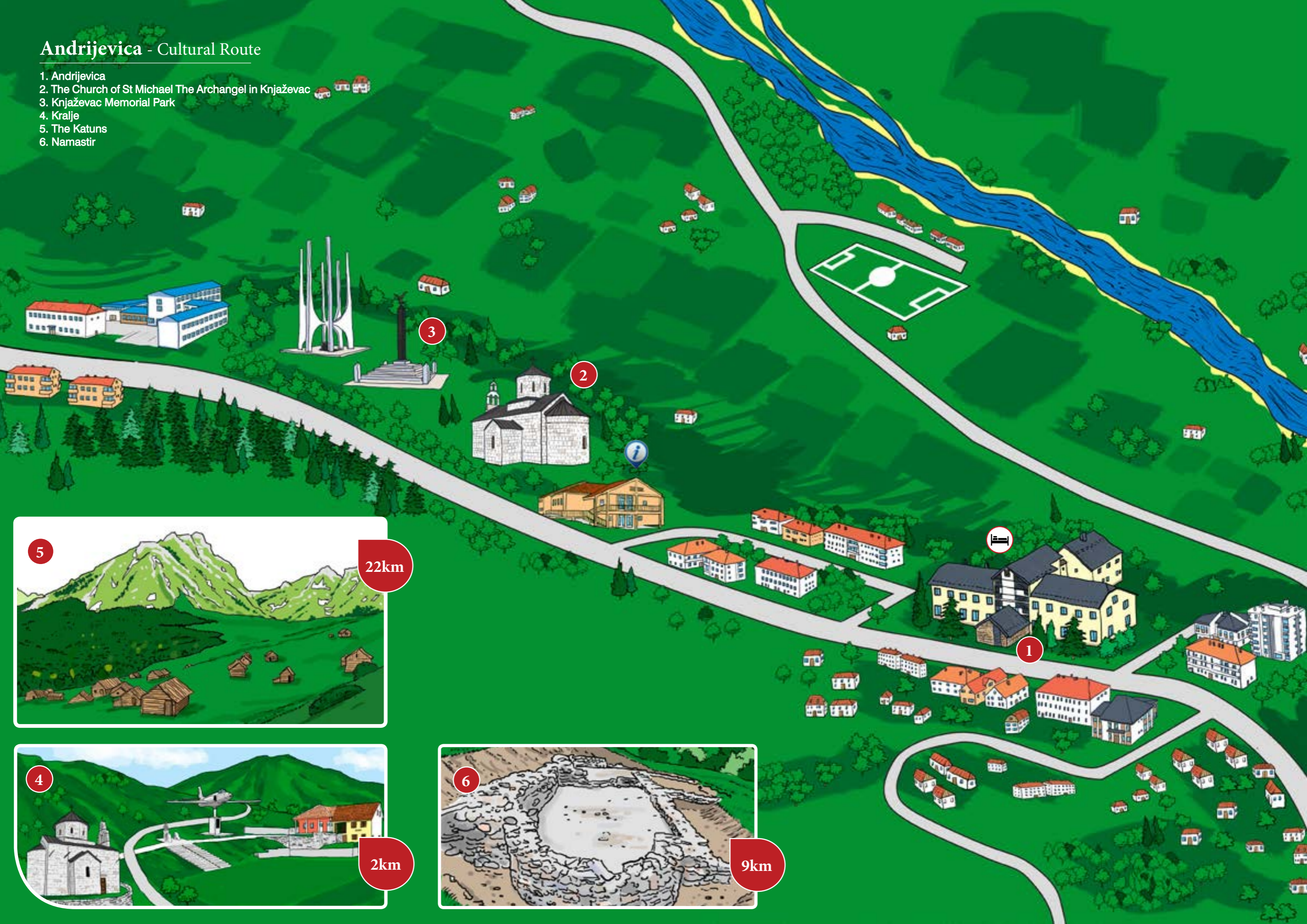


Andrijevisa - Cultural Route

1. Andrijevisa
2. The Church of St Michael The Archangel in Knjaževac
3. Knjaževac Memorial Park
4. Kralje
5. The Katuns
6. Namastir



5

22km



4

2km



6

9km

Andrijevića



Here on the banks of the River Zlorečica and the River Lim, is situated Andrijevica, a little town with a lot of history. Once only a church – *Andrijevića* – famous for its carving workshop was located here. It was built in the 13th century by Duke Andrija of Zahumlje, the son of Miroslav, the Duke of Hum and the brother of Stefan Nemanja. Gradually

around the church developed a town, which is said to have never seen peacetime. In the conflicts between clans and against foreign invaders, it was razed and destroyed several times. During the battles against the Ottoman Empire, in the second half of the 19th century, Milijan Vukov, a well-known vojvoda (duke) of the Vasojević clan declared the Vasojević region to be an integral part of Montenegro, and appointed seven captains as the main administrative organ of Andrijevica. At the end of the 19th century this little town became not only the military, political and commercial but also the cultural centre of the whole region and in terms of the literacy of its population, it did not lag behind the other areas, not even Cetinje. Apart from its heroic past and fairytale mountainous areas, Andrijevica is also famous for its numerous cafés and pubs where every visitor can feel at home.

The Church of St Michael the Archangel in Knjaževac

It is said that no church in the surrounding area was allowed to be built until the Church of St Michael the Archangel at Knjaževac was finished. The foundation stone was laid by Prince Nikola in 1877 and every rifleman from this area pledged to bring one stone block



which was embedded in the walls of the church. It was modelled on Morača Monastery with the intention to be the most beautiful temple in this part of Montenegro. The best craftsmen and fresco-painters were brought to decorate it and the icons and liturgical books were brought from Russia. The church became the centre of the spiritual and social life of the Vasojević region, and the site where it was built was called Knjaževac (the Prince's Place) in honour of Prince Nikola. During religious festivals it was a gathering place where the most important decisions were taken. Today Knjaževac is still well-known for its traditional religious and popular gatherings attended by several thousand visitors from all over Montenegro and the world. The busts placed in front of the church commemorate some of the most important people from this region such as Prior Mojsije Zečević, ruler and spiritual leader of the Vasojević region in the first half of the 19th century and Voivode Milijan Vukov Vešović, renowned national leader and senator.

Knjaževac Memorial Park



Located right at the entrance to the town, the memorial park of Knjaževac represents an identity card of the whole Vasojević region. This open-air museum is the best place to learn something about the history of people who for centuries fought to survive in these mountains. A series of monuments of

different shapes, sizes and colours bear witness to the fact that none of the wars avoided this area. The most notable among them is the white marble monument whose six columns symbolise the six republics of the former Yugoslavia. It was built in memory of the victims of World War II. A hexagonal pyramid carved from a single piece of black marble with an eagle on its top –stands as a memorial to the heroes of the Balkan Wars and World War I. Created in Cetinje, this monument, under the escort of the Vasojević clan leaders, was carried by hand to Andrijevica. Besides the history lesson at Knjaževac, one can study botany as well, since the park has more than thirty plant species, among which there is Serbian spruce – an endemic species of the Balkan Peninsula, as well as some species unusual for this area, sequoia.

Kralje

It is difficult to say if this picturesque village is better known for its untouched nature and idyllic landscapes or its heroic history. Enchanted by the beauty of this area even kings (kraljevi) used to stop by here for a rest when they went hunting in the Kom Mountains, so the village was named Kralje after them. Many well-known heroes, leaders of outlaws and national leaders come from here. The famous Karađorđević, whose grandfather was born in this village, was one of them. Although demolished and razed several times, Kralje managed to survive and become the spiritual and cultural centre of the Upper Vasojević region in which the first school in the whole area was founded in the mid-19th century, and a little village church built



in 1904 was fresco-painted by one of the most prominent painters in Montenegro. Proud of their history its residents themselves founded and equipped a unique ethnological museum in which you can learn why in the centre of the village an unusual exhibit – an airplane – is exhibited, and where the legendary long-range cannons Krnjo and Zelenko, which in 1912 made an important contribution to the eventual liberation from the Ottomans were kept, and why every summer a traditional folklore festival is held right here.

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The Katuns

If you want to experience real mountain life, without electricity, television and the Internet, to try fresh milk, fresh cheese, drink spring water welling up at an elevation of 2,000 metres above sea level and smell the sweet scent of wild flowers, you are in the right place. From the Trešnjevik mountain pass, the roads lead to Mt. Bjelasica on one side and the Kom Mountains (the Komovi) on the other side. In these mountains rare functioning katuns – traditional mountain settlements where during the summer months residents of the surrounding villages graze their cattle – still survive. The mountain then becomes their temporary home in which special rules, unchanged for hundreds of years, apply. If you head to the Komovi you will come across the coldest mountain springs in the world, where the water temperature even in summer does not exceed 2°C, and glades full of violets, which were named after

King Nikola. On this mountain where snow sometimes falls even in July and snowdrops appear in September, the church with the highest elevation in Europe is built. The Church of St Elijah at Carine, built in 1900, stands at an altitude of 1,800 metres and its doors have never been locked.



Namastir

Hidden in the foothills of the Kom Mountains, some ten kilometres from Andrijevica, the village of Košutići has kept many secrets since prehistoric times. Almost in the very centre of the village, on a plateau made up of four large rocks, the remnants of a church more than fifteen centuries old can be found. Beside this church, the oldest yet discovered in the Polimlje region, the remains of another, smaller church built in the period from the 9th to the 11th century were found. It is thought that this hillock served as a shelter even in the Bronze Age, and it was also used by the Romans, the Avars and the Slavs who inhabited this area. Legends and toponyms tell us that this was a very important place in the past. Here emperors used to stay overnight and feudal lords used to go deer hunting in this area. In the vicinity a silver mine and customs station were located. The first school in this region, the famous Univerza of Vasojević, where, besides regular classes, oratory, fencing, wrestling and gymnastics were studied from 1861, was also founded in the village of Košutići.



The Tourist Organisation of Andrijevica

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Krivi Do Mountain Hut
Phone: +382 (0) 69 523 879

Smočani kačamak

There is no mountain in Montenegro where kačamak is not eaten, but only here you can try famous smočani kačamak (polenta with clotted cream and cheese). This traditional speciality is made from potato and wheat or corn flour which should be well-beaten with a special wooden club and then clotted cream and cheese are added to it. Don't be fooled by the simplicity of the recipe - in order to make good smočani kačamak one needs strength, skill and time.



National Cuisine Restaurants

Restaurant Most Bandović
Phone: +382 (0) 69 563 791

Restaurant Eko Katun Štavna
Phone: +382 (0) 69 300 822 / +382 (0) 68 550 009

Getting There - Transportation

- Air:** The closest airport is located in Podgorica (167 km).
- Train:** The railway station in Bijelo Polje (62 km), www.zcg-prevoz.me
- Bus:** Well connected to all towns in the region by bus lines.
- Car:** Main road to Podgorica (161 km), Berane (17km), Belgrade (367km), Biogradska Gora National Park (87km), Prokletije National Park (33km).

Welcome!

Now you are in Andrijevica, a little town situated on a narrow terrace descending steeply towards the River Lim, which is surrounded on all sides by high mountains. And while you are enjoying the fairytale vistas of the mountain massifs of Komovi, Prokletije and Bjelasica, do not forget that this region was the site of famous battles, historical agreements and some of the most important events in Montenegrin history.

Cultural Route of Andrijevica leads you to the most interesting places in the area, where you will discover where the remnants of the oldest church in the Polimlje region are located, what the Montenegrin elixir of life is made of, what was studied at the Univerza of Vasojević and how history is taught in the open air. You will also learn where the coldest mountain spring is located, in which village the locals themselves founded a museum and why those who spend a summer in the Kom Mountains will live longer.

STEP INTO THE HISTORY OF ANDRIJEVIĆA!

More information about the Cultural Route and assistance in arranging the tour can be obtained at The Tourist Organisation of Andrijevica



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Although there is no marked cycle trail the complete tour can be done by mountain bike.

Montenegrin Japan

Under the Kom Mountains, 12 km from Andrijevica, one can find Japan! Of all the places in the region the sun always rises over this village first, and in spring everything becomes white with cherry blossoms since there are plenty of cherry trees in this area. However, it is not known for certain whether it is for this particular reason that this little mountain village was named after the land of the rising sun and cherry blossom. Some say that it was because of the Russo-Japanese War, when a part of population of this area was on the side of the Russians. The part of the village that was named Japan was inhabited by people who were indifferent toward that war. Nevertheless, it is most likely that this Japan of ours was named in the 13th century after *iapanus*, a border area guardian.



Dobra Rijeka turns into Zlorečica

Once upon a time this river, at the mouth of which Andrijevica was built, was called the River Krasna (Wonderful), and then River Dobra (Good). Legend says that it was named Zlorečica (Evil Little River) when in a foaming torrent it swept away two young people who loved each other very much. Local people say that it starts raging with the autumn rains, sweeping everything before it in a muddy foam. One of the tributaries of the River Zlorečica is the River Kuckaja which is formed from such clear springs that no one remembers ever seeing it muddy. Some people even claim that it is a gold-bearing river as well.

Mihailo Lalić (1914 – 1992)

Near Andrijevica, in the village of Trepča, Mihailo Lalić, one of the most significant Montenegrin writers was born. Misery, poverty and horrors of the First and Second World Wars left an indelible mark on him and, for this reason, through his predominantly partisan-themed works he tried, as he himself said, to fight "for peace, for freedom and for a dignified life for the working people". In his works he immortalised his native region, the mountain he returned to again and again, its forests and springs at which "along with water one can also drink a handful of stars". In remembrance of this great writer the Memorial Home was built in his native Trepča.



www.montenegro.travel

