floating along the path which takes us around the entire dark water standing silent beside us.

From the lake we return to Play along the same road – downhill to the asphalt, and then right, to the nearby shore of the already familiar big brother of Lake Visitor •



## Route GU 01

### Gusinje – Grnčar – Lazi – Gusinje

#### *Route Characteristics:*

- » *length: 13km*
- » *total ascent: 120m*
- » *surface: asphalt (7km), macadam (5km), dirt path (1km)*
- » *biking conditions: from spring to autumn (due to a dirt path section the ride is not recommended during or after heavy rain)*
- » *a section of the route passes through a border area with Albania, so one should be careful not to wander off across the border (orientation is not difficult – see below)*

This easy tour without any considerable ascents will offer great satisfaction to those who have not previously gained a lot of experience in riding off-road, but it will be interesting and beautiful for seasoned mountain bikers as well. From the centre of Gusinje we head along the road towards Plav. But since half of the roads from Gusinje lead towards Plav, let us be more precise: we head northwards, straight on towards the mighty mass of Mt. Visitor's herald called Mt. Greben, which cuts us off from that side of the world.

At the end of the first kilometre there is a junction at which we turn left, onto a wide new road which leads towards the Grnčar border crossing, leaving behind us the road to Plav. We slowly ascend towards the hamlets of Derviševići, Bojovići

and Radončići and just as slowly the view towards the valley of the little River Grnčar widens. And it becomes obvious that the valley is a small, clear, blue-green eye blinking sleepily at us below the bushy, serious eyebrows of the surrounding peaks. Its pupil is Gusinje, and along the river it can shed tears, when it is foggy, overcast or cold weather. But on a sunny day the water of the River Grnčar cheerfully shines, rinses and sharpens the views, such that the people of Gusinje can see half of the world without even stepping out of the valley.

And guests will not lack anything either: on one side the flowing robes of Mt. Visitor, and on the other those of the Prokletije Mountains, and between them, the pleasure of pedalling – more than enough to make it time well spent.

At 6.3km from the start we reach a spot some hundred metres away from the border crossing. Here we will turn left off the asphalt road and descend along a short downhill section to the riverbed. There one can see how that thin band can be both mighty and wild when during heavy rain or while the snow is thawing it "drinks a few glasses more". At that time it rages, dashes against its rocks, crumbles, flows, grinds and takes away everything as it flows. For this reason its riverbed is in certain places nearly a kilometre wide and resembles the riverbeds of the Pamir or Himalayan rivers.





Grnčar



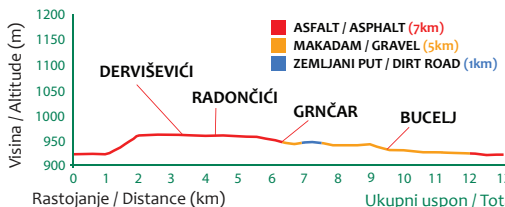
Through that Himalayan landscape, which at this part is about 400m wide, we cross to the other side. Depending on previous weather conditions, we might predominantly ride our bikes, or perhaps mostly push them. In any case, the work will not be too hard – over the stones and pebbles sculpted by the water, along a barely visible footpath which is always well-trodden by the shepherds and others who have to – or love to – pass that way, we soon reach the green bank of the pastures in this area known as Krlje.

We continue along a winding

cross-country path which leads us along the boundary markers of the estates, but at some spots it might well run off into the surrounding bushes: in that case we simply proceed straight on, until it comes back to us. If we are successful in taming the path, our progress will go unchecked. If we are not, it might happen that we need to lift our bike over some of the low wire fences which run along the boundary markers. This leg is also short: only 400m after leaving the riverbed (7.6km from the start), we get onto a bad-quality covered track (if slightly tamed gravel in some places can be called a covering at

GU01

## GUSINJE - GRNČAR - GUSINJE (13km)



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all) which leads from the pastures right up to the border. We should turn left along it towards Gusinje, but before that we might wish to head right and enjoy this wonderful, isolated “corner” of Montenegro a little bit longer. The terrain is flat and luxuriously green, here and there sprinkled with the odd stone house and the occasional flock of sheep. Everywhere we will feel the unusual presence of some wide mighty river, as if expecting any minute to see before us some sort of Mississippi with its boats: the spirit of the wild and spread-out River Grnčar is apparently so strong that it remains in the surroundings even when there are no real floods any more, making us imagine the raging torrent although there behind the willow grove and shrubs, a little child is splashing in their oversized footwear.

If we head right then, we should

not forget that we are approaching the border which is located about a kilometre and a half from there, so it is best to limit our enjoyment and winding over the pastures to the next kilometre. Back to the “official” section of our tour: advancing towards Gusinje, the road soon becomes better, and at 9.4km from the start we reach the beginning of a narrow asphalt. (On the left a former border watchtower is located.) About 600m further on we come across a well-kept spring (on the right, about 30m from the road).

11.3km from the asphalt, we turn left onto a good macadam road which again takes us back towards the river. But the macadam section is only 800m long – after that the asphalt starts again, which will then nicely bring us to Gusinje, from its north-western side.





## Route GU 02

### Gusinje – Grebaja Valley – Gusinje

#### *Route Characteristics:*

- » *length: 18km*
- » *total ascent: 270m*
- » *surface: asphalt (13.5km), macadam (4.5km)*
- » *biking conditions: from spring to autumn*

A very beautiful tour, suitable for practically everyone who is in the habit of getting on a bike. We go from an elevation of 920m and our finish is at 1,200m, but we will not feel much of this ascent, so there is no excuse to skip this ride – one gets a lot from this ride compared with the effort involved, so the route into the Grebaja Valley could turn out to be the “biggest bargain” in the region.

From the centre of Gusinje we head along the asphalt road in a south-westerly direction. 1.2km from the start there is a junction at which we turn right, and we soon go past a wonderful old church whose beauty is framed by the broken lines of the peaks of Lipovica and Velji vrh.

At 4.1km on the right side of the road there is a well-tended spring. About 500 metres further on there is the only more serious temptation on the tour: at the place called Škala there is a roughly 300m-long ascent with a gradient of 10-11%. The valley narrows while the surrounding cliffs swoop down onto the road

which winds fearfully among them.

Here we also enter the territory of the Prokletije National Park, and we will ride around 8.5km in total (return route included) within it.

The asphalt ends 6.7km from the start and a good macadam road leads further on. About 300m later we reach the Eco-katun of Grebaje – an exquisite place for a lunch break as well as a longer stay. The basic reason for a longer stay in these beautiful log cabins is of course for mountain climbing, but there are plenty of people who love staying here although they have not even the slightest intention of climbing around: the very location of the Eco-katun, amidst the tall peaks of the Prokletije Mountains, is so attractive that it makes such a wish quite understandable.

By bike we can go further into the valley for another 2km, to the very centre of Peskovi – an immense natural amphitheatre which represents the heart of the Grebaja Valley. Before we head back, we will be sure to spend some time in this place, from where our gaze has nowhere to escape, and where the entire Prokletije Mountains both fiercely and quietly collapse on us. Peskovi is a combination of heaven and hell, the serene and the frightening, an interplay of cruel rocky peaks and the bared teeth of ridges which bite off the sky, at the same time resting on

28

Kodra Bajroće  
1546

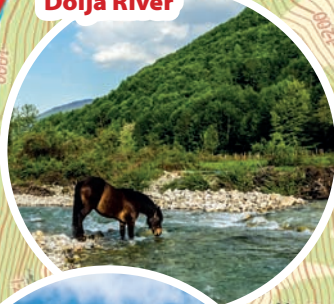
Catholic Church



Kačanik

Ahmedin

Dolja River



Šuplja vrata



Grebaja Valley



Dolja

10

Vrh Karaula  
1915

Ključ

Škala

11

ica

1879

Očnjak

Ljubokuč

Krošni

2021



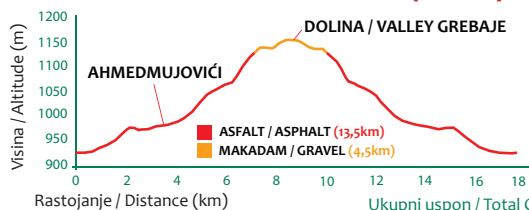


fragile flowers down on the bottom. Peskovi is a fight between the day and the twilight and a magical formula for a simple (but unfortunately only temporary) solution to life's questions and dilemmas: in fact here we will forget what we wanted to ask.

And once we head into the long descent towards Gusinje, we will definitely stop many times in order to look back and make sure that we really did see what we thought we had seen.

**GU02**

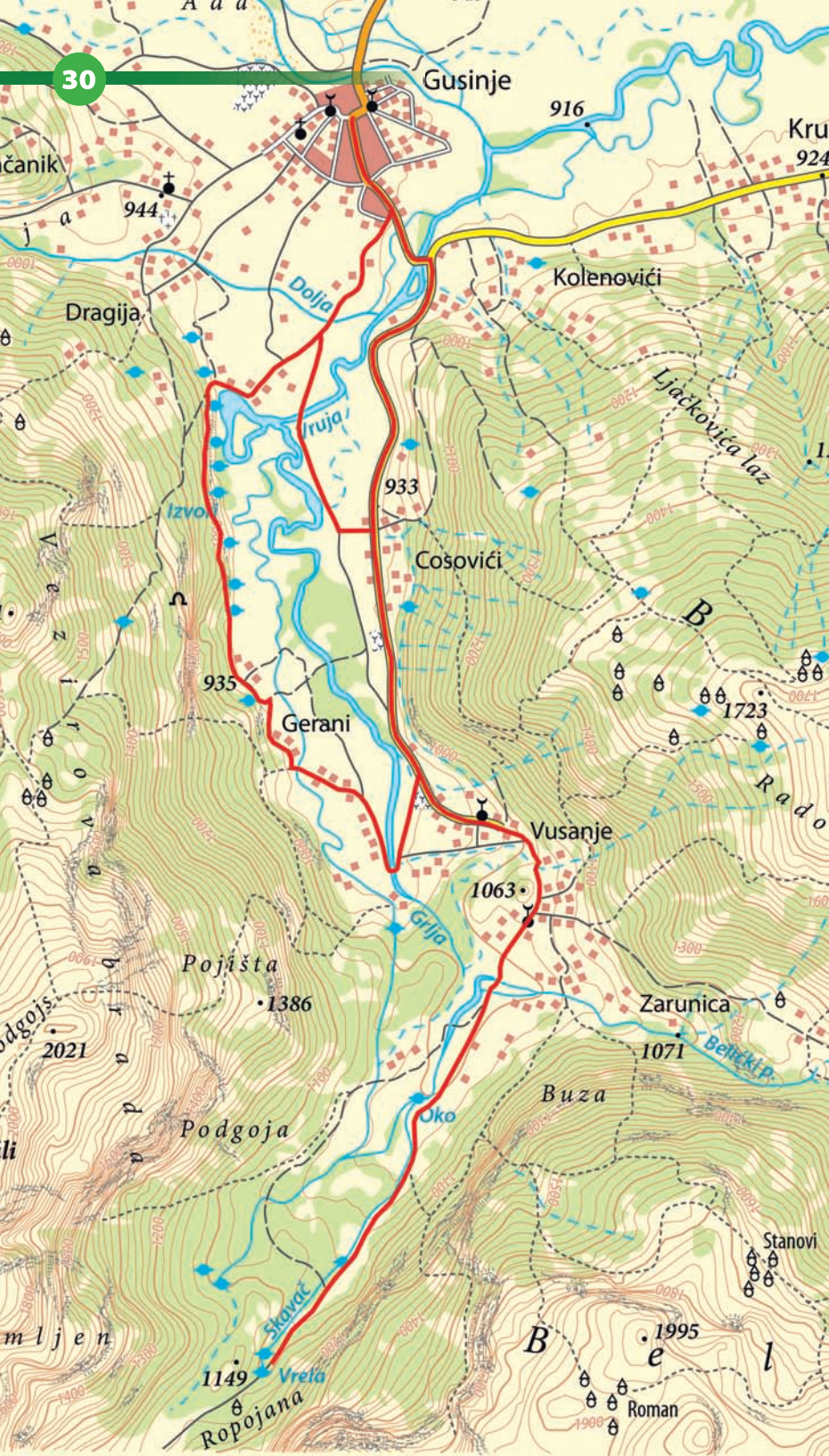
### GUSINJE - GREBAJE - GUSINJE (18km)



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**Grebaja Valley**







## Route GU 03

### Gusinje – Vusanje

### – Ropojana Valley – Gusinje

#### *Route Characteristics:*

- » *length: 14.5km (23km, if we go to Lake Ropojana)*
- » *total ascent: 290m*
- » *surface: asphalt 11km, macadam 3.5km (if we go to Lake Ropojana: asphalt 11km, macadam 10km, forest trail 2km)*
- » *biking conditions: from spring to autumn*

This is a really lovely, yet not too difficult, tour suitable for everyone who rides a bike relatively regularly, even if these are quite easy rides. The Ropojana Valley belongs at the top of the list of natural beauties in the region of Plav and Gusinje and is a pleasure we should definitely indulge in. Besides, without a visit to Ropojana our stay in this magical world on the northern side of Prokletije would not be complete ...so let us venture forth through another valley which has a secret to reveal...

Slightly more than 500m from the start in the centre of Gusinje, we come across a junction at which we turn right, towards Ali Pasha's Springs. About 800m further on (1.4km from the start) there is a junction at which one should turn right for Ali Pasha's Springs – this time we will not go there (Route GU 04), instead, we proceed left, through a green and lovely plain along which the River Vruja lounges. Soon we cross

over it, and then head along the bank of the other local beauty, the River Grlja – a section for some laid-back enjoyment.

At 2.6km in the hamlet of Ćosovići we join the “real” road for Vusanje. In the second part of the tour we will come back to this junction, but now we turn right there. About 1.3km later there is a spot which, from the right is joined by an asphalt road from the village of Gerani (this is also the finishing post for Route GU 04, which goes via Ali Pasha's Springs).

Near Vusanje (at 4.6km) the ascent becomes more intense and it will stay that way until we leave this serene, sleepy village. The asphalt road ends at the little bridge beyond the village, 5.6km from the start – we go on along a fairly good quality macadam road, with short poorer quality sections. To add a little spice to the proceedings: we are travelling along the former Peć–Skadar caravan road. Some hundred metres after the bridge there is a place where one should definitely take a break: taking the path which forks right through a meadow, we will reach the nearby Grlja Waterfall. We can only see the waterfall as we approach something that looks like a huge stone pot, buried on the edge of a meadow. Attention: there is no barrier, and the edges of the twenty-or-so metre-deep opening are often damp, so one should be very careful.

For us this water story does not end at the opening – actually, we

read it starting from the middle, and only when we continue along the macadam up the valley, do we head towards its first chapter. About 2.5km upstream from the waterfall and at an elevation of 1000 metres above sea level, in the deep, blue-green, crystal clear pupil of the karst spring called Oko Skakavice (Eye of the Skakavica), the ice-cold, sharp little River Skakavica (or Skavkač) is born from the snows of the Prokletije Mountains. The spring, with a diameter of some thirty metres, is one of the most abundant in the Prokletije Mountains – in the springtime, when it is “in its stride”, it is more than 11 metres deep, capricious and panting. During the summer it calms down, waiting for the next spring and the new melting of the white fleece from the mountain’s shoulders. In order to visit the spring, we should pay attention to the right side of the road and a rock with markings on, from where the short forest path leading there starts. And then finally one can put together the entire “biography” of the strange little River Skakavica: downstream it plunges into the opening which we have already seen, and the tormented river throws off its first name there, it persistently cuts through a short but remarkable canyon only to emerge into the light of day and reach the green pastures

Vusanje



Waterfall



in the valley below Vusanje, demanding to be called Grlja. (Hidden beneath the waterfall itself,

under the bubbling water at the bottom of the opening and smashed with the never-ending water bombardment, it is pulsated and fed by another gushing spring before the beginning of all that hard work).

On the way to Lake Plav it changes its name again and hides in other streams several times: connecting with the water from Ali Pasha's Springs it becomes the

River Vruja, and

after Gusinje, joining up with the River Grnčar, it flows to the lake as the River Ljuča.

On the rest of the ascent into the upper parts of the Ropojana Valley the ascent is moderate so we will soon reach a rest stop with a wooden roof (at 7.3km). Some of the best known peaks of the Montenegrin Prokletije Mountains: Karanfili, Vezirova brada, Beljan and others rise above it. Here we also enter the territory of the Prokletije National Park which stretches all the way to Lake Ropojana, 4.5km away – which means that if we go there we will have travelled a total of 9km within the national park. Beyond this point the valley



narrows considerably and that section is very lovely, but the rest of the journey to the lake, which is located within the border area at the end of the valley, depends on the current condition of the road. During the spring it is usually destroyed by floods so it has to be fixed, but if it has not been done, one should continue on foot, since going with a bike (i.e. pushing it) would be difficult. In that case we can lock our bikes by the roofed rest stop. Near the end of the valley there is a junction with a signpost, at which a macadam road goes towards the border watchtower

in Zastan (in the area of Vusanje). This is a place in which we will definitely leave our bikes – if we have succeeded in reaching this place with them – and instead of continuing along the macadam we will proceed straight on, along a path through beech forest which will bring us to Lake Ropojana (1,240m) after a walk of some fifteen minutes. In Vusanje it is

also called Lake Čemerikino or Zmijsko, it is about 700m long, at most a few hundred metres wide, and up to some ten metres deep. Unfortunately, during the summer months, it dries up, but when it is there and when we glance at its emerald water, and the high, sharp teeth of Karanfili Peak rising behind, it is truly breathtaking. If we go to the lake the total length of the tour will be 23km. Note: since this is a deserted area, when hiking in the second part of the Ropojana Valley one should always bring along a torch, a map and a navigation device (a

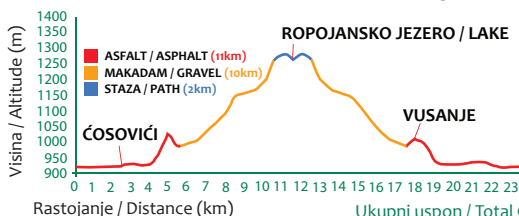
GPS device or at least a compass), and we also recommend going there in a group. The end of the valley crosses over to Albanian territory, so the lake should be the furthestmost point to which we venture.

We head back along the same route, but after Vusanje when we reach the mentioned junction in Čosovići (at 11.9km) we will continue straight on, starting an interesting section we did not go along on the way here.



### GU03

## GUSINJE - ROPOJANA - GUSINJE (23km)



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Along the next 500 metres there are sections of both asphalt and fair macadam. At 12.5km on the right side of the road there is a spring, after which there is a roughly 1km-long patch of macadam. On it we will also negotiate one steep section about 200m long, which take us to the place

called Krš Čekića, from where we will have a nice view of the valley of the River Vrulja and Gusinje as a reward. Now we only have a short descent to the asphalt (at 13.4km) along which we soon reach Gusinje and end this dynamic and attractive ride.



## Route GU 04

### Ali Pasha's Springs - Gerani

#### *Route Characteristics:*

- » *length: 4.3km*
- » *total ascent: 80m (the route is flat so it does not require an elevation profile)*
- » *surface: asphalt (2km), stone trail and dirt trail (1.3km), macadam (1km)*
- » *biking conditions: from spring to autumn*
- » *due to a section of route which leads along an uneven stone trail after Ali Pasha's Springs we recommend hiking boots as suitable footwear.*

Ali Pasha's Springs are a natural attraction, and the trail which just after it continues towards the village of Gerani is glued along the cliff below the mighty ridge of the Vezirova Brada Peak, and travelling along it we venture into a short, relatively gentle adventure, attainable for all, but still not quite ordinary. In other words, this is a "low-cost" adventure – it requires only will power and a positive attitude, and in return it gives us a stunning secluded area, free of any disturbance, and thickly padded with a "get-away-from-everything" atmosphere. While we are going along this trail we might grumble now and then on account of this guide which has convinced us to take our bike for a "walk" in such a place, but in the end we will have a nice memory of successfully

negotiated obstacles and will definitely wish to do it all again one day... The route can be combined with the one to the Ropojana Valley (Route GU 03).

The start of this route is 1.4km from Gusinje: from the road towards Ćosovići we turn right and soon reach Ali Pasha's Springs – a large, shallow natural pool which is fed by springs from underneath.

The rest of the route does not require a great physical effort, but a narrow stone trail which forks left after about 700m will require us to push our bikes beside us at many points, and in a few places it will be necessary to carry it for several metres as well. Therefore for those who are not skilled at riding on uneven and rocky terrain, it is best not to get on the bike at all in this section – walking beside it, with a little patience they will pass the next 2km relatively easily and even then be quite satisfied with themselves. And those who are not at all fans of pulling and pushing their bikes instead of riding them, would be better off leaving them somewhere beside the trail and then walking as far as it seems to them interesting, before going back. As we get closer to the village of Gerani, on the left, beside or below us (the trail keeps going up and down constantly) is the vegetation through which the River Grlja wanders and winds its way. In the slightly marshy terrain on

that side, below the trail there are still plenty of springs: although we might not notice them, we go past more than twenty of them. 1.9km from the start of the tour we descend to a very field and it will be necessary to search for a trail in the very short grass, lost amongst the large boulders lying there. It will not be difficult since the trail reappears again after only a few dozen metres.

The road surface gradually becomes relatively suitable for

riding, and from the junction near the village of Gerani (about 2.3km from the start) one can already ride without significant problems – we have negotiated the complicated section of the trail, slightly less than 2km long. Immediately after this point we go past a graveyard (on the left) and soon reach a asphalt road, which will then take us (sooner than we would like in this wonderful area) onto the Vusanje–Gusinje road.







# MONTe

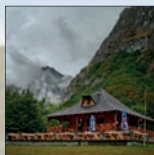
## ACCOMMODATION

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### **Hrid Mountain Hut, Plav**

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Web site: [www.aqua-plav.me](http://www.aqua-plav.me)

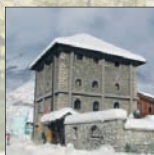


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# NEGRO

In case you are interested in extending your visit and trying some of the marked trails in neighboring municipality of Andrijevića, you can download information about those trails from websites **[www.biking.bjelasica-komovi.me](http://www.biking.bjelasica-komovi.me)** and **[www.biking.toandrijevića.me](http://www.biking.toandrijevića.me)**. For information about one of the Top Biking Trails that you can reach from Andrijevića, please visit website **[www.tt3.bjelasica-komovi.me](http://www.tt3.bjelasica-komovi.me)**.

All these trails can be found on **[everytrail.com](http://everytrail.com)**, to save any of them, add it to your favorites, and it will instantly appear in your Save tab in iPhone/Android Application.

## **Prokletije National Park**

+382 (0) 68 871 550

[npprokletije@nparkovi.me](mailto:npprokletije@nparkovi.me)

[facebook.com/npprokletije](https://facebook.com/npprokletije)

## **Tourist Organisation of Plav**

+382 (0) 51 250 151

[toplav@t-com.me](mailto:toplav@t-com.me)

[www.toplav.me](http://www.toplav.me)

## **National Tourist Organisation of Montenegro**

Call center: 1300 (24h)

[information@montenegro.travel](mailto:information@montenegro.travel)

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CRNA GORA  
MINISTARSTVO GOSPODARSTVA  
I TURIZMA



REGIONALNA RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA  
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