

Afternoon sightseeing

During the afternoon we suggest taking one of the three trips in Žirovnica or near surrounding countryside.

A visit to the Carniolan bee breeding station in Završnica

The home of the breeding station is in the picturesque Završnica valley and its brook. The valley and its water reservoir is the starting point for all attempting to conquer Stol, the highest peak in the Karavanke mountain range, and its surrounding peaks. The six-kilometre road winding through the valley leads us to Zelenica, but it only takes us about 500 metres to where a road diverges towards the Carniolan bee breeding station. In order to preserve the Carniolan grey bee, increase its production, disease resistance and reduce swarming the work at the breeding station is subjected to strict selection.



A visit to the Museum of Apiculture in Radovljica

The Museum of Apiculture is located in the Baroque manor house in the old part of Radovljica. It displays the rich tradition of Slovene beekeeping. While the technical part of the museum displays the habitats of bees and beekeeping tools, the biological part introduces the visitor to the Carniolan grey bee. Highly attractive is also the museum's collection of painted beehive panels. In summer one has the opportunity of observing live bees in the museum's observatory beehive. Visitors are guided through the museum by museum's curators who can also prepare a teaching lesson and show the visitors a film on bees and beekeeping.

A visit to hydroelectric power stations Završnica, Moste and the spinning mill Pr' Joštan — our technical heritage



The hydroelectric power station Završnica, built in 1914, was the first Slovene public electric power station. It had been in operation for whole 90 years. It has been a cultural and technical monument since 2005. Its job was taken over by the hydroelectric power station Moste, the first electric power station on the Sava River. Today this is a modern electro energetic plant. Both power stations can be visited in the company of a professional guide. You can end your excursion by visiting the old spinning mill in Moste. The mill is still in operation today.



● Means of transport

MEANS OF TRANSPORT

There are several means of transport through our villages.

Walk

Walking is a simple and reliable way of travel – simply throw the bundle over your shoulder and hit the road. Taking into consideration the stops and the delights of the travel bundle the comfortable six-kilometre path can be managed by anyone.

Lojtrnik or hay cart

Your perception of the landscape will be quite different if you exchange the bus for an open hay cart. You will notice remarkable details and enjoy the fresh air.



Bus

A bus ride is most suitable in case of bad weather conditions.

The excursion begins between 8 and 9 a.m.

The excursion finishes between 4 and 5 p.m.

Information:

Zavod za turizem in kulturo Žirovnica (Tourism and culture board Žirovnica), Žirovnica 14, 4274 Žirovnica
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Come and join us in the cradle of Slovene beekeeping and culture!

Visit www.zirovnica.si and www.zirovnica.eu for additional information on the Municipality of Žirovnica.

WELCOME TO THE CRADLE OF SLOVENE BEEKEEPING AND CULTURE

Laws governing bee families can be models to all of us. Respect, the sense of belonging and the responsibility for one's own and collective duties are fundamental to their survival. They are the basis for the survival of nature.

ŽIROVNICA AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

A whole day excursion



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A whole day excursion



You are invited to visit the cradle of Slovene beekeeping and culture, Žirovnica. To be exact, the collection of villages under Stol (mountain), joined together into the Municipality of Žirovnica. After being warmly welcomed in the peaceful rural environment, you will be taken through the picturesque countryside and introduced to our rich cultural traditions gathered along the Path of cultural heritage. Our villages are referred to as the cradle of Slovene culture as they rocked the cradles of France Prešeren, Matija Čop, Franc S. Finžgar and Janez Jalen. Being the home of Anton Janša, we are also the cradle of Slovene beekeeping. Starting at the old Janša's bee house we shall journey past the modern bee house, peek into the world of the Carniolian honey bee and taste the benevolence of bee products.

PROGRAMME

Reception at Čop's Birth House in Žirovnica

As a warm welcome you will be served local refreshments and surprised by travel bundles. The delights of the bundle will tie you over during your journey.



A bundle (Slo. cula) – a piece of cloth, a kerchief or a small tablecloth whose corners are tied together. It is used to carry loads in a hand, over one's arm, on the head or on a stick.

A visit to Čop's Birth House

Today's pleasant host of minor cultural events and the seat of Tourism and culture board Žirovnica was once the home of Matija Čop, a linguist born in 1797. Here you can examine Čop's memorial room and view a twenty-minute film presentation of the cultural history of the ten villages under Stol (mountain).



The tasting of honey drinks and honey

Honey drinks have a rich and a hundred year long tradition. Our ancestors were acknowledged producers of honey drinks. The quality of Slovene types of honey, the knowledge and consideration of the beekeeping tradition have enabled us to produce high quality honey. You are invited to taste our honey wine, honey liqueur and the exquisite honey drink - sparkling honey wine and different types of honey.



A visit to Janša's Bee House in Breznica

Anton Janša, a notable apiarist, started his beekeeping journey in his native Breznica. Sitting by his home bee house almost 300 years ago he started building up his extensive knowledge of bees. Soon he became well-known across the Austrian lands and the first royally appointed teacher of beekeeping in Vienna. The guided tour of the reconstructed Janša's bee house and the original decorated beehive panels will provide more information on the pioneer of modern beekeeping.



A practical presentation of beekeeping and a visit to the honey products shop in Selo

With its fourth generation of beekeepers, Noč's family is a family with a rich beekeeping tradition. Today Anton and his son Boštjan manage over 300 hives. During the pasture season they move them to pastures all across Slovenia which provides them with a wide range of different types of honey. The only bee species found in their hives is the Carniolian honey bee. They breed the queen bees of this autochthonous race at the Carniolian bee breeding station in Završnica. Noč's beekeepers will introduce you to the life of a bee, the work of a beekeeper in a genuine bee house and invite you to a bee house shop where you can supply yourself with honey and different honey products of your choice.



A visit to one of the three museum houses on the Path of cultural heritage: Prešeren's, Finžgar's or Jalen's House



All three birth houses of Slovene writers are situated in authentic rural environment and have been turned into museums. They exhibit permanent collections on the lives and work of the distinguished men. While visiting Prešeren's house you will be tempted to visit St. Mark's little church and the prominent village lime tree. Finžgar's cottage overlooks the Doslovče village. Its yard offers a spectacular view of the country and the Julian Alps. In Jalen's house in Rodine you will be kindly welcomed by the Mulej family, the writer's relatives. Occasionally, the museum features theme exhibitions of Christmas cribs, bread and Easter eggs.

Lunch

You can choose between a meal cooked in a kettle in the open air where you can enjoy the impressive view of the surrounding mountains or a meal at one of the local guest houses.