

The **municipality of Apače** was established in the region of the Father of the Pannonian Oaks. It is located in northeastern Slovenia, on the Apaško Polje between Šentilj and Gornja Radgona, and between the river Mura in the north and the Slovenske Gorice hills in the south. The location of Apače is ideal for leisure, exercise and well being. The tourist trails lead you to the ventures of hiking, biking tours and pleasant trips.

Apače is the center of the municipality. The area is highly agricultural. The crop husbandry and animal husbandry are the most common on the plain, and the vineyards and fruit plantations on the edges of the valley.

The territory of the municipality has a rich and diverse heritage. Development opportunities are based above all on the **natural heritage** (the river Mura with its lethargies and inundation forests, ramsons, the forest resort Arda, the branch of the river Mura, the father of the Pannonian oaks), **cultural heritage** (the mounds, the remains from the Roman period, a number of sacral objects in the form of stone and brick monuments, the plague memorials, the parish church, the baroque castle Freudenau in Črnci, the old mills ...) and diverse **tourist facilities** (Tourist and Recreation Center Konjišče, wineries, tourist farms ...). Local residents like to eat well, and offer a rich range of domestic dishes, which is one of the attractiveness of the province. The diverse menu of rural cuisine has been developed into gourmet's specialties. Ramsons is served in various forms, among the specialties there are Styrian sour cream soup, mushroom soup, buckwheat porridge, „kvasenica“, meat in lard, „prleška gibanica“, pork, „mlinci“, sauerkraut, buckwheat mush, salad with pumpkin seed oil etc.

The municipality of Apače extends over on 53,2 square kilometers and has about 3800 inhabitants. It incorporates the villages of Apače, Črnci, Drobtlinci, Grabe, Janhova, Lešane, Lutverci, Mahovci, Nasova, Novi Vrh, Plitvica, Podgorje, Pogled, Segovci, Spodnje Konjišče, Stogovci, Vratja Vas, Vratji Vrh, Zgornje Konjišče, Žepovci and Ziberci.

- 1 Tourist and Recreation Center Konjišče
- 2 Father of the Pannonian Oaks
- 3 gravel pits, fish ponds
- 4 inundation forest
- 5 ramsons
- 6 meadows, fields
- 7 bicycle and pedestrian bridge - crossing over the river Mura
- 8 lethargy of the river Mura
- 9 parish church of St. Mary's Assumption (13th c.)
- 10 sacral memorial (1873)
- 11 sacral memorial (17th century)
- 12 sacral memorial with a niche (16th century)
- 13 fish pond, resting place
- 14 river Mura, inundation forest
- 15 plague memorial (1667)
- 16 Roman mounds
- 17 wood of oaks and beeches, an important shelter for wildlife
- 18 an open chapel of the Three crosses, representing Calvary
- 19 Little America, wooded area
- 20 mounds of unknown age

- 21 site where the bronze axe was found
- 22 three-storey sacral memorial (19th century)
- 23 stone sacral memorial with the statue of St. Paul (1682)
- 24 two-storey bell tower with a sundial (1867)
- 25 plague memorial (1682)
- 26 Roman remains
- 27 sacral memorial (18th century)
- 28 schoolhouse (1836)
- 29 triangular sacral memorial (19th century)
- 30 Mlinski potok - channel of the river Mura
- 31 two-storey sacral memorial with a bell (19th century)
- 32 sacral memorial with a chapel (17th century)
- 33 plague memorial made of grey limestone (1609)
- 34 chapel of St. Mary (19th century)
- 35 old mill
- 36 two-part French park
- 37 baroque castle Freudenau (17th century)
- 38 plague memorials
- 39 typical flat land village
- 40 forester's lodge
- 41 area of sacral objects
- 42 old fire engine

- Coffee-house, sweetshop
- Guest-house, accommodation
- Restaurant, inn
- Tourist farm
- Winery
- Wine shop
- Fishing
- Garage mechanic
- Bank, cash-machine
- Shop
- Church
- Mill
- Pharmacy
- Doctor
- Information
- Post office
- Archaeological site
- Castle
- Natural monument
- Viewpoint
- Sports hall
- Cemetery
- Petrol station

- GEOLOGICAL TRAIL
- RAMSONS TRAIL
- TRAIL FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE
- OLD OAK TRAIL

Tourist information
+386 31 / 30 70 10

Tourist Trails in the Region of the



FATHER of the Pannonian Oaks

THE GEOLOGICAL TRAIL

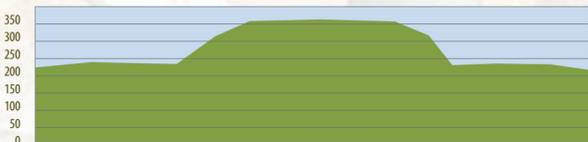
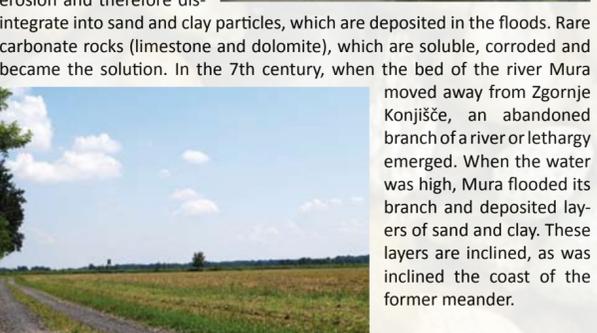
The **Geological Trail** of the Apače Valley is suitable for better prepared cyclists because the inclination sometimes rises to more than 12 %. It is about eighteen kilometers long. Half of The Geological Trail winds on the side roads and avoids the main road, but the crossings require concentration and watchfulness. The trail

is mostly asphalt.

Apače plain on the right bank of the river Mura is embraced by Slovenske Gorice hills. The river has significantly shaped the natural and cultural heritage of the area, with the bends, gravel pits, islands, branches of the river and lethargies, with a typical inundation flora, fish, and gray heron nests. Stagnant water is ideal habitat for wild geese. Pebbles, carried by the river Mura, come from the Eastern Alps. On the surface the metamorphic and igneous rocks dominate, consequently the sandbank of the river has the same structure. Of the sedimentary rocks only quartz sandstone and conglomerate can be found. These rocks are very hard and resistant to erosion, so they easily withstand the transportation. Other rocks are less resistant to erosion and therefore disintegrate into sand and clay particles, which are deposited in the floods. Rare carbonate rocks (limestone and dolomite), which are soluble, corroded and became the solution. In the 7th century, when the bed of the river Mura moved away from Zgornje Konjišče, an abandoned branch of a river or lethargy emerged. When the water was high, Mura flooded its branch and deposited layers of sand and clay. These layers are inclined, as was inclined the coast of the former meander.



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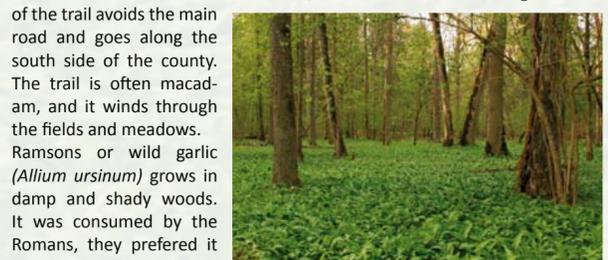
Trail difficulty: moderate
Length: 18 km
Average altitude: 264 m
Inclination: 12 %

The Geological Trail of the Apače Valley begins in **Zgornje Konjišče**, where you will find the geological map of the Apače Valley and the river terraces. You will learn how lethargies emerge, which fish swim in the ponds and how the birds, that you are admiring, live. The trail continues down the river towards **Spodnje Konjišče**. On the left side there is a broad-leaved alluvial forest, on the right lies predominantly agricultural area with small areas of vegetation - **Žiberci meadows**. After about three kilometers, the road turns south. Between arable land and the lethargies of Mura there are few typical farms. After crossing the stream, you reach the village **Žiberci**, where a plague memorial and a chapel from the 17th century stand and also a two-storey memorial with the bell from the middle of the 19th century. The trail leads on through the southern part of the village **Stogovci** where it rises to the slopes. After a good two-kilometer climb you arrive to **Pogled**, which, after shady wooded slopes, rises sharply above Apače Valley and reaches a height of 335 meters above sea level. After enjoying the miraculous view, you set out on your way down the slope through the village **Vratji Vrh**. You can admire the panorama of the lakes, forests, fields, vineyards, meadows, villages. You return to **Zgornje Konjišče** on the main road through **Vratja Vas**.



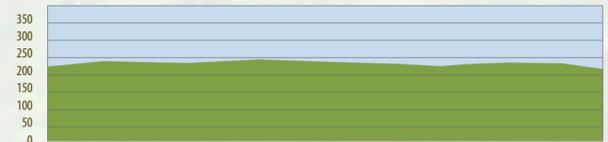
THE RAMSONS TRAIL

The **Ramsons Trail** is approximately twenty-three kilometers long. It is suitable for families and Sunday cyclists as it leads through the plains of the Apače Valley. The Ramsons Trail crosses the main road a few times, so be careful when crossing. One half of the trail avoids the main road and goes along the south side of the county. The trail is often macadam, and it winds through the fields and meadows. Ramsons or wild garlic (*Allium ursinum*) grows in damp and shady woods. It was consumed by the Romans, they preferred it over garlic. Ramsons is edible, but we can not consume it in excessive quantities. We can use the leaves, bulbs, flowers and fruits. The flowers have stronger flavor, old leaves weaker. Most people pick leaves, because they are easier to find. In Apače Valley you can try it and assess its taste. You can pick ramsons yourself on the way along the river Mura, when fresh, it is excellent spice and side dish for various dishes. The best time to find it is in the spring when the delicate white flowers and characteristic smell of garlic will draw your attention - ramsons is its close relative, some even use it as a spice instead of garlic. Ramsons is often served as a seasonal culinary specialty with a series of different recipes (salads, spreads, soups ...) and other products.



RAMSONS: Ramsons is similar to two very toxic plants: lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majus*) and meadow saffron (*Colchicum autumnale*), which do not smell of garlic.

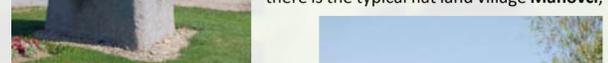
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Trail difficulty: easy
Length: 23 km
Average altitude: 222 m
Inclination: 2 %

The Ramsons Trail starts in **Zgornje Konjišče**, on the plains of the river Mura, it leads towards **Spodnje Konjišče** and continues through the **Žepovci meadows** among fields and patches of forest.

Sharp turn after about five kilometers takes you to the river Mura and the bicycle and pedestrian bridge in **Črnci**, where you can refresh yourself and enjoy watching the waves of the Mura. The next stop is in **Apače**, the center of the municipality, with plenty of attractions that can not be missed. Then you turn towards **Črnci**. In the southwest there is the typical flat land village **Mahovci**,



in the west the village **Žepovci** where you can rest for a moment and admire the plague memorial from 1609. The following villages are **Žiberci**, **Drobtinci** and **Stogovci**, but the journey is not over yet. Slightly tired and satisfied - because the trail is not difficult! - you return through the village **Podgorje**, on the way you pass a stone plague memorial with the statue of St. Paul from 1682 and a plague memorial from 1682. The trail ends in **Zgornje Konjišče**.



THE TRAIL FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE

On the trail **From Village to Village**, you will get to know our municipality as a whole. The trail is approximately thirty-two kilometers long and is suitable for families and recreational cyclists; beside sport activities it offers excursions to the natural and cultural attractions of our municipality. The trail From Village to Village runs mostly on the main road, so caution is recommended. Part of the trail avoids the main road and runs along the south side of the municipality. The trail is mostly asphalt.

The area of Apaško Polje has been inhabited since the Neolithic times. In the early Middle Ages and before various tribes (Illyrians, Celts, Romans, Germans, Huns, Lombards ...) settled here. The physical remains are visible in the form of the Illyrian and Roman mounds, located in the surrounding forests. In the lobby of the Freudenau mansion in Črnci there is a Roman medallion built in the wall; it tells a story about the love of the Roman spouses from the 2nd century.

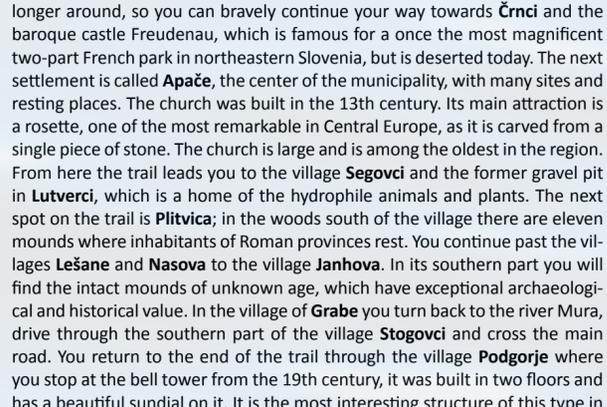
Typical for this region are condensed villages on the plain and small scattered settlements on the hills. The proximity of the river Mura and fertile soil made this area very suitable for cultivation. Already in the 12th and early 13th century, the villages Plitvica, Črnci and Apače were mentioned. The villages and their inhabitants were largely dependent on the river, its benevolence and moodiness. Floods were often disastrous and destroyed whole villages.



Trail difficulty: easy
Length: 32 km
Average altitude: 241 m
Inclination: 2 %

Quickly after the start in **Zgornje Konjišče** the trail turns south to the village **Podgorje** and follows the main road towards the village **Stogovci**, where on the terrace above the old riverbed south of the village there are foundations of Roman buildings, pavement, mosaics and ceramics. The remains of Roman buildings - villa rustica - are important for the study of Roman life in the countryside, not only in this area but on the entire Slovenian territory in relation to the Alps and Pannonian plains. Inhabitants of Apaško Polje have been engaged mainly in agriculture, viticulture, crafts, and their specialty were numerous mills, which were propelled by water from the special channel of the river Mura, the 11-mills channel. Some of the old mills still stand today, for example in **Črnci** and **Segovci**. On the trail From Village to Village, you will be surprised by the number of chapels, artfully constructed crosses and plague memorials. These were built between the 15th and 18th century as a warning for the newcomers that the plague is in the country. Fortunately, the plague is no longer around, so you can bravely continue your way towards **Črnci** and the baroque castle Freudenau, which is famous for a once the most magnificent two-part French park in northeastern Slovenia, but is deserted today. The next settlement is called **Apače**, the center of the municipality, with many sites and resting places. The church was built in the 13th century. Its main attraction is a rosette, one of the most remarkable in Central Europe, as it is carved from a single piece of stone. The church is large and is among the oldest in the region. From here the trail leads you to the village **Segovci** and the former gravel pit in **Lutverci**, which is a home of the hydrophile animals and plants. The next spot on the trail is **Plitvica**; in the woods south of the village there are eleven mounds where inhabitants of Roman provinces rest. You continue past the villages **Lešane** and **Nasova** to the village **Janhova**. In its southern part you will find the intact mounds of unknown age, which have exceptional archaeological and historical value. In the village of **Grabe** you turn back to the river Mura, drive through the southern part of the village **Stogovci** and cross the main road. You return to the end of the trail through the village **Podgorje** where you stop at the bell tower from the 19th century, it was built in two floors and has a beautiful sundial on it. It is the most interesting structure of this type in Apače municipality. The end of the trail is in **Zgornje Konjišče**.

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THE OLD OAK TRAIL

The **Old Oak Trail** is the trail of the perception of space and time, the growth and the passing away, discovering and recognizing the almightiness of nature. The trail is suitable for better prepared cyclists because the inclination sometimes rises to more than 12 %. The Old Oak Trail avoids the main roads where traffic is otherwise rare, but caution is the mother of wisdom. The trail runs along the river Mura and is relatively demanding, sandy and suitable for the more adventurous ventures. Along the river there are groves of willows and poplars, the inundation forest of oaks and hornbeams. In ancient times, 1350 years ago, a mighty oak on the bank of the river Mura tumbled into the water. Mura seems a very quiet river, but when the snow melts in the Alps, the river changes into a mountain torrent. It changes its course very fast. The branch of the river, in which the oak tree fell, was soon filled up with gravel and sand. In 1999, during the restoration of abandoned gravel pits, a thick tree trunk was found. In 2005 the oak was fully excavated. The data suggest that this was once a mighty tree. Now "the father of the Pannonian oaks" is resting in the embrace of its authentic guardian and can be freely seen.



The diverse and changing flora offers good environment to the animals. The fields, meadows and forests provide favorable opportunities for low-life game such as rabbit, pheasant, partridge and quail. Gravel pits, river branches, lethargies and inundation groves are the most varied and diverse habitats. They are populated with numerous vegetal and animal species, many are on the list of rare and endangered species; the reason for that is in most cases the disappearance of their homes (black stork, sand martin, kingfisher, little tern, earthworm, dragonfly, butterflies, amphibians, reptiles, mammals ...). Especially interesting and varied is the plant life of stagnant water, which is covered with yellow water-lilies, water soldiers, bladderworts and common duckweed. Water reeds, rushes, arrowheads and flowering rush protect the banks of the lethargies from flooding. Flora also overgrows many gravel pits, which are eventually transformed into seemingly natural habitats.

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The Old Oak Trail leads from **Zgornje Konjišče** towards **Spodnje Konjišče** and continues through the **Žepovci meadows**, with the fields and deciduous woods at your side. After about three kilometers you approach the river Mura, pass the lethargy in **Mihovci** and continue towards the bicycle and pedestrian bridge in **Črnci** where you can rest and refresh yourself. At this point you can switch to another trail or you can continue to the east along the river Mura and visit the village **Lutverci** and stay true to the old oak tree. You cross the main road in Lutverci and keep walking towards the south. Not far from the village there is a beautiful pond, suitable for picnics and fishing. From here the trail leads to the slopes of the Slovenske Gorice hills and further to the village of **Plitvica**. There you turn towards the west and pass the villages **Lešane**, **Nasova** and **Janhova** through the forests and hills. North of those villages there is a wooded area of **Arda**, the remains of the Pannonian primeval forest and an important shelter for wildlife. In the southern part of The Old Oak Trail there are many chapels, crosses and plague memorials. In the village of **Grabe**, a mild slope begins to rise and develops into a steep path. The effort and persistence pay off with a beautiful panoramic view from **Pogled** and **Vratji Vrh** that reaches far beyond the Slovenian borders. The trail ends after approximately thirty-five kilometers in **Zgornje Konjišče**.



Trail difficulty: difficult
Length: 35 km
Average altitude: 270 m
Inclination: 12 %

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