



THE RADOVNA VALLEY



TRIGLAVSKI
NARODNI
PARK

THE POCAR
FARMHOUSE IN THE
RADOVNA VALLEY

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Printing of the leaflet The Pocar Homestead in the Radovna Valley
was financed by



PUBLISHED BY Javni zavod Triglavski narodni park (Triglav National
Park Public Institute)

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DESIGN

PRINTED BY Tiskarna knjigoveznica Radovljica, d.o.o.

NUMBER OF COPIES 4,000

SOURCE SI Public Info, GURS, DPK 1000 (2008)

september 2015

The Radovna valley lies just within the border of the Triglav National Park, cutting deep into the north-eastern parts of the limestone Julian Alps. The Radovna valley begins where the valleys Kot and Krma end, and runs from the north-west to the south-east.

Down to Krnica it is embraced by the high karstic plateaus of Pokljuka and Mežakla. The bottom of the valley is narrow. In certain places there are undulating grassland areas of limestone glacier sediments. For more convenient cultivation people have intentionally levelled out the grassland in recent decades, which is why, unfortunately, the typical cultural landscape is vanishing. The steep slopes of the valley are overgrown with mixed forest. The river that gave its name to the entire valley and its hamlets has its source in Zgornja Radovna just below the Gogala Farm. The water comes mainly from the subterranean streams of the Kot and Krma valleys.

Before one leaves Zgornja Radovna, it is worth taking a look at the Gogala linden tree, which

has a circumference of 642 cm at chest height. The tree, which spreads wide at its crown, is 25m high. Experts believe that the linden tree is about 500 years old.

In the lower part of the valley, on the steep slopes above Krnica, the entrance to the Gorje Cave opens up. The cave is 153m deep and the total length of its passages is 1,300m. It was once open to the public, but nowadays one can only visit it in the company of speleologists. Amidst the slopes opposite the cave lies the Pokljuka Gorge, which in some places has a depth of 50m and is almost 2 km in length. The Ribščica stream hollowed out the gorge as the glaciers melted. The waters gradually flowed away, leaving behind the largest fossil gorge in Slovenia.

At the village of Krnica, the Radovna river takes a sharp turn towards the north-east, where it cuts into a 1,600-metre-long gorge with precipitous slopes. The gorge, named Vintgar, ends with the mighty Šum waterfall, which falls 13m and is one of the rare fluvial waterfalls to be found in Slovenia.

THE POCAR HOMESTEAD



It is generally said that, at first, farmers from Gorje used to have only seasonal hamlets with pastures in Radovna. It was only later that people settled permanently in Spodnja, Srednja and Zgornja Radovna. In feudal times there were six farms in Zgornja Radovna, which belonged to families Gogala, Guhar, Bišček, Požrv, Psnak and Pocar.

The age of the Pocar Homestead can be determined from the documents found inside the house. The oldest dates back to 1609, while one from 1672 includes the name Potzer for the first time. In the centuries that followed, many generations lived in the house, but it is currently uninhabited. The farmhouse and outbuilding have been restored, furnished as a museum and protected as a historical monument, so that visitors can be introduced to the life, work and architectural heritage of past centuries.

The real value of the Pocar Homestead is its forests, pastures, rovti (high-lying hay meadows and pastures), grasslands and fields, and its



economic power can also be determined from the size of the house and outbuilding. Cattle-breeding, with supporting activities, provided the main source of profit and food. Despite the vastness of the property, the site of the house was chosen carefully to occupy as little land as possible. The house, outbuilding, pen for sheep and goats, and the wooden pigsty are all situated close to the former path through the grassland area.

The house is a stone-built, single-storey building with traditional ground-plan, with its rooms arranged around the central hallway. The main living area consists of the hiša, or the main room (the living room), and the hišna kamra, or bedroom, with the date 1775 on the ceiling beam. From the hallway one can enter into the "black (open-heart) kitchen", the kamra for the older members of the household, and the cellar used to store turnips, cabbages, carrots and potatoes. A stairway leads from the hallway to the attic, which has the same ground-plan as downstairs, only simplified. In the attic they kept clothes and personal belongings in



several wooden chests; there are also two long chests for grain, and another special, strong and tightly-built wooden chest for keeping provisions, meat, fat and flour. An extra granary-room bears the year 1794.

With regard to the interior furnishings of the house, we must emphasise that all the objects in the house are original furniture items which were made, used, bought, shifted, piled up and discarded from year to year, from decade to decade, and so for centuries. In the building only a few objects can be seen which, in museological and temporal terms, represent the furnishing of a particular room at any one time.

The exterior of the house has remained almost unchanged. The entrance to the house is stone-built with a semi-circular arch; the one-piece door is old and made of wood. Above the door on the roof truss beam, an old wooden plate with the hand-painted house number 13 is attached. The façade of the house is adorned with a fresco depicting the Crucifixion and the



Two Marys. The house has a boarded roof with hipped ends. In front of the hišna kamra there is a small fenced-in garden plot containing a box tree.

The outbuilding is two-storeyed. The ground floor is partly stone-built and partly wooden, while its upper part is wooden. The roof has hipped ends. The ground-plan is longitudinal and consists of four separated areas – a cow-shed, sheep-shed, goat-shed, and a shed for leaves – which can be entered from the southern, courtyard side. On the upper floor there are two areas: a pod or platform for threshing grain above the animal shed. At the western, gable end of the outbuilding, there is a steep partly stone-built, partly wooden ramp which served to bring carts to the hay-loft.

The outbuilding has been renovated for both museological and exhibition purposes. It displays farmers' implements and typical long wooden carts, and also contains information about the Triglav National Park, within which the Pocar Homestead is situated.