



AN AREA OF OUTSTANDING
NATURAL FEATURES

The Ovčar-Kablar Gorge

10

REASONS FOR AN
ACTIVE
HOLIDAY







ABOUT THE OVČAR-KABLAR GORGE

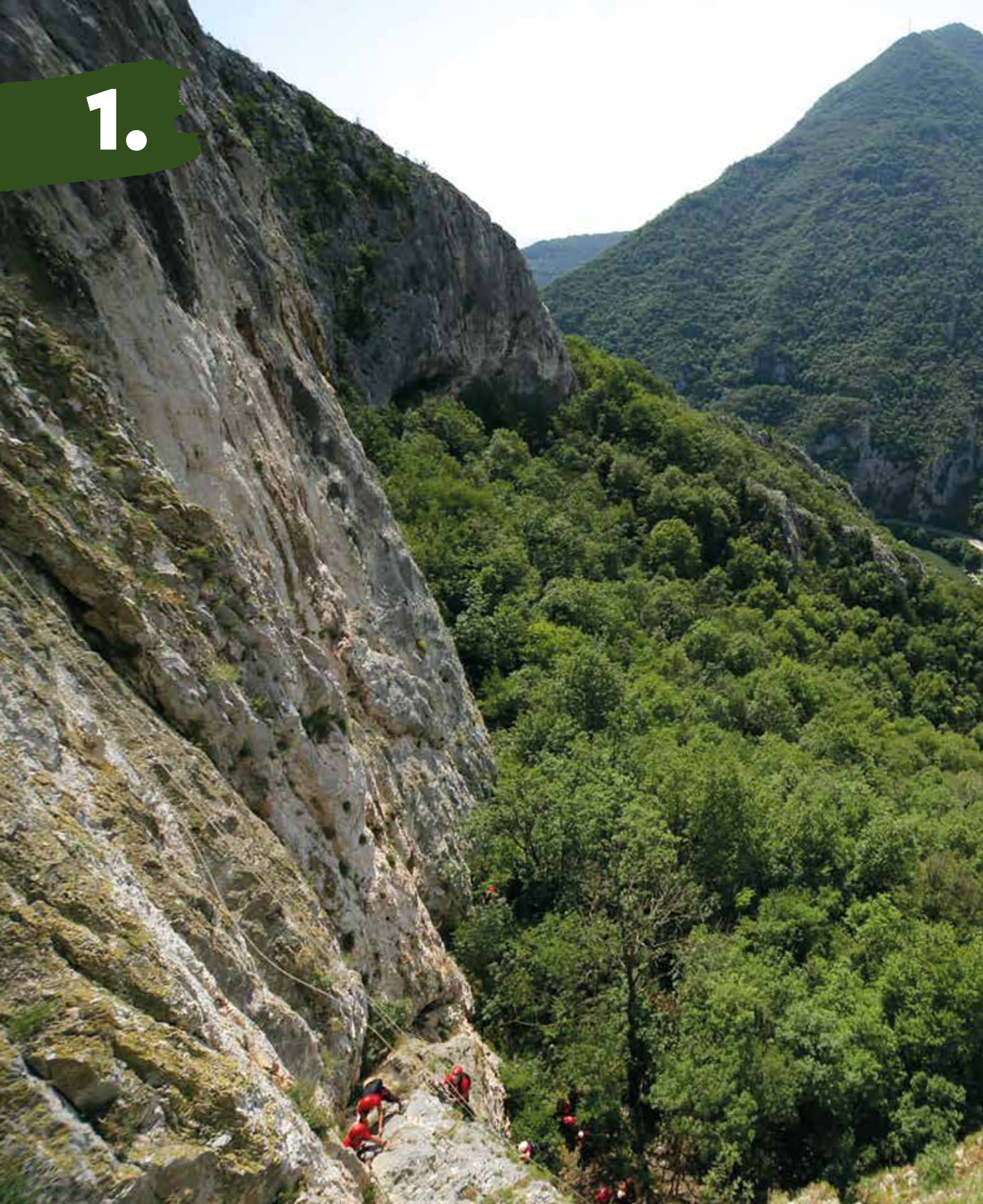
The Ovčar-Kablar gorge is an area of outstanding natural features, located in Western Serbia, only a few kilometers away from Čačak. The Ovčar-Kablar gorge is a region rich in diverse flora and fauna, extensive stretches of forests, lakes, thermal mineral springs and monasteries dating back to the Middle Ages, also known as the Little Holy Mountain of Serbia. One of the most beautiful gorges in Serbia is easily accessible by highway from Belgrade. It represents one of the most attractive destinations in the tourist region of Western Serbia.

The area of outstanding features “Ovčar-Kablarska gorge” has been placed under protection as an area of category I, i.e. an area of exceptional importance. It covers an area of 4910.8 ha, with protection regime zones of the first degree covering 8.47 ha (0.17% of the territory), second degree 1205.44 ha (24.54% of the territory) and third degree 3696.86 ha (75.28% of the territory).

The Ovčar-Kablar gorge is known for its monasteries and sanctuaries. Today, there are 12 holy places in the gorge, of which nine are monasteries, one church on the site of an ancient monastery, one church-chapel, and a cave church - a memorial ossuary.

Owing to these natural values and cultural and historic heritage, this is an ideal destination for an active holiday, and here are the following 10 reasons for it...

1.





100 kilometers of hiking trails in Ovčar and Kablar

Ovčar and Kablar are well known to fans of mountaineering and alpinism in Serbia. In the wider area, about 100 km of trails are covered with hiking markings, so that almost everyone can find an ideal trail according to their psycho-physical capabilities. The trails pass through the attractive areas of the gorge, next to the monastery or the viewpoint.

The trail descriptions are single-directional, leading in the direction of ascent, while the trails are marked so that they can be used from both directions. It is recommended that, for example, the ascent to Kablar is done once, and the descent is done by following a different path. This is the best way to get to know the mountain.

The trails are “ranked” as:

- Very demanding - a red triangle with an exclamation point in it. These trails are only recommended for well-prepared, experienced hikers. Use of these paths should be avoided during periods of snow cover and rainfall.
- Demanding - marked with a blue dot. These trails are recommended for well-prepared hikers.
- Less demanding - marked with a green dot. These trails are recommended for all categories of users with average psycho-physical fitness.

The paths are marked with markings - display of a circle and “flags”, and key intersections with signposts - display of signposts and explanation.



2.



OVČAR AND KABLAR CYCLE ROUTES



Route length: 16 km
Altitude of the starting point: 277 m above sea level
Altitude of the end point: 985 m above sea level
Total ascent: 790 m
Total descent: 795 m

The route starts in the center of Ovčar Banja and leads to the natural attraction of this area, the creek named Banjski potok, then through the hamlet of Dučalovići to the top of Ovčar, from where the view extends to the meanders of the West Morava river. The two branches of the route that lead you to the monasteries of the Holy Trinity and Sretenje are especially interesting.



Route length: 29 km
Type of route: circular
Altitude of the starting point: 377 m above sea level
Altitude of the end point: 377 m above sea level
Total ascent: 790 m
Total descent: 795 m

This route will take you to the viewpoint on the top of Kablar, from where you can enjoy a fantastic view of the meanders of the West Morava. Along the way, you can visit the medieval monastery of Saint Nicolas and the monastery of Dormition and visit the route of the old narrow-gauge railway that passed through the gorge through tunnels more than 100 years ago.

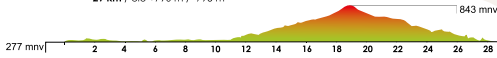


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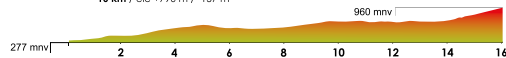
bike trails RUTE



KABLARSKA RUTA / KABLAR ROUTE
29 km / ele +790 m / -795 m



OVČARSKA RUTA / OVČAR ROUTE
16 km / ele +790 m / +157 m



- polazna tačka / starting point
- najviša tačka, cilj / the highest point, goal
- tunel / tunnel
- manastir / monastery
- vidikovac / view point
- naseljeno mesto / populated place
- pijaća voda / drinking water
- vodopad / waterfall



3.





ALPINISM and sports to extend your limits

In the gorge, there are active sports clubs that organise mountaineering courses, and the mountain peaks of this region can be climbed using the marked hiking trails.

Today, the sport of free climbing has evolved from classic ALPINISM, with contests taking place in natural setting - on rocks arranged especially for climbing, or in sports halls. Sport climbing is a sport in which the climber uses strength, body endurance and knowledge of the climbing technique to advance on the rock, while the technical means are used exclusively for fall protection. To climb a course means to climb from the beginning of the course to its end, using only the grip on the rock without sitting in the harness, or in the bouldering discipline in as few attempts as possible.

In addition to these attractive and demanding disciplines, there are others that attract fans of extreme sports, such as Dry-tooling and Zip Line. The Ovčar-Kablar Gorge is an ideal location for new disciplines such as Bouldering and Slacklining.

Via Ferrata or Iron Road, leads to the Turčinovac cave on Kablar. The via ferrata is 45 m high, and the total length of the track is 60 m. The Turčinovac Cave is one of the speleological attractions of the gorge, nestled on the limestone cliffs of Kablar.

More information and training:

Extreme sports club: Armadillo

Facebook: ArmadilloKesArmadilloKes



4.





Experience the gorge - cruising through picturesque landscapes between the rocky cliffs of Kablar and the forested slopes of Ovčar

You will discover why the experience of the gorge is unforgettable, if you get to know it from another angle – what for many is the most beautiful way - by sailing in a boat through the striking massifs of Ovčar and Kablar, Lake Međuvršje on the Western Morava.

The pier on the lake Međuvršje is a place where you can easily navigate by boats - catamarans, and the navigation continues along the lake through landscapes that you will enjoy.

Lake Međuvršje is a reservoir on the West Morava river, about 11 km long. The area around the lake is mostly hilly and wooded, with trails for sport fishing. The vegetation in the lake consists of rushes, reeds and water lilies. This is also the habitat of numerous species of birds, of over 180 species that have been registered in the Ovčarsko-Kablar Gorge (IBA area)

Once in the Gorge, you will find these waiting for you:

- Panoramic view of the gorge with bird watching
- Photo safari
- Picturesque landscapes
- Monasteries on the banks of the river and on the slopes of the mountain massifs of Ovčar and Kablar
- Restaurants on the lake shore
- Sports activities and events organized during the summer

5.





OVČAR BANJA

- Recreation for good health

Ovčar Spa lies at the heart of the outstanding natural features area, the Ovčar-Kablar gorge. Surrounded by dense forest and lush vegetation, on the banks of the West Morava river with thermal mineral springs, it is a real oasis for rest and recreation.

The thermal mineral water of Ovčar Spa belongs to the group of volcanic waters of the Šumadija type. Similar to them, this water also contains calcium, lithium, rubidium, cesium and strontium. The water has a temperature of 36-38 °C, the reaction of which is neutral Ph 7 and mineralization 0.66 g/l. Mild radioactivity comes from radon, uranium and radium. The thermal mineral water of Ovčar Spa is suitable for the treatment of rheumatic diseases, muscle tissue injuries, and skin diseases.

Mountaineering and cycling paths, recreation areas, walking paths, leading to the nearby monasteries of the Small Srpska Sveta Gora, attractive viewpoints and other localities located in the spa and its immediate surroundings.



6.





Exploring the paths to the monasteries the Serbian Small Holy Mountain

The Ovčar-Kablar Gorge is a region recognizable for its natural beauty and monasteries gathered within a small area. Due to their centuries-long tradition, they represent a unique cultural, artistic and historical heritage of the wider region. The slopes of the Ovčar mountain are home to the monasteries of the Presentation of Christ, the Holy Trinity, the Presentation of Mother of God, the monastery of Holy Resurrection and the monastery of Transfiguration, and four more are lying on the slopes of Kablar: Saint Nicolas, the Annunciation monastery, Saint John's and the monastery of Dormition of Mother of God. There are two more sanctuaries in the gorge, Savinje and Kađenica.



7.



Photo safari and lookout points - Ovčar-Kablar Gorge

The impressive nature of the Ovčar -Kablar gorge, its vivid colors and natural attractions can be discovered and explored, and they can be reached mainly by marked hiking trails. Challenges are abundant for active holiday lovers, but for those who prefer rest and a relaxing view, we recommend a lake cruise through the mountain cliffs of Ovčar and Kablar.





1. LOOKOUT POINT OF KABLAR (view of the Meanders)

You can reach the top of Kablar from Ovčar Banja by hiking trails 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Trails 1, 2 and 5 are demanding and are recommended only for experienced and well-prepared hikers. Tracks 3 and 4 are easier, but you should still be prepared for a 2-2.5 hour hike to the top.

2. LOCATION OF THE TOP OF OVČAR (three viewpoints - near the broadcast transmitter, near the mountaineering seal for climbing the top, next to the facility used by the radio amateurs).

These locations can be reached by hiking trails 7 and 8. If you want to shorten the hike, you can take a passenger car from road E 763 in the town of Pakovraće and turn onto road 408 (to Lučani and Markovica). After driving past the pass on the Jelica mountain, turn right onto the local road towards the Holy Trinity (Svete Trojice) and Presentation (Sretenje) monasteries.

3. LOOKOUT POINT BSERVATORY BELOW THE MONASTERY OF USPENJE

The cliff above the meanders of the Western Morava, with a view of part of the 'pinched' meanders, Ovčar and Kablar.

The viewpoint can be reached by the road from Ovčar Banja to the Jovanje and Uspenje monasteries. At the point where the roads to the monasteries diverges, there is a large parking lot from which a short but steep path leads to the viewpoint on the rock.

4. LOOKOUT POINT THE PEJICA PROMONTORY

From the embankment immediately above the road from Ovčar Banja to Vidova, a few hundred meters before entering the Vidovski tunnel, there is a wonderful view of the third meander of the Western Morava in the Ovčar-Kablar gorge and the Pejica promontory, with the Ovčar mountains in the background. From this position, the promontory looks like an island, so one of the amazed visitors called it the "Serbian Bled".

5. LOOKOUT POINT ON THE THIRD MEANDAR OF THE WEST MORAVA

The viewpoint is located on the ridge above the Vidovski tunnel. From this vantage point, there is a fantastic view of the wide zone of the third meander with the Ovčar and Kablar mountains in the background. A careful observer will notice the Uspenje Monastery.

6. The BANJSKI POTOK brook – a hidden pearl of nature

Part of the course of the 'Banjski potok brook', with distinct canyon features, several waterfalls and a large tufa-rock terrace, attracts attention and represents one of the most attractive localities in the gorge. It is especially challenging for photography lovers. You can reach this location when you go from Ovčar Banja to the camping site: after crossing the old bed of the Zapadna Morava river, turn left, and cross the stream immediately, then follow the road that leads along the stream.

7. LOOKOUT POINT ON THE 'RATKOVA STAZA' TRAIL

An extremely beautiful viewpoint with a great view of the twisted, or 'pinched' meanders of the Western Morava. This is the lookout point that is the closest to the meanders, allowing a full view of them. The viewpoint is located on Ovčar, hiking trail number 9 – 'Ratkova' trail. The path is steep, very demanding, and the area of the rock where the lookout point is located can be risky for less skilled and dexterous mountaineers. So going to this viewpoint is recommended only for highly fit visitors. Mountain route No. 9 is entered from the bypass road around the tunnel on the main road (E763) in front of Nikolje (Saint Nicolas) Monastery, about 300m from the entrance to the tunnel from the direction of Ovčar Banja.

8. OVČAR-KABLAR GORGE FROM THE WATER

For a full and memorable experience of the landscape of exceptional features, the "Ovčar-Kablar gorge" we recommend a cruise. Catamarans depart from the pier on Lake Međuvršje, and the ride through this area is completed by a visit to the Nikolje – Saint Nicolas Monastery, on the banks of the West Morava River.

8.



Paragliding – experiencing the beauty of the landscape from the air

The wooded Ovčar mountain as part of the area of outstanding natural beauty, is the place to realize the dream of flying. Paragliding is flying with a parachute and is one of the most attractive ways to enjoy the nature.

From the paragliding airstrip on Ovčar, there is a wonderful view of undulating hilly and mountainous areas dominated by vast meadows and forest complexes along the Zapadna Morava river.



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9.



Walking and learning

- 864 species of plants • 187 species of birds
- 48 species of mammals...

So far, 864 species of plants have been recorded in the area of the Ovčar-Kablar gorge, which makes up more than 20% of the flora of Serbia. A large number of relict, endemic and rare plant species are encountered. The Kablar bluebell (*Edraianthus canescens*), is an endemic species that can be found only on cliffs of the Kablar mountain.

When talking about the fauna of the Ovčar-Kablar Gorge, birds always come first, perhaps because it is the best-studied group of organisms so far. The diversity of habitats caused the presence of a large number of species (187 recorded species), a large number of which are protected by international and national regulations. For these reasons, the territory of the Ovčar-Kablar Gorge is included in the IBA (Internationally Important Bird Areas) area. It is worth mentioning 110 species of diurnal butterflies, over 450 species of night butterflies, 31 species of dragonflies... 48 species of mammals live in the gorge, of which 18 species are bats. It is interesting that in 2019, after more than 100 years, the passing of a bear was recorded on Kablar. Wild boar, roe deer, fox, badger, marten... are also part of the local fauna.



Natural history center – home to the animal kingdom of the gorge

In the Natural History Center in Ovčar Banja, there is an exhibition of exhibits of species that are characteristic of the PIO "Ovčar-Kablarska Gorge" and which was realized in cooperation with the Natural History Museum in Belgrade. The exhibits represent specimens of certain species of vertebrates - fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals that live in the Ovčar-Kablar Gorge. This educational venue also has a conference room.



10.



Sports and recreation

The mountains, rivers and lakes of the Ovčar-Kablar gorge are ideal areas for sport fishing, alpinism, paragliding, hiking, cyclotourism, kayaking and canoeing.

Especially attractive are the events, especially sports, that are organized in this area: Festival of Healthy Spirit, Swimming Marathon, Wild West OCR Race, the Great Mountain Race and other sports manifestations are interesting and attract a large number of fans. Diving courses and a swimming school for the youngest visitors are also organized for spa visitors.





Publisher:

Tourist Organization of Čačak

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Festival zdravog duha, Dejan Živković,
Dragan Babović, Svetlana Dingarac,
Miloš Gagić, Dejan Jekić, PD Kablar,
KES Armadillo, Sreten Pantelić, Dragan
Pantelić, Miloš Popović, Dragan Bosnić,
Ana Beljić, Wild West OCR, Turistička
organizacija Čačka

**Map author - Monasteries of
Oučar Kablar Gorge:**

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Map author - Oučar and Kablar Cycle routes:

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Graphic design and prepress:

Dizajn studio Trigon, Čačak

Printed by:

„NAIS PRINT“, d.o.o. Niška Banja

2024.

ISBN 978-86-84739-48-5



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