

MONTENEGRO



BIKING ROUTES

ANDRIJEVICA

Komovi



IMPRESSUM

All the data in this guide are product of careful research. Given that the conditions related to marking, trails and signalization can be changed, we do not guarantee the correctness of the information in this guide. Use this guide on your own responsibility. In case you are not sure, please approach experienced guides for assistance. We appreciate all comments and suggestions you might have, and you can address them to e-mail office@bjelasica-komovi.co.me.

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Texts, altitude profiles, technical support: Jovan Erakovic

Local expertise: Radovan Djekovic, LTO Andrijevisa Director

Photography and design: Jovan Nikolic

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Andrijevisa

A background image of a cyclist wearing a blue jersey with a red and white logo, a black helmet, and sunglasses, riding a mountain bike on a grassy trail. The cyclist is positioned on the right side of the frame, with the background showing a blurred forest and hills.

THE MOUNTAIN BIKING ROUTES IN THE REGION OF ANDRIJEVICA

In terms of the pleasure it offers when visited on two wheels, the surroundings of Andrijevica does not lag behind other Montenegrin areas, but it is less explored in that sense. Well, then there is the opportunity to match discovering new things with that, already familiar, unique sensation of freedom in contact with nature.

New ascents and descents, new vistas, new answers to the question “what’s behind the next bend...?” but also new beads of sweat: because the routes of Andrijevica are predominantly intended for those who have a certain level of experience and stamina. However, that does not mean that those who prefer more relaxing cycling will not find something that suits them: a little, nice “family-friendly” circuit along the

eastern edge of Andrijevica, a romantic trundle through the valley towards the village of Kuti (and coming back to Andrijevica, instead of a gruelling ride over the high mountain pass between Kuti and Gusinje), going to the Gradišnica Valley (there again we will “cut off” a bit of an easier section out of a longer and more strenuous tour), as well as an interesting ride to Plav — quite enough for a couple of pleasant days on the asphalt roads and trails.

And for those striving for heights and distances without caring about the effort involved and about macadam, asphalt or forest trails, there are more than enough challenges: for such people Andrijevica will be their own Cape Kennedy, from where, day after day, they will take off up to the fo-

othills below the cliffs of the Kom Mountains, to Mt. Bjelasica, across Mt. Visitor... even to Japan!

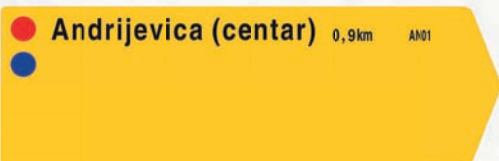
There are so many things waiting for us in this region, to see and experience — some things will be so wild and rebellious that they will not fit in one amazed look, nor we will tame them with one bike ride, other things will be meek to the point of obedience – but still will take our breath away cunningly, and yet other things will be completely hidden from us, leaving us with only a hint, for which we will wish to return here again.

With this guide we have tried to assist you in choosing your future discoveries, and with a detailed description of the routes around Andrijevi-

ca to enable you to better assess their difficulty and the conditions related to them, and to start the ride more relaxed. In order to have less worries on the spot, we have tried to mark all routes you will come across here with a quality system of signposts.

However we also recommend you download the GPS database from our website, which will considerably facilitate your planning and orientation on the terrain, giving you also greater freedom to change your plans on the spot, to switch from one route to another if you want to, to shorten or extend your biking tour, without having to worry about whether you will surely succeed in it.

SIGNPOSTING



WEB PAGES

www.biking.bjelasica-komovi.me

www.biking.toandrijevica.me

www.tt3.bjelasica-komovi.me

Route AN 01

Andrijevisa – Seoce – Andrijevisa

Route Characteristics:

- » length: 7km
- » total ascent: 190m
- » surface: asphalt (6.2km), macadam (0.8km)
- » biking conditions: all year round, except in the event of heavy snowfall

An easy and pleasant tour which will suit everyone, a great way for further exploration of Andrijevisa and its immediate surroundings. This is also one of those tours which can save a day: if it has been a rainy day and it has cleared up only in the twilight, or if we have got a little spare time, there is an opportunity to still get on our bike – and not only get on it but to truly enjoy it.

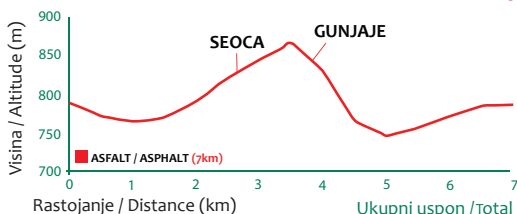
One can use an ordinary road bike for this tour since the road surface is mostly asphalt – there are only two macadam sections which, taken together, are less than a kilometre long. From the park in front of the

Komovi Hotel in the centre of Andrijevisa we head left along the main road towards Plav. After slightly more than 900m we will turn left and downhill, onto an asphalt byroad leading us to the other bank of the River Lim, to the village of Seoce. Once we cross the river a moderate ascent starts, which will continue for the next two kilometres.

To negotiate this ascent easily, the surroundings will help: a cheerful countryside colour mixture, white freckles of little houses scattered near the road and covered with the tilted red caps of their roofs, a luxury of meadows and pastures embroidered with wooden fences and bushes on the boundaries, haystacks stick out in the fields here and there, and cows and horses take root enthralled by their work. We slowly ascend above the valley in which Andrijevisa plays with the River Lim, and enjoy those lovely moments known to every lover of pedalling: the first beads of sweat, but more than compensated for by the broadening of our horizons and reaching

AN01

ANDRIJEVICA - SEOCE - ANDRIJEVICA (7km)


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Ukupni uspon / Total Climb 190m



new distances, our nose full of sweet smells, the excitement of discovery, the feeling that we are truly alive... Whenever a road or a trail gives us something like this, it is clear we have not been wrong for taking that way.

Rolling along the rim of Balj Hill, 3.3km from the start we reach the highest point of the tour – 870m. Slightly later we will find ourselves at the junction at which we should turn a sharp left and downhill (the other asphalt leads straight on, towards the nearby hamlet).

Soon we descend back to the valley, go past the Guberinić memorial drinking fountain and before the bridge over the River Lim we reach Ribarski dom (the Fishermen's House): a lovely new log cabin situated above the river, on the right near the road, offers lodging as well.

Three kilometres both upstream and downstream from the log

cabin there is a fly-fishing area. Here we may cast whatever we have readily available (our impressions over the shoulder, a hook into the water...), and start outwitting the trout.

Just after the bridge, at the entrance to Andrijevića we will go along a short section of macadam (300m). Then we get onto the Andrijevića–Berane road and turn right towards the town centre. The Most Bandovića Motel & Restaurant is located nearby. About a kilometre before the park and hotel in the centre where we will also end our tour, we go past Knjaževac Park (on the right) in which there are monuments from the First and the Second World Wars as well as a botanical garden with over thirty different plants (sequoia, Serbian spruce, yew and others). The lovely Church of St Michael the Archangel is also situated there.

Route AN 02

Andrijevisa – Prisoje – Trešnjevo

Route Characteristics:

- » length: 16km
- » total ascent: 370m
- » surface: asphalt (15km), macadam (1km)
- » biking conditions: throughout the year, except in the case of a heavy snowfall

From the centre of Andrijevisa we will head along the road towards Berane, but after 900m we will turn left onto the road to Trešnjevik. Nevertheless, we will not remain “faithful” to that road for long either: 1.9km after the start we will turn sharp right, onto the asphalt road to Salevići and Prisoja. From here we start a moderately difficult ascent to Površje, 5km long (elevation gain: 260m).

Steep green slopes tower above us on the left, and above them, like a crown, the rocks of Željevica Peak (also marked on maps as Žoljevica) – the main landmark on this tour – stick out. At the end of the scattered village of Površje we reach a V-shape junction (6.6km from the start)

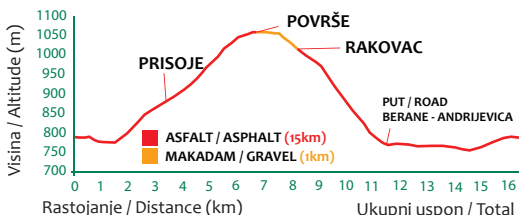
on which we will continue right, downhill (the AN 03 Route forks left and uphill along the asphalt road, going around Žoljevica and descending to Gradišnica Valley). Just after the junction we pass below the new village church (left): on its secluded throne it leads a rather lonely life, watching thoughtfully the bubbling of life deep down, in the valley of the River Lim.

A few hundred metres further on a short macadam leg starts, on which we will reach the highest point on the route – 1,060m (6.9km from the start). Riding below the massif of Željevica itself, we start the descent to the valley of the River Lim, slightly more than 4km long. (Before the start of the descent on the a country road forks off to the left, leading to interesting watermills and a cloth rolling mill only about 250m away, so we should not miss an opportunity to visit them.)

Hovering effortlessly in a beautiful landscape and diving through stunning vistas, we will soon reach the beginning of asphalt on Stanjevo brdo (Stanj Hill)

AN02

ANDRIJEVICA - PRISOJE - TREŠNJEVO (16km)



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(at 8.1km). The road becomes very steep, so one should take care not to be drawn into riding excessively fast: traffic is almost non-existent here, but it may happen at any moment that from around the bend an automobile will suddenly emerge in front of us. And one should slow down especially at the beginning of the eleventh kilometre: then we will

go onto the Andrijevica–Berane main road.

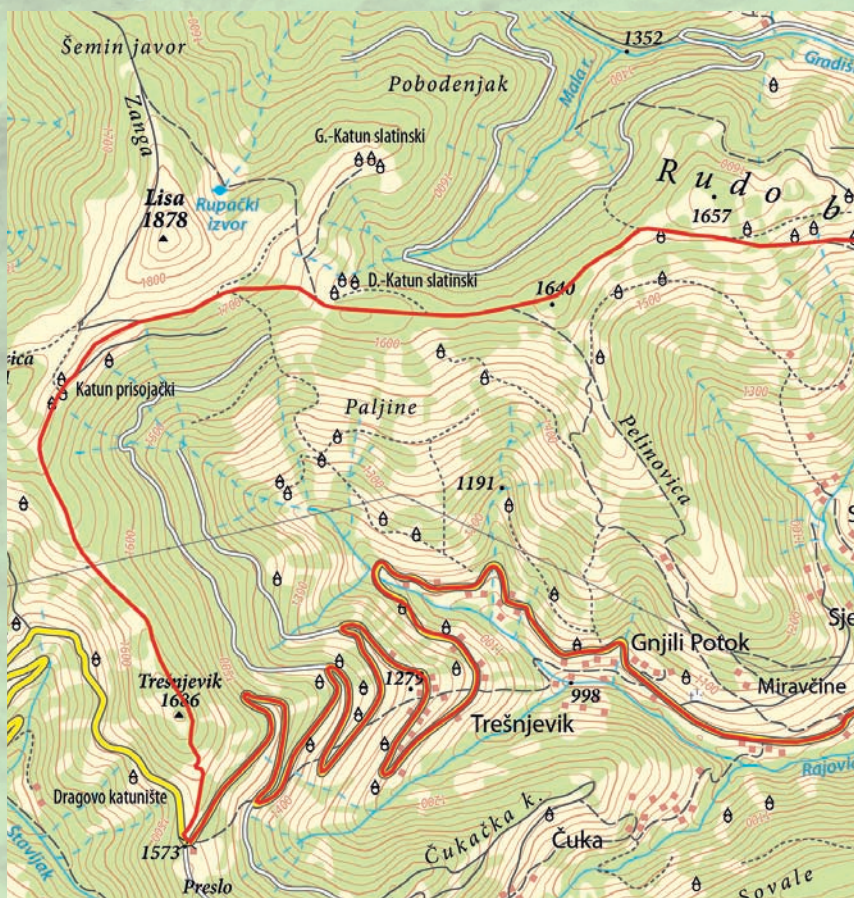
We will proceed straight on, and after 5km here we are again in the park in the centre of Andrijevica, at the end of this beautiful ride which at first made us sweat, and later rewarded us with an excellent view and an exciting descent.

Route AN 03

Trešnjevik – Rudo brdo

Route Characteristics:

- » length: 43.5km
- » total ascent: 1250m
- » surface: asphalt (30km), macadam (7km), dirt road (6.5km)
- » biking conditions: from spring to autumn (due to a dirt road section on Lisa Hill, the ride is not recommended during and after heavy rain)
- » one section of the route leads through a high, sparsely populated mountainous area, so one should always have basic bike repair tools, a spare tyre, a torch, a map and a navigation device (a GPS device or at least a compass). Riding in a group is recommended as well.



A tour made for fit cyclists: it will provide many pleasurable moments, but only if you do not spend all your time struggling with the ascent and racking up the kilometres.

The start is the same as with Route AN 02: from the centre of Andrijevića head along the road towards Berane and after 900m turn left onto the road to Trešnjevik. However, at the junction at which we arrive after 1.9km, this time we will continue straight on, along the road which ascends to Trešnjevik mountain pass. The gradient on the climb is moderate, but the ascent

itself is more than 16km long. The fact that we ride mostly through the forest will help, in the shadows and in the shade, which will definitely feel good on a warm day. Some sections in the second half of the ascent are particularly beautiful, and a couple of pretty views towards the Kom Mountains will unfold in front of us.

At 12.2km we go past a drinking fountain, and at 17.2km there is another drinking fountain (the Miloš Ćirović memorial drinking fountain, on the left). The final 8km towards the saddle contain eight serpentine. And as with Alpine ser-



pentines, here each one has its own story, we experience each one in a slightly different way from the previous one, on each one our tired legs and lungs will start complaining in a different way. Nevertheless, everything is forgotten on the mountain pass (at 18.3km) and again, like all other nice mountain passes in the breathless, gasping world of the cyclist, this also has everything necessary to remain as a lovely memory: enough open space, a more than fair share of beautiful views, and a place where one can sit, drink or snack on something, where one can exchange gasps, congratulations and cries of "We survived it!" with travelling companions and where one can fulfil that sacred duty of responding to the questions of surprised locals ("Is somebody paying you to do this?"). Here that place is assumed by the famous Savo's Pub: always open, and roomy enough to allow tired travellers to unwind.

For those who might decide here that it has been more than enough progress for one day, right behind the pub are the "Eko-turs Komovi" cottages, a katun (a summer shepherd's settlement) and Trešnjevik eco-hut, where one can stay overnight. (If one continues in that direction for another few kilometres along the asphalt road, one will reach Štavna Eko Katun – more details about it are given in the description of Route AN 05.)

And to continue the route one should proceed along the road towards Mateševo, but for less than a hundred metres: then we turn right, onto the macadam road towards Lisa Hill. After that, we still have about a kilometre of intense ascent, to

the very top of Trešnjevik Hill (those who go via the asphalt road towards Andrijevisa or Mateševo never actually reach the summit, the place the mountain pass is named after). Then progress becomes easier, and is very interesting as well: gently going uphill along the narrow crest of a ridge dividing the world into two parts: one in which Andrijevisa is located down below, and the other where, far below, is Mateševo. Once we go past the Zdravko Kuburović memorial drinking fountain (at 21km) the area becomes completely open, hills and plateaus are predominantly covered with grass only, meaning that it offers a stunning view. First we can enjoy the view of the nearby magnificent Kom Mountains blossoming in the sky, but also the peaks of the Prokletije Mountains sticking out behind them, then that of Mt. Hajla to the east, the top of Mt. Bogićevica far away to the southeast, there above the invisible town of Plav. (Don't worry, our network of routes will take us there, as well). To the north, straight in front of us, the view towards Mt. Bjelasica is blocked by the large pyramid of Lisa Hill. On the right, towards the east and Andrijevisa, the narrow wooded valley of Gnjili potok (Rotten Brook) descends: if we look carefully, in it we will also see the sections of the asphalt road we have been climbing up for such a long time to reach Trešnjevik. It is nice to see them, now below us, rendered meek and harmless by the height from which we look at them.

At the 21-kilometre point we go past a large katun, in a lovely setting known as Prisojački (or Đeković) katun. A kilometre



Gradišnica

further on, right at the foot of Lisa Hill in a place called Jovanov grob (Jovan's Grave), there is a junction at which, if we went straight on we would start Route AN 04. It leads to Krivi Do Mountain Hut on Mt. Bjelasica, and then descends to Gradišnica Valley where it

reconnects with Route AN 03. Therefore, we can choose how to continue our journey: this time we will stay on AN 03, meaning that here we should turn right, leaving Lisa Hill on the left.

The junction is also the highest point on Route AN 03: an alti-

tude of 1,735m. Starting from Trešnjevik, the macadam is generally good all the time with just a few short poorer sections. From here to the end of the route we will descend almost all the way – nearly 22 kilometres! Slightly more than 600m after the junction on Lisa Hill we reach a place offering a remarkable, maybe even the most beautiful view of the Kom and Prokletije Mountains. Right after Kokošinja glava (Hen's Head) the road becomes a farm track (at 25.5km). We still ride along the narrow ridge, first through forest and then along open terrain (with wonderful landscapes), descending slowly towards Rudo brdo katun (at 26.3km). Near the katun we pass a nice grassy section through a meadow, and then again a patch of woodland. New fascinating landscapes appear above the katun – an open grassy carpet, the horizons sparkling all around, and one is still living off the hard work put in on Trešnjevik: downhill, downhill... Below the peak of Rudo brdo we go past another katun (at 28.5 km), the descent becomes even steeper, and we soon fall into the narrow Gradišnica Valley. At a place called Zekova česma (Zeko's drinking fountain)

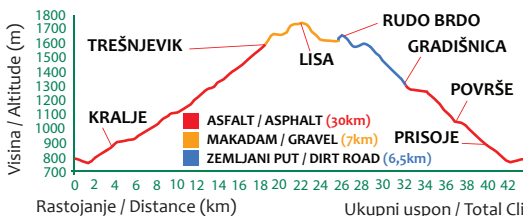
(there is a spring on the left above the road) we come to a very good asphalt road and turn right, towards Andrijevića. Only a few hundred metres further on Mašović drinking fountain is located (also on the right).

In this area we will certainly not stay thirsty long – at 33.1km there is another spring, Jukića česma (Jukić drinking fountain). And the ride through Gradašnica is exceptional: a gentle descent, enchanting greenery and the sweet smell of pine forest, the interplay of light and shadows on the road, a stream spinning around our legs... Going around the huge conical mass of Žoljevica, we will be through with this pleasure sooner than we want to, and reach the already familiar junction in the hamlet of Površje, near the new church – and there we connect with Route AN 02.

Now all that remains is to end the long descent from the high world of Lisa Hill going in the opposite (easier) direction from that described in AN 02, so we will very soon find ourselves in front of the Komovi Hotel, in the centre of Andrijevića, at the starting and finishing point of this grand tour.

AN03

TREŠNJEVIK - RUDO BRDO (43,5km)



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Route AN 04

Lisa – Bjelasica (Krivi Do Mountain Hut) – Gradišnica – Andrijevica

Route Characteristics:

- » length: 29km
- » total ascent: 800m
- » surface: asphalt (2km), macadam(7km), dirt road (20km)
- » biking conditions: from spring to autumn (because of the dirt road sections the ride is not recommended during or after heavy rain)
- » a section of the route leads through a high, uninhabited or sparsely populated mountainous area, so one should always bring along a basic bicycle tool kit, a spare tyre, a torch, a map and a navigation device (a GPS device or at least a compass). Cycling in a group is also recommended.

This route will take us to a “secret” corner of Mt. Bjelasica and enable us to feel the atmosphere of this magic mountain. Then it will lead us along a high ridge over Pobodenjak Peak, and finally, down into the lovely Gradišnica Valley – a lot of attractions on less than 30km of road. An average fitness level is required (those who are at that particular fitness level will have to push their bike for a short distance in a few places) but if we take into account that one has to get here first, the fitness level required could be defined more accurately as “very fit”. We head on from the junction below Lisa Hill, a place called

Jovanov grob (John’s Grave). As mentioned in the description of the previous route, we reach this place following Route AN 03 from Andrijevica over Trešnjevik mountain pass. Now we will abandon it temporarily, heading straight on at this junction instead of to the right. The road is a macadam surface of good quality. Right at the start (0.5km) we go past a mountain rest stop (on the right, 100m from the road) – affording good shelter from the rain. To the right, the peak of Lisa rises – we pass just below it, descending slowly along the bare ridgeline, through a beautiful area framed with forest on both sides. We enjoy the view of the Kom Mountains and the highest peaks of the Prokletije range and Mt. Bjelasica.

Once we go past the place where the first road for Gradišnica forks to the right and downhill (at 3.7km) we encounter the first rather hard section: about 1.8km of steep ascent to Bač Hill, on a predominantly poor dirt road. On the hill there is a junction (at 5.9km) at which we will take a sharp left, towards Krivi Do mountain hut. Later we will return here again from there. There is 3.4km to go to the hut. On the first two and a half kilometres the road winds interestingly, descending slowly down the slope of Smetine Hill towards the Krčelova voda spring (at 7.5km, on the left) and Ciganska bara (at



8.1km). Meadows and interesting relief flying freely into the distance are the basic contents of the “menu” we enjoy here. Soon it will become clear: in such areas as these we are in love with the mountain bike, and all efforts to reach them are forgotten once we sail along them. It refreshes but it does not fatten one up, totally organic and healthy, optimal in terms of energy – such is the ride on the first waves of Mt. Bjelasica.

On the final section of the descent to Krivi Do (around 800m) the road turns into a very steep, bumpy trail which is occasionally cut by deep gullies. Those who have an ambition to ride this way on their return as well should closely observe the hardest sections and plan their tactics to conquer the climb waiting for them.

For the final few hundred metres to Krivi Do mountain hut (elevation



tion 1,680m) we pass along the bright green bottom of the valley. The mountain hut itself is sewn on the edge of that velvet, its windows on one side flicker at us, and on the other are silent, absorbed in their thoughts before Mt. Bjelasica which slowly, like rapidly cooling lava, flows down here from Zekova glava Peak. The place is beautiful enough to easily captivate us at least until the next day, but if we stay there are a lot

of things we can do: one can walk around the area, sunbathe on the terrace behind the mountain hut, our glance should constantly be on the pastures on the peaks of Mt. Bjelasica; one should cast one's nets and take out the reflections from the magical depths below us, and the silence must constantly be broken in order to hear those we are talking with. The mountain hut is a new building (opened in 2008), with

a capacity of 25 beds, a dining room, kitchen and sanitary facilities. But one should keep in mind that it is open only when necessary, meaning that very likely it will be deserted once we arrive there; therefore those who plan to stay for a while here should bring along the water and food they need. (And, of course, before they leave they should remove all traces of their stay, so that the next visitors have the impression that they are the only people who have arrived here in a long time...)

On the left of the mountain hut the mountain road leads to the north, in the direction of the place called Raskrsnica (Junction) near Vranjak katon and the next mountain hut (accommodation available). From there one can descend to the west to Kolašin, or to the east, to Lubnice and Berane, so that is a chance to end our journey in a completely different

way.

However, this time we will stay on our route – and we will not be discouraged at the sight of the steep section waiting for us on our return to Ciganska bara. Once we negotiate it (easier said than done...), we will continue back to the junction on Bač Hill (at 12.6km), where this time we proceed straight on – along a good dirt road which over the ridge leads towards Patkovica and Okolišta katon. Immediately we pass the slope of Zmijenica (Jelenak) Hill in which there is an interesting cave (on the left). The road descends entering the forest at a place called Radojičin grob (Radojica's Tomb) (at 14.3km) and brings us soon to the open plateau called Patkovica (at 15.4km) and to Velje brdo (Big Hill). In the local portion of lovely vistas, the crown of the Kom Mountains will again be the main reason for us sighing in



admiration.

From Velje brdo a moderate ascent starts in the direction of the east, towards the highest point on this route, just below Pobodenjak Peak (1,825m). On our way we go past Okolišta katun (at 16.9km), of which we will not see very much, then partly through the forest and partly through the meadows, over Kršnjata glava, we reach a large natural amphitheatre called Rujišta. At 19.6km there is another place with a beautiful view of the Kom Mountains as well as the scrubland of Gradišnica Valley and Lisa... But while we are enjoying it, the ascent becomes more demanding – the ridge turns towards the south and eventually “attacks” Pobodenjak Peak. In a large curve we follow the contour of our amphitheatre searching for special box seats from which we will best watch the magnificent concert of nature – a harmony of sky, moun-

tains and the quiet humming of wild flowers.

If at 20.3km we leave our bikes and go through the vegetation on the left side of the road we will come to the edge of the ridge from which we will see the tiny Čukića (Ševarinsko) Lake sunbathing cautiously some hundred metres below in its gentle nest. But be quiet – if we scare it, it will flit and fly away somewhere. And here we are already on Pobodenjak Peak (at 20.8km), at the end of the ascent and at the junction at which we will turn right, onto a poorer road (to the left a better road goes to Cvi-jetnice). A few hundred metres further on there is a place from which we can see part of Andrijevica, and confirm that it is still waiting for us. Just after that we pass the junction where, to the left and back the trail towards the lake forks off (about 800m of easy ride). It is worth stopping and



going there to look it closely, maybe to take a nap or have lunch by the water. But be quiet – if we scare it...

And slightly further on (at 21.7km) there is a secluded katun which on the left above the road offers its furniture: wooden tables and benches, and a canopy charmingly put together in a similar style. So even if nobody is there we will anyway take a nice rest break there, and if with a little bit of luck we find the kind hosts there, we will not leave the place without refreshments. From this katun we descent along the “spectators area” of the amphitheatre, no doubt facing towards some stage for performances given by the mountain nymphs and elves which must be somewhere here, but which we will not see: we go through the dense forest of Rujiste. The descent from Pobodenjak Peak to Gradišnica Valley is around 7km long. At the beginning of the 24th kilometre from the start a dirt road turns into a macadam

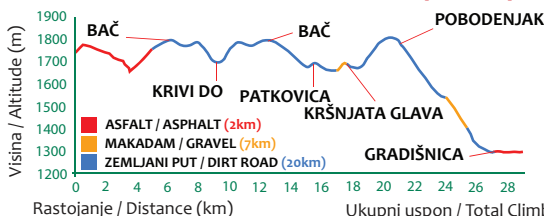
road, whereas at the beginning of the 27th kilometre we join the asphalt road which leads along Gradišnica Valley. When there is enough water, Veški potočić (a brook) on the final kilometre before the asphalt, runs partly by the road and partly over it, so in certain places we will have an interesting experience of riding over a carpet of water.

The section through Gradišnica is great: a new asphalt road on which we will rarely meet any vehicle, an easy descent, irresistible surroundings... What could one wish for on a lovely day and at the end of an exciting tour, if not such magical, pleasant relaxation?

About 1.8km after joining the asphalt we reach Zekova česma (Zeko's drinking fountain). There we reconnect with Route AN 03, and then ride to Andrijevica as described in the text for that route. (Only some hundred metres after Zeko's drinking fountain, on the right, is the Mašović drinking fountain).

AN04

LISA - KRIVI DO - ANDRIJEVICA (29km)



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Route AN 05

Andrijeвица – Đulići – Komovi (Štavna katon) – Zulevo brdo – Andrijeвица

Route Characteristics:

- » *length: 42km*
- » *total ascent: 1,420m*
- » *surface: asphalt (16km), macadam (24km), dirt road (2km)*
- » *biking conditions: from spring to autumn (the dirt road section is short, so one can ride even in the event of moderate rain)*
- » *some sections of the route lead through high, uninhabited or sparsely populated mountainous areas, so one should always bring along a basic bike toolkit, a spare tyre, a torch, a map and a navigation device (a GPS device or at least a compass). Riding in a group is also recommended.*

This is a difficult tour which requires a very good fitness level, but in return offers even more satisfaction. Therefore, we recommend it both to those who can complete it, and those who think they will not make it: no matter how long they go before they decide that it is time to give it up and return, they will see and experience much more than they had hoped for. The first section is easy, and during it there is the wonderful Zlorečica Valley, and the no less inspiring Perućica Valley. In fact, this section will definitely be so magical that the enchanted biker, having forgotten to check his speedometer and mileage, will almost certainly

reach even as far as – Japan. Even when the road sign with that inscription startles him and brings him back to reality, and in fear turns his bike back towards the far, far-away Andrijeвица, an eternal memory will remain not only of the beauty of this area, but also of this remarkable feat. Is it a small thing for someone who doubts his abilities?

We start, as usual, from the park in front of the Komovi Hotel, along the road towards Plav. Nevertheless, after less than 500m we turn right, onto a side road which leads to the nearby village of Božići. Soon we cross to the east bank of the River Zlorečica and head up along its narrow valley southwards along the pleasant and quiet asphalt.

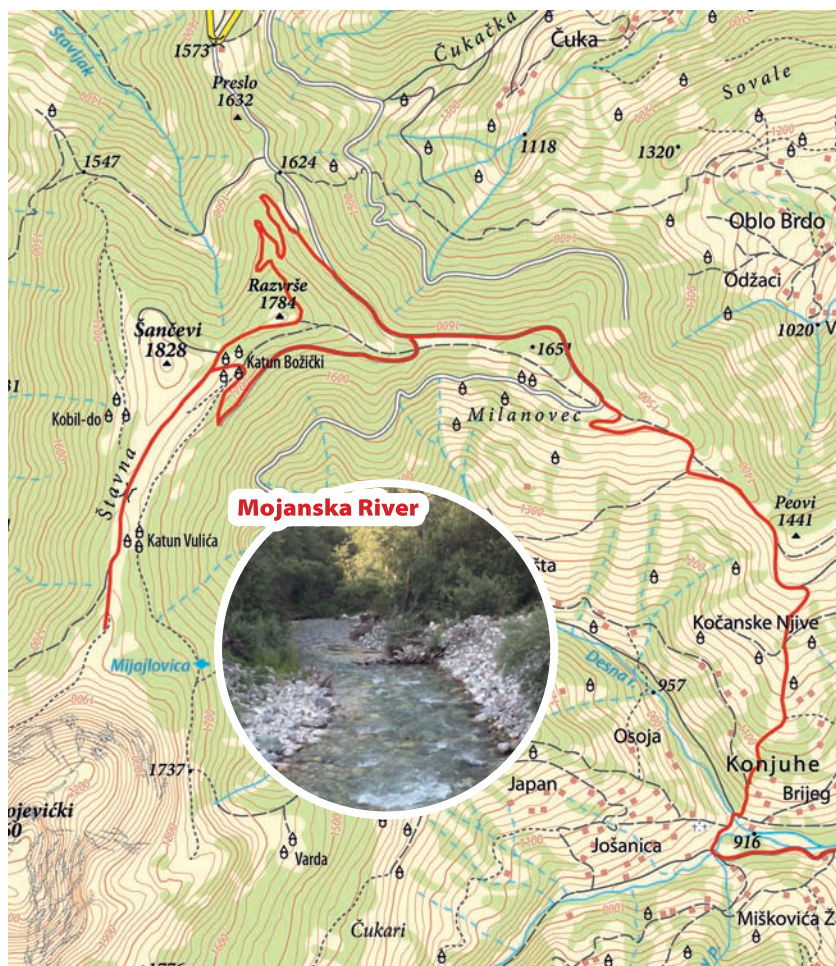
At 5.7km there is a V-shaped junction at which we turn right and go downhill, to the village of Đulići. (The left road goes towards Kuti – Route AN 06.) Đulići exists so that the little River Perućica and the River Kuti (the people of this region call it simply Kuckaja) have a place to meet and create the River Zlorečica. At that juncture, acting as best man, the village has provided a stone bridge and a stone watermill as wedding rings; there is also a miniature gorge as a wedding arch and they are just waiting for us to attend this ceremony as wedding guests. Therefore we must stay here as long as is necessary: we will leave our bikes, walk to the watermill,

look at the gorge from different angles, and descend to the newly-weds – to touch the foamy wedding gown for luck, to breathe in the scent from the green carpet which rushes to throw itself under the feet of every wedding guest.

The Rivers Kuckaja and Zlorečica are fly-fishing areas run by a fishing club from Andrijevica, so there is an opportunity for additional fun on the journey. (For some, fly-fishing will be maybe the main goal, and the bike just

a nice way to reach it...) In the River Kuckaja there is trout, and in the River Zlorečica trout and grayling.

From Đulići we will however go along the River Perućica. The road and stream play with and chase each other, but they do not forget about us: whenever they weave in front of us, they offer us a little bridge to cross over. In Košutići, at the very beginning of the eighth kilometre, a track forks left leading to the remains of a monastery from the seventh cen-



ture a few hundred metres away (reconstruction is in progress). This place is called Namastir. Four hundred metres further on, on the right of the road, there is a watermill dating from 1930 which still operates. Here we will see some interesting cliffs as well – a new motif for our photographs. At 9.2km we pass through Konjuhe – a village which, judging by its centre, has seen better days, and had more inhabitants that it does now. After a gentle ascent at the 11th

kilometre we reach a place at which a concrete bridge crosses over the River Perućica (at 12.2km). In the vicinity, the asphalt ends, but there is also a road sign claiming that we are in – Japan. And it is written in Japanese as well. Those who make an effort to start their tour early in the morning will get proof that here they are really in the land of the rising sun. More precisely: in the village of the rising sun. The yellow ball rolls over the distant Mt. Hajla, and then it trembles



over the nearby Mt. Piševo only to cast first rays to hit the entire forgotten valley right here, on the south-eastern slopes of the Kom Mountains. And there are also a lot of cherry trees in the Montenegrin Japan, so in spring the hills are clad in white just like in the real Japan. From the road we will not be able to see much of the village: the houses are located higher up on the hill, and in the fifty-odd houses which are still standing, there are only about ten active households. The village is very old, dating as far back as the 13th century, but it became famous only in March 2011, after news that its locals offered their help to the “real” Japan after the earthquake and tsunami which hit that country. Then the Government of Montenegro sent a donation of €10,000 on behalf of this village, thus connecting big and little Japan. A year later journalists from the Kyodo News Japanese news agency came here. And long before them, and even before the earthquake as well, a group of students from the University of Tokyo came here and donated a Japanese translation of “The Mountain Wreath” to the village school as a present... The difficult section of the road starts in Japan: about 400m after the bridge we turn right onto the gravel road and start a steep ascent which – with a few minor breaks and easier sections – lasts a total of 13km, up to the most distant and highest point of the route (1,835m), right below the mass of Vasojevički Kom Peak. From the bridge (at an altitude of 925m) to there one has to tackle an elevation gain of 900m.

So, let's start... the first 6km marks the more difficult section: along the steep slope of Konjuhe we climb towards Stražnica Peak, on an occasionally poor macadam road. After 3km (16.0km from the start) we get onto a better road.

On Stražnica Peak (at 16.3km) there is an important junction at which we proceed straight ahead. (To the right and back, the road towards Andrijevice forks, and we will go along this when we return here from Štavna. We continue our ascent along the open ridge of Milanovac from which we have a stunning view all around – to the peaks of Mt. Bjelasica and the crown of the Kom Mountains which grows ever taller on the left-hand side.

Everything here revolves around those two enormous cruel stone teeth, two towers on the gigantic cathedral sculpted by nature and which strives towards the sky from the greenery below it: Kučki Kom Peak and Vasojevički Kom Peak in a fierce grip block each other or break free from the shadow the other, strive against each other on the battlefield and attack with their eagles, while the eye of the observer travels across them with excitement and fear. In the deafening silence of that battle everything remains between the two of them, every collapsed cliff and every fallen rock, and only the sweaty wind can sometimes spill out from there into the neighbourhood, to embrace the medicinal herbs and lie down on a mountain saddle.

We slowly approach the rocky mass of the Kom Mountains, in a wide circle. After Dubačka

Glava Peak(1,651m), at 19.7km we come across a junction in the forest at which the asphalt starts. Advancing is easier from here – we go right (later we will return to here from Štavna from the left side), and after slightly more than a kilometre we leave the asphalt (which goes towards 1.5km-distant Trešnjevik mountain pass and Savo's Pub) and turn left, onto the macadam. Over Razvrše Hill (1,784m) it takes us onto the open, long slope of Štavna – an exceptionally beautiful area with an equally beautiful view of the surroundings. We pass below the peak of Sančevi Hill, then past the memorial drinking fountain of Zoran Vučićević (at 23.5km) and the top of a small disused ski lift. On the left below us and a few hundred metres away the Eco-katun of Štavna is located – now hidden from sight, but we will descend to it on our return. On the left side there is also a weekend settlement, whose log cabins are scattered over the long, spacious meadow; one of them (at 26.7km, a few hundred metres from the road) belongs to the Železničar Mountaineering Association from Belgrade.

We ride along a narrow ridge which starts from Razvrše and which will soon crash into the cliff of Vasojevički Kom Peak at the place called Konjic, and stop there: the southern side of the world does

not exist there, it is cancelled by a giant protrusion of rock rushing into the sky. But to the east and the west the depths and distances become dizzying: Mt. Zeletin and the Prokletije mountain range on one side, the peaks of Mt. Sinjajevina and the Morača Mountains on the other. As we have already mentioned, this is the highest point on our tour, but that in itself does not say much: the thing that is memorable is the fact that we are in one of the most attractive spots of our entire network of mountain biking routes in the region, so by no means should one hurry to leave that high throne in the clouds.

And once we head back, we start a long, almost continuous downhill ride (with several shorter uphill sections) to Andrijevića – over 16km! About 200m after the memorial drinking fountain of Zoran Vučićević (27.6 km from the start) we turn right and downhill, through a katun. In the lower section, the trail quality is bad, but this section is short, so in a second we find ourselves on the asphalt at Kamenička voda. We turn right and after about 300m

we are in front of the entrance to Štavna Eco-katun. This katun has everything we could wish for on such a journey: comfortable accommodation in wooden cottages (capacity: five people), a restaurant with excellent food, kind and hospitable hosts. Here we can



Mountain Lodge Štavna



even rent a bike in order to ride a little in the surroundings. Oh, yes, of course... we are already sitting on a bike and visiting the area right now. Great :)

From the katun we will go back along the asphalt until we reach (from the other direction) the already familiar junction near Dubačka glava (at 30.2km). We continue right, along the also already familiar macadam towards Stražnica. In order to make our descent more interesting, at 31.5km we turn right, on a little detour (800m) through wonderful meadows from the edge of which the steep slopes collapse into the valley of Konjuhe (and Japan). In this section we will

shortly ride through the forest as well, along a lovely leaf-strewn trail, before we join the “old” route again at the next junction. At the junction in Stražnica (at 33.1km) this time we proceed left. Hovering in the heights from which (if we are in luck) a few rays of sun drip down, we also pass the junction above Rajčica Do (Rajčić Dale): after a short ascent, just after the monument at 35.3km, we turn left. About 500m further on we go past a sporadic spring on the right-hand side, and on that same side the repeater antenna rises above us on the peak of Veliki krš (Big Rock). Soon we enter the forest on Zulevo brdo (Zule’s Hill), and



Komovi - Štavna

along a lovely dirt road after a few kilometres we get on a bad-quality asphalt surface in the hamlet of Gloštica (at 39.9km).

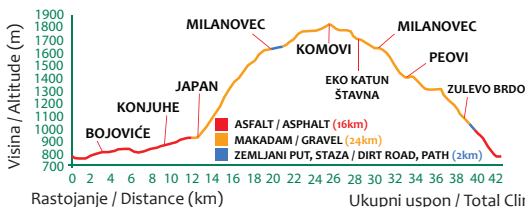
The road soon improves, and there is still quite enough of the downhill section left, so we will ride the remaining few kilometres in a few seconds and land straight into the centre of Andrijevice.

That landing is quite sudden: almost up until the last second we are riding through a rural setting, then we enter a short labyrinth of buildings, and on exiting from there – suddenly, here we are

on the high street, near the park and the hotel. With our eyes still full of the Kom Mountains, their ridges, pastures and horizons it will be difficult for us to gather our wits and realise that, due to the demands of everyday life, we should store away somewhere all those things we have left behind in the heights above us. But, some important batteries have been recharged, and that “somewhere” where we will store away this tour is a showcase of beautiful memories :)

AN05

ANDRIJEVICA - KOMOVI - ANDRIJEVICA (42km)



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Route AN 06

Andrijeвица – Kuti – Gusinje

Route Characteristics:

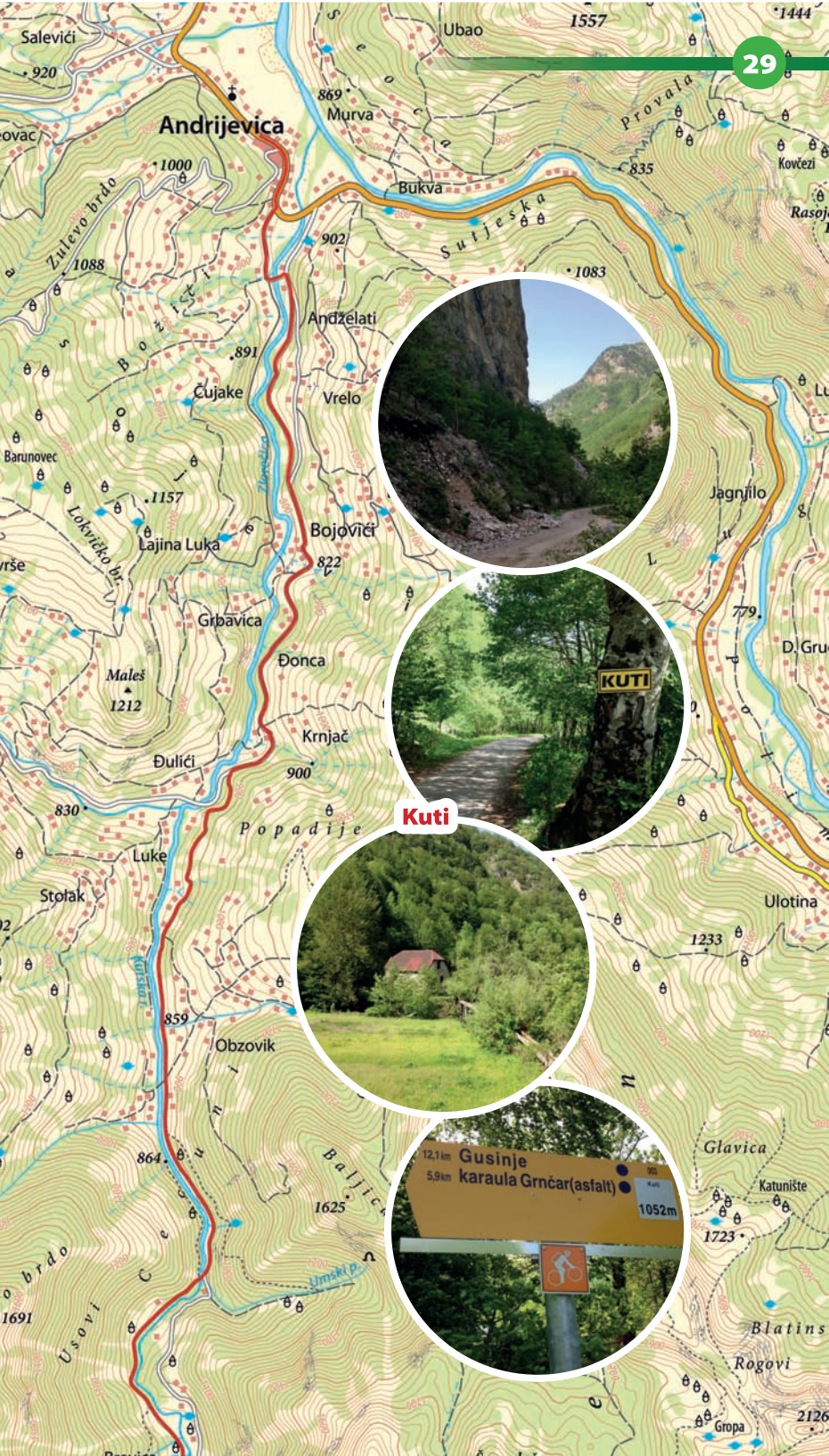
- » length: 29km
- » total ascent: 970m
- » surface: asphalt(23km), macadam and forest trail (6km)
- » biking conditions: from spring to autumn. Because of the section with the forest trail, the ride is not recommended during or after heavy rain.
- » during the ascent and crossing over the mountain pass after Kuti, one goes right by the border with Albania, and therefore should contact border police in Andrijeвица or the village of Đulići, at the entrance to the Kuti Valley.
- » a section of the route leads through an uninhabited mountainous area and forest so one should always bring along a basic bike toolkit, a spare tyre, a torch, a map and a navigation device (a GPS device or at least a compass). Riding in a group is also recommended.

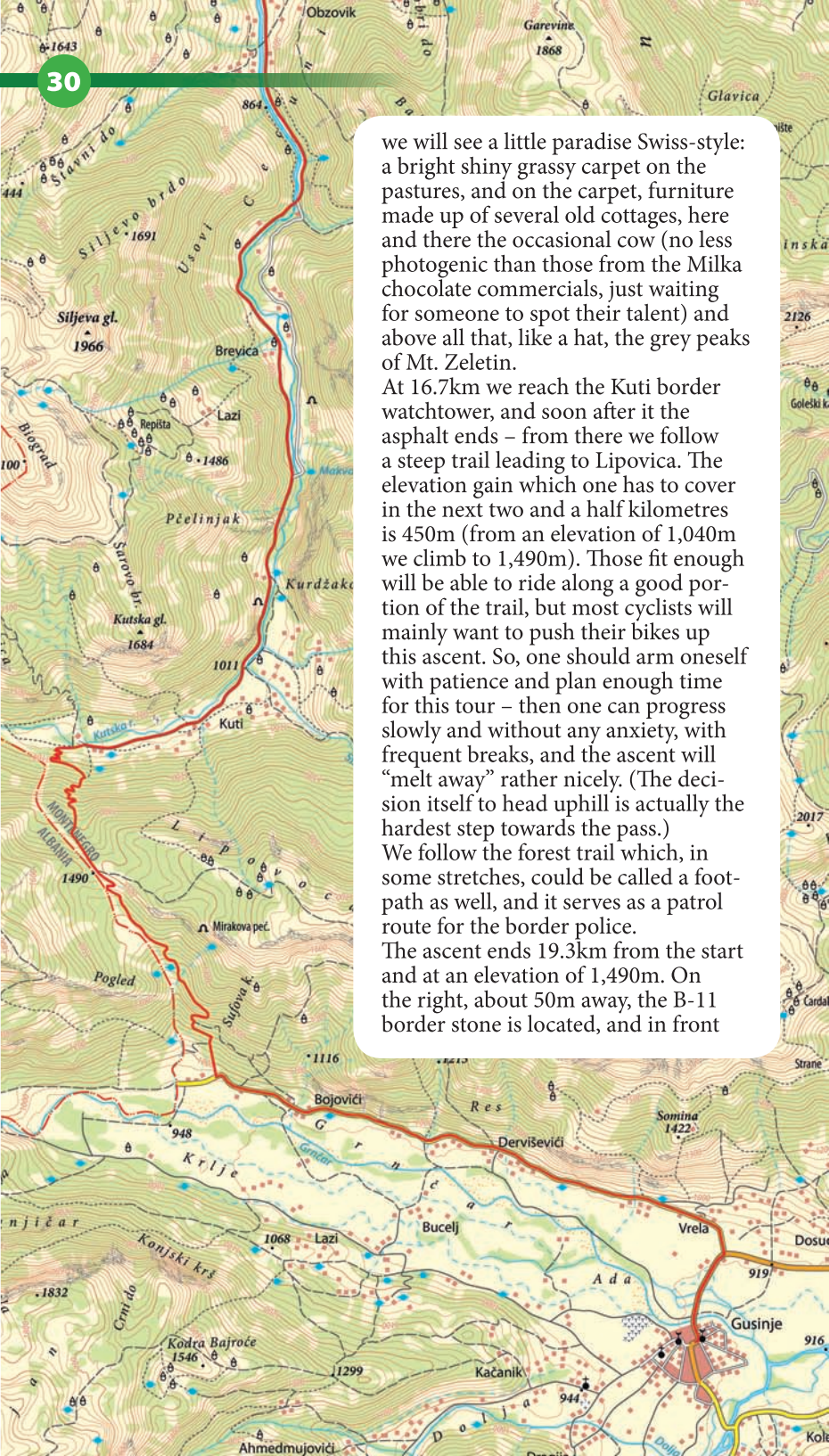
If there was not a difficult section after the village of Kuti, this would be a tour suitable for everyone, since the ride in the rest of the route is pleasant and does not require any special effort. But to reach Gusinje one has to get up an extreme ascent after Kuti, and then there is a demanding descent on the other side as well. However, considering that the valley in which Kuti is located is one of the loveliest places in

the area, we recommend riding at least to that little village. Then those who do not feel like sweating a lot may return to Andrijeвица along the road they have used for coming here, whereas lovers of challenges may venture into an unforgettable ride towards Grnčar and Gusinje over the high ridge of Mt. Lipovica.

Near the centre of Andrijeвица there is a junction at which we turn right. This quiet asphalt road will soon take us across the River Zlorečica, and right after that we come across two closely located junctions. At the first one, the road leading from the main road comes from the left, and at the second one, the old road to Kuti forks to the left and uphill, however we should continue straight on and along the flat ground.

5.7km from the start, we reach a v-shape junction: the right road descends to the village of Đulići, whereas the left fork with an asphalt surface leads us to Kuti. At 9.6km a spring called Miloševa voda (Miloš's water) is located (on the left). From here the valley becomes quite narrow and the road winds below the crags, through a rich greenery and with the murmur of the rapids of the Kutska rijeka (River Kuti), known also as River Kuckaja. The silence and serenity present here are absorbed into our hair and clothes, so we will probably start to ride slower and slower... At the fourteen-kilometre point the valley widens on the left side, and





we will see a little paradise Swiss-style: a bright shiny grassy carpet on the pastures, and on the carpet, furniture made up of several old cottages, here and there the occasional cow (no less photogenic than those from the Milka chocolate commercials, just waiting for someone to spot their talent) and above all that, like a hat, the grey peaks of Mt. Zeletin.

At 16.7km we reach the Kuti border watchtower, and soon after it the asphalt ends – from there we follow a steep trail leading to Lipovica. The elevation gain which one has to cover in the next two and a half kilometres is 450m (from an elevation of 1,040m we climb to 1,490m). Those fit enough will be able to ride along a good portion of the trail, but most cyclists will mainly want to push their bikes up this ascent. So, one should arm oneself with patience and plan enough time for this tour – then one can progress slowly and without any anxiety, with frequent breaks, and the ascent will “melt away” rather nicely. (The decision itself to head uphill is actually the hardest step towards the pass.) We follow the forest trail which, in some stretches, could be called a foot-path as well, and it serves as a patrol route for the border police.

The ascent ends 19.3km from the start and at an elevation of 1,490m. On the right, about 50m away, the B-11 border stone is located, and in front

of us in the distance one can see the peaks above the Grebaja Valley of Karanfli Peak and Trojan Peak. The left fork at this junction is a grassy footpath which goes gently uphill, and we will follow the right fork, which immediately goes downhill. On the steep descent we will encounter a fantastic atmosphere of beech forest along which we will slide down on a wonderful carpet made of leaves, so this section is definitely one of the loveliest on this tour. But one should always keep in mind that this carpet, in certain places so thick that it resembles a snowdrift, hides within itself dead branches, stumps, stones and other obstacles which may cause us in an instant find ourselves lying on the ground. Therefore, for those who do not have sufficient experience or a bike suitable for these conditions it would be best to ride very slowly or to get off the bike – even then this will be a very nice experience.

After passing along the edge of the spacious Lipovačka livada (Lipovica Meadow) we will reach the first house in Bojovići, and then, 22.6km from the start and at an elevation of 960m above sea level, we join the asphalt road which leads from Gusinje towards the Grnčar border crossing. The

elevation loss in relation to the point from which we start the descent (at the B-11 border stone) is 530m.

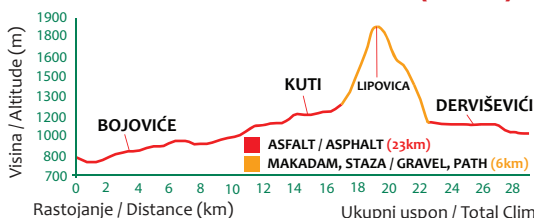
For fit cyclists, it will take about an hour and a half to complete the section from the Kuti border watchtower to the saddle; others should allow about an additional hour. The descent will take (somewhat unusually) nearly the same time, unless we are skilled in off-road riding. All in all, depending on one's fitness level and skill, it takes between two and a half and five hours, excluding a possible lunch break or a longer rest break, to ride about 6km from the border watchtower to the road to Gusinje.

For Gusinje we will turn left (the right fork goes towards the border crossing located only a few hundred metres away). The asphalt gently descends and after we pass the hamlets of Radončići and Derviševići, we will soon reach that little town.

(Those who have enough time and the will to do it may want to continue from Grnčar along the second half of the easy macadam route GU 01. The mileage will not be much greater, only in this case we will ride the next 3km along a poor macadam road and a path through a field).

AN06

ANDRIJEVICA - KUTI - GUSINJE (29km)



EVERYTRAIL.COM

Route AN 07

Andrijeвица – Gračanica – Murino – Plav

Route Characteristics:

- » *length: 26km*
- » *total ascent: 540m*
- » *surface: asphalt*
- » *biking conditions: throughout the year, except in the event of heavy snowfall*

At the beginning of this ride we will head along the usual, main road leading from Andrijeвица towards Plav. But at the very end of the 4th kilometre from the start in Luke we will turn left, pass over the River Lim and continue along the “secret”, less busy and more beautiful route through the village of Gračanica.

The ascent which we start here is more intense up to the 10th kilometre, and then progress will be considerably easier. The asphalt ascends, taking us into a pleasant area hovering above the valley of the River Lim: on sunny days the silvery snake of water stretches out among the meadows and dozes off in the heat, in a landscape as if made for daydreaming. This is one of those roads on which the pedalling is slower than usual: there is no burning excitement or boiling emotions as in some other places, but instead, in the rich greenery and expanding horizons, a relaxed, calm, reliable affection for the surrounding area is born, as well as that precious thirst for conversation without which there is no successful journey: conversation with travel

companions or, if there are none, with oneself.

At 7.1km on the left there is a spring. A narrow, deserted lane which can both talk and listen will bring us, after 10.4km from the start, to the saddle, the place called Mostine (950m, the highest point on our “secret” route). A few hundred metres before the saddle there is a place offering the most beautiful view of Polimlje and the area which lies behind us. The start in Andrijeвица is situated at an elevation of 790m above sea level, and the finish is in Plav at the elevation of 960m, but with this ascent in the middle of our excursion we have practically paid off the “entry fee” for this festival of beauty around us: a steep descent follows, about 2km long, and then gently, through a series of short ascents and descents, we will reach the finish. Passing by the hamlet of Mašnica we descend to Murino, where we cross the River Lim again and join the main road towards Plav, 10.7km before the town. At the entrance to Plav (23.2km from the start), on the right, a little botanical garden is located – it is worth visiting it and learning more about the flora of the region, not to mention a good opportunity to finally find out the “name and surname” of some of the mysterious scents which have intoxicated, tickled and tricked us so during our ride.

Entering Plav we are immersed in a special and interesting historical

Murino



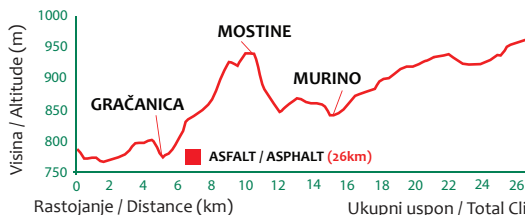
Plav



and cultural mosaic, but at the same time we step onto the soil of the new mountain biking Eldorado: the nine marked routes in the region of this town waiting to be explored offer more than enough reasons to stay here for a while. Anyway, read on • :)

AN07

ANDRIJEVICA - MURINO - PLAV (26km)



EVERYTRAIL.COM

Ukupni uspon / Total Climb **540m**

MONTe

ACCOMMODATION

Komovi Hotel, Andrijevica

Telephone: + 382 (0) 69 470 769

E-mail: hotelkomovi@gmail.com

Web site: www.hotelkomovi.com



Mountain Lodge Štavna, Andrijevica

Telephone: + 382 (0) 69 550 009

+ 382 (0) 67 380 532

E-mail: ekostavna@gmail.com

Web site: www.ekokatunstavna.com

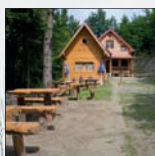


Mountain Lodge Trešnjevik

Andrijevica

Telephone: + 382 (0) 67 400 361

E-mail: pego@t-com.me



Mountain Lodge Komovi

Trešnjevik, Andrijevica

Telephone: +382 (0) 69 491 920

E-mail: ekoturskomovi@yahoo.com



Fisherman's House Seoce

Andrijevica

Telephone: + 382 (0) 68 320 787

E-mail: flyfishing436@gmail.com



Motel/Restaurant Most Bandović

Andrijevica

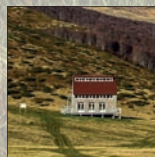
Telephone: + 382 (0) 69 563 791



Krivi Do Mountain Hut

Andrijevica

Telephone: + 382 (0) 69 523 879





In case you are interested in extending your visit and trying some of the marked trails in neighboring municipality of Plav, you can download information about those trails from websites **www.biking.bjelasica-komovi.me** and **www.biking.toplav.me**. For information about one of the Top Biking Trails that you can reach from Andrijevisa, please visit website **www.tt3.bjelasica-komovi.me**.

All these trails can be found on **everytrail.com**, to save any of them, add it to your favorites, and it will instantly appear in your Save tab in iPhone/Android Application.

Tourist Organisation of Andrijevisa

+382 (0) 51 243 113

toandrijevisa@gmail.com

www.toandrijevisa.me

National Tourist Organisation of Montenegro

Call center: 1300 (24h)

information@montenegro.travel

booking@montenegro.travel

complaints@montenegro.travel



CRNA GORA
MINISTARSTVO GOSPODARSTVA
I TURIZMA



REGIONALNA RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA
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