

Mojkovac - Route

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25km

Brskovo

Just 6 km away from the town, hidden among the mountains and forests of Mojkovac, there is an entire medieval town! Eight hundred years ago Saxon miners forged famous gold-bearing silver here, and King Uroš I minted the first silver coins of this area. If the legend is to be believed, Mojkovac was named after the words "MOJ KOVANI NOVAC" (my minted coins) which, according to the legend, the king uttered. Of course, we are talking about Brskovo. Although the old town of Brskovo can hardly be seen, it is not hard to imagine the hustle and bustle of the 13th and 14th centuries, when Brskovo was one of the most important towns in the craftsmen, and tailors came away as the Venetian trade colony consisted from Dubrovnik and Kotor. They brought textiles, honey and wine to Brskovo, and purchased metal, fur, wax and leather. All of these items were sold on the large town square, near where the customs house was located. Even the Consul General of Dubrovnik had his residence in Brskovo, and it is thought that the royal court of the Nemanjić dynasty was situated here for a certain period.



The Centre

Here, in the very centre of the town, you will encounter the glorious history of Mojkovac. The central square is dominated by the statue of Serdar Janko Vukotić, the Chief of the Headquarters of the Montenegrin Army in World War I and the legendary commander of the Montenegrin troops in the Battle of Mojkovac. His



courage and skill, as well as his readiness to sacrifice the soldiers that he led, made him a timeless role model showing how one should appreciate and fight for one's freedom. They created the myth of Mojkovac which is best illustrated by the belief that *for every Montenegrin one day of life in freedom is more valuable than many years lived in slavery*. Not far from it there is a monument dedicated to the fallen fighters of the People's Liberation War which testifies to the casualties this area suffered during World War II. A tenth of the inhabitants of Mojkovac lost their lives in the fight against fascism. As it says on the monument: "May it happen again". Nevertheless, not everything was warfare in the history of Mojkovac which has changed hands between the Illyrians, Romans, Slavs and Turks. Therefore, please continue this walk through the history of Mojkovac.

The Battlefield

On this site a decisive battle occurred between the Montenegrin and the Austro-Hungarian armies in the famous Battle of Mojkovac. Right here, on (Orthodox) Christmas (January 1916), in the middle of World War I, at Bojna Njiva the two armies found themselves facing each other, in positions scarcely 150-200 metres away from each other. The much more numerous and technically superior Austro-Hungarian Army received the command to liquidate the Montenegrin Sandžak Army, whereas the Montenegrin command was to "prevent enemy advancement by fighting to the last man". The centre of defence was at the so-called Door of Mojkovac. This was the final conflict, after three months of fighting. In temperatures -25°C and with snowdrifts reaching as



Photo collection from King Nikola's Museum - National Museum of Montenegro

high as 2 metres, the violent and bloody battle lasted for two days. Bojna Njiva changed hands several times only for the army of Serdar Janko Vukotić in the end, with its last remaining strength, to manage to conquer Bojna Njiva, with a counter-attack, in close combat. Casualties were enormous, and the scene which remained behind them was terrifying.

The Bridge and the Monument to the Heroes of the Battle of Mojkovac

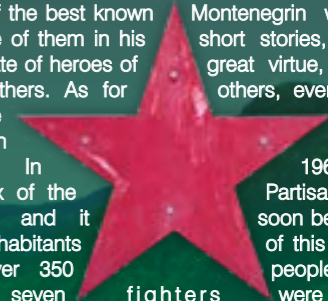
Many people from Mojkovac will tell you that the very heart of the town is located in this part of town. The old stone bridge and the Monument to the Heroes of the Battle of Mojkovac are the symbols of Mojkovac. Until 1912 the River Tara divided the town in two, the Montenegrin and the Turkish parts, and the greatest heroes actually proved themselves through frequent incursions into the opposite side. The Bridge on the River Tara was built in 1934, but soon afterwards it was knocked down during war operations in 1944. The Partisans demolished it in order to prevent retreating German troops crossing it. Nowadays, every summer on the reconstructed bridge a high-dive competition into the river is organised.



From the bridge there is a view of another symbol of the town – the Monument to the Heroes of the Battle of Mojkovac, a symbol of the courage and heroism of Montenegrin soldiers in World War I. Erected in 1966, it commemorates Mojkovac's most significant battle of the past, when 6,500 Montenegrin soldiers stopped the 20,000 strong Austro-Hungarian troops. Near the monument is the Orthodox Cathedral of the Nativity of Christ, built in memory and honour of the heroes of the Battle of Mojkovac.

The Partisan Memorial Complex – Grotulja

At this site during World War II, numerous known and unknown heroes were killed. One of the best known Montenegrin writers, Mihailo Lalić, immortalized some of them in his short stories, from which we find out all about the fate of heroes of great virtue, Jovan Drobniak and the Vidaković brothers. As for others, even their names remain unknown, therefore their graves are marked with the inscription "An unknown fighter". In 1961, in their honour the Memorial Complex of the Partisan Cemetery at Grotulja was constructed, and it soon became a symbol of the struggle of the inhabitants of this area against fascism. In that fight, over 350 people from Mojkovac lost their lives, and seven fighters were declared National Heroes. It is said that donations arrived from all over the former Yugoslavia for the construction of this memorial, and the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages gave their wholehearted help.



The Monastery of St George in Dobrilovina

The idyllic areas of the River Tara Canyon hide one of the most significant cultural monuments of this region. The Monastery of St George in Dobrilovina is situated 27 km from Mojkovac in the direction of Žabljak. In terms of its beauty it resembles the Morača Monastery and for that reason among local people it is known as Mala (Little) Morača. It is not known when it was erected but it was reconstructed as early as the end of the 16th century. Although it was destroyed several times it managed to become the most important centre of spirituality and literacy in this region. In 1870 the first school in Potarje was founded within it. Due to frequent invasions by the Turks, the pupils and teachers would hide in a cave above the monastery, and continue their lessons there with their rifles on their shoulders. This cave, which is located in the immediate proximity of the monastery, can still be visited today, and in memory of the first pupils, school benches have been set in front of it.



The Tourist Organisation of Mojkovac

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Hotels

Gacka Hotel Resort **+**, Podbišće
Phone: +382 (0)50 474 720
E-mail: office@imanjerakocevic.me
www.imanjerakocevic.com

Palas Hotel **
Phone: +382 (0)50 472 508/+382 (0)50 472 104
E-mail: hotelpalasmojkovac@t-com.me

Dulovic Small Hotel ***
Trg Ljubomira Bakoča bb
Phone: +382 (0)50 472615 / +382 (0)67 631654
E-mail: hoteldulovic@t-com.me

Eko oaza (privately-owned accommodation) - Dobrilovina
Phone: +382 (0) 67 511 755

Ravnjak Small Hotel * - Bistrica
Phone: +382 (0)69 494501/+382 (0)69 350423
E-mail: vesko1961@gmail.com
www.ravnjak.org

Mead

While you are in Mojkovac do not miss the chance to taste the traditional mead. Some people call it the drink of the gods, since not only does it improve one's blood, refresh the body, boost appetite, but also slows down the ageing process. It is made of top-quality honey from the pastures of the surrounding mountains, but no one from Mojkovac will tell you the recipe. It is said that it was brought here by the Old Slavs. And, of course, many traditional regional specialities like kačamak, cicvara, layered cheese, and meat roasted in a traditional way go well with mead.

Mead can be bought from the agricultural producer: Milija Mačžgalj, Podbišće bb
Phone: +382 (0)69 681796



Restaurants

Izlet Restaurant - Dobrilovina
Phone: +382 (0)69 822969/+382 (0)67 224250
E-mail: information@callcenter.me

Tiha noć Restaurant * - Babića Polja bb**
Phone: +382 (0)69 536 898
E-mail: tara.invest@yahoo.com

Kozak Restaurant * - Krstac,**
Phone:+382 (0)67 814 408
E-mail: restoran.kozak@gmail.com

Getting There - Transportation

Air Transport: the closest airport is located in Podgorica (100 km)
Train: the main Bar – Belgrade railway passes through Mojkovac.
www.zcg-prevoz.me
Mojkovac Railway Station +382 (0) 50 472 130

Bus: it is well connected to all towns in the region by bus lines.
Mojkovac Bus Station: +382 (0) 50 470 133/+382 (0) 69 523 240

Automobile: one can reach Mojkovac via the Adriatic main road from the direction of Podgorica (90 km) and from the direction of Bijelo Polje (29 km), and by the Djurđevića Tara-Mojkovac regional road from the direction of Žabljak (68km) and Pljevića (85 km).

Welcome!

Enchanted by the beauty of nature, which near Mojkovac hides the second deepest canyon in the world and two national parks, do not miss the chance to find out more about the tumultuous history of this area.

The cultural tour of Mojkovac leads you through the medieval town of Brskovo which was compared with London for its Romance-period charm, past Dobrilovina Monastery, in which the first school of the area was founded, to the site of one of the most famous battles in World War I. You will pass by monuments of the centuries-long fight against the Turks, and memorials dedicated to the victims of World War II, described in the works of some of the most eminent writers of Montenegro.

STEP INTO HISTORY OF MOJKOVAC!

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CULTURAL TOUR and assistance in the organisation of the tour can be obtained at:

The Tourist Organisation of Mojkovac



Working Hours:

weekdays from 7a.m. to 3p.m.

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Phone/fax: +382 (0) 50 472 428

Cell: +382 (0) 68 842 985



Although there is no marked biking trail, the complete tour may be done by mountain bike.

The Lost Town of Brskovo

Dante and Brskovo

Coins minted in Brskovo – *denarius de Brescoa* – reached the great Dante as well. However, in his *Divine Comedy* he placed those in the eighth circle of Hell, accusing the King of Raska of forging Venetian coins.

"...and he of Rascia, who, to his harm, has seen the coin of Venice..."



Dubrovnik - Brskovo Trade

On the basis of data from the Archive of Dubrovnik, it is thought that in 1282 the total value of trade in Brskovo amounted to 33,000 solids. According to the market prices of that time, for that amount one could buy 3,320 horses, or 276 sailing ships, 1,933 tonnes of wheat in a good harvest or 1,127 tonnes of wheat in a bad harvest. For a merchant it took three months to complete the round-trip from Dubrovnik to Brskovo, including the time needed to sell the goods.

The Saxon Organization

Brskovo soon acquired a political system similar to that which the Saxons had brought from their homeland, thus becoming the first Saxon municipality to enjoy autonomy. Their privileges included: personal freedom, freedom of worship, the right to prospect for and process ore. They had their own court of justice called Curia Teutoniarum consisting of 12 members of the council, who were called the Purgers. They were presided over by the judge – the *iudex* who had a baton called the *Baculus Iudicis Regis*. They also had their notary – *Notarius Teutoniarum* for recording the mining tax known as *urburare*.



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