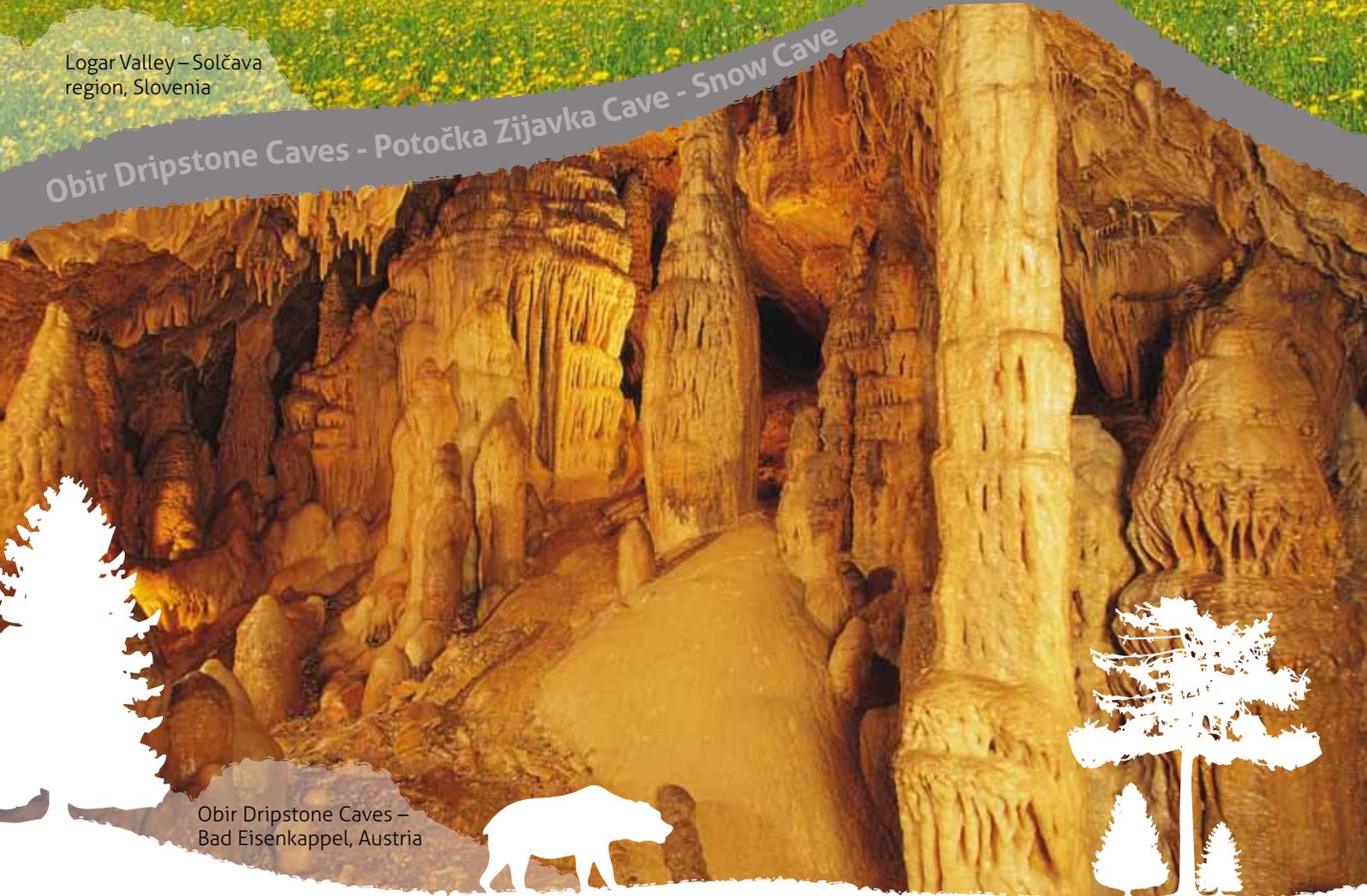




Logar Valley – Solčava region, Slovenia

Obir Dripstone Caves - Potočka Zijavka Cave - Snow Cave



Obir Dripstone Caves – Bad Eisenkappel, Austria

*CAVETours*

The secret tip for nature lovers, families, hikers and cyclists.



## Welcome to the beautiful landscape of two countries, Slovenia and Austria.

Welcome to cave adventures – Cavetours.



Bad Eisenkappel

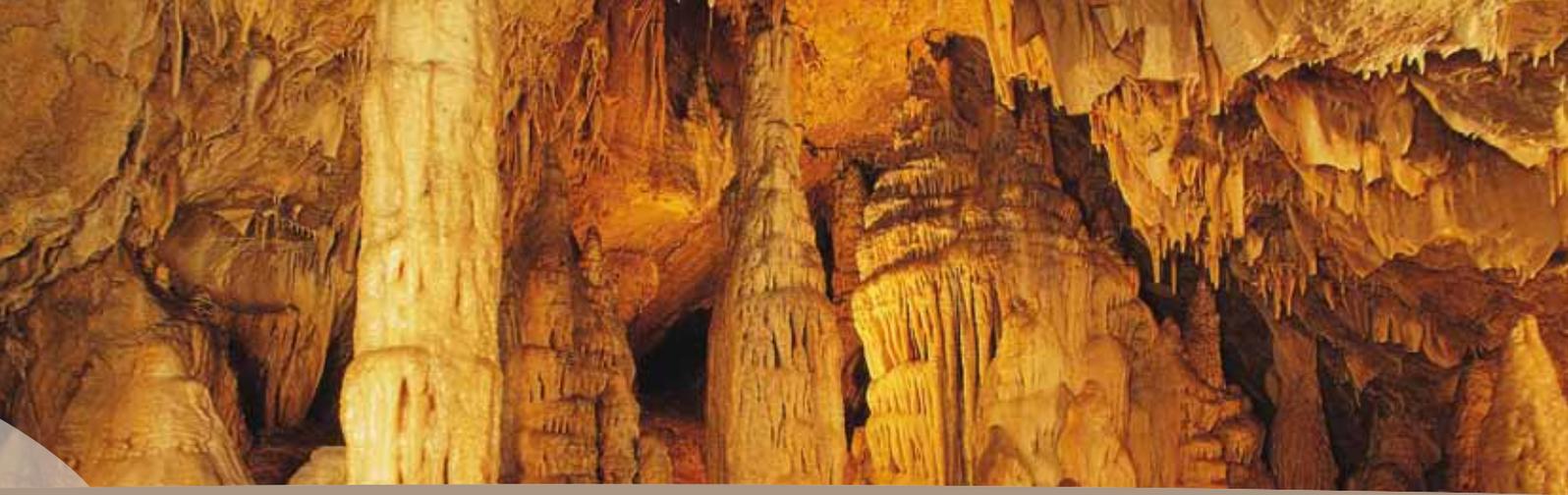
The neighbouring municipalities of Bad Eisenkappel in Austria and Solčava in Slovenia are connected not only due to their unique natural heritage, but also due to their century-long cultural exchange.

Nevertheless, each region has preserved its own special characteristics.

The Cavetours project emphasizes exciting cave adventures and a rich heritage, which can be found in this part of the east Karavanke/ Karawanken and the Kamnik-Savinja Alps.

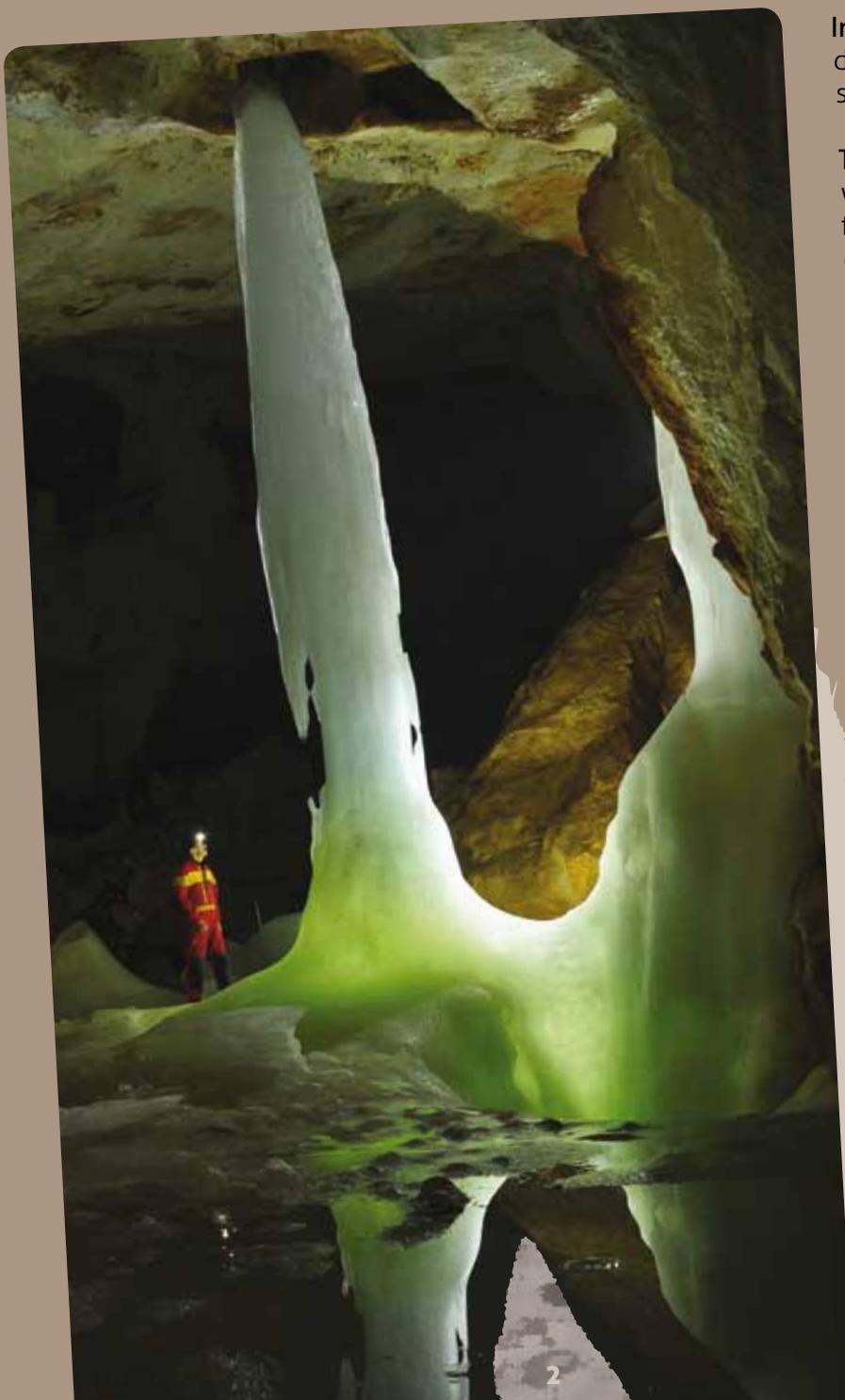


Solčava



Obir Dripstone Caves

The Obir Dripstone Caves in Austria are a mixture of charming living dripstones and the enthusiasm for the former mine.



In the Snow Cave in Slovenia dripstones and fascinating ice sculptures can be viewed.

The Potočka Zijavka Cave, which can easily be reached from both regions at the border, belongs to the most important archaeological and palaeontological finds in Europe.

Here bones of cave bears from 35,000 years ago were found. The skull of one of the bears can also be seen at the Obir Dripstone Caves. The cave served as a shelter and a ritual place for Ice Age humans, which is showcased at the permanent exhibition at the Firšt Inn and Museum in Solčava.

The Ice Age hunters camp at the Rogar farm, which is located at the foot of the Olševa mountain, showcases the life of the so called Cro-Magnon humans. The way towards the Potočka Zijavka Cave leads here.

Snow Cave (Snežna jama)

## CROSSING BORDERS



Hiking on the border between Slovenia and Austria.

On both sides of the border, people looking for relaxation and an active holiday can find natural treasures which have elsewhere already lost their original characteristics.

A touch of adventure in the landscape of extraordinary beauty, marked by an ancient culture, tradition and customs.

Bad Eisenkappel is the southernmost Austrian municipality. It is a **health resort**, a **climate protecting municipality** and part of the **Karavanke Geopark**.

The **Solčava municipality** is located in northern Slovenia in the area of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps. It is mostly known after three parallel alpine valleys: the Logar Valley, the Robanov kot valley and the Matkov kot valley. In 2009, the Solčava region received the title **European Destination of Excellence**.



Views unveiled by natural attractions



## STORIES THAT CONNECT

Already in the year 1000 the people from today's Koroška region have settled on the sunny slopes at the foot of the Olševa mountain. The mountain routes between Bad Eisenkappel and Solčava were important in the Middle Ages. The alliance between mountain farms and the sale of produce also has a long tradition. The opening of the Pavlič Pass has made these possibilities even easier on both sides of the border.

Before this, people had to travel one hundred kilometres before they arrived at the other side of the border. The locals, however, took shortcuts on the so called smuggling routes, where it is still possible to cross the border today. The residents of Bad Eisenkappel and Solčava love to visit traditional church meetings at Šentlenart or Sveti Duh and other events, which connect people on both sides of the border.

## Romantic view

While driving through the Pavlič Pass, a breathtaking panorama view of the mountains in the region and the area at the border opens up. The romance with magnificent nature continues on the well-known Solčava panoramic road and deep down in the Logar Valley at the foot of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps.

At the top of the elongated ridge of the Olševa border mountain, everything around unites into a magnificent whole.

## SIGHTS

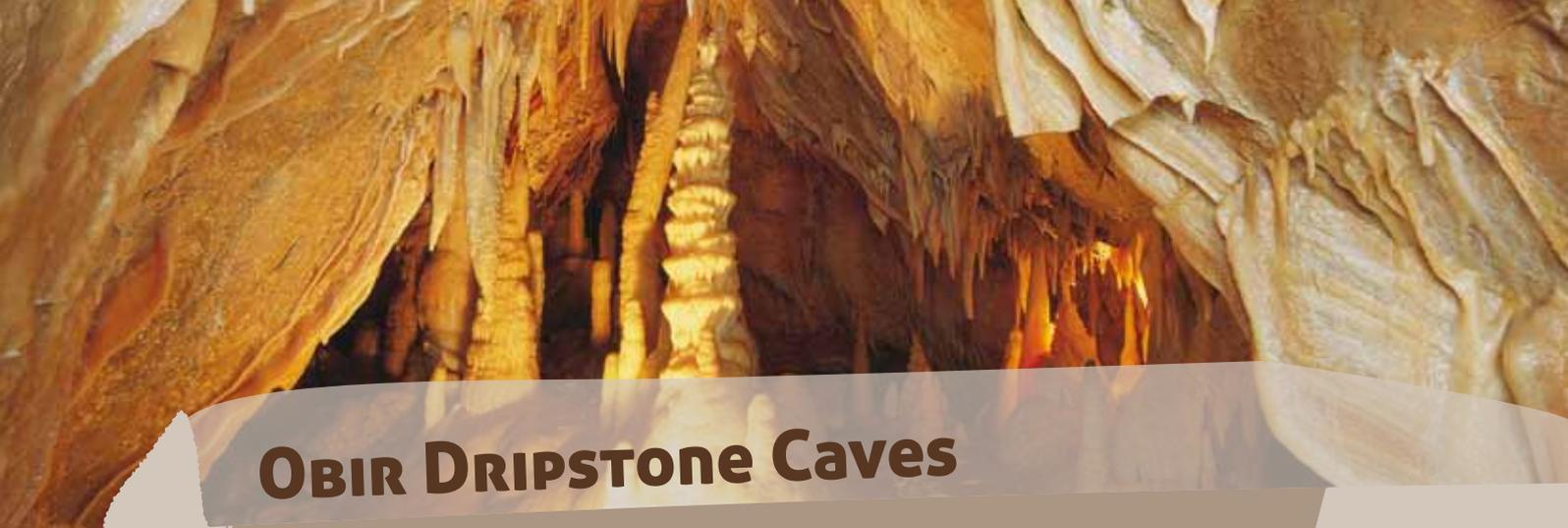
### BAD EISENKAPPEL

Obir Dripstone Caves / health resort and spa / Trögernbach Gorge / Vellacher Kotschna / Museum of classic cars and farming equipment / Tourist information centre of the Karavanke Geopark / health resort / climatic health resort

### LOGAR VALLEY – SOLČAVA REGION

Two landscape parks: Logar Valley and Robanov kot valley / Potočka Zijavka Cave / Fidova Zijavka Cave / Šikančeva Zijavka Cave / Snow Cave at Raduha / Solčava yew tree / European Destination of Excellence / NATURA 2000 network / Gothic Church of St. Mary of the Snows / Firšt Museum / Rinka Centre





# OBIR DRIPSTONE CAVES

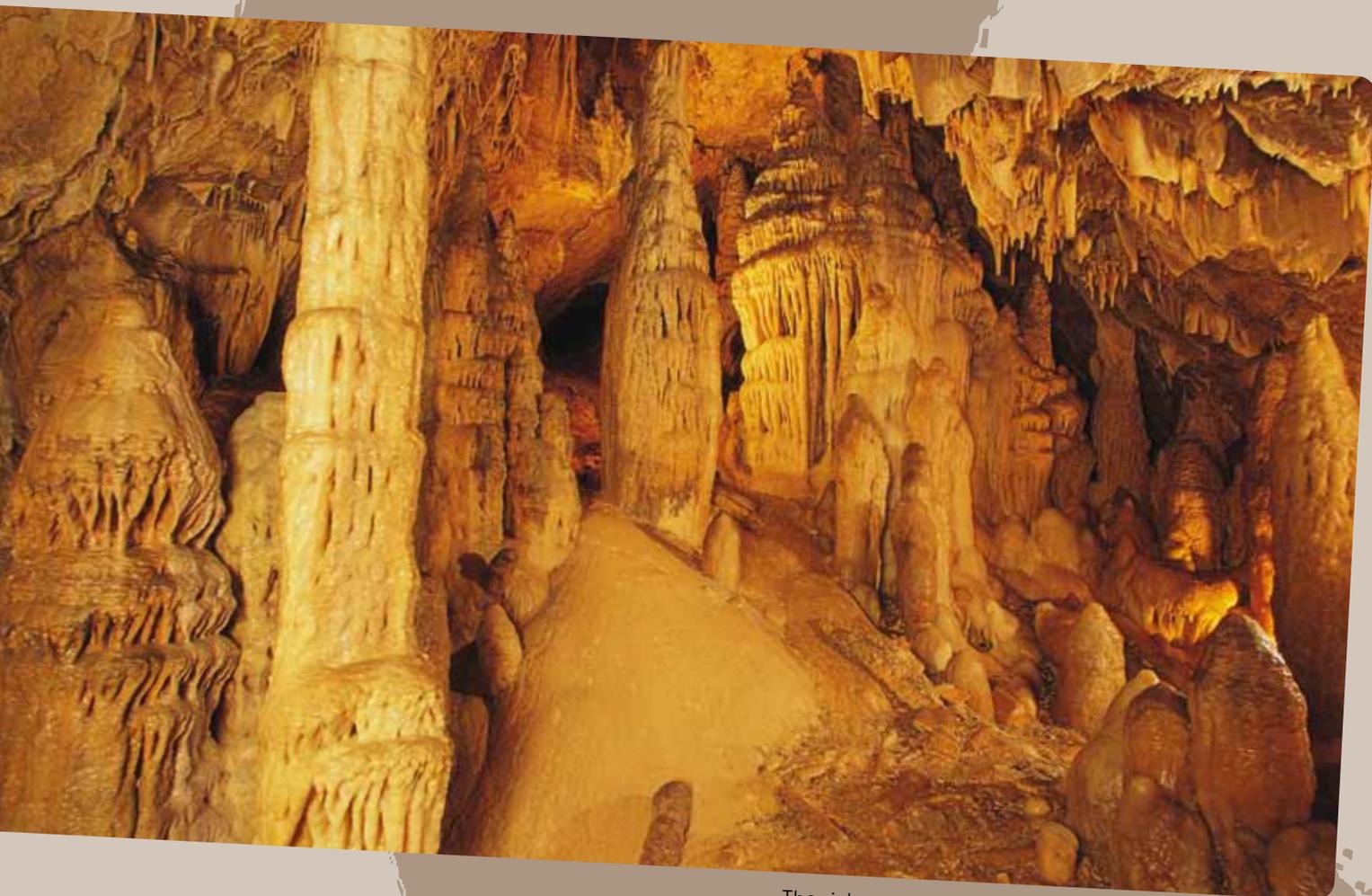
**THE MOST FASCINATING NATURAL SIGHT IN AUSTRIA.**

The **Obir Dripstone Caves** fascinate with their incredible link between nature and people and also connect the history of 200 million years with modern technology.

The **live dripstones** are a real European rarity. The multimedia effects during the visit of the Obir Dripstone Caves accentuate the great natural spectacle. The caves were discovered in 1870, when miners were looking for lead and zinc. The mining tracks are still visible today.

The **underground adventure park** is 800 metres long and offers an unforgettable experience for the entire family.

More information at [www.hoehlen.at](http://www.hoehlen.at).



The richness of dripstones in the Obir Dripstone Caves.



# Karavanke Geopark

## SECRETS WRITTEN IN STONE

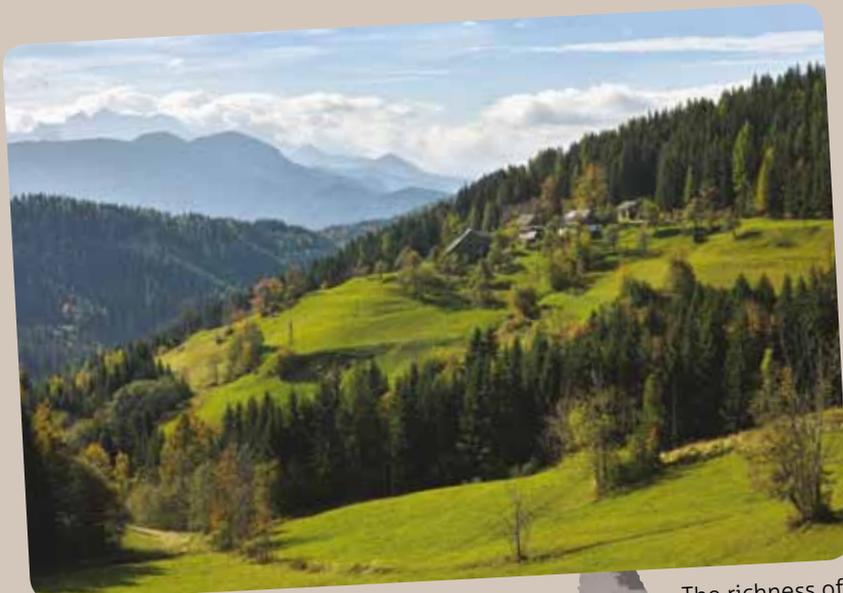
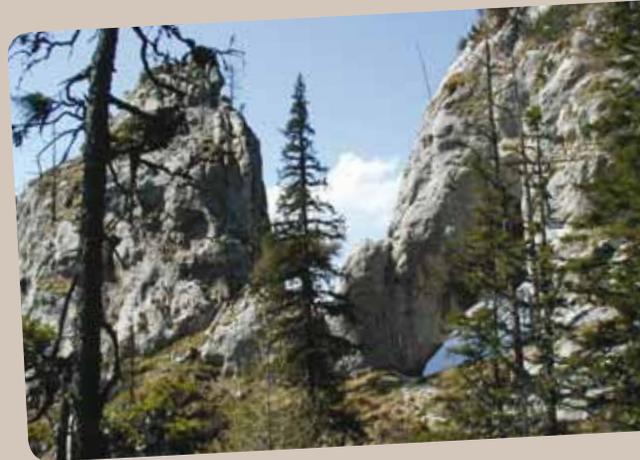
The Karavanke Geopark represents an exceptional geological and regional heritage at the border area between Austria and Slovenia. It was founded in 2013 within the global **geopark network** under the patronage of **UNESCO**. The Karavanke Geopark is distinguished by its location that crosses borders and the mutually advantageous diversity of the two cultures. The **geological line between the Eurasian and the African plate** runs here, so visitors can literally stand with one foot in Africa and the other in Europe.

The **Geopark Interpretation Centre in Bad Eisenkappel** offers an excellent insight into the diversity of the Geopark Karavanke.

More information at [www.geopark-karawanken.at](http://www.geopark-karawanken.at).

**GEOPARK**KARAVANKE|KARAWANKEN

Skrivnosti zapisane v kamninah  
In Stein geschriebene Geheimnisse



The richness of Geopark is in rocks, hills, canyons, mineral water springs ...

# CAVE Tours

# LOGAR VALLEY SOLČAVSKO

Landscape Park Logar Valley

## THE HARMONY OF THREE VALLEYS

### Logarska dolina Solčavsko

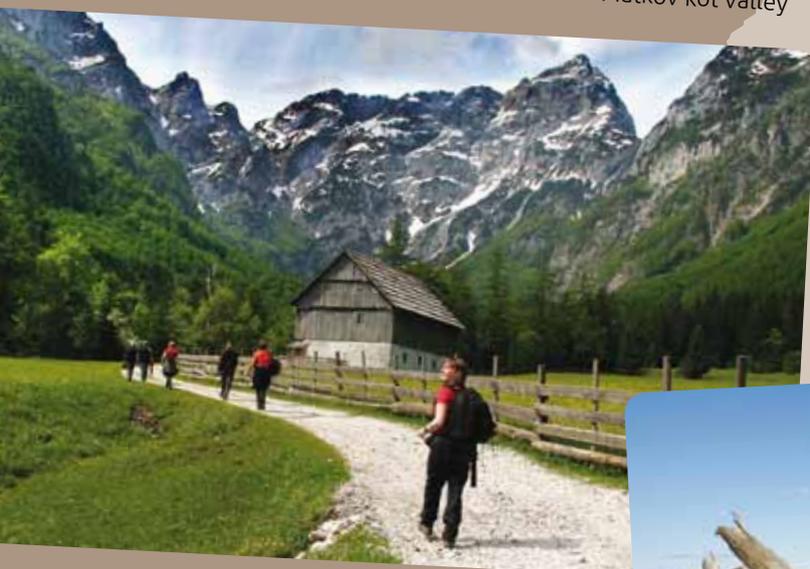
The Logar Valley Solčavsko region is an area which attracts visitors with its beauty, but offers a lot more.

The three valleys are carved into the embrace of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps and the Karavanke: the Logar Valley, the Robanov kot valley and the Matkov kot valley. The Logar Valley and the Robanov kot valley are protected landscape parks.

The Solčava panoramic road between the Matkov kot valley and the Podolševa hamlet connects some of the biggest farms in the entire Alps. From here beautiful views of the chain of alpine tops and the valleys below open up. On the sunny slopes flocks of the well-known and respected Jezersko - Solčava sheep graze.



Matkov kot valley



Landscape Park Robanov kot



Jezersko - Solčava sheep



Potočka Zijavka Cave

On the slope of the Olševa mountain the **Potočka Zijavka Cave** opens, which is an **exceptional archaeological site from the old Stone Age**.

At the Raduha mountain over the Luče village, the door is open for visitors at the highest tourist cave in Slovenia – the **Snow Cave**.

There are many other caves in the area, among them the **Fidova and Šikančeva zijavka Caves**, which have saved many interesting stories from the past. A sea used to be here. This is proven by **the notable fossil finds from the middle Triassic**, which are exhibited at the **informational centre** of the Rinka Centre. The Rinka Centre invites you with various other exhibitions and activities.

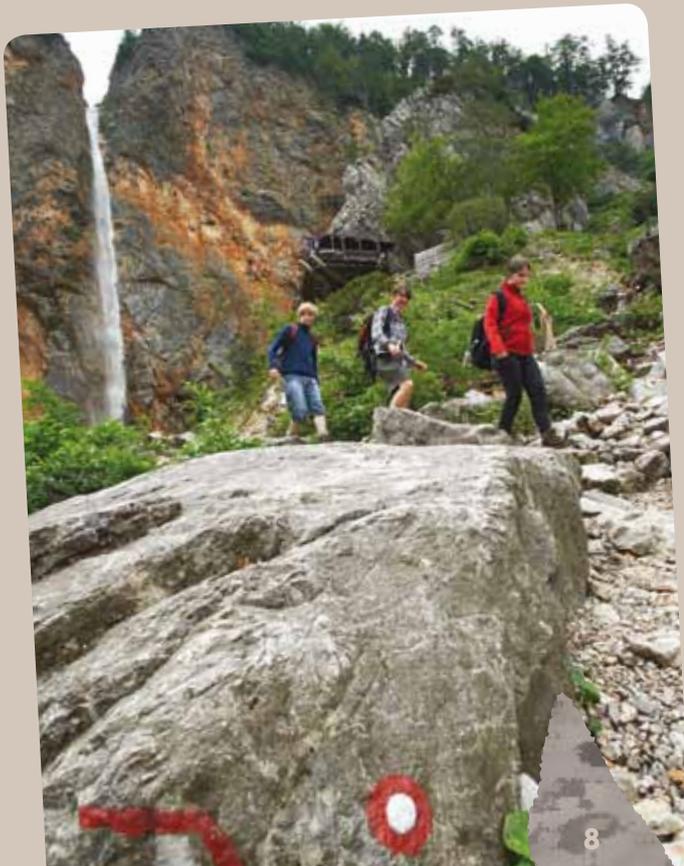
More information at [www.logarska-solcavsko.si](http://www.logarska-solcavsko.si).



Šikančeva Zijavka Cave



Fidova Zijavka Cave



Rinka waterfall



Snow Cave (Snežna jama)

**CAVE**Tours

# Potočka Zijavka Cave

SILENT WITNESS OF LIFE 35,000 years' ago



The oldest needle in the world

The Potočka Zijavka at the Olševa mountain is the first Slovenian researched archaeological site from the old Stone Age (Palaeolithic). In the cave many skeletons of cave bears and other Ice Age animals were found.

35,000 years ago a primitive man, named Cro-Magnon, also left his tracks in the Potočka Zijavka. The oldest sewing needle, made of bone, and various tools, bone tips, bone flutes, iron ore (ochre) dye and a number of fireplaces were found here as well.

New discoveries show that the Potočka Zijavka was a ritual place of the Cro-Magnon hunters.

Archaeological finds from the Potočka Zijavka are kept at the Celje Regional Museum. By the road leading into the Logar Valley, a permanent exhibition on the Potočka Zijavka can be seen at the Firšt Inn and Museum.

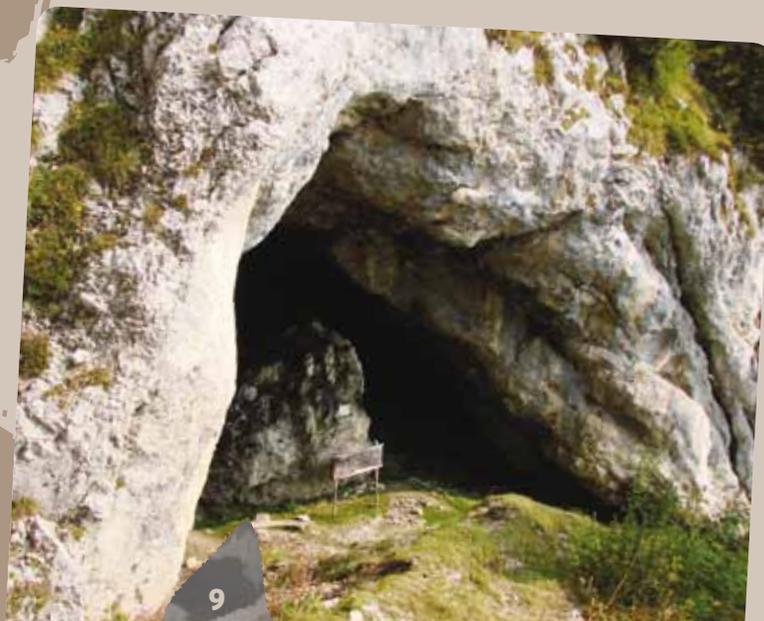
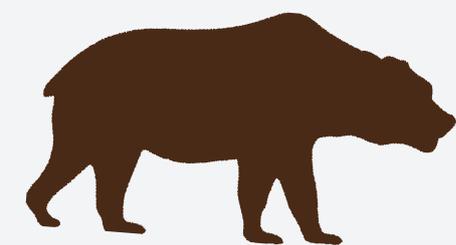
The thematic Bear Trail leads from the Firšt Inn and Museum to the renowned archaeological site. The trail attracts the visitor's attention with interesting stories and information, among them is the camp of the Cro-Magnon hunters at the Rogar farm.



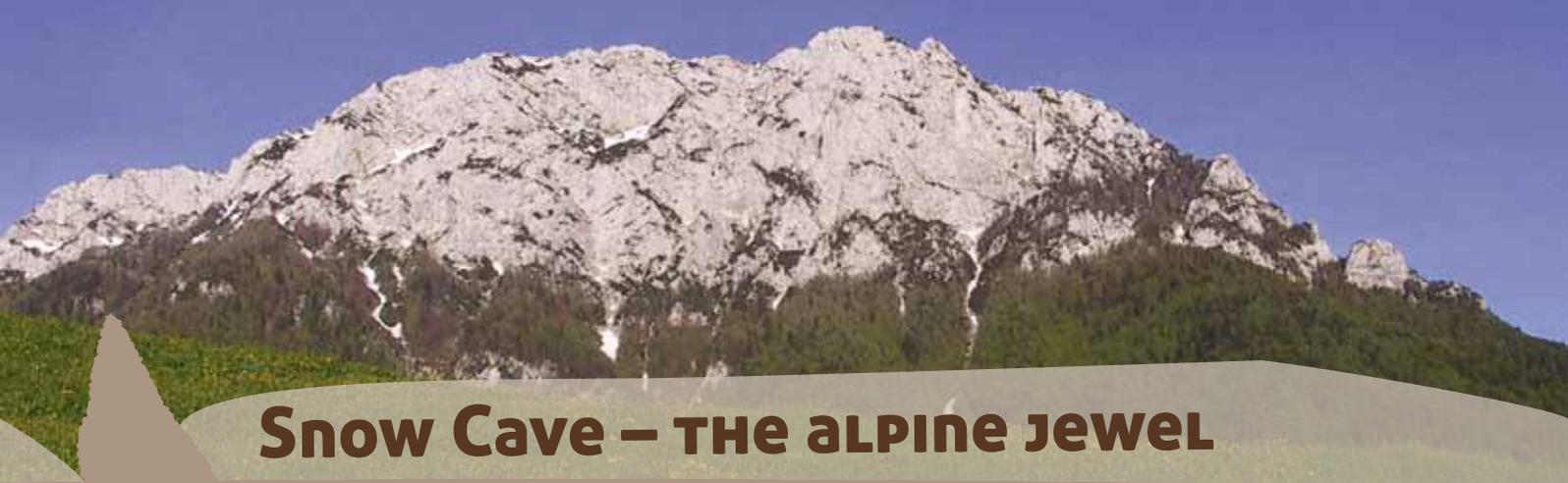
Ancient Flute



Bone Points



The new Bear Trail leads into the Potočka Zijavka Cave.



## Snow Cave – THE alpine jewel

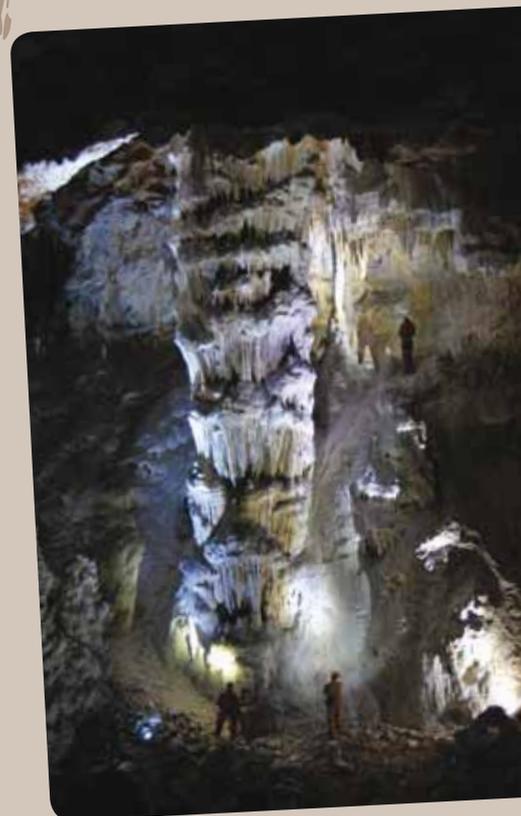
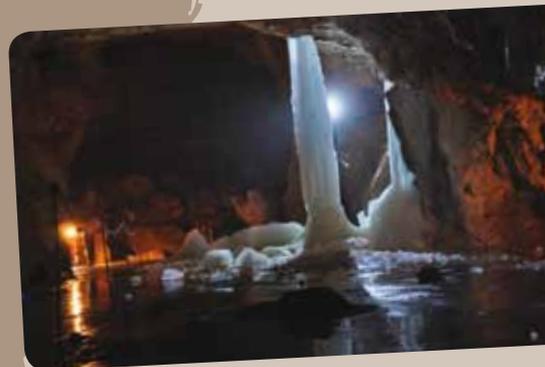
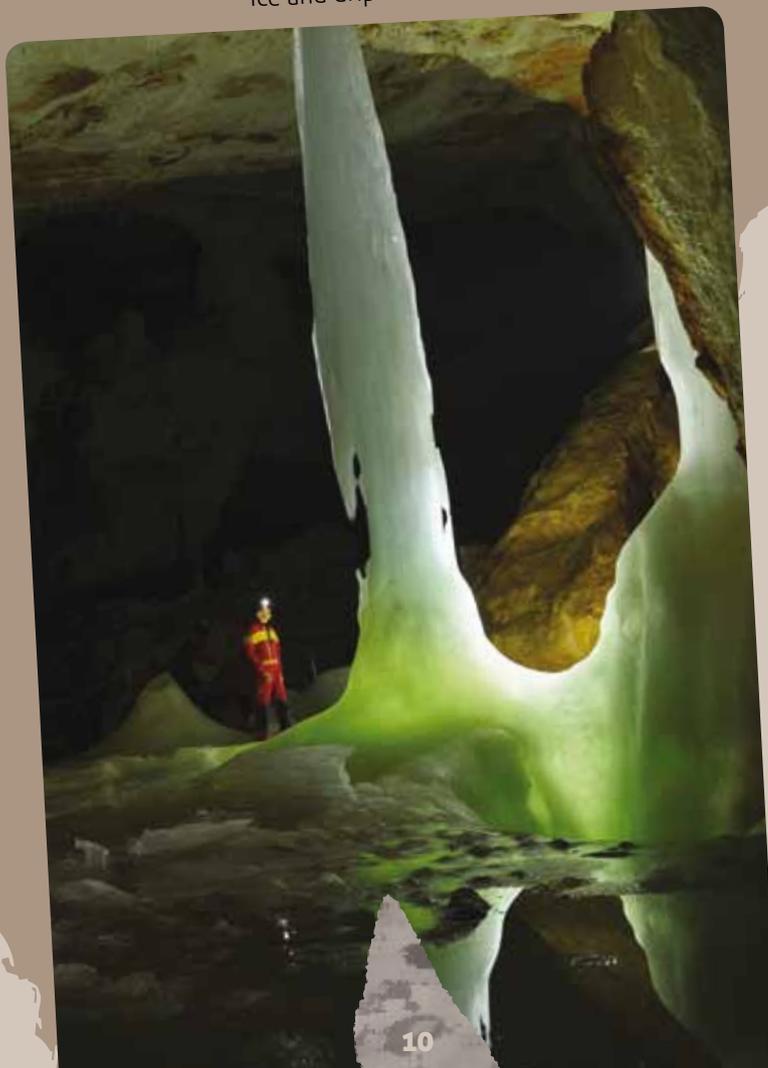
The Snow Cave at the Raduha mountain is the highest lying tourist cave in Slovenia and a real European karst phenomenon.

Despite the altitude of 1,500 metres, the cave boasts exceptional dripstone formations. Interesting ice sculptures in the first part of the cave system contribute to the special charm of the cave.

Discovering the dripstone and ice formations of the Snow Cave in the light of carbide lamps is an unforgettable experience. The Snow cave can only be accessed in the warm period of the year. The temperature in the cave is around -1 to +4°C, therefore we recommend you wear warm clothing and shoes.

More information at [www.snezna-jama.com](http://www.snezna-jama.com).

Ice and dripstone formations of the Snow Cave.



CAVETours



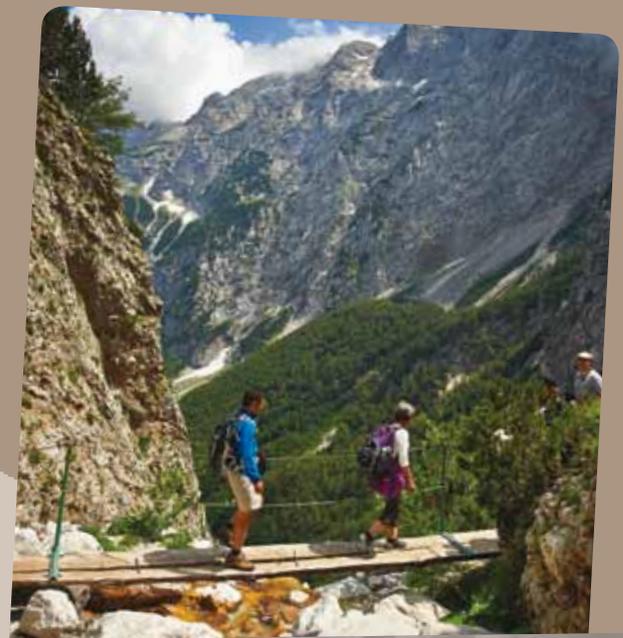
## On the way TOWARDS THE mountains



Well marked and kept **hiking trails** lead to the **mountain lodges and tops** of the Karavanke and the Kamnik-Savinja Alps. The valleys and slopes are covered by **thematic trails**, revealing numerous natural and cultural sights.

Hiking maps and equipment are available at the information points. It is a special adventure to go on a hike with a guide, who knows the trails, the area and fascinating stories.

The colourful flowers and the waters of the Trögernbach Gorge while taking a spring walk, the fresh coolness of the waterfalls while hiking through the Logar Valley in the summer heat and various other hidden spots of this alpine garden invite us to come back again and again.





## CYCLING IN THE VALLEYS AND SLOPES

Cyclists enjoy the picturesque ride on the Solčava panoramic road past the Pavlič Pass into Bad Eisenkappel, from where branched cycling trails lead in all directions.

Advanced cyclists can take a tour around the Kamnik-Savinja Alps or along the steep forest ways on the slopes.

Cycling the valleys is a pleasant activity and with electric bicycles the ride uphill is much easier. Electrical bicycles can be hired in Bad Eisenkappel, Solčava and the Logar Valley.





## **FAMILY HIKES AND DISCOVERIES – UNFORGETTABLE**

Families can experience special adventures and make discoveries while visiting the caves, natural and cultural sights and exhibitions. They can visit: the Obir Dripstone Caves, the Potočka Zijavka Cave, the Snow Cave, the Logar Valley Trail, Fidov gaj Grove, the Solčava panoramic road, the Trögrernbach Gorge, the Vellacher Kotschna and various other spots of the border area. The youngest visitors will enjoy discovering the fairy-tale forest in the Logar Valley with all their senses.

During family hikes new stories are created, which neither the young, neither the old will soon forget.

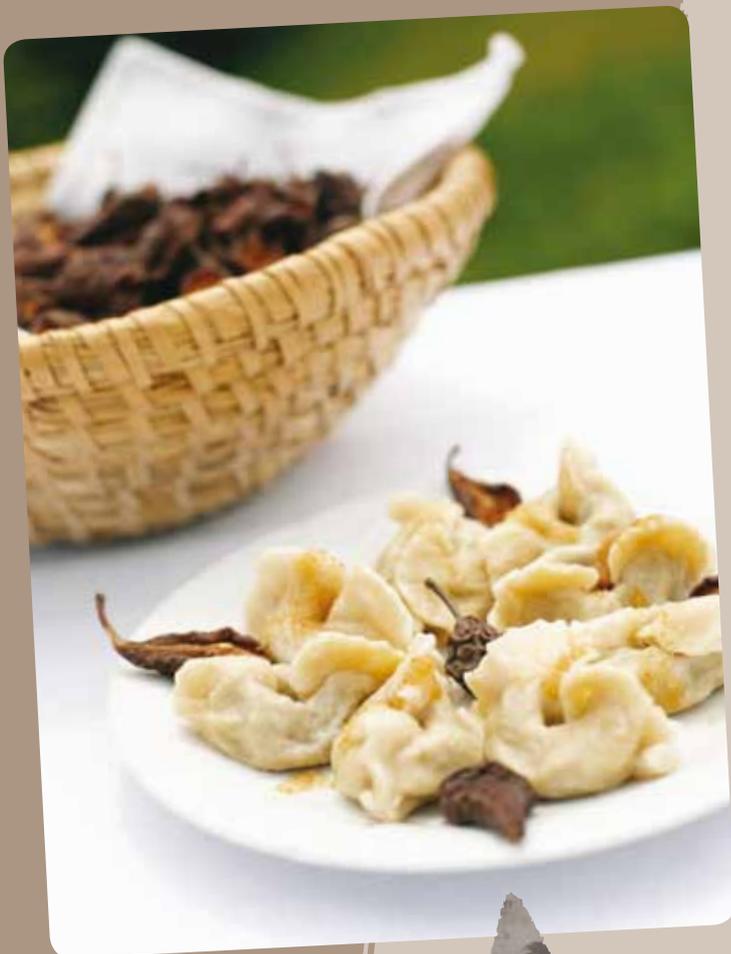




## FOOD AND NATURE – DELIGHTFUL

Get in touch with nature and respectfully taste its fruits. We invite you to enjoy culinary delights at the farms, inns, hotels, guest houses and mountain lodges.

When after discovering the surroundings, a delicious smell spreads from the kitchen, it is impossible to resist the cured meat delights and the delicious cheeses and cheese spreads on savoury freshly baked bread. When you taste the delicious dumplings (Kärntner Nudeln or Štruklji) with lamb or venison and eat sweet pastry (Kärntner Reindling) or small dumplings, filled with dry pears (Žlinkrofi), you become aware of the privileges you enjoy.





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[www.hoehlen.at](http://www.hoehlen.at)



**Investing in your future**  
Operation part financed by the European Union  
European Regional Development Fund



**Logarska dolina**  
**Solčavsko**



**Partners of the Cavetours project:** Obir-Tropfsteinhöhlen, Solčava Municipality, Rinka Centre, Albina Štifter

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