

Primorska Planinarska Transverzala

Montenegro

hiking is good

hiking is good

This guide is the result of the cooperation of an informal group of hikers from the project HikingIsGood.com. We completed it in our free time to make the lives of fellow hikers easier. Thank you for supporting us via hikingisgood.com/support

Authors:

Michal Klajban (hiking, data collection & writing)

Jan Kadera (design)

Anna G. Walker (editing)

Claire Leenen (foreword)

Contents

Foreword	02
Introduction	04
Using the guide	04
The stages	05
Navigation	06
Transport	06
Safety	07
Weather	07
Equipment	08
Sleeping	09
Food & water	09
HIKING THE PPT	11
Stage 1: Bar to Rumija massif	11
Stage 2: Rumija massif - Sutorman pass	15
Stage 3: Sutorman pass - Lovački dom	19
Stage 4: Lovački dom - Brajići	23
Stage 5: Brajići - Ivanova Korita	27
Stage 6: Ivanova Korita - Velji Zalazi	31
Stage 7: Velji Zalazi - Tvrđava Sveti Andrija	35
Stage 8: Tvrđava Sveti Andrija - Crkvice	39
Stage 9: Crkvice - Vrbanj	43
Stage 10: Vrbanj - Herceg Novi	47

Foreword from the first female Via Dinarica thru-hiker

So, you want to hike the PPT?

In June 2017 I hiked the Montenegro Coastal Trail, sama, in about eight days. This, after thru-hiking the Via Dinarica, a new 1500 kilometre long-distance trail on the Balkans, in the summer of 2016.

To me, hiking the PPT is a mini-Balkan-adventure. Starting in the south, leaving the beautiful village of Stari Bar, known for its more than 1000 year old olive tree. Feasting one last time on Burek and fresh yoghurt.

After this you'll enter the white and dry Karst mountains. I believe spring is the best time to hike this trail; who doesn't want to walk through endless fields with blooming flowers? It's also a water-wise choice in these extremely dry and warm mountains: springs are still flowing with fresh water, you'll have the biggest chance of finding water in the cisterns and, most of the time, the weather is pleasant.

Besides being an area full of history, mostly visible by the many fortresses, ancient mountain roads, and now, abandoned villages. It's also an area full of stunning nature with fabulous views over the Bay of Kotor and at the end of the trip, the amazing Subra Amphitheatre.

Even though the trail has a beautiful name and about a decade ago a lot of time and effort was put into it, there aren't a lot of people hiking it. Sometimes it's well-marked, sometimes it's heavily overgrown. You will meet some day-hikers and tourists around the more popular areas. Around the monasteries you might meet a nun and maybe you'll see some local hikers near a shelter or a popular peak. If you're lucky you might meet one of the last shepherds guarding their cattle in this area. However, most of the time you'll have the trail to yourself.

On or near the trail there are a few restaurants where you're be able to taste local specialties and in case you need to buy supplies, take the bus down the town of Budva. The bus ride itself over the zigzag-road down to the coast is an adventure in itself.

As I was stating: this trail has everything Montenegro has to offer for an adventurous hiker.

Just... Go!

Claire Leenen
(aka Reiske, reiske.nl)

Introduction

Montenegro is a small, mountainous country, cozily nestled in the middle of the Balkans on the Adriatic sea coast. While the country is not big, it offers an **unbelievable amount of hiking opportunities** which can easily satisfy every hiker's heart. There are thousands of kilometres of marked hiking paths winding across the karst ridges and grassy valleys of the Dinaric Alps. In spite of the country's beauties, it seems as though the mountainous parts have been forgotten by the international tourist movement. However, this only makes local hiking experiences all the more genuine. There aren't many places left in Europe where you can still meet shepherds silently watching their goats or horses freely moving across the mountain valleys with nothing but bells on their necks.

There are two well established long distance trails in Montenegro: Crnogorska Transverzala (CT1) and **Primorska Planinarska Transverzala (PPT**; translated as the Mountaineering Coastal Traverse, the **Coastal Hiking Traverse** or the **Adriatic Traverse**). While CT1 was established a long time ago, PPT was officially inaugurated in 2006 as a result of a lot of effort from the local hiking clubs and non-government organizations. It connects the three important ranges of the country: Rumija, Lovćen and Orjen. It roughly stretches between the borders of Albania and Croatia and hiking the trail is a powerful experience for every hiker.

Using This Guide

This guide was made with the goal of being an “all in one” resource. We wanted hikers to be able to download this guide and not need to do much further research. Using the maps in conjunction with the descriptions provided of each stage should be all the resources needed to complete the trail from a navigation perspective, provided weather and luck are on your side. However, we recommend making use of the GPX files provided for an extra layer of security and carrying a compass as a back up.

The maps included in this guide contain the key signposts, water sources, cafés, bus stops and other essential spots along the trail. Don't rely on these spots blindly

as some water sources or cafés can disappear over time and new ones could appear.

The guide describes the hike in the direction from Bar to Herceg Novi, which makes more sense from both logistical and practical points of view. The first 5 stages are quite overgrown and therefore it is logical to hike them first while you're still fresh. Also, climbing up to Subra during stage 10 is safer from the side of Bar than from the side Herceg Novi. Leaving the climb for the last day is also a good option as you won't be carrying a fully loaded backpack with food for the following days. However, as the trail was originally created to be walked from Herceg Novi to Bar, you'll find lots of crossroads where signposts are pointing in that direction. All of these crossroads, though, are described here so you shouldn't need to hesitate for too long.

The Stages

The hike usually takes **10 days to finish**. A fit hiker can do it over fewer days and connect the stages where water is scarce (eg. it's not bad idea to connect stages 3 & 4). Each stage described here is designed to start and finish at a place which is suitable for camping and where there is water nearby.

It is also possible to **do the trail as a section hiker** but you'll have to use taxis or make steep ascents and descents to coastal towns. Similarly, if you don't want to do the whole trail, you can do some of its sections as day hikes to get a taste of it. If this is the case I'd definitely recommend **stage 4**, which is easy to walk, easily accessible by car and nicely maintained. **Stage 8** starting at Perast is also relatively easy to follow with stunning views over the coastline and surrounding mountains. It follows a "mountain highway", an impressive masterpiece made by Austro-Hungarians with the traditional dry stone wall technique in 19th century. **Stage 10** via Subra's amphitheater is the most impressive part of the trail, but also the most challenging. See the chapters about the sections for detailed information.

To get to Rumija, the first essential point of the trail, you don't necessarily need to use the way described in the next pages from Bar. You can also take a 4WD taxi to a tiny mountain settlement Veliki Mikulići (Lisinje) and start from there. According to the information signs on the trail, this is where the PPT starts. However, because

it's quite complicated to get to Veliki Mikulići, it's not described in this guide. We preferred to include a nice mountain trail from Bar. If you decide to go to Veliki Mikulići anyway, it's about 3.7km along the forest road from Sergius of Radonezh's monastery.

Even though the goal of the trail is to connect the 3 massifs together (Rumija, Lovćen and Orjen), the guide describes climbing up to the most important peaks of these mountains, too. These are the peaks of Rumija (1,595 m) on Rumija massif, Jezerski vrh (1,657 m) on Lovćen massif, and Zubački kabao (1,894 m) on Orjen massif.

Navigation

The trail is marked with mostly red dots, and some straight and curved lines depending on whether the track goes straight or turns. Red crosses signal that a crossroad is nearby. You can find the markings on rocks or trees and there are also plenty of signposts. However, the marking quality varies greatly. While **in some sections you can find shiny marking on every corner** (like stage 4, the stage within the Lovćen National Park or the stage in Orjen massif), **there are sections where you'll be struggling to find the trail** (like stage 2 or stage 5). Therefore, carrying a GPS in these stages is highly recommended. You can download the GPX of trail from hikingisgood.com/ppt

Transport

To Bar and Herceg Novi there are good bus connections from all over the country. In general, buses are less comfortable and schedules not reliable when compared to Western Europe, but they're still the best way to move around. For the bus connection schedules, check the website Balkanviator.com. Tickets can be purchased directly on buses after the bus leaves the station. Just ask the driver where he's going, find your seat and wait for the bus to head off. A bus conductor will come soon to charge you. Only payments in cash (Euros) are accepted.

To Bar there is a train connection from the country's capital, Podgorica. During the summer, direct trains connect Bar with Budapest and Prague. For the train schedules, check zcg-prevoz.me.

If you decide to come by plane, there are direct flights to Podgorica from many European destinations including Budapest, Milan or Munich.

Safety

The trail goes through remote areas and it's not unusual to see nobody for a day or two. Therefore, **self sufficiency is a must**, as well as knowing the **basics of mountain orientation and first response emergency care**. There is quite good cell phone reception on the trail with access to data too, which can help you to keep an eye on the actual weather forecast.

Special consideration should be taken with regard to the weather. The wind blowing from the open Adriatic sea is known for being cold and strong and sometimes it brings freezing temperatures even in months where it's not expected. A significant part of the trail goes over karst stones and boulders which could be very slippery when they get wet.

With regard to wildlife, be especially **aware of snakes** hanging out in open sunny areas and **stray dogs** which you'll be likely meet as there are plenty of them. If you meet a stray dog, stay calm, they're only rarely aggressive. Avoid eye contact, crouch down and let the dog come to you. Don't give dogs any food because they may follow you for long distances despite maybe belonging to someone. Once a dog with a home becomes lost after following a hiker with food, he will be homeless.

Weather

Montenegro's coast has a typical Mediterranean climate with very hot summers, rainy springs and autumns, and chilly winters. The mountains, though, have a more continental climate which becomes an alpine climate in higher areas, even

close to the coast. That means that **winter is a serious matter and the PPT is under snow** in many parts. In the summer, the **stifling heat could be unbearable**, while freezing temperatures could still be reached at higher altitudes. Consequently, the **best time to hike the PPT is in late spring or early autumn** when the heat is not overwhelming and the weather is reasonably stable. However, at higher altitudes, you can still experience quick and unpredictable weather changes, so be prepared.

Finally, be aware of the **bora**, a dry, cold, unpredictable wind coming from the north which is very typical for this area. The bora mostly occurs from September to May but it may appear during the summer months too. It often doesn't last more than a day or two unless it's winter when it can easily last for a couple of weeks.

Equipment

If you plan on staying overnight in the mountains, you need to have **proper hiking and camping gear**. Anytime you go, you'll always need **head protection** and **sun-screen**. Montenegrin sun can be very strong! Furthermore, because the trail is often overgrown, **long trousers and a long sleeved shirt** can help to protect your skin. If you go in one of the hot months, **gaiters** may be more reasonable option. If you camp, **earplugs** may come handy if you don't want to be disturbed by goat bells or dog barking. There are plenty of dogs out there and in deep valleys the sound of barking can travel very easily.

To drink from cisterns (see the chapter Food & water), it'll be handy to have some string a few metres long and something you can fetch the water into like a water bottle or pot. The water level in cisterns is often too low to reach from ground level and there are barely any buckets around. You can also get creative and cut the top off a plastic bottle, tie it up with a string from your tent or tarp and weigh the whole thing down with stones. It'll do the job. Finally, a **water filtering system** is important as there are sections where drinking from cisterns is hard to avoid and water quality is dubious.

Sleeping

Because of the remoteness of the Montenegrin coastal ranges, there **aren't many accommodation options**. So, especially in the first 4 stages, camping is inevitable, unless you arrange a taxi or hike down to a coastal town every night.

If you decide to camp, you won't be disappointed by the number of suitable places for camping. There are plenty and our guide is divided into stages where you'll always end up in an easy place to pitch your tent.

Before setting up camp, you should always keep in mind that the mountains are full of goats, cows and horses. What might look like a nice place to pitch your tent, could easily be an overnight place for a herd of goats who will be noisy at the very least. Fortresses in later stages are nice places to overnight, too.

Food & water

Due to the karst topography of Dinaric Alps, water sources are scarce on the PPT and there are few fresh water sources from which you can safely drink. All of them are marked on our maps and mentioned in our day to day descriptions. Due to lack of water in the past, the locals made underground stone **water tanks called cisterns**. Their sizes vary from 0.5m wide shallow holes to 5m wide wells with depths of over 10m. The quality of the water varies greatly and you **should always treat the water before drinking**. In some uncovered cisterns dead animals can be found, anything from small frogs to huge wild pigs. For this reason, covered cisterns are always better to drink from.

It is possible that you will find more or less water sources on the trail than are marked on our maps because the natural environment can change quickly. Don't rely completely on the water sources marked on our maps and always make sure that you **carry more water than you think you'll need**.

With regard to food supplies, there **aren't any options for obtaining food directly on the trail**. There are a few cafés and restaurants, all marked on our maps, but no stores for groceries. However, as the trail follows the coast, you are never too far from a coastal town. I found that the best way to resupply would be to do so

once - roughly in the middle of the trail from the small village Brajići, where there is a bus stop with regular buses down to the coastal town of Budva. There you'll find plenty of groceries and accommodation options. You can also descend to a coastal town on foot from many places on the trail, for example from Velji Zalazi (to Plagen-te), Vranovo Brdo (to Perast) or Krstac (to Kotor). However, keep in mind that these descents are demanding with high elevation changes over an extremely short distance and that the descending trails are sometimes overgrown. It can take you all day to go down to resupply and then get back to the trail.

Stage 1

from **Bar** to **Rumija Massif**



Start - Finish: Bar - Rumija massif

Distance (up / down): **17 km** (1760m / 800m)

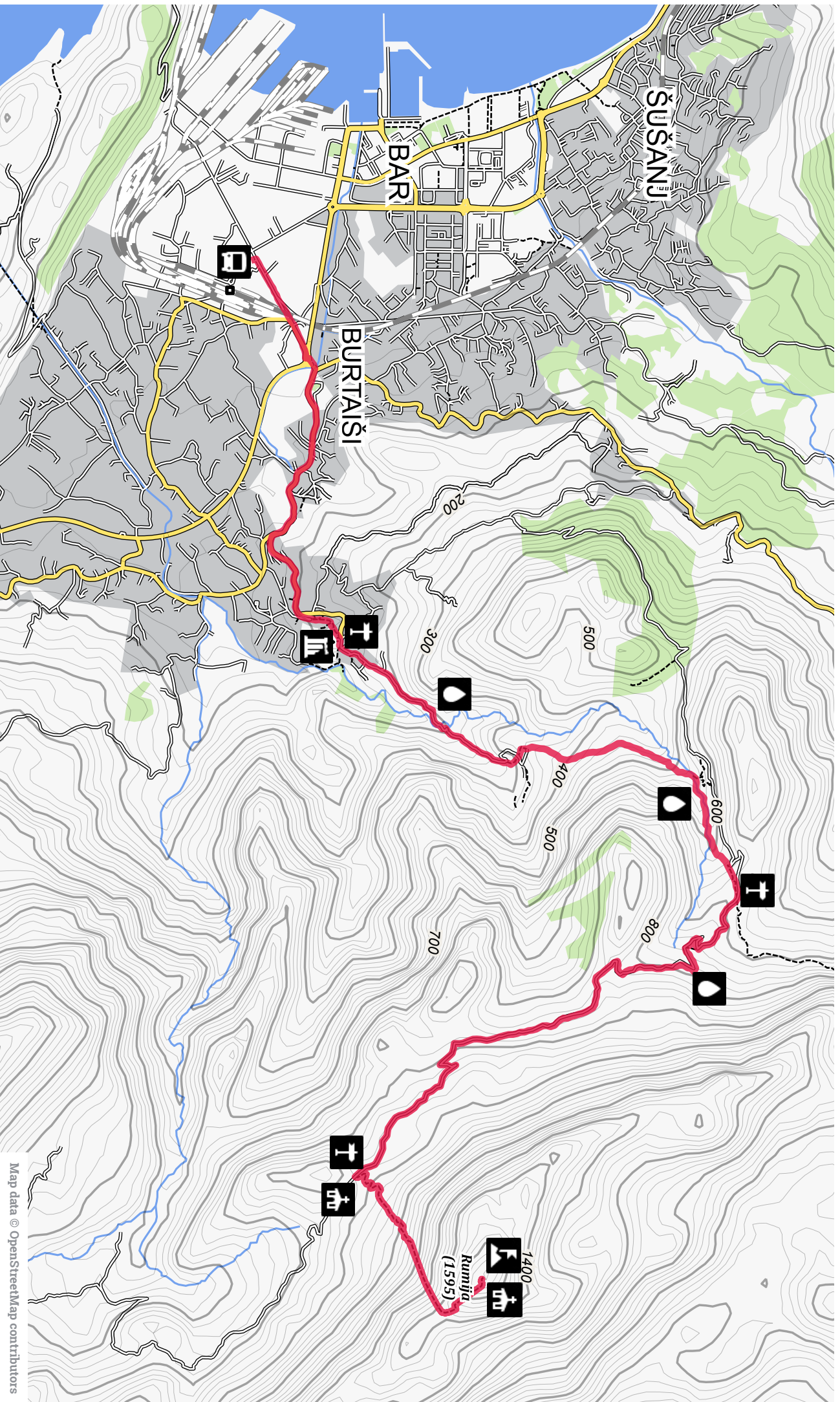
Time: **7'00"**

Terrain: The path alternates between roads and hiking tracks, gradually going up. The last part to Rumija is very steep and extra consideration is needed.

Resupply: Plenty of streams on the way. Great resupplying options in Bar.

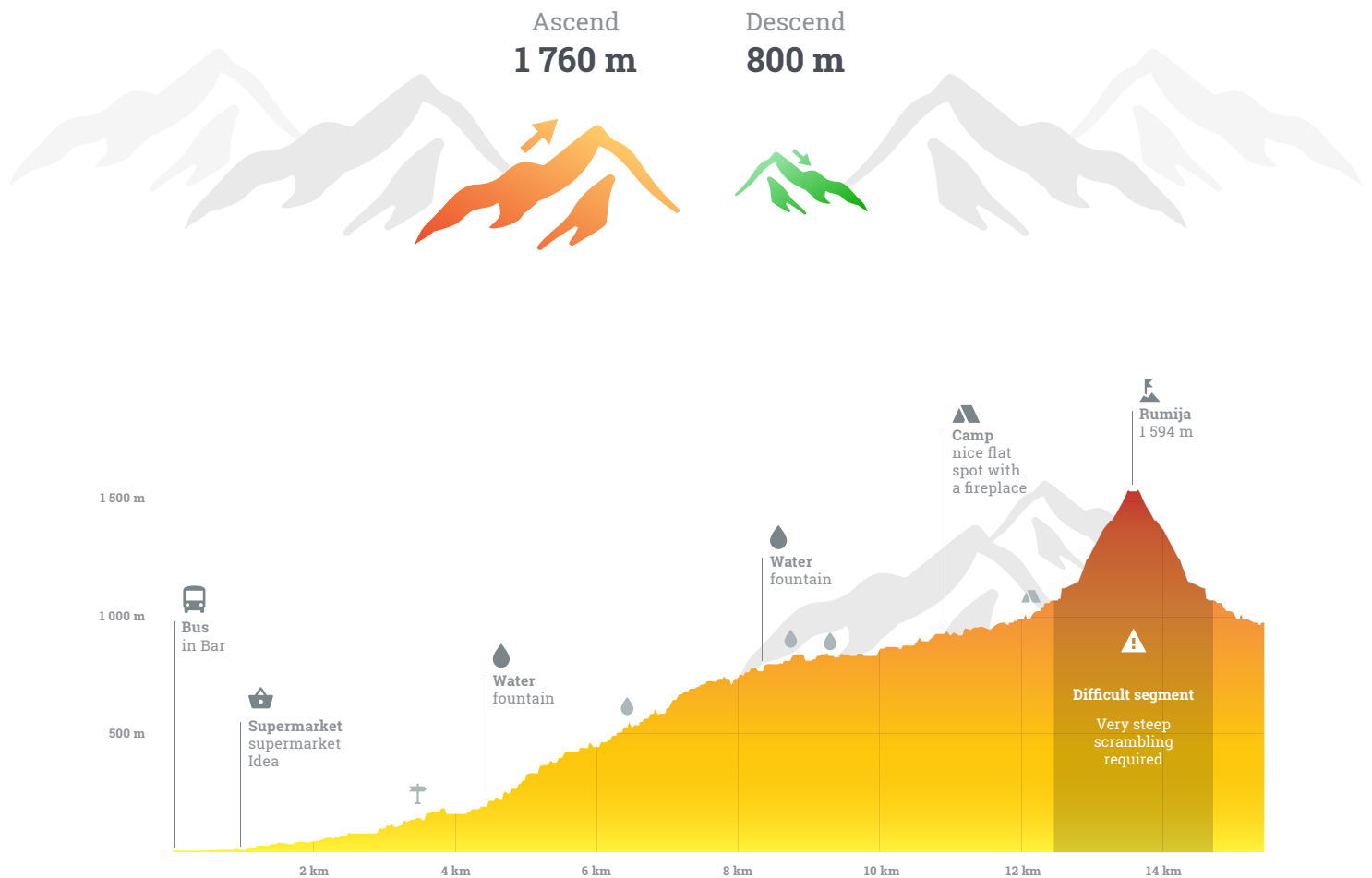
Transport: Many buses go to Bar from Budva or Podgorica. Up to the monastery dedicated to Sergius of Radonezh it's possible to take a 4WD taxi.





Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

Altitude and Stage Profile



Description

Leave the bus station in Bar by its main gate where the buses get in, and turn right into a long, industrial street. If the visibility is good, you can see a white spot on the top of the mountain ahead. That's the chapel on top of Mt. Rumija, your goal for this stage.

Mt Rumija is 1,594m high and is the highest peak of the massif of the same name. The massif separates the Adriatic Sea from Lake Skadar which is the largest lake in Southern Europe. The mountain itself has great religious significance and once played a crucial role in the folklore and religious beliefs of the Montenegrins. Each year, on the Feast of Pentecost, the cross of Jovan Vladimir is carried in a proces-

sion to the summit. Jovan is considered to be the first Serbian saint and the procession is traditionally joined by both Muslims and Christians

Cross the railway tracks and keep going straight ahead. Take the left turn on the roundabout and then turn immediately right, following the sign for Stari Bar. An IDEA supermarket on your right is a good place to buy your last minute supplies as the next supermarkets in Stari Bar will be small and touristic. The road takes you through a residential area full of olive trees. Before the parking place of the historical town of Stari Grad, take a smaller road going slightly down and right. Pass through the historical quarter with lots of tourists shops. After you come to the far end of the castle walls, turn right. There, in a small car park, you will find a signpost (0'45"). From now the trail is marked.

Follow the red marks to Bijela Skala on a steep narrow road which becomes gravel. Before the bridge and just behind the water fountain take the road to your left (0'30"). The road goes up steeply and as soon as it starts zigzagging, the trail separates from the road, going straight up on a paved path. When you reach a small cemetery, stay left on a paved track. Eventually you come to a small dam and a stream (1'00"). Markings lead you along the stream and after a few hundred meters take you straight up a slope. At the top, the trail joins a 4WD track (0'45") where you will find a signpost with an information board. For now, turn right towards Rumija (tomorrow you'll come back here and head down to Bijela Skala). Stay on the road until you reach a crossroad with a signpost towards Rumija (1'15") which is just before a small monastery dedicated to Sergius of Radonezh.

Sergius of Radonezh was a great Russian medieval spiritual leader and monastic reformer. He's one of the Russian Orthodox Church's most highly venerated saints.

The trail to Rumija is quite challenging and becomes steeper with altitude. Be extra careful after a saddle (1'00") where you have to occasionally use your hands to get to the top (0'30"). At the top there is a small, iron, Orthodox Christian chapel. Descend the same way down to a 4WD track (1'15") where there are plenty of nice spots for a camp.

Stage 2

from **Rumija Massif** to **Sutorman pass**



Rumija
Massif

Sutorman
pass

Start - Finish: Rumija massif - Sutorman pass

Distance (up /down): **19 km** (1040m / 1210m)

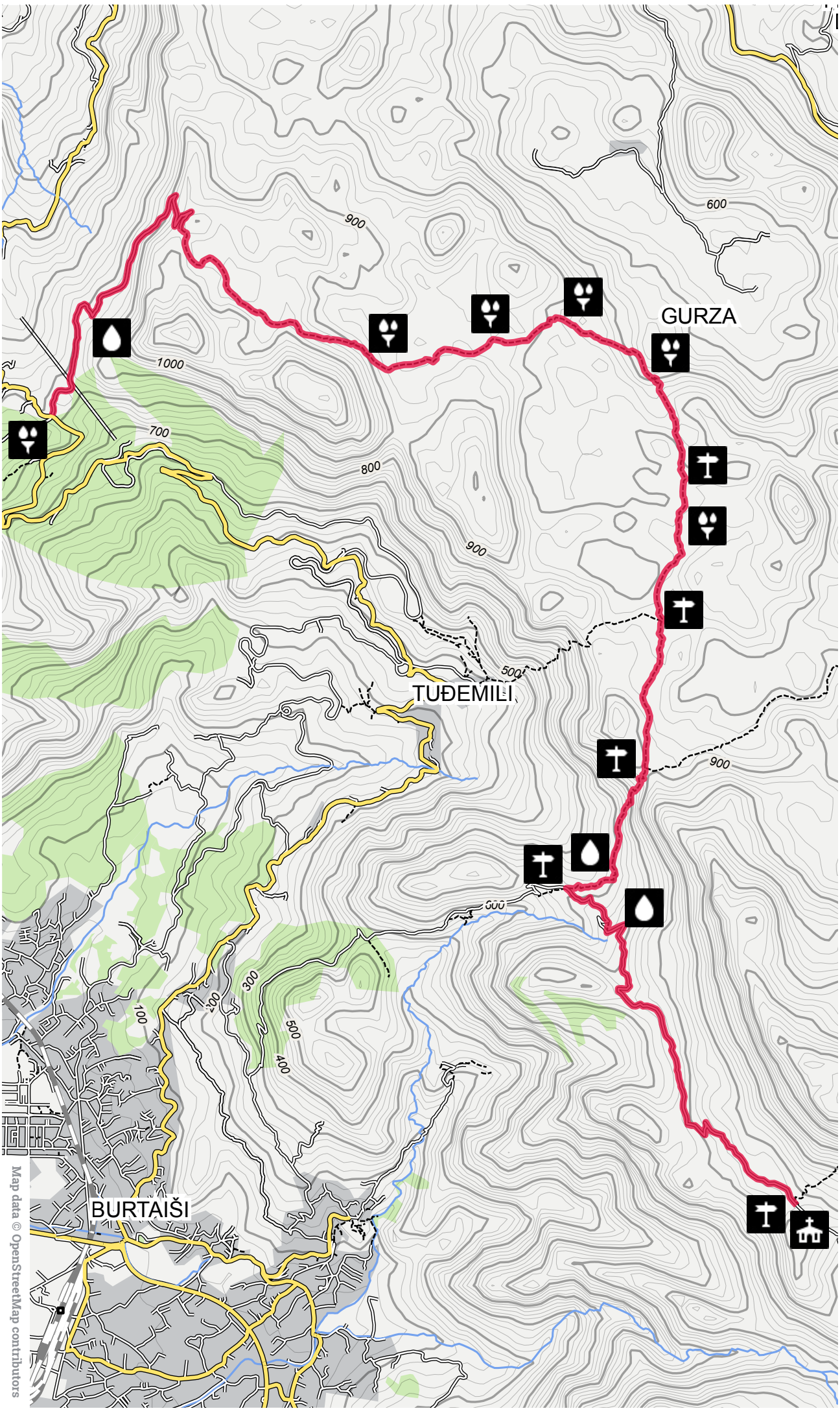
Time: **6'45"** (if you manage to smoothly cross bushwhack-
ing sections)

Terrain: Trail varies from being flat and pleasant to a serious
bushwhacking experience lasting for about 2km.

Resupply: Lots of cisterns and a few streams.

Transport: 4WD taxi to the monastery dedicated to Sergius of
Radonezh or regular taxi to the Sutorman Pass .





GURZA

TUÐEMILI

BURTAIŠI

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

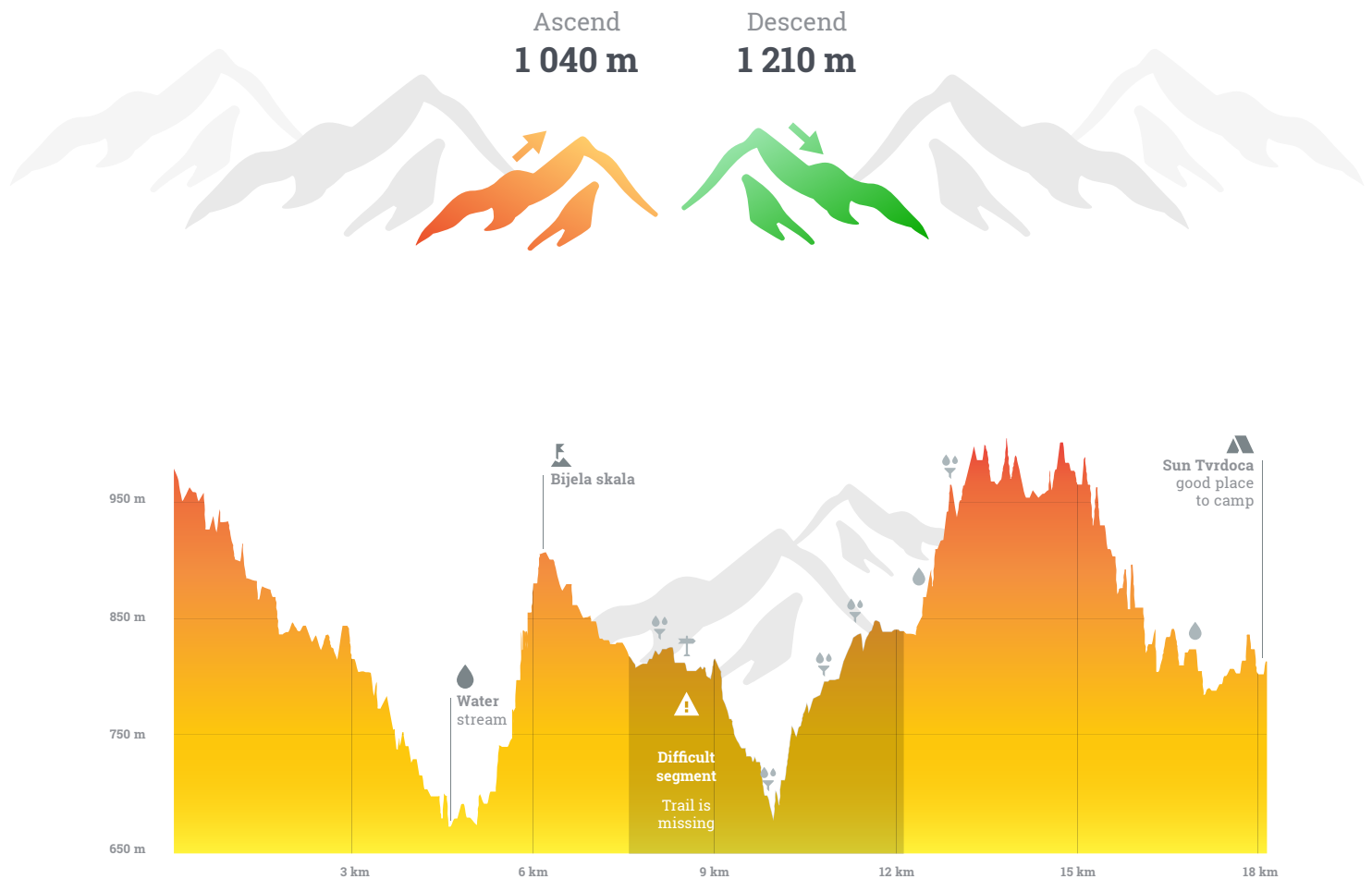
2 km

1 : 50 000



- Chapel
- Cistern
- Sign post
- Spring

Altitude and Stage Profile



Description

Go back along the 4WD track to the crossroad you reached yesterday from Stari Bar (1'15"). Make a sharp right turn towards Bijela Skala to a descending road. After passing two streams you start climbing up on an easily visible track with great views over the coast. This track takes you all the way to Bijela Skala (1'00"). Bijela Skala, literally the White Rock, is one of the few places where crossing between the Skadar side and the Adriatic side of Rumija massif is possible.

The trail now goes through a young forest. It's easily visible, despite being overgrown in some places. At the crossroad with KT-13 to coastal town, Sutorman (0'15"), keep going straight. These side trails are, unfortunately, usually very overgrown

and nearly impassable. When you come to a crossroad with a big cistern (1'00"), turn left.

Now, it's time to take a machete out of your backpack if you haven't already done so. In this part, a GPS or map along with good navigation skills are a must. The next 2km of the trail are unmarked and heavily overgrown and require constant bushwhacking most of the time. The 'trail' drifts between stone walls, deep forests and big boulders where extra attention is needed to avoid losing your feet in the gaps.

At first, keep yourself on the left side of the stone wall and ignore the right turns heading down. When you come to a big pile of white stones, pass it on its left and keep going straight up, over a small hill. Once you reach another stone wall (0'15"), follow it, keeping the wall on your right. At its end, go left up a rocky slope until you reach a flat grassy platform where you should find a red mark (0'15"). Keep going up, gradually veering left. Keep the top of the karst hill you're climbing on to your right. After some boulder hopping and more bushwhacking you come to a big cistern (0'30").

The trail starts to be vaguely marked now. Make sure you check where you're going more often than usual as there are many animal tracks, easily mistakable for the PPT. After you come to a flat clearing, cross it, straight to the biggest oak on the other side. 100m further on you come to a small pond (0'30"). Pass it from the right hand corner and walk into a beech forest. The track heads up gradually. Once it reaches the saddle (0'30"), it turns into a forest road which leads you all the way down to Sutorman pass (1'15"). There you'll find plenty of flat grassy areas, ideal for your tent. Water is available from a small stream on the left side of the road about 1.2km before reaching Sutorman pass and from a cistern close to a signpost in Sutorman pass.

Stage 3

from Sutorman pass to Lovački dom



Start - Finish: Sutorman pass - Lovački dom

Distance (up /down): **17 km** (840m / 960m)

Time: **6'00"**

Terrain: The first part is a rugged track through a shady forest with fairly overgrown parts. The second part is more open with some pleasant views of the coast.

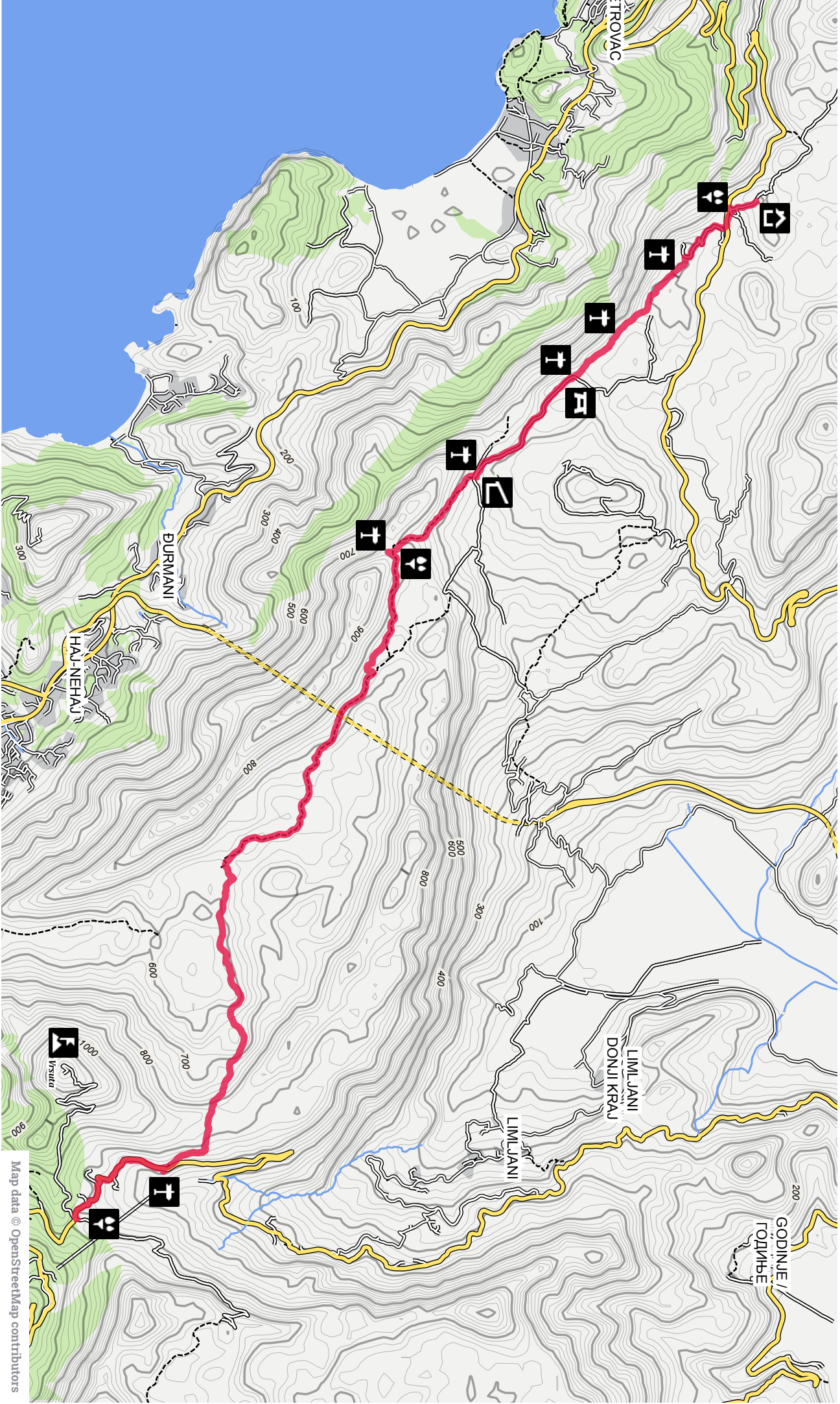
Resupply: No springs on the way, only cisterns.

Transport: Taxi to Sutorman Pass or Lovački Dom by the road M-2.

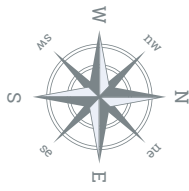
Lovački
dom

Sutorman
pass



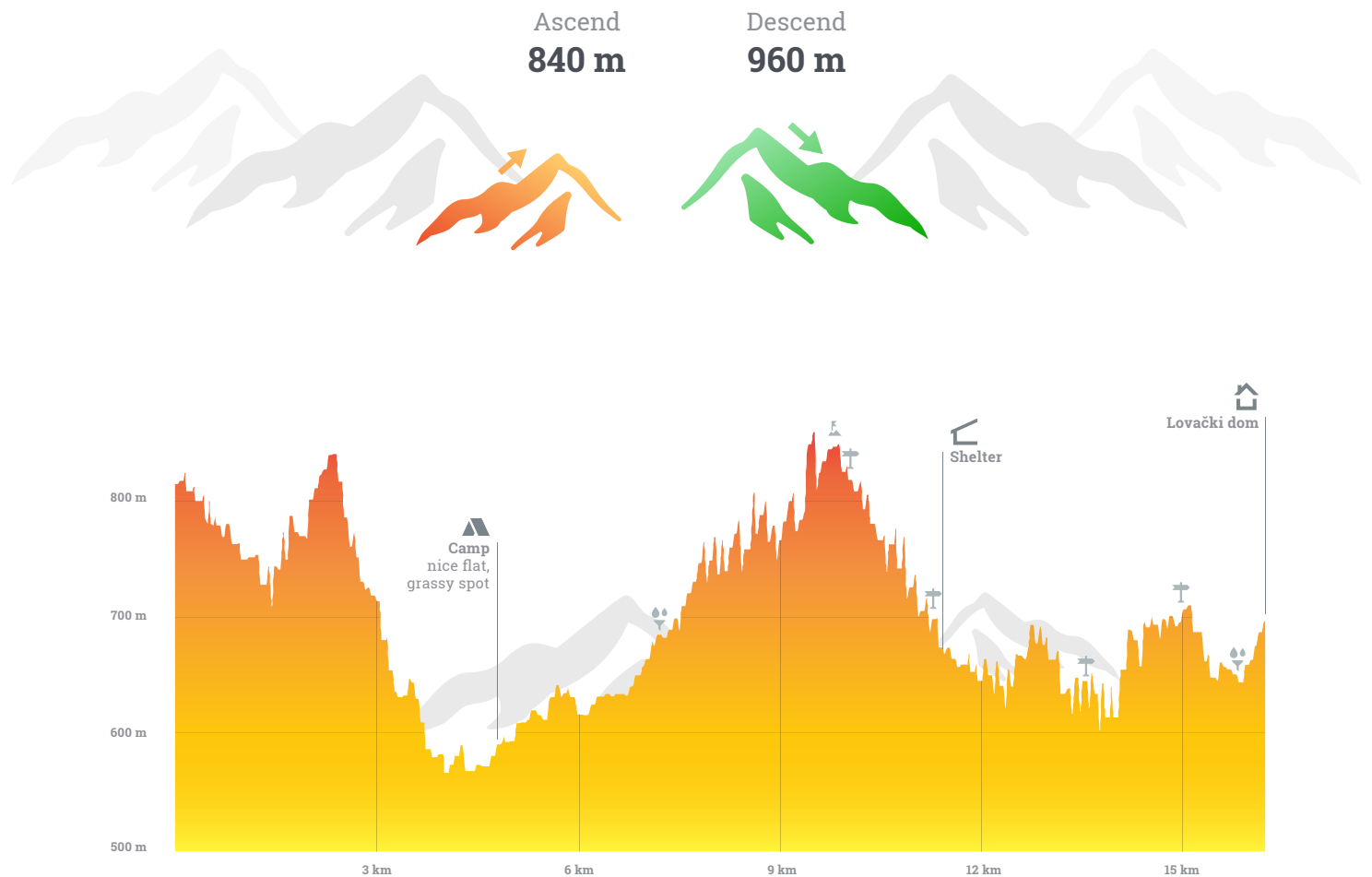


- Mountain hut
- Picnic post
- Cistern
- Peak
- Shelter
- Sign post



Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

Altitude and Stage Profile



Description

From Sutorman Pass, follow the main road under the power lines towards Milovića Krš. After 1.5km you come to a crossroad with an information sign (0'15"). Follow a rugged, stony trail to the left over a hill to a wide, dry valley. On the descent into the valley, you have to cross two wooden gates. Always make sure you leave the gates as you found them - either closed or open. Notice a few shepherd's houses on the valley bottom with herds of goats and horses. After crossing one more gate you reach a signpost (2'00"). Turn right towards Petrovačka gora with a stone inscription.

The trail is now rough and fairly overgrown at times, but well marked. When you come to a crossroad with a signpost (1'45"), turn right to Paštrovska gora. There is a

cistern 20-30m down the hill. The trail continues through a pine forest as an old karst road eventually turning into a regular forest road which takes you to a shelter (0'30").

The shelter, in Montenegrin - sklonište, isn't in very good shape and it overflows with rubbish, however It could still be used as an emergency shelter. After, or soon after, rain, a small stream appears 400 m further along the PPT.

Continue along the forest road. Just after a picnic spot there is a signpost (0'15") where you turn left. The trail is now more open with great views to the coastline. Passing Paštovska gora (0'15"), keep heading straight ahead towards Ograđenica. The trail now winds pleasantly between oak forests and flowery meadows with karst boulders. When you come to the next signpost (0'30"), turn towards Lovački dom / Lovačka kuća. The forest road takes you to the main road which you cross. Immediately after crossing, turn left and in 200m you come to a cistern. Take a shortcut through the forest via a zig-zagging gravel road and come to Lovački dom (0'30"). Lovački dom simply means a hunting house. The hut is usually closed but there are nice spots for setting up your camp.

Stage 4

from Lovački dom to Brajići



Brajići

Start - Finish: Lovački dom - Brajići

Distance (up / down): **16 km** (700m / 610m)

Time: **5'00"**

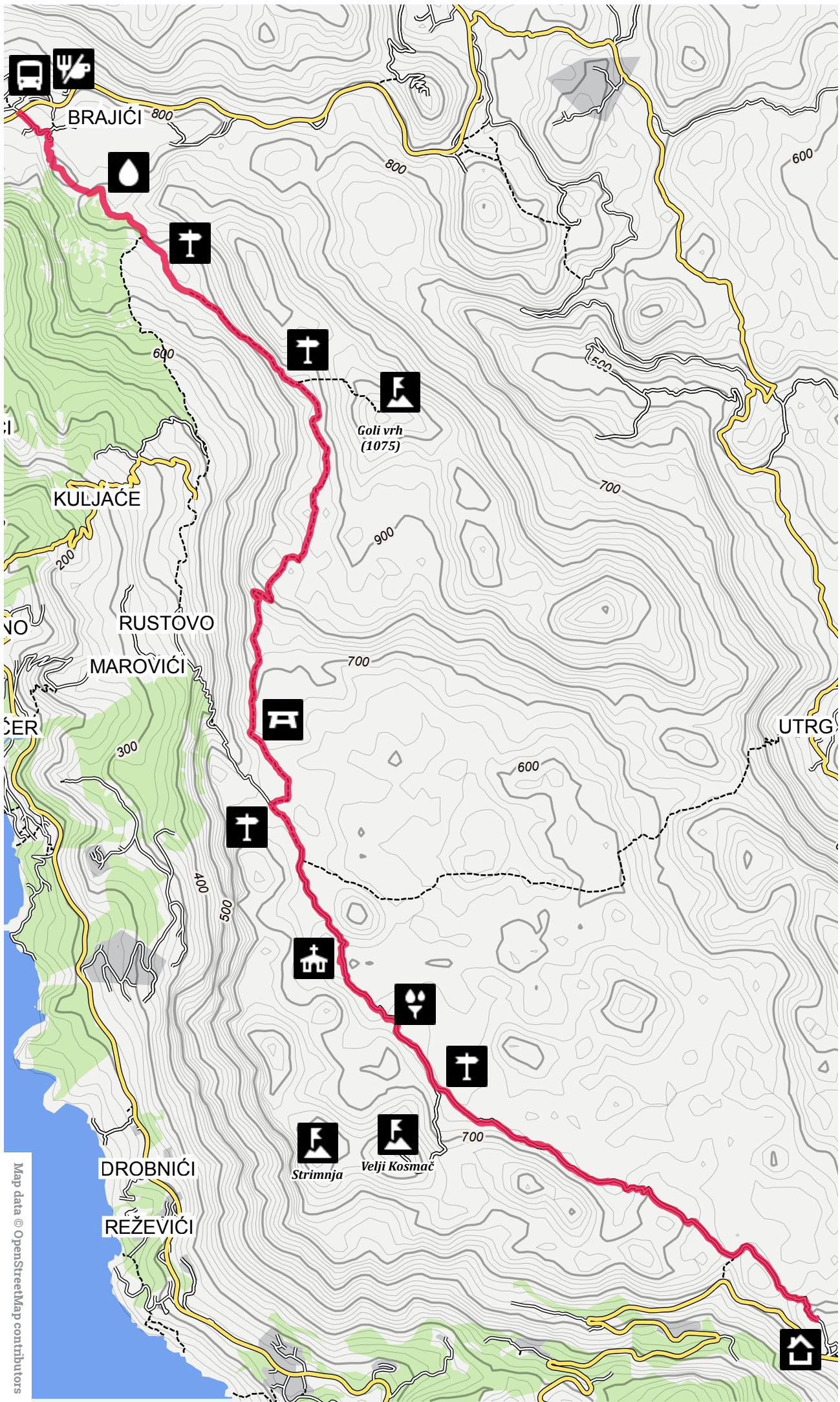
Terrain: A pleasant and airy walk over forestry ridges. Great views and compared to previous sections, very easy.

Resupply: Two reliable water fountains on the way (Ograđenica and before the ruins of fort Kosmač). In Brajići, you can find a cafe bar / restaurant.

Transport: Taxi to a hunting house (Lovački dom) by the road M-2. Bus to Brajići (see the Transport section for more).

Lovački
dom





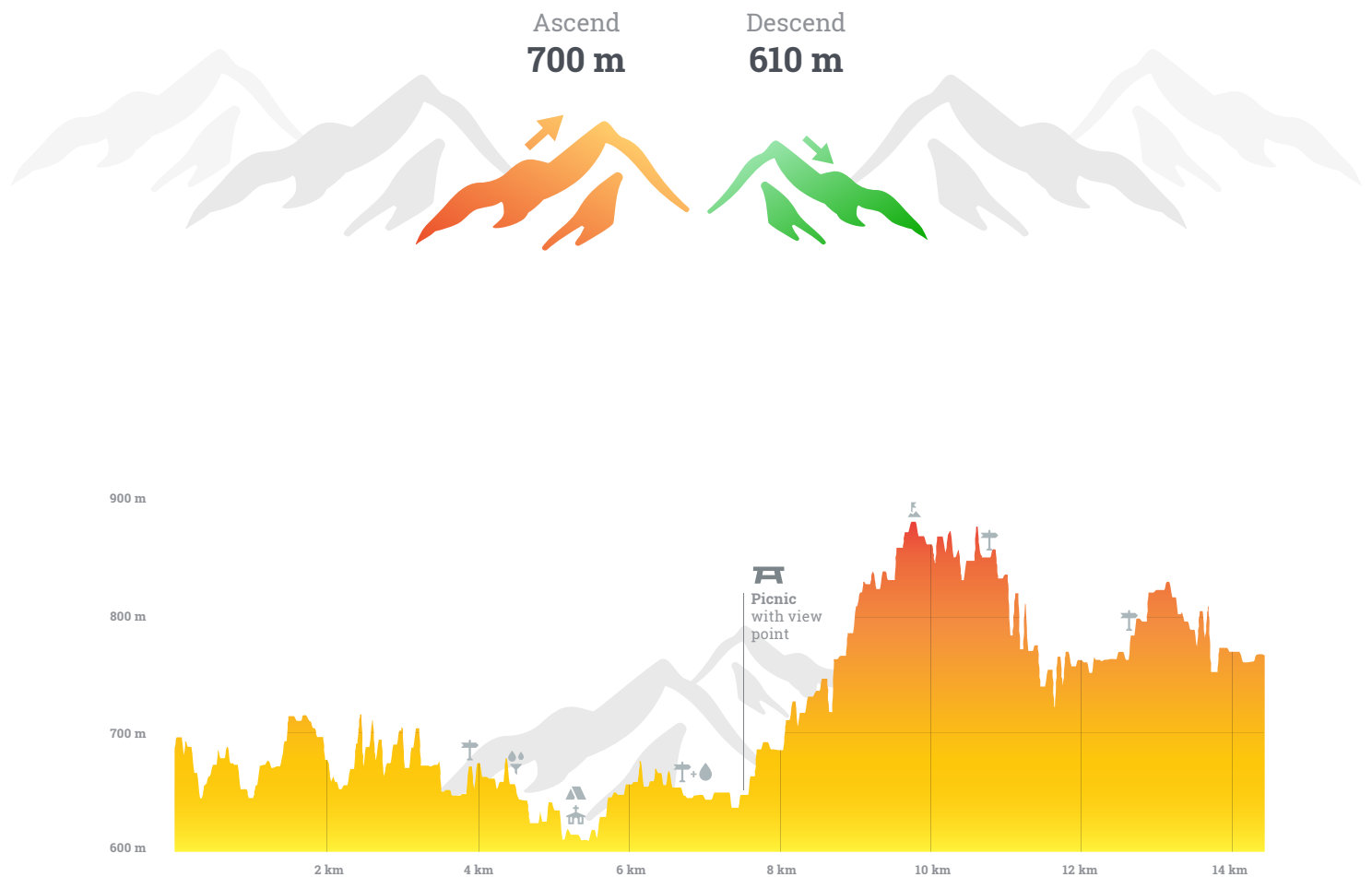
Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

- Bus
- Chapel
- Cistern
- Peak
- Spring
- Sign post



2 km
1 : 50 000

Altitude and Stage Profile



Description

About 50m in front of Lovački dom, take a clear path heading up. The trail is now nicely open and well maintained through a clean forest. At a signpost (0'15") continue ahead towards Praskvica - Sv. Stefan. Follow the forest road flanked by oak and beech. After 3km you come to a crossroad (1'00") from where you can take a side trip to Velji Kosmač (881 m, 1'00" return).

Keep going straight, pass a stone chapel (0'45") and continue to the small settlement of Ograđenica (0'15"). There is a water tap just in front of the chapel. Follow the red markings sneaking between a house and garages towards Goli vrh. Pass a simple picnic spot (0'15") with gorgeous views of the coastal towns of Bečići,

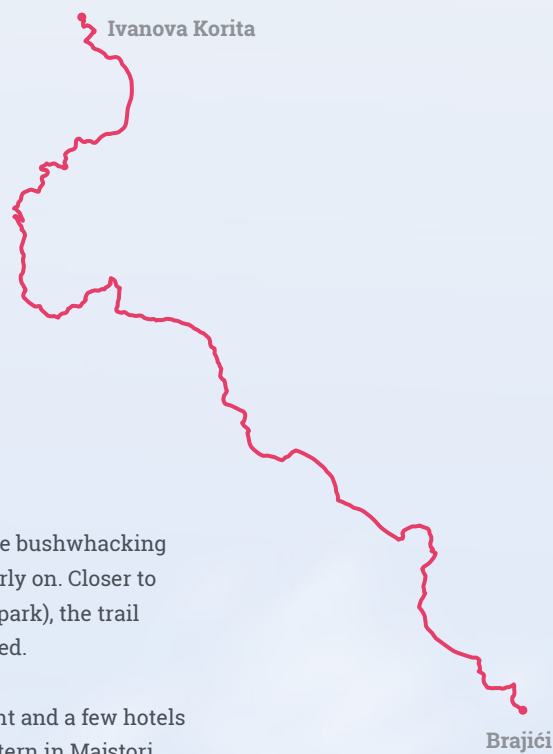
Rafailovići and Budva. The trail keeps following a mountain road which continues to wind its way up. At the saddle at Goli vrh (1'15") you can take a side trail to the top (1,075 m, 1'00" return).

Continue on a trail that is being cut on a steep slope. Go through a shepherd's gate, pass a signpost and find a water fountain just around the corner (0'45"). Keep following the road and just before the hill with the ruins of the fortress Kosmač, turn left and continue to the ruins (0'15"). It's a great place to camp, even though the main road can be noisy. To get to Brajići (0'15"), follow a road that zigzags sharply. In Brajići, you can find a restaurant and a bus stop whose busses can take you wherever you want. Budva, a historical town on the coast, seems to be a good option if you want to go for a swim. Cetinje, on the other hand, will likely be less touristy. Check balkanviator.com for bus schedules.

Fort Kosmač (Tvrđava Kosmač in Montenegrin) was the southernmost fortress of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It was constructed in the 1840s to guard the southern borders of the empire. After 1918 it was neglected for two decades. Between 1941-43, Italian troops used the fort during the Italian occupation of the Montenegrin coast. Since then, the fort has been abandoned and is now collapsing, though plans for its restoration exist.

Stage 5

from Brajići to Ivanova Korita



Start - Finish: Brajići - Ivanova Korita

Distance (up / down): **18 km** (1230m / 730m)

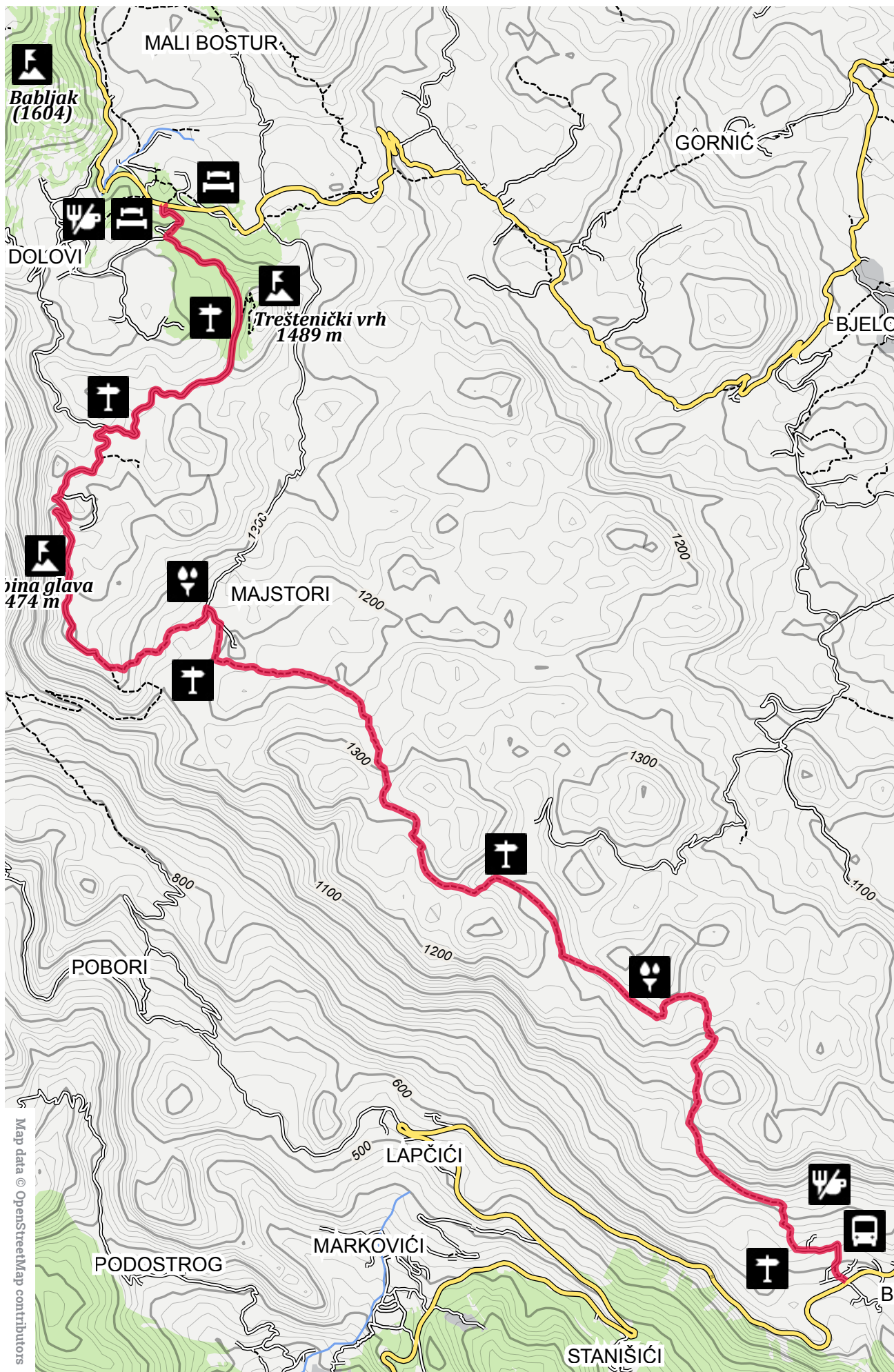
Time: **6'30"**

Terrain: A vaguely marked trail with some bushwhacking sections through beech forest early on. Closer to Ivanova Korita (Lovćen national park), the trail becomes nice and well maintained.

Resupply: Restaurant in Brajići. A restaurant and a few hotels in Ivanova Korita. Nice water cistern in Majstori.

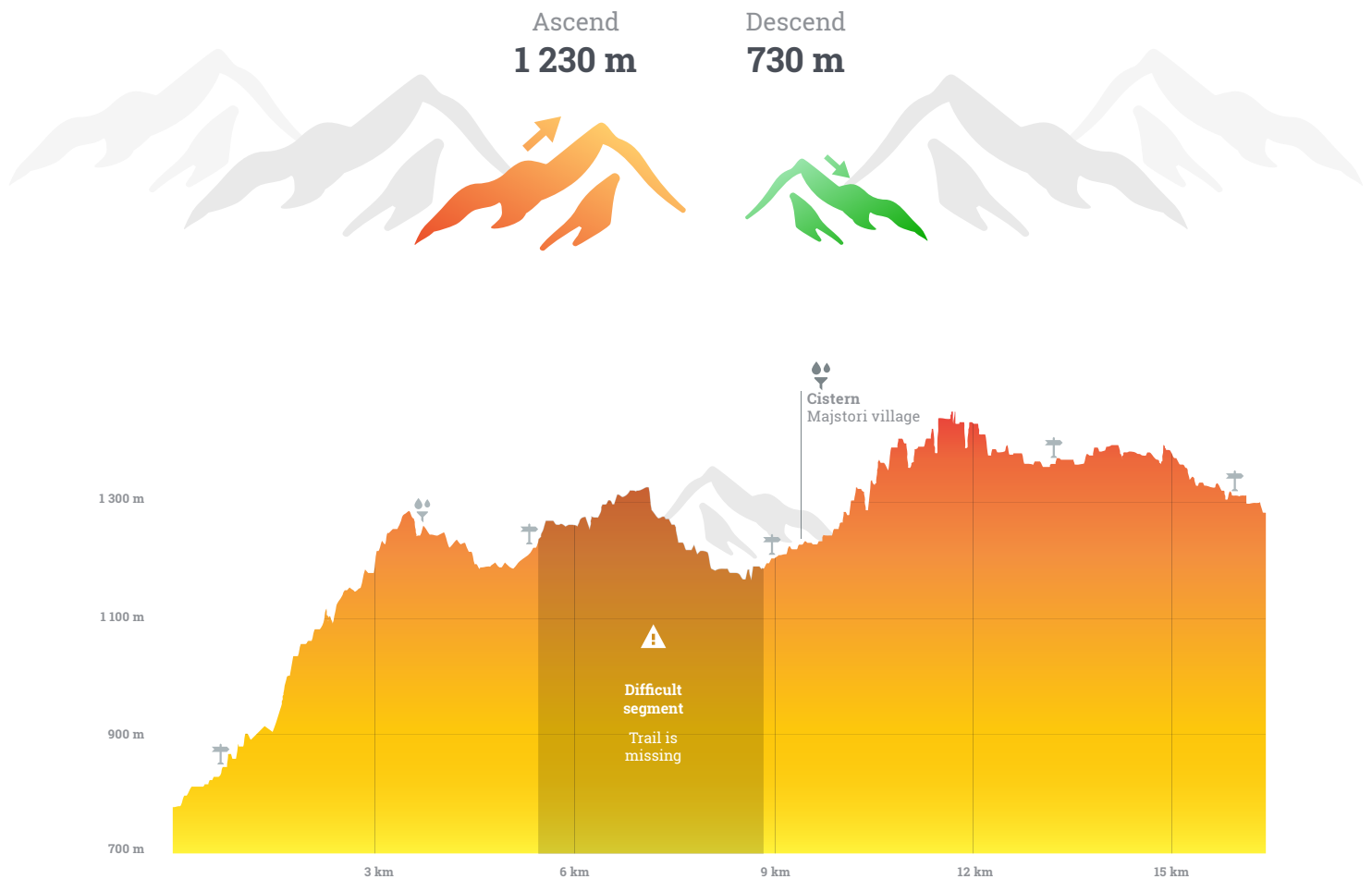
Transport: Bus to Brajići from Budva or Cetinje. Taxi to Ivanova Korita.





Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

Altitude and Stage Profile



Description

The trail starts at a crossroad by the main road, about 100m down from a bus stop. Follow the red marks up a small road. At its end (0'15"), take the far right turn along a stone wall to Ivanova Korita. First, the path goes through a clearing full of prickly plants. Then you enter a forest where markings are sometimes not so easily visible. Continue up until you reach a forest road under power lines (1'00"). Take the path straight up to a grassy ridge. When you see a vaguely visible mark on a flat stone, turn left to a beech forest where you will come to a signpost (0'15"). The trail continues through a forest and while the density of markings is not high, the path is quite easily visible. After crossing a flat grassy valley you come to another signpost (0'30").

From now, all the way to a signpost before the small settlement of Majstori, the trail is only rarely marked. The markings are there but often faded or covered with vegetation. Extra attention is needed in order to avoid taking the wrong path. Always make sure that you're more or less on the trail and keep traversing the slopes at roughly the same altitude in a north-west direction. After 3.6km of bushwhacking, a very picturesque, wide valley opens up (1'30"). From there, marks appear more often. From Majstori (0'30"), marking becomes excellent once more.

In Majstori, there is a cistern with good quality water by a signpost, next to the only inhabited house. The signpost points right to Ivanova Korita, which is an alternative and faster path but is not the PPT. The PPT goes sharply left, passing a memorial and a couple of ruins.

After the ruins, follow the path going down to a clearing and then straight up onto a rocky rough slope all the way to Babina glava (1,474 m, 1'00"). On a good day, the views to all directions are stunning. It's one of the few places on the PPT where you can see both Rumija and Orjen at the same time. From the top of Babina glava follow the nice forest road heading down. Take a sharp right at a crossroad with a signpost (0'15") and keep going until you come to another crossroad (0'15"). From there you can make a side trip to Treštenički vrh (1,489 m, 0'30" return). To get to Ivanova Korita, stay on the forest road heading down. When you see markings saying TRAIL heading down to your left, ignore them and keep following the forest road with red marks. Soon you come to a hotel Ivanov Konak (0'30") in Ivanova Korita.

There is another hotel, Monte Rosa, a little bit further down the road. Both hotels serve food or could provide you with water at the very least. If you don't fancy a hotel, you can officially camp within the national park but you are supposed to pay a fee first (for more information visit nparkovi.me). I tried to find out where and how to pay, but even in the Information center they weren't able to help. For camping there are plenty of nice flat areas a little bit further along the PPT.

Stage 6

from **Ivanova Korita** to **Velji Zalazi**



Start - Finish: Ivanova Korita - Velji Zalazi

Distance (up / down): **19 km** (870m / 1370m)

Time: **7'15"** (including a climb up to Jezerski vrh)

Terrain: Well marked, mostly forest trails winding through the national park, Lovćen. Forest road with overgrown descent to Velji Zalazi.

Resupply: Two restaurants in Ivanova Korita, Jezerski vrh and Krstac. A shop with local products (cheese, honey, wine etc.) in the Lovćen national park.

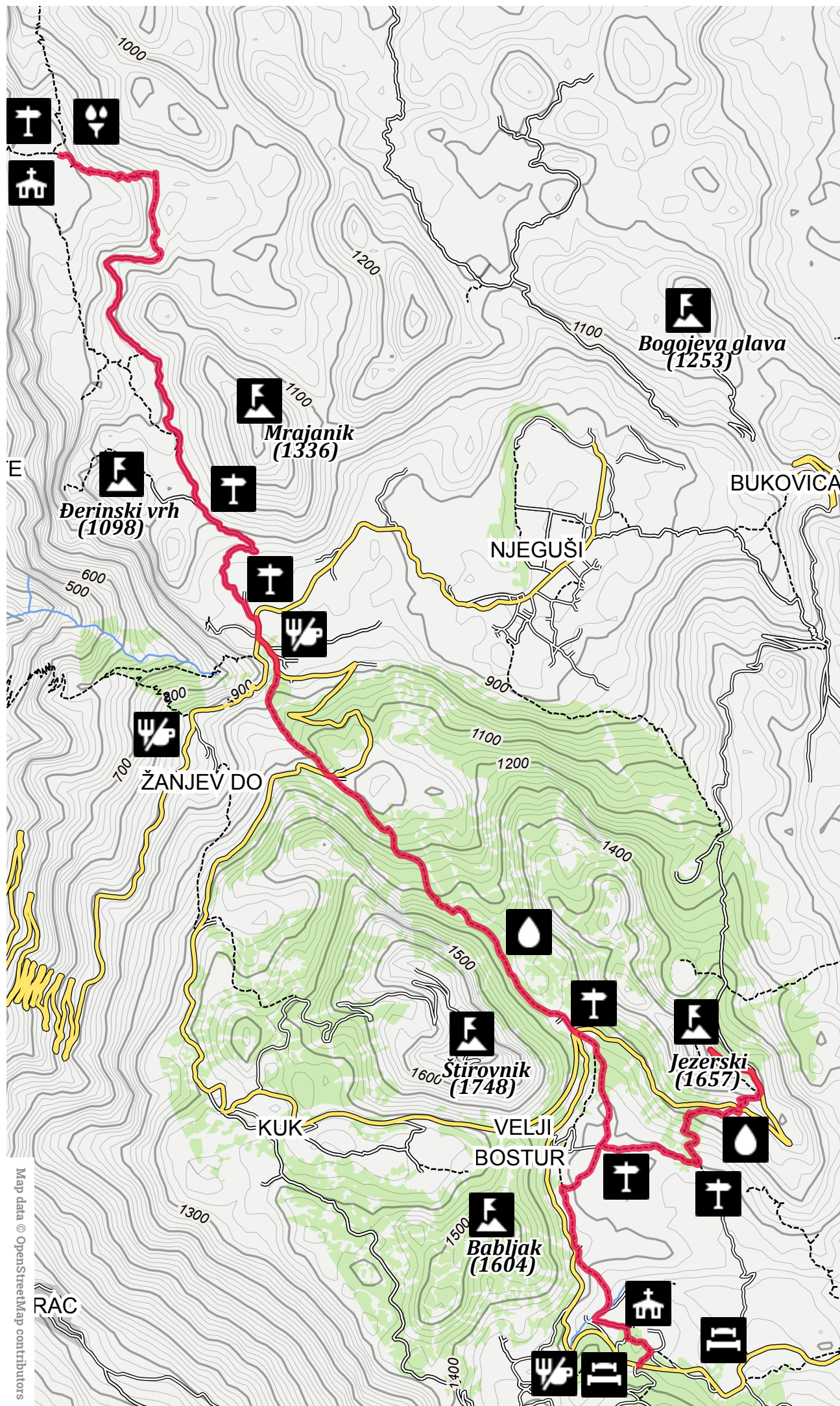
Transport: Taxi to Ivanova Korita. It's possible to reach Velji Zalazi from the coastal town Plagente where a good bus connection can be found.

Velji
Zalazi

Jezerski
vrh

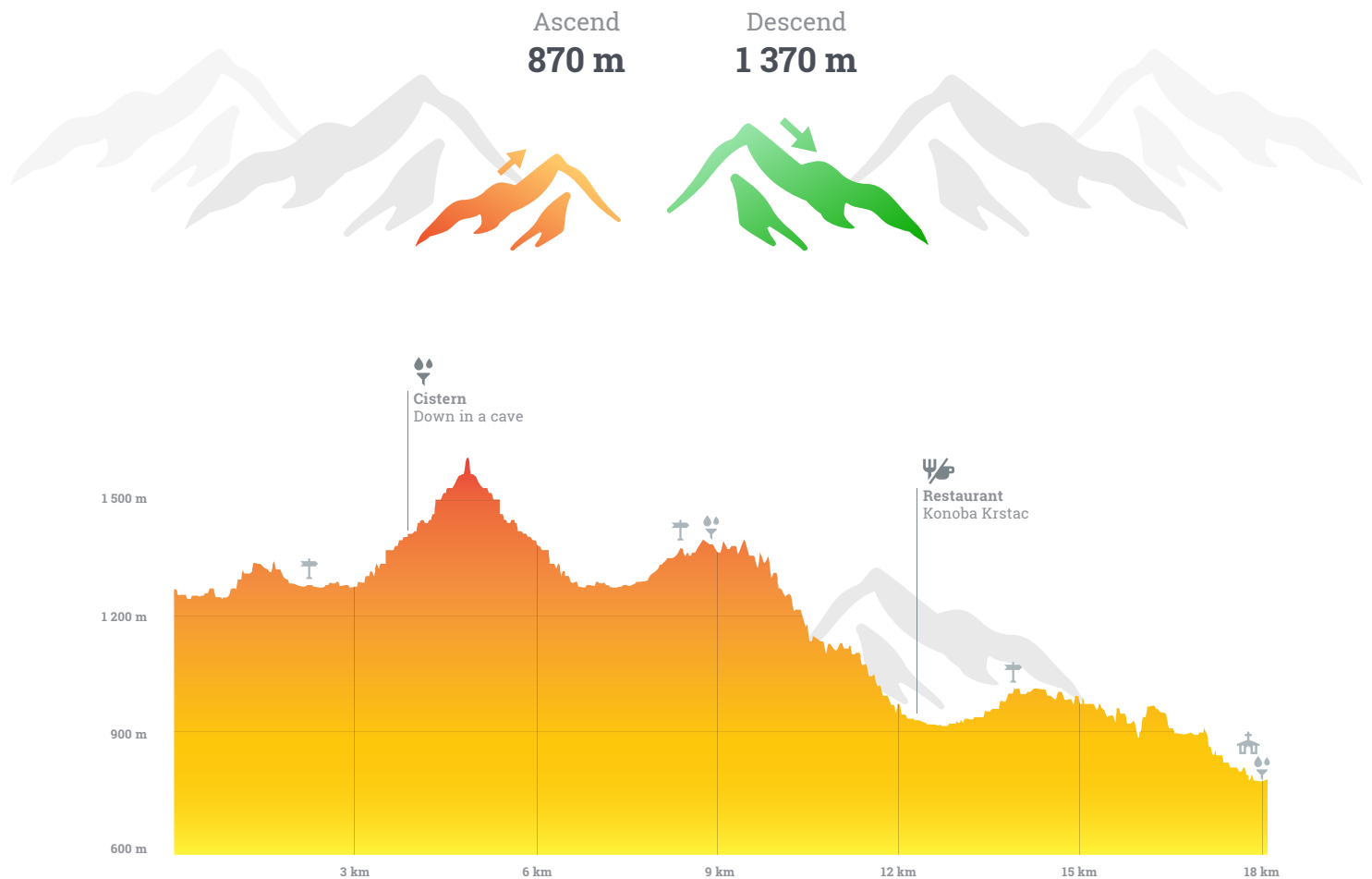
Ivanova
Korita





Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

Altitude and Stage Profile



Description

From the hotel, Ivanov Konak, go through a park with benches and turn left before the sculptures of busts. Pass by a playground and just before the Education centre (big stony building) turn right. Before the chapel take a left turn onto a grassy road. When you hit a bigger road, turn right and in about 100m turn left by the pine trees. An easy, well marked path winds along the main asphalt road and takes you to a signpost by a small village, Velji Bostur (0'45"). From there you can make a side trip to Jezerski vrh (1,657 m, 2'30" return). Simply follow the red marks heading right and then turn left at a signpost. The climb is not hard and the view from the top is excellent. The mausoleum at the top is accessible for a fee.

Jezerski vrh (1,657 m) together with Štirovnik (1,749 m) are both considered to be the main peaks of Mt. Lovćen. At the top of Jezerski vrh there is a Petar II Petrović Njegoš's Mausoleum. Njegoš (1813-1851) was a ruler of Montenegro but he's more famous as a poet and philosopher. Some of his works are considered to be masterpieces of Serbian/Montenegrin literature.

To continue on the PPT, keep going straight towards Krstac-prevoj (prevoj means saddle). At the intersection with the main road (0'30"), you'll find a shop with local products and a signpost. Go straight towards a wide airy valley with Štirovnik on your left and Jezerski vrh on your right. Pass a water fountain with a signpost (0'15") and keep descending towards Krstac - prevoj. The path gradually descends to a small village, Krstac. Once you join the main asphalt road, you will find a restaurant and a signpost (1'00").

Turn right down the road and after about 100m take a left turn towards Velji / Mali Zalazi. The path follows a forest road gradually winding up. On a signpost (0'45"), keep your direction straight to Mali Zalazi on a nice mountain road. Shortly after passing a shepherd's gate (0'30"), you come to another signpost (0'15"). From here, a bouldery path descends straight down to Velji Zalazi (0'45").

In Velji Zalazi you can find a good cistern and an old chapel. The chapel is open, half in ruins, but it could be used as an emergency shelter. If you turn left at a signpost towards Plagente, there are quite a few nice grassy spots for a camp. The views down the coast are once more stunning.

Stage 7

from **Velji Zalazi** to **Tvrđava Sveti Andrija**



Tvrđava Sveti
Andrija

Start - Finish: Velji Zalazi - Tvrđava Sveti Andrija
(tvrđava means fortress)

Distance (up / down): **16 km** (1220m / 1290m)

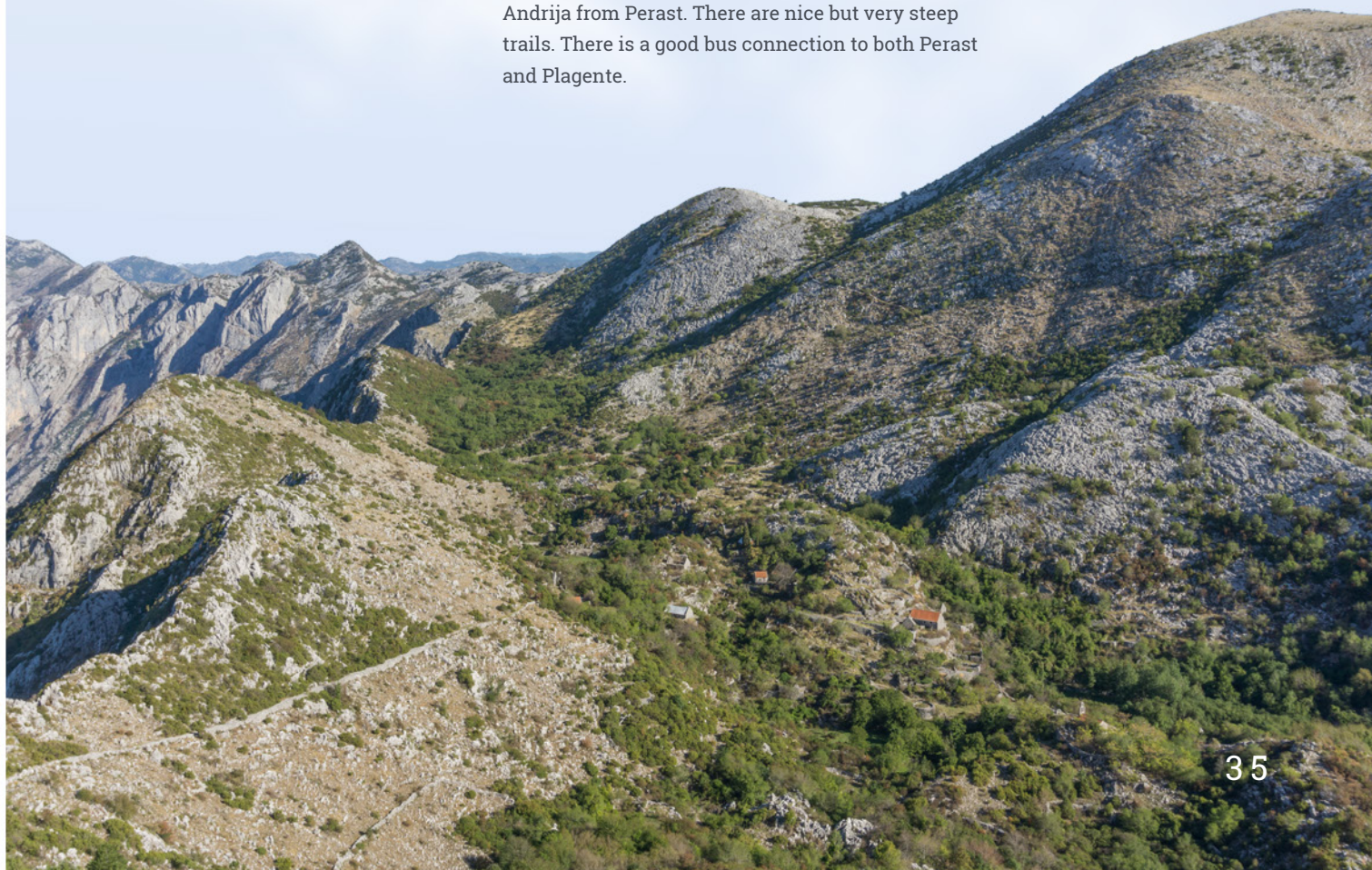
Time: **7'45"**

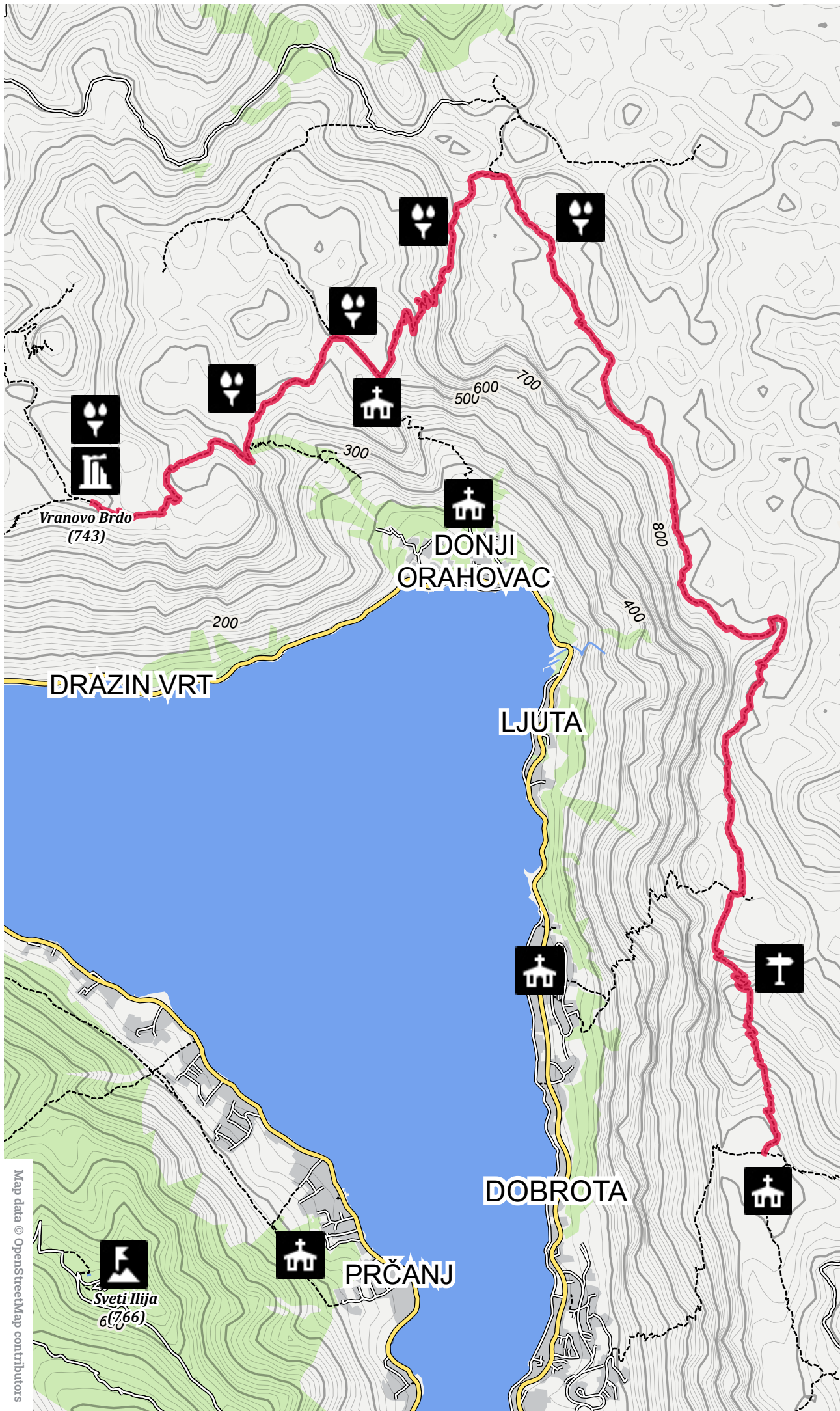
Terrain: Vaguely visible and overgrown trails through valleys
with abandoned villages, now in ruins. Lots of
stunning views.

Resupply: A few good cisterns on the way.

Transport: No direct transport to Veli Zalazi or Tvrđava Sveti
Andrija. But if you're a section hiker, you can hike to
Velji Zalazi from a coastal town Plagente and to Sveti
Andrija from Perast. There are nice but very steep
trails. There is a good bus connection to both Perast
and Plagente.

Velji Zalazi





Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

Sveti Ilija
6(766)

PRČANJ

DOBROTA

LJUTA

DONJI
ORAOVAC

DRAZIN VRT

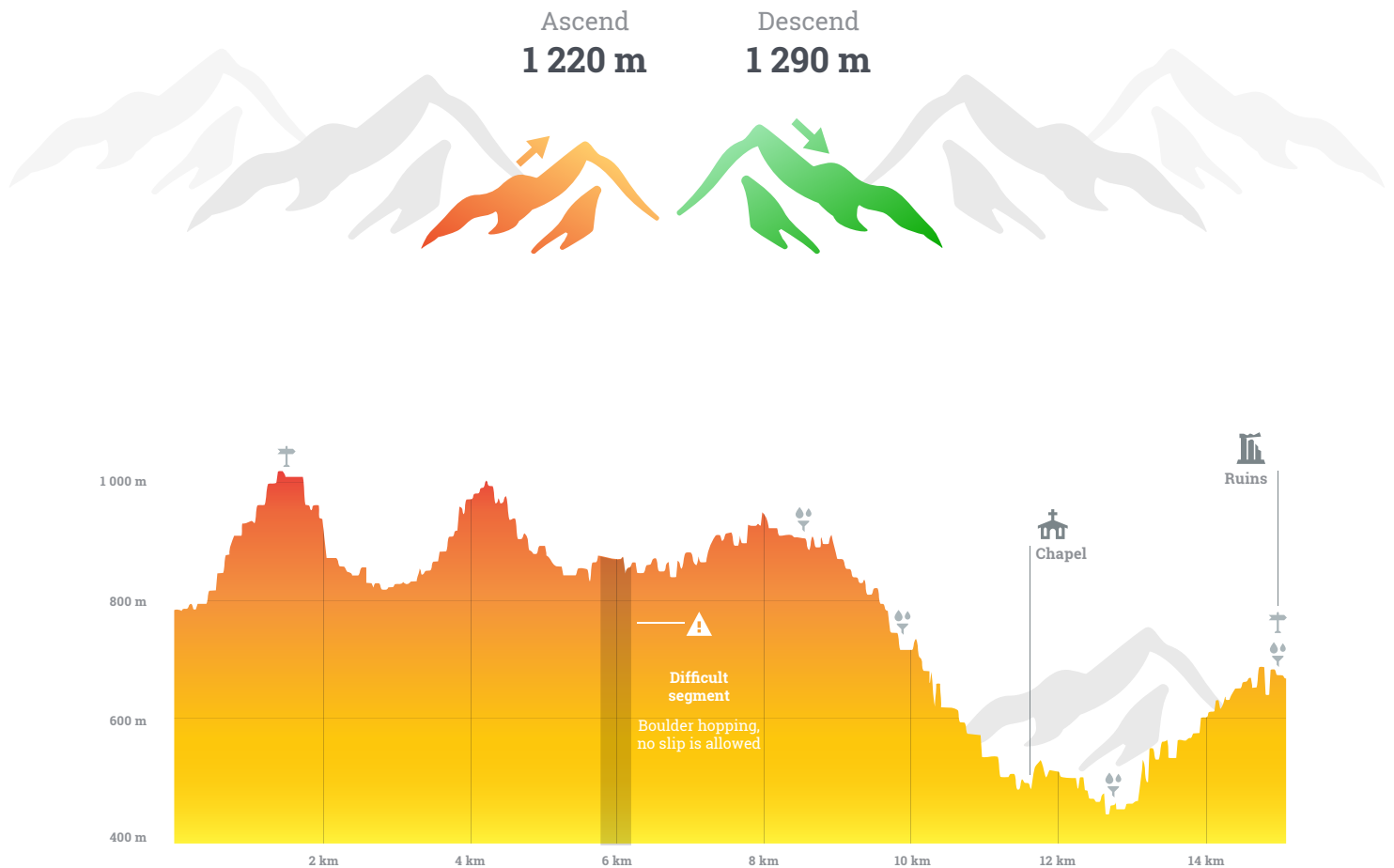
Vranovo Brdo
(743)

Peak
Chapel
Cistern
Sign post
Ruins



2 km
1 : 50 000

Altitude and Stage Profile



Description

In Velji Zalazi, there is a signpost on top of a small hill. From there, follow the red marks, carefully drifting through the village ruins towards Mali Zalazi. The trail here is well marked but heavily overgrown with prickly rosehip and blackberry plants. Climb up on a rough path to Luk saddle (0'45") and descend to Mali Zalazi (1'00"). There, pass an inhabited house and a few ruins and keep straight. The path is well marked but the trail is overgrown again. Pass a viewpoint at the top of a hill (0'45") and descend into another abandoned village with a cistern (0'30").

The path now winds up to a dry karst slope. Once you reach the top (0'30"), the trail continues along a very sharp ridge of slippery boulders. Extra consideration is

needed here, especially when it's wet or when the bora is blowing. The difficult boulder hopping section lasts about 500 m and then you enter forest again (0'30") where the trail becomes nicely walkable.

The trail now copies a steep slope and after it passes another abandoned settlement, it goes up steeply. After a saddle, the path is quite clear and easily visible. Soon after passing one more saddle you come to a cistern (1'00"). Follow the red marks further along the slope. When you come to a crossroad with an arrow saying "PPT", turn a sharp left at a red shining cross on a stone. After a while, you come to another cistern (0'45").

Zig-zag down a steep slope along an easily visible, but not well marked path. Eventually, you come to a chapel with a signpost (0'45"). Continue along the other side of the valley towards Tvrđava Sveti Andrija.

Soon the path turns into a stony 'mountain highway'. It takes you to a good source of water which is a short way down the road on your left after you pass an inhabited house (0'15"). Ascend along a stony trail until you reach the fortress Sveti Andrija (1'00").

Inside the ruins, you'll find a flat grassy spot and a good water cistern with clean water. Ideal for camping.

Tvrđava Sveti Andrija (lit. Fortress of Saint Andrew) is a fortress from 19th century built by Austro-Hungarians. Similar to other fortresses around, it was part of the fortification around the southern borders of the empire. Fortresses were connected with the coast and with each other by dry-stony roads, now often called 'mountain highways'. Even though the 'highways' haven't been maintained for a long time, they're still there and make your walking experience in the next 2 stages much more pleasant.

Stage 8

from **Tvrđava Sveti Andrija** to **Crkvice**



Crkvice

Start - Finish: Tvrđava Sveti Andrija - Crkvice

Distance (up / down): **20 km** (1730m / 1340m)

Time: **7'30"**

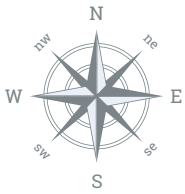
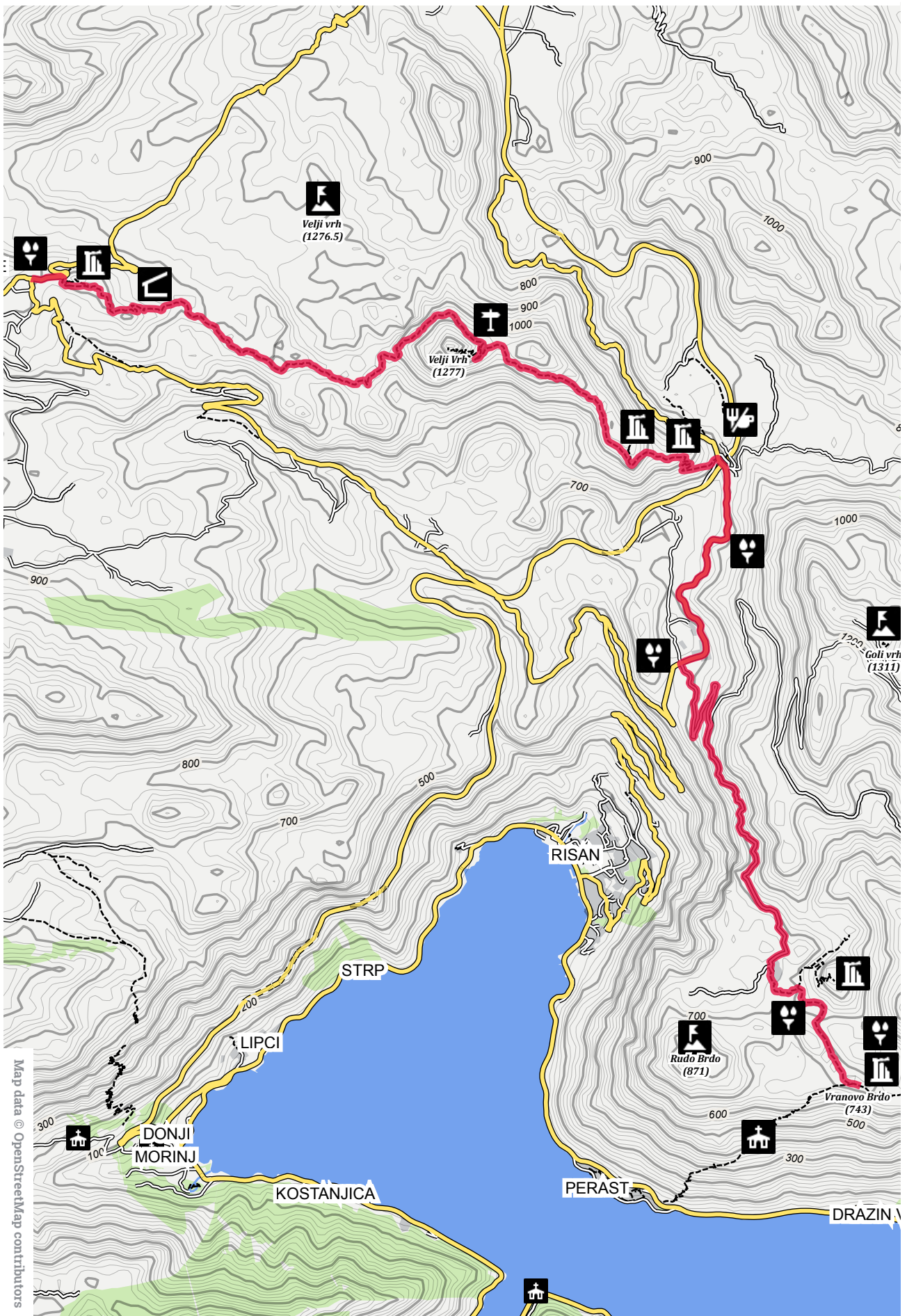
Terrain: Following clear forest roads down to the main road.
Then slightly the overgrown 'mountain highway'
appears, connecting abandoned fortresses.

Resupply: A small cafe by the road M-4. A few good cisterns.

Transport: None to Tvrđava Sveti Andrija but you can hike up
there from the eastern edge of coastal town, Perast.
Taxi to Crkvice.

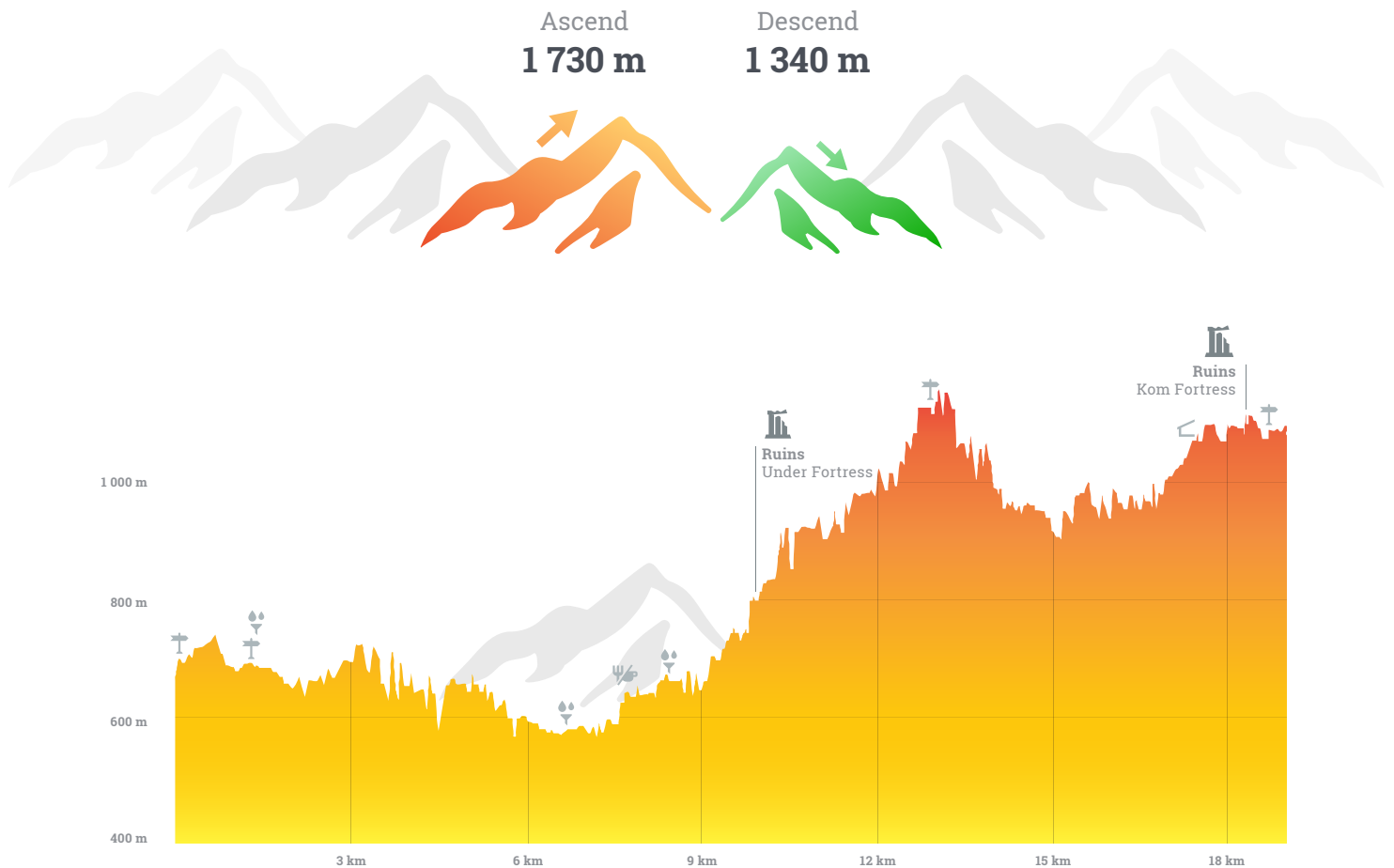
Tvrđava
Sveti Andrija





2 km
1:50 000

Altitude and Stage Profile



Description

From the fort, take the mountain highway winding across mountain valleys towards Velji vrh. At a crossroad with a cistern turn left to a small settlement (0'30"). There, a hiking track upgrades to a gravel road and takes you all the way down to a small settlement. Take a sharp right by a memorial (1'15") on an asphalt road. The road winds up slowly and leads to a bridge (a road over a tunnel to be precise) over the main road M-4 (0'45"). There, if you want to pay a visit to a café by the main road, turn right before the bridge and then left over the main road (200 m detour).

To continue towards Velji vrh and Orjen, cross the bridge and turn left onto a forest slope. The trail is easily visible, though a bit overgrown at times. Pass some small

fortress ruins. At a crossroad with a path heading to Ober Fortress (0'45"), stay on the trail to your left unless you want to check out the Fortress, which is a sharp right turn. Keep following the path until you reach a signpost pointing to the top of Velji vrh (1'00"). There, you can make a side trip to the top (1277 m, 0'45" return). To continue hiking the PPT, keep straight to Crkvice.

The trail follows the mountain highway now and is easy to navigate. It's a bit overgrown at times but it's not too bad and the plants are not prickly. Eventually you come to a shelter (zaklon in Montenegrin; 2'30") which could serve as an emergency shelter. Keep following the highway and when you reach the fortress Kom, it's just 200m down to an asphalt road (0'30"). There you find more ruins and a signpost. Follow the signpost towards Orjenske sedlo and soon you come to Crkvice, your destination for this stage (0'15").

If you keep going straight past a crossroad with a monument of a soldier, you come to a huge cistern. If you turn left at the crossroad, there are some nice spots for camping under the trees on your right.

Crkvice is a place where Austro-Hungarians built one of their most important military bases. It was in use from the end of 19th century to the end of the First World War and could accommodate up to 7000 people. The biggest bakery in the Balkans was located here, producing up to 24 tons of bread per day. Nowadays the base is in ruins.

The monument of the soldier is dedicated to fighters of the Krivošije uprising (1869). It was a result of the Austro-Hungarian decision to extend military conscription to the region of Krivošije (where Crkvice lies). Locals, never before obliged to serve in the army, took up arms and defeated the first wave of Austro-Hungarian troops. Soon after, a compromise was made. Rebels formally surrendered to the Austro-Hungarians, in return the rebels could keep their weapons, conscription was abandoned and the rebels pardoned.

Stage 9

from Crkvice to Vrbanj



Start - Finish: Crkvice - cone shaped cistern close to Vrbanj

Distance (up /down): **21 km** (1360m / 1290m)

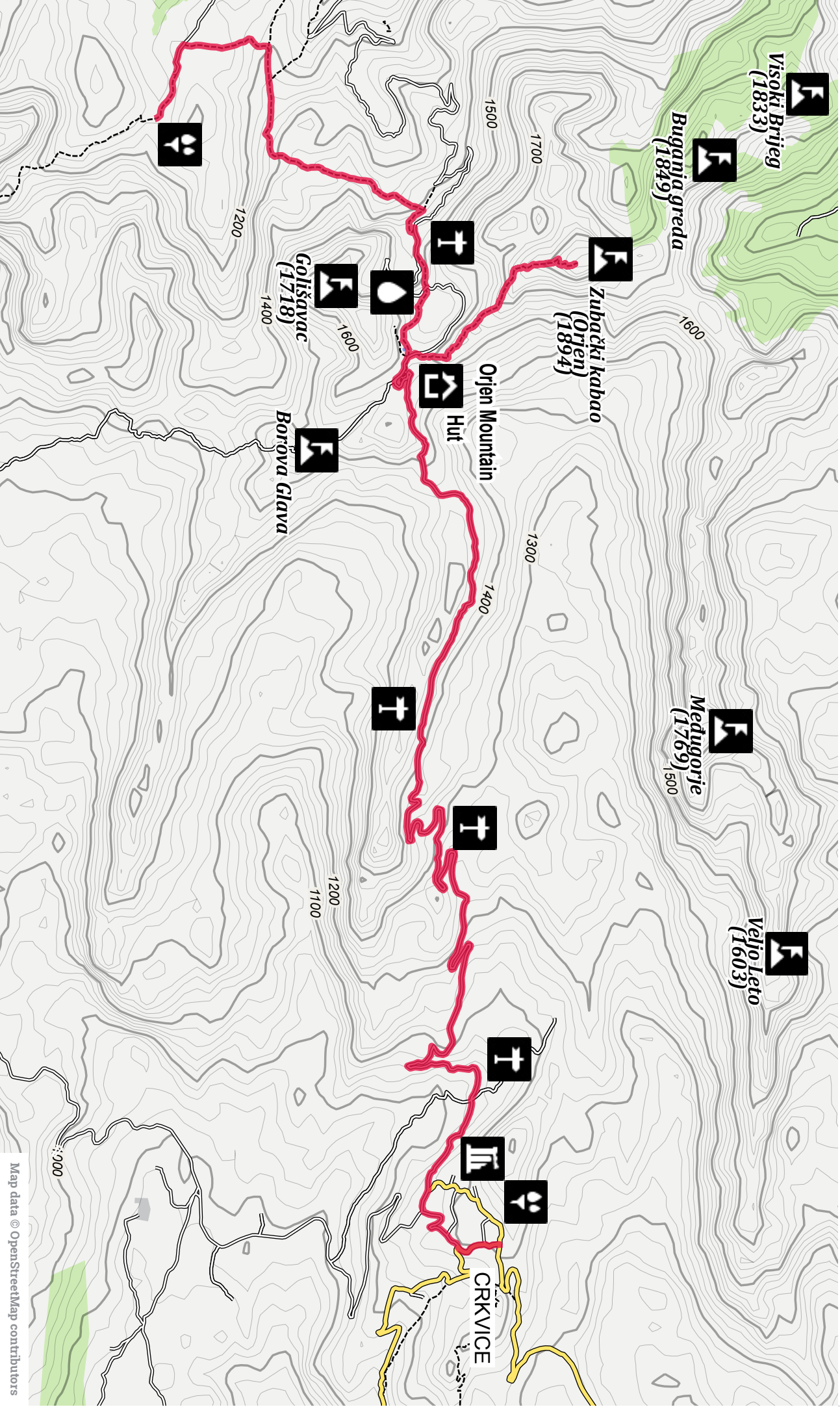
Time: **9'00"**

Terrain: A long and gradual ascent along 4WD up to the Dom Orjen. Hiking along the southeastern ridge to Zubacki Kabao (Orjen) and descending through a beech forest down to a cistern close to Vrbanj.

Resupply: Good water sources in Crkvice, by Dom Orjen and from a cone cistern in Vrbanj.

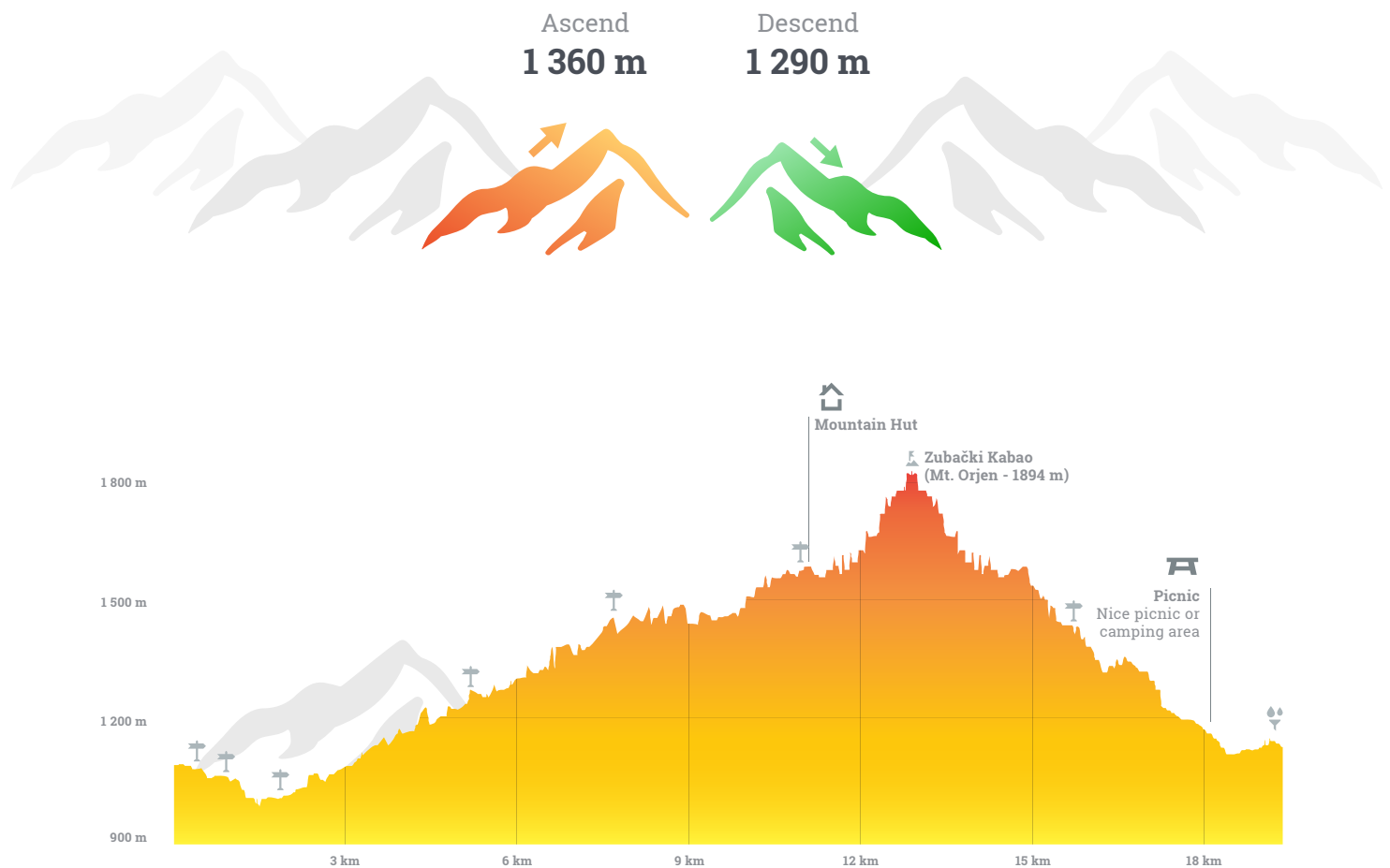
Transport: Taxi to Crkvice. Taxi to Vrbanj and then 3km of walking along a gravel road to a camping spot by a cone shaped cistern (it could be possible to take a taxi all the way to the end of the gravel road).





Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

Altitude and Stage Profile



Description

At the crossroad with the Soldier memorial, turn left on a descending asphalt road. At the next crossroad you find a signpost pointing right to Herceg Novi. It's for cyclists, but keep following it anyway. At the next signpost for hikers (0'15"), by the ruin of a military base, turn right on the gravel road which you followed all the way up to Orjenske sedlo (4'00"). There you'll find a hut which is closed most of the time.

This part is a bit dull as you don't see much and the gravel road seems to be endless. Nevertheless, at the end of the road you'll be rewarded with great views over Orjen massif and a good source of water. To get to the water, follow the red marks to a slope on the left side of a pond. The cistern is about 200 m away.

To climb to Zubački kabao (1,894 m), follow the red marks from a signpost by a gravel road (2'30" return). A well marked path follows the ridge all the way to the top. Climbing to the top is prohibited between 1st November - 1st June.

Zubački kabao, usually known as Mt. Orjen, is the highest peak of Orjen massif and eastern Adriatic. If the weather is good, the views from the top are excellent. On the north-west you can see the Bosnian and Herzegovinian parts of Dinaric Alps, and on the south-west the Croatian part. Looking east, Albanian peaks might be visible on the horizon.

To continue on the PPT, follow marks heading down on the right hand side of the pond towards Subra. Markings here are shiny and the track is easy to follow. When it passes the gravel road for the second time, a signpost appears on the left (0'30"). The track leaves the road behind and descends to a dead forest. Soon you come to another crossroad (0'15"), where you turn left, following an inscription on a tree and an arrow pointing down and left to Subra.

Continue your descent, with occasional ascents, through a beech forest until you come to a picnic spot with a signpost on a shallow ridge (1'15"). Head left down a grassy slope on a path flanked by fern. The landscape opens up now and all of a sudden you're walking through a grassy plain with Subra's amphitheatre in the background. When you meet a gravel road, turn left, following a stone inscription to Subra. Follow the gravel road and after 600m look for a 4m high cone cistern with good quality water on the right hand side of the road (0'15"). By the cistern there are plenty of flat grassy spots, ideal for camping and having a proper rest before climbing up to Subra's amphitheatre.

Stage 10

from **Vrbajn** to **Herceg Novi**



Vrbajn

Herceg Novi

Start - Finish: Vrbajn - Herceg Novi

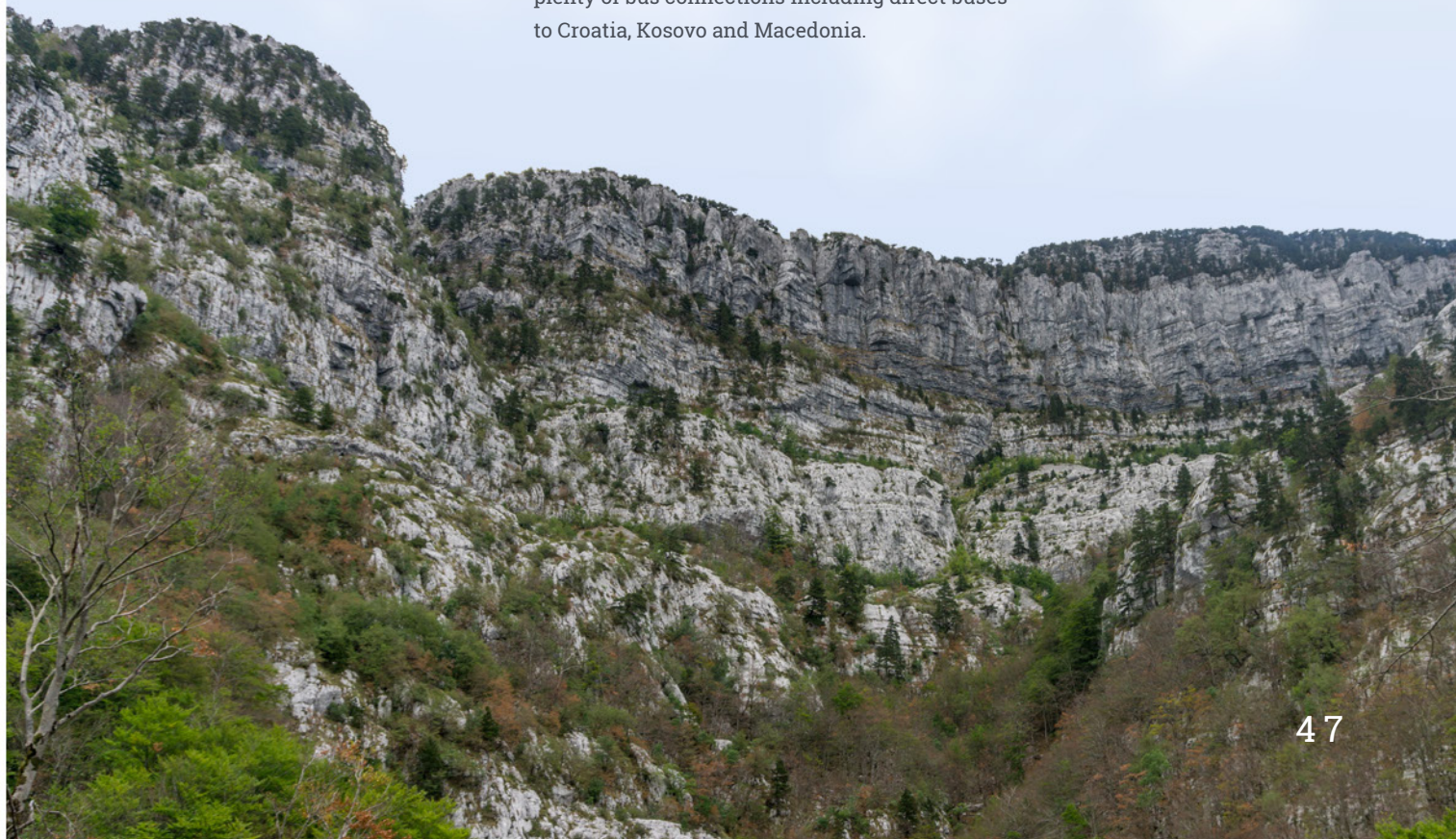
Distance (up / down): 17 km (850m / 1950m)

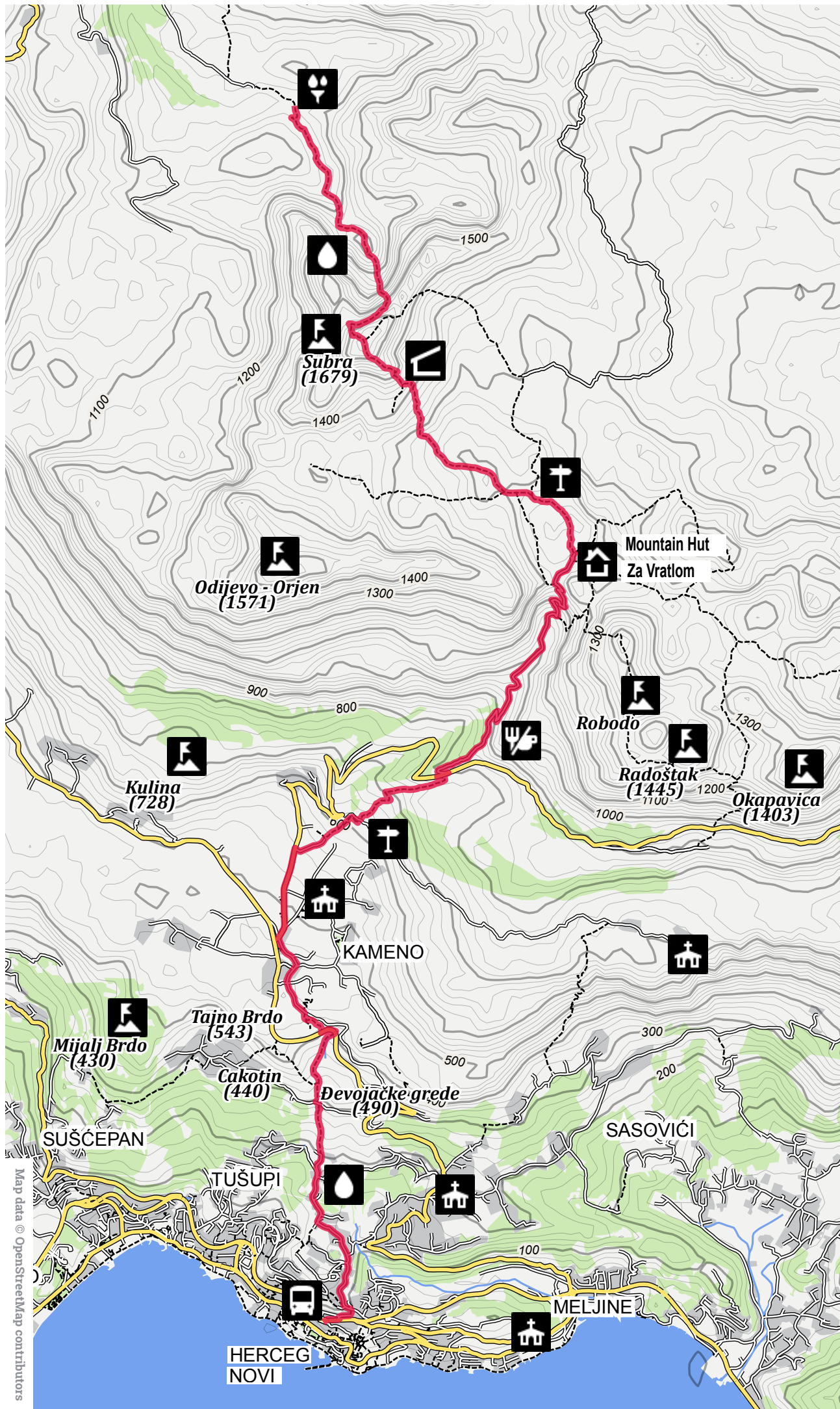
Time: 8'00"

Terrain: Climbing up to Subra is a challenging hiking and scrambling experience, not suitable for those afraid of heights. The descent to Vratlo is a little easier and after Vratlo is just a gradual descent along gravel roads.

Resupply: A few good quality water cisterns on the way.

Transport: Taxi to Vrbajn and then 3km of walking along a gravel road to a camping spot by a cone shaped cistern (possibly taking a taxi all the way to the end of the gravel road, it's not 4WD). Herceg Novi has plenty of bus connections including direct buses to Croatia, Kosovo and Macedonia.



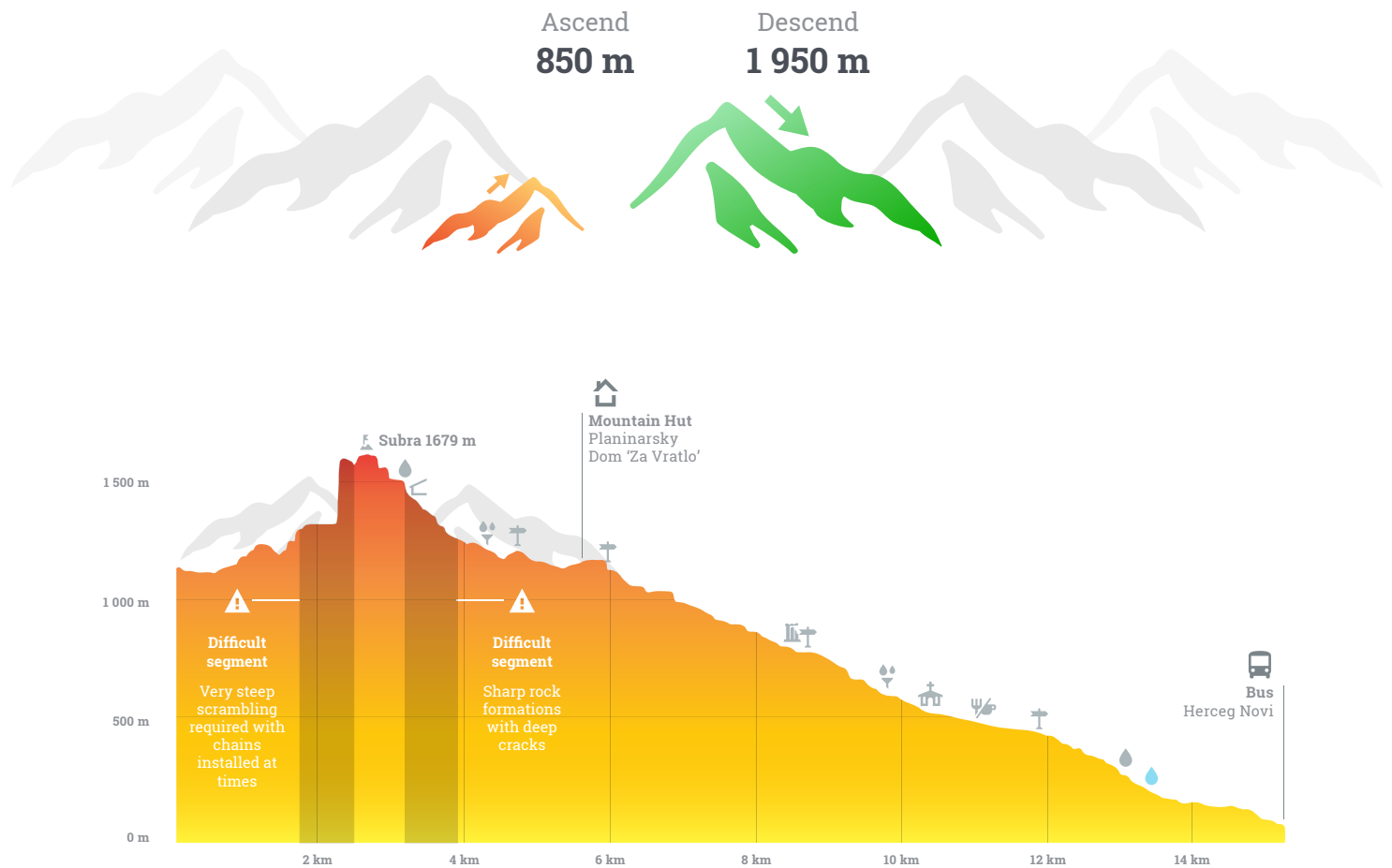


1 : 50 000

2 km

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

Altitude and Stage Profile



Description

From the cone shaped cistern, follow the red marks winding across a grassy valley bottom. Soon you appear in a beech forest where you start scrambling up. The path becomes steeper and steeper and extra care is needed here. On the edge of the forest you come to a stone wall with a signs (1'45"). To get to a water source, turn right (20 minutes return). To continue to Subra, turn left.

From now the trail starts to be very exposed and you'll have to get down on all fours to keep moving up. There are 3 extra dangerous parts while climbing up, all marked with an exclamation mark in a red triangle on stones. The first is where you need to climb up sharply across smooth boulders, the second when you traverse a wall with

a 200m drop (there are iron cables installed) and the third part is near the top where you have to scramble up, again with the aid of cables. Eventually you end up on a nice, relatively flat grassy top with amazing views (1'30").

To get down, follow red marks to Vratlo. The descent is not as exposed as the ascent, but still technically challenging. There is a part marked with an exclamation mark where you need to jump over very sharp boulders. They're separated by cracks, often many metres deep. When you come down to a grassy valley (1'30"), the difficult part is over. Continue along the signs to Vratlo (0'30"). There, you find a mountain hut "Za Vratlom" which is usually closed. It should be possible to overnight there but you need to get in touch with "Planinarski Klub Subra", a local mountaineering organization from Herceg Novi.

From Vratlo, follow the 4WD road going up first onto a saddle, then quickly descending. On a crossroad with an asphalt road (1'00") turn right and in 50m turn left to a trail through shrubs. Pass two cisterns. At a chapel with cemetery (0'30"), turn left on an asphalt road.

Go straight down, pass the first café and just after the bike rental turn left. Don't go down to the main road, that's an old part of the trail, though that road would take you down to Herceg Novi, too. Instead, follow a new cycle path. At the crossroad to Tajno Brdo (0'15"), leave the path, descending on a stony trail to your right. At the main road, turn left, following the road for a bit. Before the bridge turn left down into a tunnel going right under the bridge. Keep following the red marks through a pine forest. Cross a road, pass Matkovića most (most means bridge) and keep descending along Srbina Street through Herceg Novi's suburbs. About 100m before reaching the Adriatic Highway, turn right down a tiny staircase to Herceg Novi's bus station (1'00"). That's it. Well done!