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„Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Public Institution is exclusively responsible for the content of the publication.“

The Project „Increasing the Attractiveness and the Educational Capacity of the Nature Park Lonjsko Polje by Building the Visitor Centre Black Stork Osekovo“

GENERAL GOAL OF THE PROJECT

Increasing the attractiveness of the Nature Park Lonjsko polje by building the visitor centre Black Stork and increasing the educational capacity of the target groups – Park employees, the local population, and the other relevant stakeholders in the Park area.

Project Applicant:

Lonjsko Polje Nature Park
Public Institution

Project Partners:

The City of Popovača and
the Sisak-Moslavina County

Project Associates:

Tourist Board of the City of Popovača,
Local Board Osekovo,
Association „Voloderska jesen“,
Culture-Art Society „Stjepan Šajnović“
Osekovo, Workshop Association
„Narodno tkivo i vezivo“ Osekovo,
Culture-Art Society „Potočanka“ Potok,
Winemakers and
Fruit-Growers' Association
„Škrlet“ Popovača,
Association for the promotion of cultural
and tourist values of Moslavina
„Moslavina info“,
History Association „Moslavina“, Central

Alliance of Associations of Croatian
Coldblood Breeders,
Scout Troupe „Jelengrad“ Popovača,
Football Club „Dinamo“ Osekovo,
Volunteer Fire Department Osekovo,
Hunting Association „Kuna“ Osekovo,
and the Women's Association Osekovo

End Users of the Project:

- visitors of the nature park
- the local population
- entrepreneurs

Area of Application of the Project:

The village of Osekovo and the Nature
Park Lonjsko polje

Implementation of Project Activities:

72 months (07/2014 – 07/2020)

Project Value:

HRK 20,315,914.88

Non-refundable Funds from the

Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds:

HRK 12,826,999.00

Grant Intensity:

81,3924940 %

Drafting the Project Application:

Developmental Agency SIMORA

Designer:

Architects Roth&Čerina, Zagreb

Project Content:

- Building a Visitor Centre in the village of Osekovo with an info-centre and a souvenir shop
- Presentation hall
- Educational park
- Parking lot
- Sanitary facilities
- Tourist, educational, and interactive interpretation content
- Lookout points to be located at eight locations throughout the Park
- Recreational equipment (solar boats, e-bicycles, and other)
- Tourist signalling
- A system for tracking the number of visitors in the Park



Author of the Photograph: Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Public Institution



Author of the Photograph: Vedute foto film

*Nature Park Lonjsko polje
Diversity resulting from flooding*



Author of the Photograph: Vedute foto film

ABOUT US

The Nature Park Lonjsko polje was established in 1990, and six years later, the Government of the Republic of Croatia issued a Regulation on Founding the Public Institution Nature Park Lonjsko polje, which has been managing the protected area since 1998.

The Nature Park Lonjsko polje is situated geographically in the central section of the Sava River watercourse, approximately 75 km south-east from Zagreb. As much as 50,650 ha of the protected area is located along the left bank of the Sava River, the length of the Park is about one hundred kilometres.

The entire area of the Park is an exceptionally lowland area, with the altitude of 90 to 110 m, it is also a floodplain with rural settlements. There are traditional villages along both banks of the Sava River, with well-preserved traditional wood (oak) architecture, and the accompanying cultural landscape of the Central Posavina region. There are 14 villages located in the area of the Park – Osekovo, Stružec, Čigoč, Kratečko, Mužilovčica, Suvoj, Lonja, Trebež, Puska, Krapje, Drenov Bok, Jasenovac, Košutarica, and Mlaka.

The Nature Park Lonjsko polje is one of the largest and most preserved floodplains in Europe. Each year, through the process of periodic flooding, the waters of the Sava River and its tributaries flood the Lonjsko polje, Poganovo polje, and Mokro polje, which makes the entire area a treasury of priceless and unique Croatian and European biological diversity. Lowland flooded forests of European oak and narrow-leafed ash are the most representative angiosperm forest complexes, not only in Europe, but in the entire Palearctic Realm. When the flood waters recede into the bed of the Sava River, the wetland meadows become some of the last areas in Europe where traditional grazing has been preserved, and the cattle can graze freely in large communal pastures.

This area is the habitat for more than two thirds of the total bird population in Croatia, the stability of which is dependent on the preservation and the compactness of the large lowland flooded forest and meadow complexes. The area is also one of the most important freshwater fish spawning grounds in the entire Danube tributary. The ecological processes and the flooding dynamics have shaped

the specific method for the traditional use of land, by creating a unique mosaic of anthropogenic and natural habitats, which are important for preserving the biological and landscape diversity. The Local population has preserved the traditional way of life. Extensive cattle, horse, and pig grazing (which includes several autochthonous breeds like the Slavonian-Srijem Podolian cattle and the Turopolje pig), as well as the preservation of the traditional architecture visible in wood houses, make this area a unique example of natural, landscape, and cultural heritage. The basic activities for utilising the land in the area include grazing, hunting, fishing, forestry, and water management. The natural flood areas of the Lonjsko polje, Mokro polje, and Poganovo polje play a key role in the flood defence system, and in the international context, they are one of the first examples in the world where flood defence is based on using natural floodplains.

Apart from their role in the flood defence system, these natural retention basins are important for the process of purifying watercourse water, replenishing the underground water supply, and mitigating the extreme hydrological and meteorological consequences of climate change.

The Management of the Public Institution Nature Park Lonjsko polje is located in the village of Krapje, and the visitor and education centres for visitors are located in the villages Čigoč, Repušnica, Krapje, and Osekovo. The activities of the Institution are focused on the protection, maintenance, preservation, and promotion of basic natural and cultural values of the Park. Educational programmes for children have been implemented, and the Institution also offers professional guided tours for visitors. The Institution conducts professional and scientific research and organises educational and professional workshops, meetings, and events.



Author of the Photograph: Croatian Photo Alliance



Author of the Photograph: Boris Krstinić

Live with water, not against it!



Author of the Photograph: Goran Šafarek

VALUES OF THE NATURE PARK LONJSKO POLJE

NATURAL VALUES

Did you know that the famous Slavonian oak timber is still synonymous with excellence in many European countries?



Lowland Flooded Forests

The largest complexes of natural and preserved lowland flooded European oak, narrow-leaved ash, and black alder forests in Europe are located in the Nature Park Lonjsko polje. Their biological and landscape value is priceless. The power of the lowland flooded forests is reflected in shaping habitats and landscapes, and some specific,

flood adapted, species have developed in the area. Water and flooding are the main factors that dictate the development of species and the plant communities of forest habitats. As much as 70% of the Nature Park Lonjsko polje is covered by lowland flooded forests.

Wetland Meadows

Flooded meadows are some of the most dynamic habitats. They cover about 20% of the surface area of the Nature Park Lonjsko polje. Due to the periodic flooding dynamics of the waters of the Sava River and its tributaries, the mowing meadows and the pastures for grazing cattle in the Lonjsko and Mokro polje are completely or partially flooded for 30 – 100 days almost every year. They play an important role as a retention basin in the flood defence system and they

have significant ecological and economic value as part of the traditional grazing system and in the preservation of original Croatian breeds. Apart from that, one of the largest common carp spawning grounds in the entire Danube tributary is located here, the Eurasian spoonbill uses pastures as feeding grounds only in Lonjsko polje, and the corn crake, apart from mowing meadows, also uses natural weeping sedge meadows as nesting grounds.

As a mammal from the dog family, the jackal is also popularly known the swamp wolf, and is increasingly present in the Pannonian Basin.



Animal World

The recorded species in the area of the Nature Park Lonjsko polje include 58 species of mammals, 16 species of amphibians, 10 species of reptiles, 38 species of odonatas, 33 species of fish, and as much as 250 species of birds, 138 of which also nest here. The most important birds, the ones that indicate the preservation of the habitat and the cultural landscape, are the white stork, the black stork, the white-tailed eagle, the Eurasian spoonbill, and the corn crake.

The white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) is one of the most famous migratory birds in Europe, whose appearance attracts curious looks. The stork's adaptations regarding its coexistence with humans are visible in

their nest construction, which is closely tied to human structures. Due to the large number of nests on the roofs of wood houses in Posavina, the village of Čigoč was declared as the first European Village of Storks in 1984. The black stork (*Ciconia nigra*) is a migratory bird and our autochthonous nesting bird from April to September. Unlike the white stork, it builds its nests in high trees, in peaceful and hidden parts of old forests. It feeds along the edges of standing waters and in open swamp and meadow areas near forests. It does not like being disturbed and it changes its nesting location every several years.

The strong constitution of the white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) makes it the largest of our eagles. It nests in the forest, near large bodies of water – flood areas, rivers, lakes, and coastal areas. Approximately 15% of the Croatian population of that bird nests in the Nature Park Lonjsko polje.



Author of the Photograph: Boris Krstinić

The stability of the approximately forty nesting pairs is the indicator of the preserved integrity of the flooded forests in Central Posavina, and this gives Lonjsko polje an important place regarding the white-tailed eagle population in the entire Danube tributary.

The Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) nests in the special (ornithology) reserve Krapje dol, in a mixed colony with the grey heron, the purple heron, the little egret, the squacco heron, the black-crowned night heron, and the cattle egret. Eurasian spoonbill nests elevate the value of the location from the regional to the international level.

World of Plants

There are 550 species of plants recorded in the Park, and the most important among them is the water clover, which is almost extinct in Europe due to the disappearance of swamp and wetland habitats.

In Croatia, it grows on flooded meadows in the Sava lowland flood area. The four-leaf water clover covers the muddy pasture surfaces in depressions in dense growths, and it becomes a land plant when the flood waters recede.



Author of the Photograph: Boris Krstinić



Author of the Photograph: Javna ustanova Parka prirode Lonjsko polje

Authentic Breeds

Authentic breeds are preserving the identity of this area. They are characterised by the adaptation to extreme conditions of outdoor survival. Their physical constitution is sturdy and the important social behavioural component they possess is important for the preservation of grazing on large communal pasture complexes. Lonjsko polje is rightly one of the areas with the highest concentration of authentic breeds that appeared and formed their genetic heritage here.

The following are the authentic breeds in the Nature Park Lonjsko polje: Croatian Posavac, Croatian Coldblood, Turopolje pig, Slavonian-Srijem Podolian cattle, Posavina goose, Posavac Hound. Republic of Croatia, as the signatory of the Convention on Biological Diversity from 1992, included the Turopolje pig to the list of the most endangered authentic breeds.

LANDSCAPE VALUES

From Adjusting to the Environment to the Cultural Landscape

The cultural landscape of the Nature Park Lonjsko polje is a unique example of an area where people have completely adjusted their way of life to flooding. The long and uninterrupted tradition of living with floods has created an extraordinary system intertwined with all the aspects of human interaction with the environment, like traditional buildings, settlement organisation and landscape formation, land use, and authentic breeds completely suited to the flooding conditions.

The cultural landscape settlement matrix in Lonjsko polje was conditioned by historical circumstances and the natural determinants of the space.

People organise their life in the safest locations, on the high ground or levees (greda) right along the Sava River. Behind the settlements there are fruit orchards, farmland, and meadows, and finally lowland flooded forests. This sequence of land use strictly adheres to the onset and receding of water.

Every year, up to one billion cubic metres of water spills out from the Sava River and its tributaries. During those times, the Lonjsko polje, Mokro polje, and Poganovo polje become one large lake.

Sava River

Once it enters the Pannonian Basin, Sava transforms from a rapid mountain river into a lowland river. Here it starts to meander and form typical lowland flood areas. Through its dynamics, in the course of many years, the river changes the appearance of its banks and the scenery, by creating elevated banks or levees, inlets, and floodplains, which create the image of a typical flood landscape of lowland rivers. In Lonjsko polje, people have learned to live with the river, and their adjustments to the flood have created a harmony between the natural and the cultural elements of the landscape. They have accepted water as their master and relied on the old wise saying that reveals the secret of successful life in an area that floods regularly.



Traditional Grazing

Ah, the freedom – if they could speak, that is what horses, cows, and pigs that freely live in the pastures and forests of Lonjsko polje would say. During floods and snowy winters, the farmers keep their cattle in warm and dry stables, feeding them and taking care of them. Once spring arrives and the flooding recedes, the farmers release their cattle to graze.

We call this type of keeping and breeding cattle traditional grazing.

Lonjsko polje is the only area in Europe

where this way of breeding cattle has been preserved. Traditional grazing is the archaic grazing system that dictates keeping several species of animals at the pasture. This is the use of wetland habitats in the most economically efficient way. There is a certain logical sequence of feeding. The pigs usually prepare the pasture by digging through the land, which contributes to better grass growth for the larger cattle that follows. This system is essential for maintaining the landscape and the protection of biological diversity.



Author of the Photograph: Boris Krstinić

CULTURAL VALUES

Wood oak houses are on average 150 to 200 years old, and the popular name for them is „čardaci“ or „hiže na trem“.



Traditional Architecture

One of the most significant components of the preserved cultural heritage of the Nature Park Lonjsko polje is the construction heritage.

Construction heritage and residential buildings are the reflection of indivisibility and coexistence of the people and nature,

which can be seen in traditional, natural material (oak) construction built as the reflection of the art of local builders and always incorporated into the natural environment in the best possible way. In the old preserved houses, the wood timber is either slivered or planed while in newer construction it is usually sawed.

The walls are built using thick logs and they support the ceiling and roof structures. Even though some of the houses are single-storey, houses with multiple storeys are the reflection of the centuries of developing and adjusting the construction skills to the way of life and to the area that faces common flooding. The villages along the Sava River are road-focused, with buildings lined next to a road that follows the watercourse.



Author of the Photograph: Boris Krstinić

In the historical construction area of the settlement Krapje, the original matrix and a large amount of traditional wood architecture has been preserved in a very picturesque ambience of the characteristic organisation of the village in a line.

Apart from the traditional architecture, the village also has historical public buildings – a church, a parish house, a fire house, an inn, a municipality building, a mill, and a cemetery. Due to these values, Krapje is significant on the national level and it is the only village in Croatia with the status of the Village of Construction Heritage, and it is where the Day of European Heritage is commemorated since 1995.

Families where the men would serve in the imperial army as frontiersmen were exempt from serfdom.

Military Frontier Borderland

The historical heritage of this area from the time of the Military Frontier includes the unchanged spatial organisation, which is the consequence of the border area between the Habsburg Monarchy and the Ottoman Empire. The Sava River was the natural border and a part of the 1,750 km long border between the East and the West, and the natural flood areas were a buffer zone. Through thousand years of sedimentation,



the river created natural elevations, so called levees, which were a base for the formation of military settlements. Road networks, corridors through the wetlands, road settlements, pastures, and arable land were developed, and they maintained their authenticity in the organisation of space until today. The border, i.e. the Military Frontier, existed for almost 350 years in this area, it protected Europe from conquests and served as a cordon for the protection against infectious diseases. However, the border had a controlled, open system of trade, economy, and cultural exchange. It was lined with guard forts (towers) and houses on pillars (čardaci), but even more than the fortifications, it was protected by swamps, forests, and rivers, which were an integral part of military strategy. The Military Frontier was not disbanded until 1873, and the section of the border along the Sava that is a part of the Nature Park today was part of the Military Frontier the longest.



Author of the Photograph: Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Public Institution

Ethno Heritage

The ethnographic heritage represents the well preserved items related to traditional economy and life, household equipment and tools, and handicrafts. Songs, dances, customs, and oral tradition are part of intangible cultural heritage and they show the connection of the people with the historical period of the Military Frontier, the Sava River, and Lonjsko polje, as important factors of life in general.

The traditional Posavina garment is woven from flax string and bears Baroque features, its distinctive features include the design, floral motifs, and rich colouring. Up until the middle of the 20th century, hemp and flax were grown in this area. Hemp was grown for its fibres used for weaving and making rope, hay string, wagon and cattle covers, and mats for eating in the field.

Flax was used to make finer weaves, traditional garments, as well as altar covers and formal church garments. Ever since the ancient times, the horizontal loom was used for weaving here, it is called stan or natra, and almost every household had one. The population of Lonjsko polje has preserved the art, skills, customs, beliefs, myths, legends, and similar until today. Regarding handicrafts, several families still practice weaving on a wooden loom, making wicker baskets, fishing nets, wood boats, making their own food, as well as the archaic culinary skills and making old-fashioned meals. The part of the rich intangible cultural heritage of Lonjsko polje can be seen in registered ethnographic collections in Čigoč, Mužilovčica, and Krapje.

Today, dugout canoes are an extremely rare type of traditional boats made from a single piece of hollowed out wood

Traditional Fishing An Important Economic Activity in the Past, Today...

Republic of Croatia issued a decision by which traditional fishing in the Nature Park Lonjsko polje and Moslavina has the status of an intangible cultural asset. The goal of the protection is to encourage the participation of the community in the identification and transfer of goods, promote the cultural good by holding exhibitions and professional meetings, transfer knowledge and skills through seminars and workshops, investigate and document the good, and protect it from disappearance or destruction.

Traditional fishing in Lonjsko polje and Moslavina is a representative example of continuity in transferring the art of an ecological and sustainable fishing system, using tools made by hand and natural materials.

Some of the traditional fishing tools are the rajterica net, splavarica net, basket fyke net, line, cast net, and hand net. In the past, the traditional method of fishing was much more significant for the local population, especially after World War II, when the population of Lonjsko polje used it to supplement crop and cattle farming.



Today, traditional fishing is significant for the development of rural tourism. The tools of traditional fishing, fishing techniques, and souvenirs are a significant and high quality content in the development of the tourism offer in the Nature Park Lonjsko polje and Moslavina



Author of the Photograph: Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Public Institution



Author of the Photograph: Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Public Institution



Author of the Photograph: Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Public Institution

Every year, mid - September, the Days of European Heritage are commemorated in Krapje!



Author of the Photograph: Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Public Institution

FROM THE FIRST ORNITHOLOGICAL RESERVE IN CROATIA TO UNESCO

1963, The Institution of the Special (Ornithological) Reserve Krapje Đol

Way back in 1957, prof. dr. Hartmut Ern „travelled“ through Lonjsko polje on a bicycle and discovered a colony of Eurasian spoonbills in Krapje đol, he then made a significant contribution to the establishment of the first ornithological reserve in Croatia. Thanks to dr. Martin Schneider-Jacoby, who contributed to the revitalisation of Krapje đol in 1989, various species of herons and spoonbills still successfully nest in this reserve.

1969, The Institution of the Special (Ornithological) Reserve

The institution of the second ornithological reserve Rakita, located within the flood area of Lonjsko polje, is based on the rich bird fauna that lives on the reeds and bulrushes, and in the depressions, which are suitable as feeding and nesting habitats for many wetland birds long after the flood recedes.

1989, Including 200 000 ha of Posavina, Including Lonjsko and Mokro polje, to the list of Important Bird Areas (IBA)

The river ecosystem and the preserved flood ecosystem of Central Posavina is the home for many birds during their winter stay, a nesting ground, or a feeding ground and a rest stop on their migratory path. Birds are an important indicator for the preservation of wetland habitats and the entire area has been declared as an IBA.

1990, Declaring the Nature Park Lonjsko Polje a Protected Area

Natural, landscape, and cultural values of the Nature Park Lonjsko polje can be preserved through reasonable use and integrated management, which is ensured by protecting the area as a nature park.

1993, Lonjsko and Mokro polje on the List of Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance

An important spawning grounds for fish, nesting for 1% of the Eurasian spoonbill population, and winter stay for 20,000 individual birds are some of the criteria used to place Lonjsko and Mokro polje with Krapje dol to the list or Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance.

1994, German Foundation EuroNATUR Declared the Village Čigoč as the First „European Village of Storks“

The roofs of houses and farm buildings hold a large number of white stork nests

and the local meadows and arable land provide an abundance of food for the storks to feed their young. Pairs of storks can feed up to five young chicks in a season. Every year in June, to commemorate the first European Village of Storks, the population of the village Čigoč celebrates „Štokovo“.

1995, Declaring the Village Krapje as the „Village of Construction Heritage“ National Committee of the Council of Europe

Due to the large number of wood houses and the preserved traditional and historical structure of the village, the National Committee of the Council of Europe awarded Krapje with the title „Village of Construction Heritage“. Since 1995, every September is the time for commemorating the Days of Construction Heritage.

1996, Founding the Public Institution Nature Park Lonjsko Polje

The Nature Park Lonjsko polje is managed by the Public Institution which started operation two years after its establishment.



Author of the Photograph: Hrvatski Fotosavez

Its seat is in Krapje and it has five established services, the Institution manages the area on the basis of the Nature Protection Act.

2005, The Nature Park Lonjsko Polje Entered into the Access List of the UNESCO World Heritage

Republic of Croatia has recognised the international value of the Nature Park Lonjsko polje and, after a proposal from UNESCO, listed the site on the World Heritage List in the category of mixed sites – natural and cultural heritage.

After Čigoč was declared as the first European Village of Storks in 1994, EuroNATUR has awarded the same status to another 14 villages in 14 countries so far.



Author of the Photograph: Hrvatski Fotosavez



Author of the Photograph: Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Public Institution

TOURIST INFRASTRUCTURE FOR VISITORS

VISITOR AND EDUCATIONAL CENTRE BLACK STORK

The Visitor and Educational Centre Black Stork is located in the village of Osekovo, at the entrance to the retention basin of Lonjsko polje. The visitor centre houses a multimedia hall for 50 people, a gallery area, interpretational content, a souvenir shop, and sanitary facilities, and the exterior space features educational content, a parking lot, and a rest area. Apart from the souvenirs, the visitors can visit the souvenir shop and buy a tourist map, publications, and various printed materials about the Park, professional literature, digital recordings, postcards, shirts, and similar. Here you can rent a bicycle, an electric bicycle, and a canoe, and you can also book a solar boat or a river boat trip on the Sava River. There is a path leading from the visitor centre to the Lonja River that features a lookout spot and a rest stop.

Address: Gornje selo, Osekovo
Telephone: +385 (0)44 672 080

VISITOR AND EDUCATIONAL CENTRE ČIGOČ

The visitor and educational centre is located in a revitalised wooden Posavina house, where you will be greeted by an educator guide, who can provide you with a lot of information about Čigoč, as well as about the Nature Park Lonjsko polje. There is a small traditional carpenter's shop, a souvenir shop, and sanitary facilities. Apart from the souvenirs, the visitors can visit the souvenir shop and buy a tourist map, publications, and various printed materials about the Park, professional literature, digital recordings, postcards, shirts, and similar. In the wagon shed and in the courtyard of the centre, organised groups of visitors that

called ahead can attend the educational programme White Stork in Čigoč. Here you can rent a bicycle and a canoe, and you can also book a solar boat or a river boat trip on the Sava River.

Address: Čigoč 26, Čigoč
Telephone: +385 (0)44 715 115

VISITOR AND EDUCATIONAL CENTRE KRAPJE

The visitor and educational centre Krapje is located in the yards of reconstructed Posavina single - storey houses and it is open throughout the year. The visitor centre houses a multimedia hall for 50 people and a tourist guide-educator can provide you with a lot of information about the village of Krapje, as well as about the Nature Park Lonjsko polje. The educational centre houses a small gallery space, a souvenir shop, and sanitary facilities, as well as a parking lot, interpretational content for children and adults, a pen for Posavac horses, and a barbecue area. Apart from the souvenirs, the visitors can visit the souvenir shop and buy a tourist map, publications, and various printed materials about the Park, professional literature, digital recordings, postcards, shirts, and similar. Here you can rent a bicycle and a canoe, and you can also book a solar boat or a river boat trip on the Sava River. The yard is suitable for games and resting and for groups that call ahead, we perform the educational programme Krapje – village of construction heritage, Posavac horse and the Sava River. The yard is also where

the attractive Frontiersmen Path footpath starts, it is 4.8 km long at it connects the villages Krapje and Drenov Bok. The path features Turopolje pigs, Podolian cattle, as well as the birds from the ornithological reserve Krapje dol.

Address: Krapje 18, Krapje
Telephone: +385 (0)44 672-080

VISITOR AND EDUCATIONAL CENTRE REPUŠNICA

The visitor centre houses the multimedia hall and the info-centre, where a tourist guide - Park educator can provide you with a lot of information about the village of Repušnica, as well as the Nature Park Lonjsko polje. The educational centre houses a small gallery space, a souvenir shop, sanitary facilities, and a barbecue area. Apart from the souvenirs, the visitors can visit the souvenir shop and buy a tourist map, publications, and various printed materials about the Park, professional literature, digital recordings, postcards, shirts, and similar. You can rent a bicycle or a canoe here. It is interesting that Repušničko polje, which is located very near this centre, apart from hiking and cycling paths, also has horse riding paths. The famous wine roads of Moslavina are not far from the visitor centre and they offer a wide variety of excellent Moslavina wines. Here you can rent a bicycle and a canoe, and you can also book a solar boat or a river boat trip on the Sava River.

Address: Fumićeva 184, Repušnica

Telephone: +385 (0)44 652 427

LOOKOUT SPOTS

- lookout spot Žličarka, Special (ornithological) reserve Krapje dol
- lookout spot Rezac, Special (ornithological) reserve Krapje dol
- lookout spot Kiseličin vatreni plavac, Kreše polje
- lookout spot Vodomar, village of Mlaka
- lookout spot Bjelobrada čigra, Pogonovo polje
- lookout spot Lonja, the field behind the village of Lonja
- lookout spot Raznorotka, Lonjsko polje behind the village of Mužilovčica
- lookout spot Roda, Lonjsko polje behind the village of Čigoč
- lookout spot Kosac, Lonjsko polje behind the village of Repušnica
- lookout spot Šaran, Lonjsko polje after the village of Osekovo



Author of the Photograph: Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Public Institution



Author of the Photograph: Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Public Institution



Author of the Photograph: Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Public Institution

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR ADULTS

Krapje Village of Construction Heritage (for groups up to 50 people)

Programme itinerary:

- Arrival to the Visitor Centre Krapje
- Educational walk through the village and the presentation of traditional wood architecture of Posavina built in the 18th/19th century
- Visit to the souvenir shop
- Panoramic trip on a tourist boat Katarina 1 on the Sava River, option of a short visit to Čigoč, the European Village of Storks

Programme availability:

March - November

Programme duration: 3.5 - 4 h

White Stork in Čigoč (for groups up to 50 people)

Programme itinerary:

- Arrival to the Visitor Centre Čigoč
- A short presentation about the white stork
- Educational walk through the village of Čigoč, the European Village of Storks, and observing stork nests
- Visit to the ethnography collection of the Sučić family
- A walk through the Lonjsko polje retention basin and observing the authentic breeds of domestic animals (the Posavac horse and the Turopolje pig)

Programme availability: March - August

Programme duration: 4 h



Author of the Photograph: Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Public Institution

Spend a Day in Lonjsko Polje (for groups up to 50 people)

Spend a Day in Lonjsko Polje (for groups up to 50 people)

Programme itinerary:

- Arrival to the Visitor Centre Repušnica
- A short film about Lonjsko polje
- Educational walk through Repušničko polje
- A visit to Čigoč, the European Village of Storks
- Panoramic river boat trip on the Sava River and sightseeing of the Posavina architecture in Krapje

Programme availability:

March - November

Programme duration: 8 h

Programme itinerary:

- Arrival to the Visitor Centre Repušnica
- A short film about Lonjsko polje
- Guided educational walk through Repušničko polje
- Visit to the Museum Moslavina
- Tasting Moslavina wines at local family-run farms

Programme availability:

March - November

Programme duration: 4 h



Author of the Photograph: Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Public Institution



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Lonjsko Polje for the Third Age (for groups up to 50 people)

Programme itinerary focused at retirees:

- Arrival to the Visitor Centre Krapje and a walk through the village of construction heritage
- A short film about Lonjsko polje
- Panoramic river boat trip on the Sava River and tasting local products
- A visit to Čigoč, the European Village of Storks

Programme availability:

March - November

Programme duration: 4 h

Bird Watching in the Special (Ornithological) Reserve Krapje Đol (for groups up to 25 people)

Programme itinerary:

- Arrival to the Visitor Centre Krapje no 18
- Presentation and a short promotional film about Lonjsko polje
- Guided visit to the special (ornithological) reserve Krapje dol, with short stop near a pen holding the authentic breed Turopolje pig
- Bird watching from observation towers
- Observing a herd of the authentic breed of Slavonian-Srijem Podolian cattle
- Boat trip on the Sava River

Programme availability:

April - October (only Saturdays)

Programme duration: 6 h



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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Posavac Horse (for groups up to 50 students)

Programme itinerary:

- Arrival to the Visitor Centre Krapje no 18
- Educational walk through the village of construction heritage
- Boat trip on the Sava River (boat capacity 80 people)
- Visit to the souvenir shop
- Educational programme Posavac Horse and filling in handouts
- Observing and taking photographs of the Posavac horse in the yard of the Visitor Centre Krapje
- If scheduled in advance, a short visit to Čigoč, the European Village of Storks

Programme availability:

March - October

Programme duration: 4 h

White Stork in Čigoč (for groups up to 50 students)

Programme itinerary:

- Arrival to the Visitor Centre Čigoč
- A short presentation about storks and watching storks through binoculars
- Tour of the village and counting storks, touring house yards with a professional guide
- Return to the play area of the educational centre, filling in handouts, visit

to the traditional carpenter's workshop and the souvenir shop

- Trip to the retention basin Lonjsko polje in the village of Mužilovčica
- Field exposure – traditional cattle farming, significance of wetlands and their endangerment, lowland flood forests, wetland birds, the importance of Lonjsko polje in the flood defence system
- Taking photographs

Programme availability: April – October

Programme duration: 3.5 - 4 h

Amphibians in Lonjsko Polje (for groups up to 25 students)

Programme itinerary:

- Arrival to the Visitor Centre Krapje no 18
- Educational walk through the village of construction heritage
- Boat trip on the Sava River (boat capacity 80 people)
- Visit to the souvenir shop
- Educational programme Amphibians, catching frogs, determining species, filling in handouts

Programme availability: April - August

Programme duration: 4 h

Corn Crane, the Mysterious Meadow Songbird (for groups up to 50 students)

Programme itinerary:

- Arrival to the Visitor Centre Krapje no 18
- Presentation about the Nature Park in the presentation hall (short promotional film)
- Introduction to the educational programme
- Corn Crane – the Tireless Meadow Songbird
- Visit to the souvenir shop
- Visit to Lonjsko polje, guided walk, filling in handouts
- (the field is an opportunity to find out about traditional cattle farming and authentic breeds)

Programme availability: April - August

Programme duration: 3.5 h

WEEKEND PROGRAMME (FOR INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY VISITS)

Programme itinerary:

- Arrival to the Visitor Centre Krapje, Čigoč, Repušnica and/or Osekovo (according to the visitor's wishes)
- Čigoč – the story about the white stork and a tour of Čigoč, the European Village of Storks and the ethnography collection of the Sučić family
- Krapje – a trip in solar-powered boats or in the craft Vodomar on the Sava River
- Krapje – guided tour of the village of

- construction heritage in Krapje
- Krapje – a ride in a vintage cart
- Krapje – a walk on the Frontiersmen Path and watching birds in the ornithological reserve Krapje dol
- Mužilovčica, Repušnica, Osekovo – a walk in the Lonjsko polje retention basin
- Option of buying local family-run farm products

Programme availability:

March - October

Ticket prices for all educational programmes is posted on the Institution's website, at the address www.pp-lonjsko-polje.hr, and all organised arrivals must be announced online beforehand or to the e-mail address: info@pp-lonjsko-polje.hr.



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REST AND RECREATION

HIKING PATHS

For those who love spending time in nature and those who would like to see what Lonjsko polje has to offer, there are several marked hiking paths available: Posavina People Path in Čigoč, Frontiersmen Path in Krapje, Tena's Path in Lipovljani, Corn Crake's Path in Repušnica, and the Black Stork in Osekovo. The other paths you can walk, those that are not marked on the map, include the embankments along the Sava River or the so-called defensive embankments along the Lonjsko polje retention basin.

Appropriate clothing and footwear are required for walking the hiking paths (comfortable shoes and athletic clothing), but during the rainy periods, boots are the best option. There is no drinking water on the paths so make sure to bring enough liquids.

CYCLING TOURISM

A bicycle is an ecologically acceptable and practical way to travel, but it is also a sign of healthy living. It is possible to rent a bicycle at all the visitor centres in the Nature Park Lonjsko polje and enjoy the scenery of Posavina and Moslavina. At the visitor centre Black Stork in Osekovo, you can also rent electric bicycles. Regardless of your age, size, weight, or current physical fitness – anyone can ride a bicycle on the routes in the Nature Park Lonjsko polje.

Cycling routes in the Nature Park Lonjsko polje are easy and pleasant for riding, suitable for family tourism and recreation. Altitude difference is almost impossible to notice, because there are no significant inclines, and the traffic density on the roads of the route is low, which makes the ride safer. About ten village households that are engaged in tourism offer cyclists with the option to rest and enjoy the culinary specialities of Posavina and

Moslavina, and an overnight stay in traditional wooden houses is possible in bike & bed establishments. There are eight cycling routes in the park and their total length is about 310 km. All the information about the routes are available at visitor centres.

Guided Cycling Route 32 km (for groups up to 25 people)

Arrival to the Visitor Centre Krapje 18, presentation of the Nature park Lonjsko polje and the introduction to the route and the tour plan. The first leg of the section starts in Krapje, the Village of Construction Heritage, and ends in the village of Mužilovčica. The interesting thing on this section is the ride along the Sava River and its inlets, a flat road without inclines, and villages with mostly wood houses. The first break is in Mužilovčica, where you can use the time to taste the traditional products at the village farm and take a short break. The road continues for several kilometres on a gravel road, to the flood area of Lonjsko polje, where the group will be introduced to the significance of wetlands and their endangered status, lowland flood forests, and the species of animals and plants that are significant for this area. After that, the route heads back to the village of Mužilovčica and continues to the village of Čigoč, the European Village of Storks, where this route ends. It is also possible to organise a culinary offer here. A bicycle for this programme can be rented at the Nature Park, or it can be transported to certain locations (the services are charged according to the price

list of the Nature Park Lonjsko polje).

Programme availability:

March - October

Programme duration: 6 h

Guided Cycling Route 74 km (for groups up to 25 people)

Arrival to the Visitor Centre Krapje 18, presentation of the Nature park Lonjsko polje and the introduction to the route and the tour plan. The first leg of the section starts in Krapje, the Village of Construction Heritage, and ends in the village of Mužilovčica. The interesting thing on this section is the ride along the Sava River and its inlets, a flat road without inclines, and villages with mostly wood houses. The first break is in Mužilovčica, where you can use the time to taste the traditional products at the village farm and take a short break. The road continues for several kilometres on a gravel road, to the flood area of Lonjsko polje, where the group will be introduced to the significance of wetlands and their endangered status, lowland flood forests, and the species of animals and plants that are significant for this area. After that, the group continues to the village of Čigoč, the European Village of Storks. After a short break and rest, the route continues to the village of Svinjičko, on a gravel road, we leave Posavina and enter Moslavina, through the settlements of Stružec, Osekovo, and Voloder. At the end of the route, it is possible to organise wine tasting and a culinary offer at the wine roads of Moslavina.

Programme availability:

March - October

Programme duration: whole day



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RECREATIONAL CONTENT ON WATER

Tourist Boat Trips

The tourist boat Katarina jedan has the capacity of 70 people. This boat is intended for tourist cruise trips, which became one of the largest attractions of the tourism offer at the Nature Park Lonjsko polje. A river cruise to the confluence of the Una and Sava, sailing under the road and rail bridge, and the specific river landscape will stick in the tourists' mind as long-lasting and pleasant memories. Favourable hydrological conditions will also enable sailing along the Una River. The special feature of this watercraft is the very large deck space, which provides the possibility for educational, promotional, and entertainment content during sailing, as well as offering a variety of food.

Boat Trips

The Institution offers trips in the boat Vodomar and in solar powered boats. The educational-tourist boat Vodomar docks in Drenov Bok, it is 15 m long, can take 12 people, and offers the option of a trip along the Sava River. The attractive river landscape with willow and cottonwood trees, traditional Posavina village structures, abundant bird fauna, meanders, as well as sand shoals, will make an impression and are ideal for a full Posavina photo-safari.

The special attraction in the Nature Park Lonjsko polje we would like to point out is the option of a trip in solar powered boats. Riding in these silent boats that can seat 7 people is a special feeling you can experience on the Sava River.

Canoe Trip

It is possible to rent a canoe at all the visitor centres in the Park. Canoe trips are possible on the rivers of Strug and Lonja, on the Sava inlets in Čigoč and Mužilovčica, as well as on material ditches in Repušnica. In certain sections, the natural watercourse of Strug and Lonja have been preserved, and canoe recreation in an oasis of green is a real pleasure and an unforgettable active holiday for the entire family. Each canoe can seat 3 people and it has some additional equipment (a paddle and a vest).

Horse Riding

The Visitor Centre Repušnica has a marked horse riding route Through the Swamp on a Saddle. This route is 5 km long, it starts in the Visitor Centre Repušnica, leads to Vrbak, and ends at the camping ground Čeperlin on the Lonja River. The first part of the route is a hard packed road leading along flooded pastures, and the second part is a dirt road which passes through wet meadows of high reed and a narrow-leaved ash forest. The horse riding tour lasts about 5 hours, including the round trip.

NATURE PARK LONJSKO POLJE CODE OF CONDUCT

- You can buy tickets at visitor centres in Osekovo, Čigoč, Repušnica, and Krapje.
- Visits to special ornithological reserves Krapje dol and Rakita must be announced in advance to Park Management. Visits to those areas are only allowed for small groups at the same time.
- Respect the privacy of the Nature Park inhabitants.
- The plants here are a sanctuary and food for many animals, so do not pick mushrooms and plants!
- Access to the flood area/retention basin of Lonjsko polje (field behind the embankment in the villages Čigoč, Kratečko, Mužilovčica, Lonja, Suvoj, Repušnica, Gračenica, Osekovo) is not possible with motor vehicles, and after entering, the doors must be closed.
- Move along the marked hiking paths and cycling routes in the protected area. There is still a danger of mines in some parts of the park, so we recommend that you announce visits to Mokro polje and Poganovo polje to Park Management.

- Approaching wild animals can cause them stress. Observe them calmly and quietly, without disturbing, chasing, or hunting them, or damaging their nests or habitats.
- Freely-grazing domestic animals belong to their owners, they take care of them and it is not necessary to disturb or feed them, only observation from an appropriate distance is permitted.
- You can take any impressions and signs of your visit with you. Dispose of all waste to a garbage container in an inhabited settlement.



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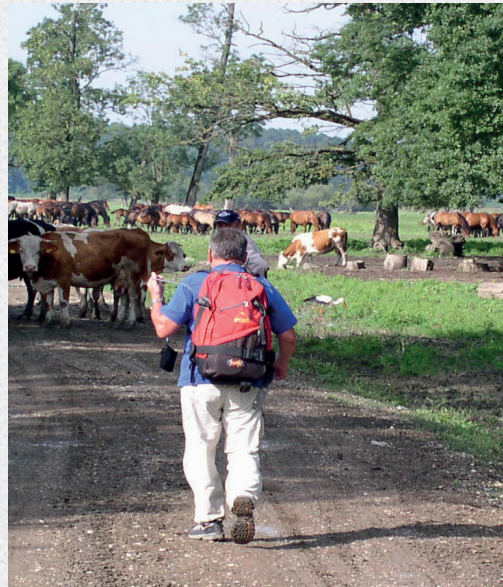
HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR VISIT TO THE PARK?

Lonjsko polje is a wetland area, but it can still get rather hot.

There are only a few shops and restaurants in the Park, so please make sure that you have enough food and beverages.

In order for your visit to the Park to be as pleasant as possible, we recommend bringing the following items

- Outdoor footwear (a spare pair of shoes if possible);
- Long-sleeved shirt and full-length trousers (because of the mosquitoes);
- Mosquito repellent;
- A cap, a hat, or a sun guard (walking in open areas);
- Sufficient amount of liquids (water, tea, or a refreshing beverage).



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