

I - Cultural and natural heritage of Srebrenica Drina Region

The Srebrenica Drina Region from Zvornik in the north to Gorazde in the south is a new destination on the tourist map of Europe. At this occasion we mention only some municipalities on both sides of Drina River that belong or gravitate to the area of Central Podrinje such as Zvornik, Vlasenica, Ljubovija, Bajina Bašta, Milići, Bratunac, Srebrenica (Roman Argentaria), Višegrad and Goražde.

The total length of the border between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Serbia is 382.8 km, of which 154.3 km of mainland border, while other 185.2 km is boundary along the Drina River with several tall dams. There are eight (8) border crossings along this boundary, allowing a simple tour of the destination.

The Drina River Basin has three distinct faces: North Podrinje is a fertile flat and densely populated area, Central Podrinje is a hilly and mainly agricultural area, and South Podrinje is a sparsely populated, mountainous area. Although the tourist offer is more developed in the Serbian side, the other side of Drina River in Bosnia and Herzegovina offers opportunities for diverse activities in nature and the use of nature products (spa tourism, agro tourism, ecotourism, wood carvings ...).

The river that once separated the eastern and western Roman Empire, and then separated the influence of Orthodox and Catholic churches, confirmed the old proverb "Sea connects and separates the river" for centuries. However, for so many centuries, the inhabitants of both sides of the river lived within the same empires and states. Today, it is a tourist destination that strongly encourages good neighbourly relations and represents a unique economic, multicultural, refugial and relic ecosystem.

The Mehmed Paša Sokolović Bridge on Drina River in Višegrad, the last work of one of the world's greatest architects, Mimar Sinan, was inscribed in the World Cultural Heritage List - UNESCO. Also, in the region of Central Podrinje, there are numerous medieval necropolises of the Stećak, unique monuments in the world, of which four (4) were inscribed in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list - two (2) necropolis on the Serbian side and two (2) on the Bosnian side of the river.

Along with the tourist offer of rural tourism on Zlatibor mountain, eco-tourism in the national parks of Tara and Mokra Gora, the railway attraction (Šarganske osmice and Drvengrad) in neighbouring Serbia, as well as the attractive rafting on Drina river from Ustikolina to Gorazde, cruising with tourist ships at Višegrad and Perućac lakes, the tourist attraction of Kamengrad (Andrićgrad) and medieval frescoes in Dobrun, necropolises, remnants of old towns, spas, fishing, swimming (in Bratunac and Milići) ... and all this on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina - the Podrinje region is included in the tourist map of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

There are old-endemic species of Bosnia, the Dinarides and the Balkans in this area, which gives a world global value to this space. Similar centres exist in Neretva River refuges, and such types of eco systems could be only found in the Pyrenees and Apennine peninsula, in Asia Minor and in the Himalayas. These refuges include the most preserved parts of Europe, such as the Perućica rainforest, the Illyrian black pine forests, and the mesian beech in the canyons of Sutjeska River, the Picea omorika or Bosnian spruce in the central part of Drina, Žepa and Govza canyon. There are also communities of European hop-hornbeam, Manna ash, Tilia tomentosa, Bosnian maple, Oriental hornbeam..and many other endemic communities in rock cracks..

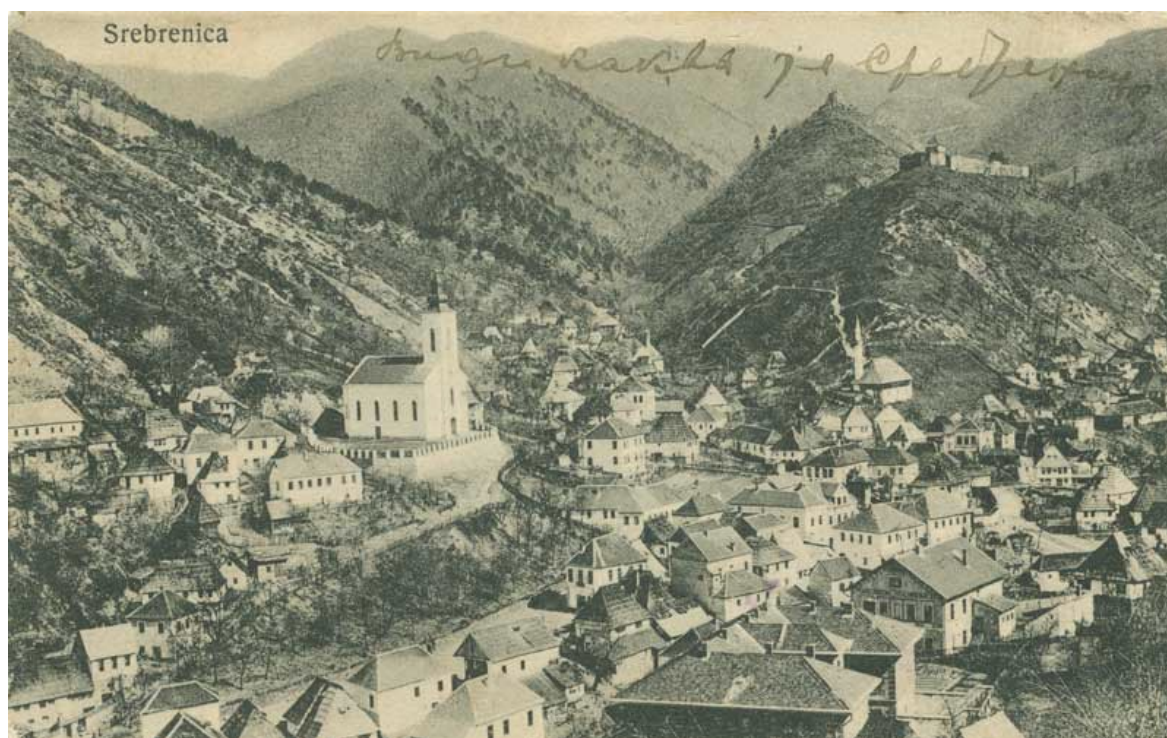
Wealth of species and abundance of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, mushrooms, salmonid species of fish (Huchen and Salmotruttafario) ... confirm the high biodiversity of the

area. Along the Drina River coast, wild cherry, wild apples, wild pears, raspberry, blackberry, quince, walnut etc could be found...



Srebrenica

The civilization rise of Srebrenica to the last war (1992/95.) was fascinating and followed by the cultural development of the city. At the time of the former Yugoslavia, according to statistical data, Srebrenica, together with Maribor in Slovenia, was ranked first in economic development.



Srebrenica at the end of the 19th century

The exceptional, on a world scale, two-millennium history of Srebrenica and the great story of the City that lasts, still waiting to be told to the Europe and the World.

II - The cultural and civilizational waves through history

The cultural and civilizational waves on the territory of today's Srebrenica – Drina region have interlaced and reconciled, manifesting the specific historical coexistence of opposites and cultural differences. Due to the mineral resources and the favorable geographic position, different cultures and civilizations have come and gone in this area, each of which has left significant monumental buildings that testify to the distant past.

As we can see from the darkness of the ancient times when many of the Illyrian tribes inhabited the central parts of the Balkans, as the first ethnic identity on this piece of earth to our day, it is impressive fact that those who lived here for thousands of years always maintained their cultural identity with the power of the creative spirit, in the miraculous coexistence of opposites and always were a constant invisible bridge of reconciliation:

- Illyrian, Greek, and Roman gods,
- Mithraism and Early Christianity,
- medieval Bosnian church, Catholicism and Orthodoxy,
- Byzantine, Ottoman and Western European cultures and civilizations, and
- Bosniaks, Serbs, Croats and others who live and work today in this area.



Srebrenica (Domavia) in the Roman province of Dalmatia

"That the mining works of the Srebrenica region existed in prehistoric times, argues the fact that deposits of lead of silver ore in this area are very rich, which Illyrians as skillful miners could easily exploit. From this can be concluded that Domavia was a center in the prehistoric times whose importance in economic sense could have been based only on mining, since this region has no other wealths "(an extract from the Statement of Importance of the Good by the Commission for National Monuments of BiH).

Srebrenica is the hometown of the world-famous Renaissance theologian, philosopher, humanist and speakers, Duro Dragišić (Srebrenica 1446/48. - Rome 1520), in which he was returning to more times.

The world-famous Srebrenica's resident was also Professor Selman Selmanagić who graduated (as number 100) at the most prestigious and most significant art school of the European avant-garde - "Bauhaus", and then became an assistant and a professor there. Selmanagic worked as a professor and pedagogue in DDR (East Germany), a dean at the Berlin academy, and was, in accordance to his wish, buried (1987) in his hometown Srebrenica.

III - Notes from ancient, medieval and Ottoman period

Mining manager Ludwig Pogotschnig noticed (1883) sections of stone inscriptions, while the year later (1884) discovered the monument of great archaeological importance. Professor Dr. Domaszewski read the inscription as: "L. Domitio. Erotiviro ex equestribus turmis procuratori metallorum Pannoniorum et Delmatorum, mirae integritatis et bonitatis M. Aur. Rusticus v.e. ducenarius praestantissimo."



Discovery of Argentaria (photo Z.B.)

In the year of 1890, the Bosnian National Government approved the funds for further extensive excavations at Gradina, and the works were led by Radimsky, the mining advisor. There were large ruins of Roman buildings found, while at the delta of the Saski creek into Majdanski creek, there was a rectangle of 2,500 m² found, which indicated to a Roman camp. Other ruins were discovered in the later years and a complete overview of the Roman town of Domavija was acquired. At that time, the seven individual ancient procurators' (procurator mattalorum Pannoniorum et Delmatorum) tombs were identified.



Detail from Roman terms

The discoveries in the locality Grad of the city curia, tribunals and big thermal baths, as well as the honorary monument of Lucio Domitio Erot, who was the supreme mining manager throughout the ancient Dalmatia and Pannonia, confirmed that Domavia (Srebrenica) was an ancient mining center in the vast area from the estuary of Tisa River in the east to the Vienna Forest in the west, from the eastern regions of Štajerska and Kranjska, and through today's states of Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to the western side of the Danube. Domavia's artifacts are mostly found in the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo.

Named "Domavia", it was experiencing its full prosperity during the reign of Emperor Septimus Severa (222-235), when it had about 30,000 inhabitants, and was one of the largest settlements in Europe at that time.

In ancient times, the connection of the Srebrenica region - Drina to the world was through Epidaurus, Naron and Salona, while in the Middle Ages and the Modern Age this connection was via Dubrovnik, Buda, Constantinople, Trogir and Vienna and further to the east and west in the world.

3.1. Municipium Malvesiatium in Skelani, Srebrenica - National Monument

The "Roman City of Municipium Malvesiatium" at today's Skelani on the Drina River is one of the most important ancient sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It represented a significant economic and strategic center and dates from the time of Emperor Vespasian (somewhere in the 70s of the 1st century). The area includes the remains of the city hall, thermal baths, palaces, two early-Christian basilicas and brickyards. Along with them, there are a number of important Roman monuments, including numerous inscriptions in commemoration on local dignitaries, as well as altars revealing the legacy of the legions that were located there, some of which (such Legion Gemina) were among the Emperor's elite forces " (extract from the Declaration of Importance of the Good by the Commission for National Monuments of BiH).

The first archaeological excavations in Skelani were performed by the famous archeologist Carl Patsch in period 1896 - 1898 and the first archaeological study entitled "From the Roman borough in Skelani" was published. Carl Patsch then explored a two late-century basilicas in Skelani with a large necropolis and collected 80 Roman stone monuments.



Skelani – archeological site (Photo Z.B.)

A large flood of Drina River covered those monuments that were once again re-found in archaeological research in 2008. By the initiative of the National Library in Srebrenica, and thanks to an experienced archaeologist Mirko Babic from Bijeljina, after 112 years, the official archaeological researches and conservation protection of discovered mosaics were performed.

The monuments found in the basilicas have been raised to deities, emperors, but also to deserving citizens. The expanded cult community of Jupiter - Junona - Minerva also represented an official cult. The most often raised monuments were for the supreme deity of the Romans - Jupiter, but there were also found and exhibited those for the god of the forests - Silvan, the god of the war - Mars, Libero, the eastern cult of god Mitrass, as well as the protectors of the medics - Greek deities Aesculapius and Hygeia.

The Commission to Preserve National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in 2011, designated Archaeological site of Skelani as a National Monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On a most researched locality of the Cooperative House, in the surface of 1500m², the most beautiful, incredibly big and well-preserved 2.000 years old Roman mosaics of exceptional quality and workmanship were found. During so far excavations, a total of 140 m² of mosaics has been discovered, of which 100m² is covered with the largest mosaic in the Western Balkans, whose half is preserved and reconstructed.



The remains of the Argiletum in Rome

There are also remains of Roman walls, Roman villa of rustic style discovered in the area of 900 m². In the remains of this former magnificent palace, three rooms were discovered with Roman floor heating (Hypocaust), a stokehole and bricks between which warm air flowed, while on the walls the remains of painted mortar (frescos). The palace, as it is assumed, was in use until the beginning of the 4th century and believed to have been destroyed in the war. There were great and well-preserved Roman floor mosaics found, presumably from the second half of the 4. century of the New Era.



Skelani – villa rustica

There are two churches of the Basilica in the locality of Grandma Anka's yard (old-Christian basilicas were built in order to gather a large number of believers and took over the names of Roman basilicas which were public buildings foreseen for trials, justice or market) and 50 Roman monuments, of which 30 are in the premises of the Archaeological Museum in Crvica settlement in Skelani, in which there is a setting with the so far movable finds.



Detail from the Archaeological Museum Skelani (photo Z.B.)

"Those roads were passed by soldiers and merchants, goods and ideas, Roman culture and then Christianity, but these roads have finally passed the barbarians who completed one phase of world history. These roads were then neglected " (*Ivo Bojanovski, Dolabela's roads system in the Roman province of Dalmatia*).

IV - The Srebrenica area in the Middle Ages

4.1. A mysterious stećci

Typical features of the monumental heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as areas of Srebrenica are undoubtedly stećci - a mysterious, unique in the world, medieval tombstones, of which 28 necropolises (20 in BiH, 3 in Serbia, 3 in Montenegro and 2 in Croatia) are enrolled in the World Cultural Heritage List - UNESCO. It is a fascinating fact that, in addition to the undisputable influences of the East and the West of Europe, in those times, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, an indigenous culture was developed and persisted for several centuries and then vanished. Mysterious stone monuments will continue to be the source of many speculations and theories...



Prevalence of necropolis of stećaks (map)

Stećci were raised most from the beginning of the 13th to the 16th century. This type of monument is usually attributed to members of the schismatic Bosnian Church (Eastern name Bogumili - Western Patareni), but members of other religious communities (Catholics, Orthodox) marked their graves with this type of stećak. Most stećci are modest, with no ornaments, but with different inscriptions and decorative motifs. Among the decorative motifs, five groups are identified: social and religious motifs, performances of mortal dances, figurative performances and pure ornaments. Among the social motifs, the most important are the emblems with animals, lilies, rosettes, shields and swords, bows, arrows, spears in

combination with the moon and the star, while the most widespread religious symbol appears in three basic forms: over 3,000 stećaks are decorated with motifs of crescent moon and star (Škobalj, 1970), while Wencel (1965) came to the number of 638 stećci on which the Greek cross or the Latin cross represents the basic or secondary decoration (D. Lovrenović, Stećci 2008).

"In some of our citizens, the appearance of the crescent moon on the stećak and inadvertently links to the crescent moon as an Islamic emblem, so it should be noted that the crescent moon with our Muslims came with the Ottomans and that they were taken over from Byzantium in the 15th century, after the conquest of Carigrad. (Bešlagić).

Info table on the Zlatovo - Ljeskovik necropolis in Srebrenica (photo Z.B.)

Stećci are written with Bosančica (Bosnian Cyrillic, a special variant of Cyrillic in addition to Serbian, Bulgarian, Russian, and Romanian), and almost every inscription begins with the words "se leži" or "a se leži" (variation of the verb "lie"). Interestingly, the inscriptions ending with the request not to desecrate the monument: "Ne nastupite na me: Ja sam bil kako vi ste, vi ćete biti kako esam ja" ("I was as you are, you will be like me : think about it and go with God"). Unfortunately, this request was not always heard, so the number of stećci in this area were not rarely destroyed.

In the area of Srebrenica, there are 50 necropolis with a total of 950-1000 stećak identified. The most noteworthy necropolis of the tombstones are: Potočari, Pećnice, Gostilj, Bostahovina, Staroglavice, Sucevlje, Klis, Srebrenica, Skenderovići, Kutuzero, Podravanje, Palež, Lubnice, Karačići, Urisici, Ljeskovik, Klotjevac, Đurđevac, Poljak, Trubari, Zgunja etc.



Monumental stećci in necropolis Zlatovo (photo Z.B.)

The necropolises are always raised on smaller hills with a beautiful view of the landscape. Its magnificence is particularly emphasized with the stećak of the Zlatovo necropolis near

Ljeskovik, whose dimensions are impressive and certainly belong to the most beautiful examples of stećak tombstones in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Commission for the Preservation of National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina proclaimed three necropolis as a national monument in the area of Srebrenica: necropolises in Bučje, Grebnica and Bektići.

4.2. Mining

Srebrenica is the main mining center in the Middle Ages. "It is estimated that, in this area, the Romans and Sasi have excavated about 780,000 tons, which means that over 50,000 tons of lead and over 120,000 tons of silver were produced in this area. The calculations indicate that at the beginning of the 15th century, just through Dubrovnik, Bosnian and Serbian mines sent to the world about 25 tons of silver annually. This was of extraordinary importance for the economy of Europe of that time. Up to the middle of the 15th century, the annual European production of silver was 27 tons on average "- (Desanka Kovačević Kojić, Mining in the Middle Ages).



Medieval Pendant from Srebrenica

For the first time Srebrenica is mentioned in the Dubrovnik sources in 1352. The Dubrovnik trade colonies were widespread all across medieval Bosnia. It was noted that the number of Dubrovnik citizens, only in Srebrenica in 1434, reached nearly five hundred (500) permanent residents. The boats from Dubrovnik were exporting to Spain, Alexandria, Turkey, and especially to Venice.

Although archived data is missing from those times, it is reasonable to assume that there were more links than recorded and preserved in the Dubrovnik Archives, in particular because of the existence of numerous Dubrovnik trade colonies across medieval Bosnia and the size of trade from Ottoman times.

4.3. Medieval cities

Immediately above the very center of the city, on the highest terrace, there are remains of a medieval town known as Srebrenik. The old town of Srebrenik is one of the most preserved

and best located old towns in the Srebrenica region. It is originated in the XII century, and archaeological researches have shown that it has been demolished and constructed several times. The last time it was rebuilt with the arrival of Turkish government for military and logistics purposes.

On the lower plateau of the same locality, there are the remnants of the Ottoman fortress that the locals call "the Old Town". The remains of the fortress are accessible by stairs from the city center.



The remains of the Old Town above Srebrenica

In 2006, the Old City of Srebrenik was proclaimed as a national monument of the first category. On the mountainous slope that descends steeply from the east side towards the main part of the settlement, there are remains of the two fortresses, located on separate slopes. The lower town is dominated by a better preserved architecture of the Ottoman era, while the Upper or Old Town is quite ruined. There are still a torso of the main tower and several smaller buildings that are visible. Construction technology is medieval.



Viewing point in Srebrenica below the Old Town (photo Z.B.)

In the area of Srebrenica there are more medieval towns such as the medieval town Klotjevac, located at the steep rock above the Drina, Kličevac, based deep in the canyon of

the green river Jadran, Đurđevac, raised at the peak with a prominent view over the left bank of the Drina and the ruins of the smaller fortress Šubin, standing on sharpened rocky peak.

V - Health culture, mining beliefs and intangible architectural heritage

5.1. Natural religions

Measure of influence of natural religions that arrived to this part of Europe, in prehistoric times, from Egypt to Asia Minor, as remains of sumerian, egyptian, hittitean-assyrian-babylonian and syrio-phoenician cultures, we could only imaginatively speculate. This influence undoubtedly existed and is best visible through symbols whose definition has become slightly impossible and non-understandable today. The same is with health symbols..

In the original natural religions, health and disease had their own symbols, mainly as the sun or its by-product - the rooster (symbol of the rising sun) and the snake (the symbol of the underground and the afterlife). This cult from ancient times moved to the space of "our" Illyricum as a cult of the snakes-deity, and is especially visible in the former Epidaurus (current Cavtat on the Adriatic) and the area under its influence.



How the Old Romans used to heal and beautify

In the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2016, an exhibition "How the Old Romans used to heal and beautify" was set up, where various items (probes, tweezers, spoons, pestles, needles, glassware ...) were analyzed and which were found mainly in the area today's Bosnia and Herzegovina. By analyzing the exhibited items and localities, it can be concluded that those items are most often found in the areas of Ljubuški, Mogorjelo, Sarajevo (Ilidža), Stolac, Japra, Travnik and Srebrenica. These localities are known as

urban, administrative, legislative, thermal, metallurgical, mining and military centers of life in the antiquity. Inevitably, in those localities must have existed an intensive medical service - all for the sake of the health of the army, the veterans, the officials of the Empire and the local population.

The remains of Roman thermal baths were found in Domavija near Srebrenica, Stolac, Ilidza near Sarajevo and Gornji Šeher near Banja Luka.

In the archives of Dubrovnik, many documents that testify the going of the medics to the medieval Bosnia when the nobility needed medical help were preserved. People always believed in the healing characteristics of many thermal waters that these areas have abundance of, as well as in miraculous healings in the cult sites of religious communities.

5.2. Miner's ghost: Dwarf Perkman - the intangible heritage

Srebrenica is also the homeland of a miner's ghost, the Dwarf Perkman, who is always cheerful and helps miners to dig up more ore. The belief in the ghost of dwarf Perkman is very widespread around the famous Bosnian mines of Srebrenica, Kreševo, Fojnica, Ljubija, Mrkonjić Grad .. If they are not seen and just knocking and hitting in the trenches is heard, thus predicting the misfortune, so the miners need to run out. Some miners believe that it is the soul of the dead miner, so it comes to work, helps and softens the ore.



Dwarf Perkman Bergmann)

There is a story in Srebrenica which says that in every mine there is a ghost, whom miners considered happy for them, and they called it "Bergman". He can be heard as he works in a mine and in this way he reports to miners.

Comparing our tales with the Middle-European cultural circle, the ethnologist, Ms. Jasna Andrić from Zagreb concluded that our sermons contain literally repeated details from Central European mining beliefs. In German beliefs, the dwarf (Bergmann) welcomes with «gluck auf», as evidenced by data from Saxony, Palatinate, Tiringia, Czech Republic, South Holland, Silesia. Dwarfs are happy and help the poor miners to dig up more ore.

5.3. Houses of the Osat – the intangible Heritage

The old area of Osat is located in the eastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republika Srpska) and extends from Visegrad to the left of the Drina River to Srebrenica. For the first time, it is mentioned in the documents from the middle ages, in the contract between the king of Hungary Sigismund and the despot Stefan Lazarevic in 1426.

In this area they lived, and now live their offspring, a famous masters, constructors of well-known houses of wood and stone called - Osaćanke (Osat houses). Even though they built thousands of wooden houses in Bosnia and Serbia, hundreds of churches and later mosques

- they remained anonymous, and, with the exception of rare examples and records on the pillars of the tremors and the doors of the temples, very little known. The Osat constructors/builders have given a significant mark to the construction in the past centuries.



An old wooden house

The most original form of so called "people's architecture" in Eastern Bosnia and Western Serbia, as well as in Montenegro and Kosovo, was the log-cabin called "osaćanka". Osaćanka consisted of two parts - the house and the room. The house was a space where fireplace mantel was, where cooking and eating and other jobs were done, and it was the most important area of a multi-member patriarchal family. The room was intended for the ceremony and the stay of the children during the winter. The ceiling of the room was covered with "šašovci" and underneath the room was obliged to be a basement, so therefore "osaćanka" was built on the sloping side. The houses were built of pine and oak wood, the roof has always been made of shingles, windows were small and there was never enough light in the interior. A very functional and decorative element on the roof of the house was a cap or top of a chimney. It ended up with a wooden spear or a cross on which there were several decorative apples. Masters of Osat would after frequent battles and wars, when wooden houses were devoured by flames, came to ruins and built new and more beautiful buildings. The Osat's masters were builders and creators in the same time. By using simple primitive tools, they created miraculous forms which was hard to believe that were the works of their hands. The Osat's master was cutting beams and timbers with an ax and claw hammer, grooved openings, cutted shingle etc. They used saws, cuts, adzes, levels, stone hammers, chisels etc. At the time of the flourishing of Osat's building, their homes in Eastern Bosnia had 30 and more members.

VI - National Monuments and Famous Churches and Mosques in Srebrenica

The following monuments located in Srebrenica municipality are on the list of National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- "Donji Grad" (historical area);
- "Mosque in Slapovici" (historical building);
- "The Harem of the Crvena Rijeka Mosque" (historical area);
- "Harem Mosque in Gornji Potočari" (historical area);
- "Harem and two monuments to fallen soldiers in Slapovići" (graveyard unit);
- "House of Srebrenica Cadiz Hadzis Hussein ef. Dozić (now Dervišagić House) in the Crvena Rijeka Mahalla" (historical building);
- "Bridge on the River Zeleni Jadar in Slapovići" (place and remains of a historic building);
- "Necropolis with stećci on the site of Mramorje in the Bučje settlement" (historical area);
- "Archaeological Area of Skelani" (archaeological area);
- "Necropolis of stećak at the locality of Grebnica" (historical area);
- "Necropolis of stećak Bektića Brdo in the village of Bektići" (historical area).

6.1. The Franciscan monastery and the church of St. Maria in Klis

For the remains of the Franciscan monastery in the center of Srebrenica and the church of St. Maria on Klisa, built alongside the stećak necropolis, is believed to originate from 1291 when first two Franciscans arrived to the medieval state of Bosnia (1288), on the request of the Serbian king Uroš and his brother Stjepan Dragutin, ordered by Pope Nicholas IV (Provincial Sclavoniae), to constantly work on eradicating heresies. According to this, the Bosnian Franciscan vicariate was named "Silver Bosnia - Lat. Bosnia Argentina". Catholic (Franciscan) institution Silver Bosnia (Bosnia Argentina) is the oldest institution in Bosnia and Herzegovina that celebrates over 700 years of existence.



Catholic Church of St. Maria in Klisa (photo Z.B.)

The construction of this monastery is linked to the arrival and settlement of Croatian merchants from the Dubrovnik area to this important mining and trade area. This monastery was the first Franciscan monastery in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Other important Franciscan monasteries of this area were in Zvornik, Ljubovija and Teočak, but disappeared during the 15th century.



Franciscans in front of the church of St. Maria in Klisa

After the Ottoman conquest at the end of the 17th century and the disappearance of the Catholics, the church collapsed. A quest for ruins lasted long and the remains were accidentally discovered during the construction of a private residential building. The remains of the church were conserved in 1955 at the site of the southern part of the ruins of the church. In memory of 720 years of the arrival of the Franciscans in this region, the church was restored in 1991, i.e. the chapel of St. Maria was built on the foundations of the ancient Franciscan monastery and church and put into function.

6.2. Monastery of Sase

Near the ancient site of Domavija, in the hills between Srebrenica and Bratunac in Sase village is the monastery of the same name, dedicated to Holy Trinity.

It is believed that the monastery was built in 1242 and that it was the metochion (estate) of the monastery of Hilandar i.e. the endowment of King Uroš Nemanjić whose cross was long kept in this monastery.

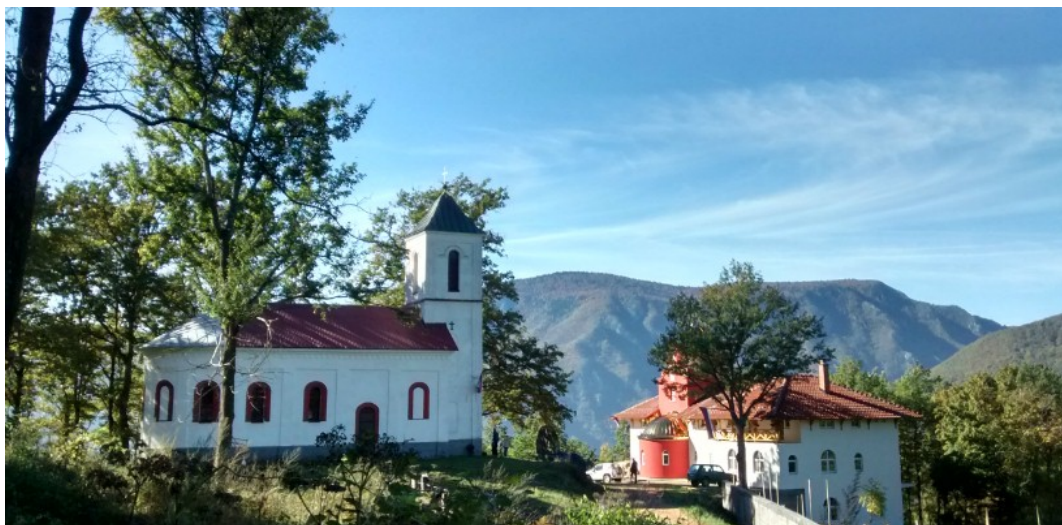


The interior of the church in the monastery of the Holy Three in Sase (Srebrenica) - photo Z.B.

Since the monastery is located in an area known for its rich deposits of silver, lead and zinc, it is considered to be raised from the religious needs of Orthodox workers in the mines of this region. When the Ottomans conquered Bosnia, the mines were neglected, as well as the Sase monastery itself. It was just until the middle of the 19th century when the miners from Sase had dug up the monastery foundations and built a new church devoted to St. the apostle Peter.

6.3. Monastery Karno

It is believed that there was an ancient Nemanjić endowment, dating from the XIII century, dedicated to the Intercession of the Theotokos. It is located in a beautiful landscape, above the Perućac lake, surrounded by beautiful nature, orchards and pastures. The Karno Monastery is a tourist jewel of Srebrenica. Over the past six years, a new house has been built, capable of receiving more than 30 visitors to sleep. In addition to the lodgings, there is a chapel dedicated to St. Vladica Nikolaj Velimirović, Pirg dedicated to St. Sava as well as a porch and a summer house. The Monastery owns an animal farm and bees, and a beautiful ambiance is suitable for organized groups and individual visits.



Complex of Karno Monastery

The Ottomans conquered Srebrenica in 1462, where they found the only multicultural country in Europe where members of the Orthodox and Catholic Church as well as the Bosnian Church lived together. With the arrival of the Ottoman Empire, which was the civilizational successor of the Eastern Roman empire, comes the culture of housing and building of houses covered with ceramides, with furnaces and home baths, and living and sleeping spaces. The Ottomans also bring new faith - Islam, and shortly after the expulsion from the homeland Spain, there was a mass arrival of Sephardic Jews. The descendants of Bosnian feudalists are included in the sipahial organization of the new state, which was a special feature in entire Ottoman Empire.

With the arrival of the Ottoman empire and on the traditions of the Roman thermae, the public baths - "hamam" (Turkish bath) were built (56 in Bosnia and Herzegovina) and the "hamamdžik" (baths) in the individual houses. Some of those were also built in the region of Srebrenica - Drina and its surroundings of which the most known were in Srebrenica, Visegrad, Rudo, Čajniče, Rogatica, Prača, Zvornik, Ustikolina etc.

6.4. White mosque

On the last slopes of the hill, 200 m below the fort, there is a White (Hadži-Skenderov) mosque that by some means together with the mosque makes the urban complex.

The white mosque in Srebrenica was built at the end of the 17th century on the remains of Dubrovnik's Church of St. Nicholas, after the departure of a Franciscans from Srebrenica with the Austrian army. The fall of Srebrenica under the Ottomans, first 1440/43 and then 1462, and by the withdrawal of the Catholic population from the Srebrenica area, the church remained without believers and after 50 years (by former law) it could have been turned into the mosque.



Hadži-Skenderova (White) mosque in Srebrenica

In his Travelogue from 1660, Evlija Čelebija writes that "Srebrenica at that time was a developed small town with six mahallas and six mosques, one tekke, three mechatabas, one han (restaurant) and one public bath as well as with seventy guild shops. Amongst those mosques, there was no today's White Mosque because it probably has not yet been in function. The Srebrenica White Mosque experienced certain construction projects in 1935, when it was extended to another hall. Its outer appearance then changed considerably, and the minaret was placed in the middle of the building. After the demolition in the last war, it was restored in 2002.

6.5. Dervišagić House

The historic building - the house of the Srebrenica Qadi, Hadži Hussein ef. Dozić (now the Dervišagic House) in the mahalla of the Red River (Crvena Rijeka) in Srebrenica was proclaimed a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



The remains of Dervišagić's house in Srebrenica

Dervišagic House is about 250 years old, and prior the last war it was in good condition. The house presents the way of construction and housing culture in the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian period. It is made of small and natural materials such as wood and adobe, but the time has taken its toll and the house is pretty decrepit. Housing culture and architecture in Ottoman times developed three basic types - one in Herzegovina, the other in northern and central Bosnia, and the third in Sarajevo and Foča.

6.6. Mosque in Slapovici near Srebrenica

The Slapovic mosque near Srebrenica was inscribed on the list of national monuments. The mosque was built in 1936 and it is contributing to the richness of cultural diversity in BiH. It is located in the inhabited area of Slapovići - Bučje, about 4.5 km southwest of Srebrenica. Slapovići is located on the Zeleni Jadar River, in which the Duboki Potok (Deep Creek) flows into and on whose northern coast a religious building is located.

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During the Ottoman period, Slapovići was a quite frequent place, since it was located on the road connecting the larger inhabited places of East Bosnia with Sarajevo. The road connecting Slapovići and Srebrenica to Sarajevo was a branch of one of the main roads from that period, which was going from Sarajevo to Nova Varoš in Serbia, and went through Hreša, Podromanija, Rogatica and Visegrad. A part of that road separated behind Rogatica, and through Zepa led to Slapovići and further to Srebrenica. In the area of Srebrenica, nearby Slapovići, there was Han Jadar. During the Austro-Hungarian period, Srebrenica belonged to Tuzla district, more precisely "Donja Tuzla District", and became the headquarters of the district. During this period, in Slapovići, there were no special changes of lifestyle or new constructions, and in the period between the two world wars a stone mosque with the minaret was built.



Mosque in Slapovići near Srebrenica

During the last war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the mosque was demolished and burnt, but was reconstructed in June 2008 and since then this religious facility has been in function.

6.7. Harem of the Crvena Rijeka (Red River) Mosque in Srebrenica

The Historical Area - Harem of the Crvena Rijeka (Red River) Mosque in Srebrenica is, by decision of the Commission to Preserve National Monuments, proclaimed a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Srebrenica's harems have significant original value and strong symbolic value for the local community. The Mosque in Crvena Rijeka (Red River) is one of the oldest in Srebrenica and its look corresponds to indigenous Bosnian mosques with a wooden minaret. It has the same name like mahalla that got named by red-colored water that flows in its vicinity.

The mosque, like the other 23 mosques in Srebrenica, was demolished in the last war, and was rebuilt in 2015.



The Crvena Rijeka (Red River) Mosque in Srebrenica

In the harem of the mosque there are about ten old Muslim tombstones of different dimensions and shapes. One tombstone annotation with the year has been identified (Wife of Hajj Sinan Mustafa-beg Fatima, daughter of the Hadith Sulejman Fazlić, Fatiha 1283 - 1866/67). The harem of the mosque is not fenced and there is a small number of tombstones preserved in it, and some tombstones have partially sunk into the ground.

Beside the harem of the Crvena Rijeka (Red River) Mosque, the national monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina were proclaimed also the harem of the mosque in Gornji Potočari, where there is a mezaristina with about one hundred tombstones of which 14 (fourteen) are dating from the XIX century, and harem and two tombstones in Slapovići village in (graveyard unit).

6.8. Bridge on the Zeleni Jadar River in Slapovići

The most sensitive points on the routes of old roads were the river crossing points. In case of large waters and during the winter, the caravans and passengers hardly passed them. Therefore, the state would build bridges of wood or stone in such places. Such a stone bridge on the Zeleni Jadar River in Slapovići has existed since ancient times, and this cultural and historical heritage has been proclaimed as a national monument and named "The Bridge on the Zeleni Jadar River, a place and remains of a historic building".



Childrens Chorus Superar from Srebrenica

VII - Natural Heritage

7.1. The healing water of Black Guber

Srebrenica is a well-known, very old spa health resort. The popularity of Srebrenica in the world was acquired thanks to the healing waters of Black Guber and "Guber Spa". The name of the water was created during the Austro - Hungarian monarchy, when a large region was affected by epidemics, and it was found that mineral water sources were the most successful in the treatment of skin diseases.

The legend says that skin and many other diseases disappeared after bathing in a strange red water with arsenic in it. European and experts of the former Yugoslavia have confirmed the healing characteristics of this water in the treatment of anemia, rheumatic and nervous diseases and genital organs. Outstanding results have also been achieved in the treatment of multiplesclerosis and psoriasis.



The healing water of Crni (Black) Guber

Since 1887, during the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, the mineral water of the Crni (Black) Guber was bottled and sold throughout Europe and even in Africa and America. According to data from 1898, 200.000 bottles of Guber water were exported, while three years later, the company "Matoni" from Vienna exported 236.544 bottles.



WIEN, April 1906.

Hochgeehrter Herr Doktor
werden gebeten, der

Guber-Quelle
natürliches Arsen-Eisenwasser

Ihre Aufmerksamkeit zu schenken.
Hervorragende medizinische Kapazitäten sprechen sich
einstimmig dahin aus, daß dieselbe auch bei längerem
Gebrauche

leicht verdaulich ist,
das Wachstum der Kinder befördert,
kräftigend und anregend
wirkt.

Zu haben in allen Apotheken, Drogerien und Mineral-
wasserhandlungen etc.

Bottled Water of Black Guber

Black Guber, a unique water in Europe with arsenic and iron, is the only mineral water in the former Yugoslavia, which is legally declared medicinal and registered as a medicament.

Guber water from Crni Guber spring in 1956 was proclaimed as a medicament in the treatment of hypochromic anemia and since then, it was bottled into plastic bottles of 400 milliliters and sold in pharmacies. Water bottling was carried out by the company "Bosnalijek."

Before the last war, annually, Srebrenica recorded up to 300,000 overnights. Due to the constant occupancy of accommodation facilities of Bath Guber, there were dozens of luxury villas and apartments for rent.



A look of the future Spa Center

In the vicinity of the Guber Spa, there are 48 springs of iron-arsenic, radioactive mineral water in a dense forest / park with 46 species of trees.

Spa tourism was the backbone of Srebrenica's development. The medicinal waters of the Guber Spa are the most important natural resource in this area. The reconstruction of a spa complex in which 350 individuals from Srebrenica should be employed is ongoing.

7.2. River Drina is a refugium of the global value

In the fantastic canyon of the Drina River, and also in the part of the canyon belonging to the Srebrenica municipality, there are old-endemic species of Bosnia, the Dinarides and the Balkans in this area, which gives a world global value to this space. Similar centres exist in Neretva River refuges, and such types of eco systems could be only found in the Pyrenees and Apennine peninsula, in Asia Minor and in the Himalayas. These refuges include the most preserved parts of Europe, such as the Perućica rainforest, the Illyrian black pine forests, and the mesian beech in the canyons of Sutjeska River, the Picea omorika or Bosnian spruce in the central part of Drina, Žepa and Govza canyon. There are also communities of European hop-hornbeam, Manna ash, Tilia tomentosa, Bosnian maple, Oriental hornbeam..and many other endemic communities in rock cracks..



Lunch at the upper stream of Drina River

River Drina belongs to the Black Sea basin, and it is formed by the merging of the Tara and Piva rivers at the Šćepan polje (altitude 470 m). The catchment area includes the southwestern and western parts of Serbia, the northern part of Montenegro and the eastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The direction of its flow is from the south to the north with a lot of tributaries. Larger tributaries to the left are: Sutjeska, Bistrica, Prača, Drinjača and Janja, and to the right: Čehotina, Lim, Rzav, Ljuboviđa and Jadar.

Drina River is the largest tributary of the Sava River, in which it inflows near Sremska Rača (81 m). The most beautiful and longest (24 km) canyon is from Žepa to Klotjevac. The width of the river is from 15 m in the place called Tijesno, and up to 200 m in Perućac and Zvornik. The larger towns through which Drina runs are: Foča, Goražde, Višegrad, Bajina Bašta and Zvornik.



Drina Canyon

In many places, Drina River passes through the ravines where rocks rise almost vertically from the water. Drina River downstreams from Višegrad passes between the mountains of Zvijezda and Tara where its canyon is the deepest, as the peaks reach over 1000 m above sea level. The entire area is covered with pine forests, which is the habitat of numerous wild animals, and it is possible to see also the various bird species that found their haven there. Rijeka Drina is one of the richest with fish in the former Yugoslavia.

The Drina River canyon in the area of Srebrenica is a paradise of untouched nature, mountain peaks and lush forests of the central flow of Drina River, one of the most beautiful river streams in Europe. River Drina is a mountainous, extensive, green, divine, wavy with rapids, flows and roars through landscapes of beautiful mountains, cliffs, canyons, forests and exceptionally clean air.



The breeding of an indigenous breed of Bosnian horses - sister Bektić from Srebrenica

Refugial and relict ecosystems in the Drina River and its tributaries' basin, in the Srebrenica Drina region are:

- Minor part of the Drina River canyon downstream from Drinjača to Zvornik;
- Climbing of the Drinjace River (left Drina River);
- Canyon of Žepa River, Kamenički potok (creek) and other watercourses downstream from the mouths of Žepa to Skelani (in the area of the artificial Lake Perućac);
- Canyon of the Drina River downstream from Višegrad to Skelani;
- Canyon of Rzav River, right tributary of Drina in Razdolina near Dobrun;
- Canyon of Drina River downstream from Međeđa to Višegrad;
- Canyon of Prača River with Rakitnica from Rogatica to Ustiprača.

For the purpose of conservation of rare plant and animal species and their communities, the preservation and improvement of environment and special natural values, with the aim of preserving and protecting cultural and historical monuments, researches and uses for development of culture, education, science and recreation in the Euro Region Srebrenica - Drina, there are two national parks: "Drina" and "Tara".

7.3. National Park Drina – Srebrenica

The National Park "Drina" in the Srebrenica area occupies an area of 6,315.32 hectares and is the fourth protected area in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the category of national park, after National Parks Sutjeska, Kozara and Una. Three of them are located in the territory of Republika Srpska.

Exceptional natural values of the National Park "Drina" are habitats of endemic and relict plant species, above all is the Pančičeva omorika (*Picea omorika*) as well as the outstanding ravine-canyon valley of Drina River and its tributaries. The Drina River canyon reaches a maximum depth of 976 meters, at the mouth of the Crni potok (Black Creek), whose spring is at an altitude of over 1100 meters.



Picea omorika

In the Nature Protection Act from 1965, *Picea omorika* is protected through Special botanical reserve at the following localities: Gornja Brštanica - Višegrad; Cerova Ravan village Klačnik Rakovac - Višegrad; Tovarnica - Višegrad; Štule Karaule - Višegrad; Božurevac - Višegrad; Veliki Stolac - Višegrad; Gostilja - Višegrad; Mehra, Sjemeć mountain - Rogatica; Goli Vrh, Vratar - Rogatica; Panjak, Javor - Rogatica; Novo Brdo, Tesla mountain. - Rogatica; Strugovi, Luke - Srebrenica; Pliština, Igrišnik - Srebrenica.

Geomorphological monument of nature:
Velika voda near Klotjevac Srebrenica



The valley expansion in the Perućac Lake (photo Ž.B.)

The Drina Canyon belongs to the composite type of valley - at a distance of several tens of kilometers, the valleys and cliffs and canyons alternate along the Drina River, on the border of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The canyons' slopes are very steep with numerous springs and shingles, overgrown with forests and rushing vegetation, but vertical, bare rocky surfaces often occur. By construction of dam in Perućac, the lowest parts of canyon were flooded and turned into Perućac Lake.

7.4. National Park "Tara" in the neighboring Republic of Serbia

The National Park Tara with the neighboring Nature Park Šargan - Mokra Gora in Serbia was nominated by the UNESCO MAB Committee as a potential biosphere reserve of cross-border character, as it includes the area of the future planned National Park Drina in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republika Srpska).

The Tara National Park covers most of the Tara Mountain, which represents the northernmost part of the Starovlah Mountains group. It is nestled in the deep canyon of the Drina River, while its branches descend towards the Kremanska valley and Đetinja River valley. The highest peak is Zborište (1.544 altitude).

Crni vrh (Black Peak) is a part of the massif between the dry border of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as between the village of Zaovište and Rastište. Zvijezda is part of the massif in the triangle between the villages of Rastište and Jagorštica and the canyon of Drina. The highest peak is Veliki kraj (Great End). National Park Tara spreads over the total area of 24,991.82 ha.



National park Tara – Republic of Srbija

Due to the conservation and diversity of forest ecosystems, it is one of the most valuable and richest forest areas in Europe, identifying over 40 species of deciduous, deciduous-coniferous and coniferous phytocenosis and 1156 species of vascular flora (1/3 of total Serbian flora). Special value is Pančičeva omorika (*Picea omorika*), an endemic and relic species of cross-border region. It was named after the prominent Croatian-Serbian naturalist, Josif Pancic, who is credited for its discovery.

Tara area is home to 59 species of mammals, about 140 species of birds, 12 species of amphibians, 12 species of reptiles and 19 species of fish. Out of the represented plant species, 76 are endemic species. Here is also the largest population of brown bears in Serbia. The symbol of the wildlife of Tara is the endemorrhoeus of Pancic's Grasshopper (*Pyrgomorphulla serbica*).



Monastery Rača

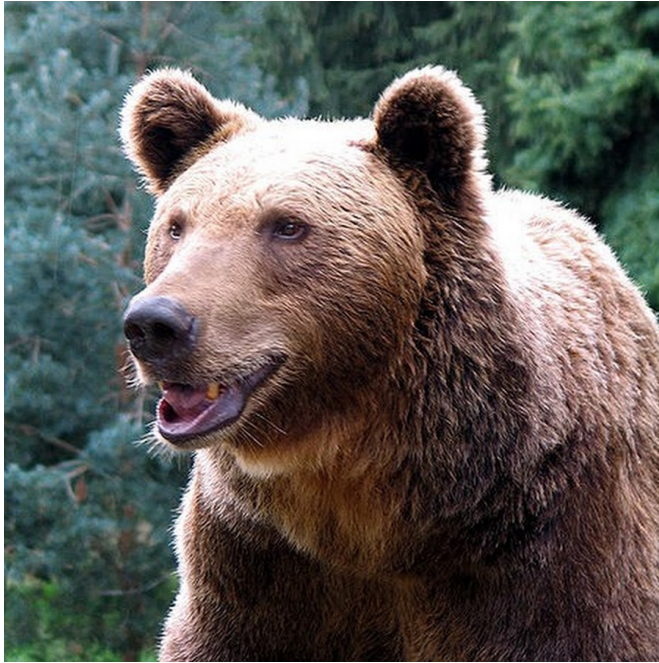
There are numerous archeological sites and monuments of culture, dating from the neolithic to the modern times located within the area of the park. The most significant is the Rača Monastery, believed to be an endowment of King Dragutin from the 13th century, and the stećak necropolis in Rastište in Perućac, which were nominated for UNESCO World Heritage List in 2011.

The National Park is accessible from three directions: Bajina Bašta - Kaluđerske bare (16 km), Bajina Bašta - Perućac - Mitrovac (27km) and Kremna - Kaluđerske bare (9km).

7.5. Mountain and hunting resort Sušica

At the far south, there is a dominant, limestone untouched massif Sušica (1,243 m), with steep sides and cliffs that grotesquely overtops the Drina River basin. There is also one of the "shelters" of the relic conifer - *Picea omorika*.

The Sušica mountain is located in the southern mountainous area of the Srebrenica municipality with numerous viewpoints towards the unspoilt forest areas, the canyon and curving flows of Drina River. This mountain, beside the Tara Mountain complex, also represents one of the most important areas of species and ecosystem diversity.



Autonomous Bosnian Bear - Ursus arctos – bosniensis

The most attractive hunting resorts are located within the great curve of the middle flow of the Drina River. The hunting resort Sušica covers an area of about 10.000 ha, with altitudes from 291 to 1515 m. It is the home of species like wolf, bear, wild boar, fox, rabbit and deer.



Indigenous Bosnian wolf (Canis lupus - wolf)

The hunting resort also has a specific hunting and tourist infrastructure that is adapted to the photo-safari fans. There are also trekking paths, watchtowers, feeding stations for animals

etc. In the canyon near the Perućac lake, there is also a hunting lodge with dozen beds, suitable for accommodating visitors.

It should be noted that there has been no inventory of plant and animal life for over forty years in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

7.6. Perućac Lake

Perućac Lake is an accumulative artificial lake that is supplied by water from the Drina River basin, located between the territory of Srebrenica (BiH) and Bajina Bašta (SRB), at an altitude of 290 m. The lake was created by constructing the dam on Drina river for hydroelectric power "Bajina Bašta". The length of the dam is 461 m and the height of 93 m. The Perućac Lake has a surface of about 12.4 km², with a volume of 340.000.000 m³ of water and a depth of up to 60 meters. The average water temperature in July is around 22°C at the dam, while downstream the water is somewhat colder, about 17°C.



Hydroelectric power Bajina Bašta has created the Perućac Lake

The length of the lake is about 54 km, with a minimum width of 150 meters and a maximum width of about 1000 meters. The largest part of the lake is located in the canyon of the Drina river, starting 7 km from the dam of Bajina Bašta hydroelectric power plant. The longest, or canyon part of the lake is surrounded by an extremely steep coastline with steep cliffs and stone blocks that vertically plunge in the water. Due to the steep coast, the depth of the lake just a few meters from the shore reaches an average depth of 3 to 8 meters.



Perućac Lake

The center of the former Drina river watercourse represents the border between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Serbia. The lake is located in the natural bend of the canyon of the Drina River between Bajina Bašta and Višegrad and rounds the Tara mountain on which is the National Park Tara. The local communities of Srebrenica municipality located on the bank of the lakes are Radoševići and Rađenovići, and not far from them are Skelani that are connected by the bridge with Bajina Bašta (Serbia).

The lake is surrounded by the mountains of Javor, Devetak, Zvijezda and Tara. In Perućac, nearby the lake, there are two medieval necropolis of stećak "Mramorje", which are listed on the World Cultural Heritage list - UNESCO.

VIII - Cultural and Natural Heritage of Neighboring Municipalities

8.1. Bratunac (190 m / alt)

The territory of the Bratunac municipality extends over 293 km² of the north-eastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina, between neighboring municipalities Srebrenica, Milići and Zvornik. Drina River forms the border of BiH (and Bratunac municipality) with Serbia (Ljubovija and Bajina Bašta municipalities) in a length of 68 km. Around the river bank, there are fertile and inhabited fields, but also steep coasts of canyon type, covered with willows, poplar and low growing plants.

Bratunac abounds in many of the findings from Roman times, as this area was a part of the mining area Argentaria (Srebrenica). According to the found fragments of Roman decorative architecture, it is presumed that in this area was once a Roman temple or other public building.

In the wider area of Bratunac, 33 necropolises with 1,065 stećaka were preserved, of which 96 were embellished and one with inscription. At the foothill of Gradac, there is a group of 124 stećak, while in the necropolis of the Lipenović village there are about 100 stećaks, of which 11 "pews" are decorated (motifs: figure of a man with a bow and a horse behind, etc.).



Stećak with epitaph

Northwest of Bratunac, bounded by rivers Drina, Drinjača and Kravica, is Ludmer area. It is known in science that stećci of this area (villages Banjevići, Begići, Čolakovići, Hrnčići, Opravdići, Popovići, Radeljevac) contain specific characteristics because many are raised in the form of a pillar. Often, there is a presence of ancient spoils (stone slabs with shallow relief), and not rarely and the appearance of human figures.



Kušlat Mosque

The medieval fortified town of Kučlat (Kušlat) belongs to Ludmer and was mentioned for the first time in 1345 as an important intersection of two very important transport routes: one that leads along the Drina River and the other that runs from Rogatica, through Gasinac and Kušlat to Drina.

At the place where today Bratunac is, was a customs office in the middle age, which was also recorded in the old records from 1333. At the same time, it is mentioned the Catholic Church of St. Maria of the Dubrovnik traders. They had several of their settlements in the territory of Bratunac municipality.

In the Middle Ages, Bratunac was first mentioned in 1381, in a document indicating that it was located on the medieval route from Bosnia to Serbia. There is a document from Dubrovnik's archive, dated November 4, 1381, mentioning the crossing point over Drina named Bratano (Prope Cerca piragio de Bratano). In the Ottoman census of 1513, Bratunac is referred to as the village Bratina in the Budimir Nahiyah in the Zvornik sancak.

Today's Bratunac as a separate settlement is less than 150 years old. The town of Bratunac was founded in 1898, when there were only five houses in this area with thirty inhabitants.



Art colony Kušlat

The construction of a bridge on the Drina River in 1926, is of highest importance as a hint of new epoch for the city of Bratunac and its surroundings. At the place where the Drina Bridge to Ljubovija is now located, before 1918, there were once buildings in which there were an Austrian customs house, a gendarme barracks and a barracks for finances. In the vicinity of

these buildings there was a warehouse for storing of Guber Water, which was brought from spring in Srebrenica. The bridge area is today the ambience value (spatial entity created by man and its work) of Bratunac.

The mineral water was packed in bottles of 3 dl and was transported by sort of a raft (wooden) down the Drina River to Bosanska Rača, where it was then loaded into wagons and shipped further to the overseas.

Only in 1927, on September 30, Bratunac gained the status of the municipality and was included in the list of places to be proclaimed for the small towns. Sacral buildings in the area of the municipality belong to the recent history, and these are mainly religious objects of the Orthodox and Islamic religious community.

In the center of the city, surrounded by a park, is a monument to the victims of the World War Two, 1941-1945, built in 1978.

The Drina River coast, in the area of Krasanpolje near the town, about 6 km from the center, has been arranged for the needs of swimming resort and picnic (Rajska plaža), which gives Bratunac the epithet of the recreational center in Podrinje. It is also possible to access this place from the direction of Drinjača, via the Zvornik - Bratunac motorway.



Paradise Beach in Bratunac

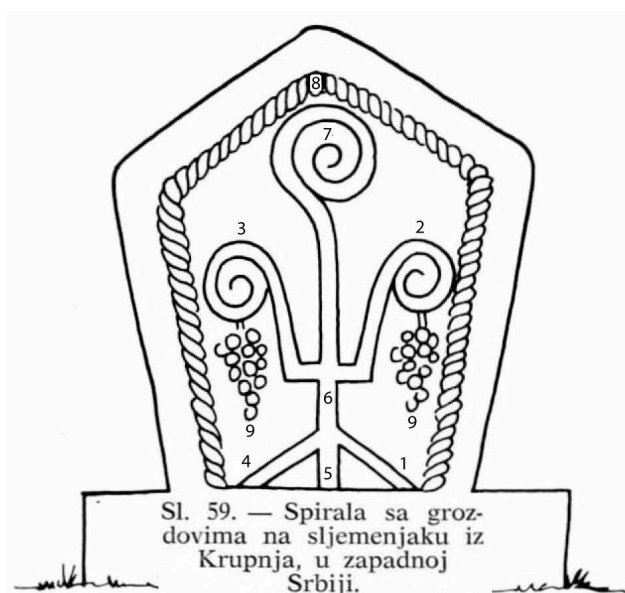
The climate of the Central Podrinje (from Foca in the south to Zvornik in the north) as a hilly and mainly agricultural area with hardworking inhabitants, has enabled the area of today's Bratunac to be widely known for the plantation of berry fruit, especially raspberries, on the surface of about 150 ha.

8.2. Milići (200 m/ alt)

The existence of the stećci whose age dates back to the 13th century is best attesting the life in this area.

The remains of "Komić town" - fortresses above the village Gerovi notably contributes to richness of the cultural heritage of this area. "Komić town" belonged to Pavlovićs and represented one of the border towns of their estate. It was occupied by the Ottomans in 1463, and probably soon afterwards left it and destroyed. It is located in the area of today's Milići municipality, west of Srebrenica, and somewhat northeast of Han Pijesak, below Kraljeva Gora. Remains are seen today. The fortification consisted of a tower with a ground plan in the form of an irregular pentagon, which was placed in the back of an irregular triangle. The two corners of this triangle are rounded and the third corner is sharp. The tower is in the center of the cote. In order to disable the access to the fort, there are radial-shaped

ramparts that prevent the access to the city. The fortification is characterized by harmonized forms of construction with natural features of the hill.



Gravure of stećak from Krupanj in neighboring Serbia

As in the case of the stećak necropolis called the Greek cemetery, marble (greek mermeros and lat. memoria) or mausete (ital. massetto – big stone). In the eastern parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, all that is time very old or indefinite is called "Greek" and if it is about the fortresses - it is called "Jerin Town." In the people of western Serbia, eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina and northern Montenegro when Jerina's name is mentioned, it causes the vision of injustice, slavery, forced labor, and extremely unscrupulous wealth she possessed.



Motel Milići

The Turkish travel writer Elvija Celebi (around 1660) described the area of today's municipality Milići as "It is a beautiful and lovely kasaba (small town) on a lush, spacious and swampy terrain with vineyards and gardens. There are about 170 houses in good condition. "

The National Monuments of Culture in the Municipality of Milići are:

- Serbian Orthodox cemetery, Milići (over 100 stone tombstones),
- Musa-pasha's mosque and graveyard, Nova Kasaba and
- Mezarluci - the New Kasaba Muslim Cemetery.

The Musa Pasha's mosque in Novi Kasabi, a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina, belongs to the typological series of single-space mosques with massive stone walls, a four-tiered roof, a porch and a stone minaret. The minaret is, in constructive sense, characterized with its barrel-like or polygonal lower part does not emerge from the ground, but from a special quadrangular-shaped stairway rising steadily towards the center, about 26.5 m in height.

What gives a special characteristic of the building is the construction material from which it was partly made - a green tuff. The mosque has no inscription on its construction, but on the basis of the preserved ferman from 1641, and Musa-pasha's Waqfname from May 1643, presupposes are that its construction was completed in the spring of 1643.

About Musa - Pasha's mosque Evliya Čelebija wrote: "It is a mosque whose doors and walls, mihrab, minbar and vaulted doors are perfectly artfully built, it is all marble green as an emerald. And when the sun hits on it, the green rays blink from the door and the walls. In this country there is no such a mosque of green marble.



Musa - Pasha's mosque in Nova Kasaba

The municipality of Milići existed since 1945 as a part of the county of Vlasenica. By territorial reorganization of the Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, it was abolished in 1962, and after the elaboration of the feasibility study, it was re-established in 1992. The exploitation of bauxite ore determined that this place primarily looked like a mining settlement.

The most important cultural facility is the Miners' House which provides opportunities for maintaining various cultural programs (cinema, theater shows, exhibitions ...), with a capacity of 300 places that puts it in one of the most functional of this kind in the region. There is also a summer stage and the Park of Giants.

Today, Milići is recognizable in its cultural sphere by the traditional event "August's Days of Culture and Sports", which thanks to the "Boksit" Milići Company is held every August, gathering numerous participants and visitors.

There is also a National Library in Milići, which has 26,617 titles, while the non-cultural heritage is preserved by the Boksit Cultural Artistic Association, which has 130 members, and has a folklore section, a chorus and an orchestra.

8.3. Zvornik (144 m / n.)

Drina River in Zvornik exits from mountain ranges and convertes in Semberija to the flat river. Hence, Zvornik is considered the real gate of the Srebrenica - Drina region.

The old town of Zvornik was described by one travel writer as "a small apartment in which everything is in one room: a kitchen, a bedroom, a living room and a children's room. Everything is at your fingertips, and the guest feels warm.



Zvornik - the former look of the Old Town

The unexplored locality in the village of Sapna is mentioned as the late antique fortress while the fortress in Divič contains elements of Byzantium construction from the VI century. The mitraistic relief of the cave in Dardagani dates from the same period. In Dardagani has recently discovered a Roman quarry that is considered to be one of the largest in Europe and that its stone was used for the construction of Sirmium (today Sremska Mitrovica in Serbia).

In Zvornik there is a very rich cultural and historical heritage with 37 archaeological sites, 57 necropolis with about 800 stećak, of which 44 are reliefly decorated. Cultural heritage includes some twenty memorial cemeteries, 25 ethnographic facilities, 18 houses and 7 water mills. The old town of Zvornik is the most significant building of the architectural heritage.

Stećak is found in almost all parts of the Zvornik area. In the settlement Boškovići there are four sites with necropolis of Polje, which has 39 stećak. In the woods below Jusići there are 12 stećak, and there are 7 monuments on the site of Mujevina in Buložani. In Donja Glumina is a well-preserved necropolis with 35 stećak. Stećaks are still found in many localities such as: Kitovnica 22, Sapna 13, Kaludrani and Šetići 3, Gušteri 5, Grbavci 9, Donji Baljkovići 4, Lemino brdo 5 ...



View of hydroelectric plant Zvornik from the Old Town

It is generally accepted that Zvornička fortress is from XIII or at the latest from the beginning of the XIV century. Archaeologist mr. Mirko Babic performed probe excavations in 1998, when he found the Byzantine ceramic material from the 6th century (amphora, fragments of the jugs...). It is assumed that the city may have been founded on the foundations of the Roman fort. The Ottomans at the end of the 15th and the beginning of the 16th century, significantly expanded and consolidated it. There are two towns connected with the ramparts: Lower (Ottoman) with strong ramparts along the river and three towers and Upper (middle-aged) with walls and towers on the steep banks, and the main tower on the 407. m high plateau. As the border fortress, Zvornik was important until Austro-Hungarian occupation, and after 1934, it was not in use by the Army of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. The fortress was from the 18th century one of the largest fortress systems in the former Yugoslavia, covering about 50,000 m² and the strongest fortified city in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The first name of the town was Zvonik (Suonich). It is first mentioned in a Dubrovnik document on 21 May 1410. Today's name (Zvornik) is mentioned in 1519 in a peace agreement between Hungary and the Ottoman Empire. However, the old name is mentioned until the 17th century. Based on the existing sources, it is not possible to ascertain exactly who and when Zvornik was raised. It is assumed that Zvornik as a fortress had to be formed quite early, at least when the border between Serbia and Bosnia was set on the Drina.



Turbe of Hasan Kaimija

Near the Zvornik fortress, at the entrance to Kula Town settlement, there is a turbe Aljamiado of the poet Hasan Kaimija Zrinović (died 1691), who wrote poems in Bosnian and Turkish. He was born in the first half of the XVII century in Sarajevo. Because of the support to rioters against the authorities and retailers in Sarajevo 1682/83, who used the Ottoman Empire's war against Austria and the Venetians for war profitability and raising food prices, Kaimija was expelled from Sarajevo to Zvornik, where he died in 1691.

At the mouth of Jadar in Drinjača, fifteen kilometers south of Zvornik, could be seen at one of the vertical rocks the remains of the medieval town of Kučlata (Kušlat). With the arrival of the Ottomans, 12 medieval towns in Zvornik's Sandžak continued to be maintained, so the same and Kučlat. Čelebija wrote: "It is a round, stone town on the bank of the river Jadar, on a cliff rising to the sky. Man does not dare to look down into the valley where the river roars like a thunder ... "

The sacral heritage of Zvornik is very rich: the mosque of Sultan Mehmed II of El Fatih, the mosque of Sultan Sulejman Veličanstveni (Majestic) (imperial), the mosque from the XV century in Donji grad (Lower Town), the mosque in Kušlat, the 15th century ...

Monasteries and Orthodox churches in the Zvornik area are mentioned for the first time in the middle of the 16th century (during Ottoman times), as a church in Srednje Lokanje, Tavna monastery in the village of Banjica, Lovnica and the monastery of Paprača.

In the center of the city in the former Austro-Hungarian barracks, there is a museum collection with about 2,000 exhibits and a library with about 5,000 titles. In front of the building is a mini collection of outdoor monuments from the antique and medieval period.

The cultural event "Zvornik's Summer" takes place from 02 - 08 August, attracting a large number of visitors.

The artificial lake of Zvornik extends upstream from Zvornik in length of about 25 km, width 200 m to 3 km, and depths up to 39 m. Although the tourist offer is more developed in the Serbian side, the Drina River on Bosnia's side provides opportunities for various water activities. The lake is the habitat of trout, catfish, pike, huchen, common barbel ...).

In the settlement of Kiseljak runs nine sources of mineral water, which people believe to have healing effects

8.4. Vlasenica (663 m / n.)

Vlasenica municipality is an air spa in the middle of a forests of fir, spruce, beech, oak and mountain maple. It is located on the north-eastern side of Javor Mountain in Eastern Bosnia. In the Middle Ages the place was located on the caravan road of Ragusa - Sirmium.

At the time of the medieval state of Bosnia, the area of today's Vlasenica was a part of the parish of Birač, about which the first written traces were found from 1.244. in Dubrovnik Archives. At the time, this region was mostly owned by the feudal families of Pavlovic, Diničić, Zlatonosović and Orlović who had their fortresses and castles near Vlasenica.

In the 71 necropolis there are 1595 stećci, of which 71 are reliefully decorated. In the village of Gornji Zalukovik there are eight necropolises with 184 stećak, of which 13 are decorated with motifs: wreath (rope-shaped), sword, arm with sword, etc.).

In the village of Cerska there are four sites with 180 stećak (22 decorated), in the village of Višnjica 114 stećak ...

Above the Mršići village, in a group of seven stećak, there is a decorated gilt with a relief lily and an inscription that goldsmith Divac is buried here.

The transcription of the inscription would be: "And Divac, the goldsmith, and his wife lie with the grace of God. For my life whomever I served, I served him rightfully, faithfully"..

By the middle of the 15th century, among the first in Bosnia, this area went to the hands of the Ottoman Empire and in those years the first larger settlement called Birač was formed.



Panorama of Vlasenica

After the Second World War and the last war 1992/95 , the devastated cultural heritage in Vlasenica and especially the heritage of the Bosniaks is very slowly restoring..

Today, a cultural life in Vlasenica happens within the activities of the "National Library", the Serbian Educational and Cultural Association "Prosvjeta" and the Literary Club "Birač".

There is a sports and recreational center "Igrišta" on Javor mountain, while the potential for tourism development are Ružina voda, Tišćino vrelo, Tišina and Slapovi.

8.5. Višegrad (364 m / n.)

The bridge of Mehmed Pasha Sokolović from 1571/77 year, picture gallery in the Dobrun monastery from the 14th century, the old hammam and the Višegrad Spa, Perućac Lake with the woods of Picea omorika, Old Nostalgia railway to Dobrun and further to Mokra Gora and Šargan in neighboring Serbia, the tourist attraction of Andrić Town ... - Višegrad is a place of extraordinary richness cultural-historical and natural heritage.

The city is world renowned for its 16-century stone bridge, which is listed on the World Cultural Heritage List - UNESCO, an endowment from the Great Vizier of the Ottoman Empire, the famous Mehmed-pasha Sokolović, who was a native of this area. The Bridge is a work of world renown builder (constructor) Koca Mimar Sinan Aga.



Pillar with inscription on Mehmed-paša Sokolović bridge in Višegrad - photo Z.B.

The bridge is about 250 m long and about 10 m wide. At the center of the bridge is a column with the poems of Nihadia, poet from Sarajevo. The upper, older inscription consists of nine verses, written in 1571/72. and the lower, so-called the younger inscription has 12 hemistichs in the Turkish language, but written in a very complicated version of Arabic script. Part of the above verse reads:

*Mr. Mehmed-pasha, Asaph of his time,
Whose glorious person the world has found a glory,
He spent his possessions in endowment for a godly pleasure,
No one will say about the wealth that is spent on endowment that it is wastefulness
He spent his life and using gold and silver for raising of public facilities
He was aware that to each one his works were the best progeny,
In Bosnia on the River Drina built a big bridge ...*

In the area of Višegrad there are 1015 stećaks in 43 locations, of which 39 are decorated and 3 with inscriptions. The necropolis in the village of Klačnik has 359 stećaks and is one of the largest in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the hamlet Varošiste is a group of 82 stećak, and not far from them are the remains of the old town of Brodar.

The historical area - a necropolis with stećaks at the locality of Grebnice in the village of Drinsko was declared a national monument in 2017.

In the village of Hrtar on the locality of Mramorje there are 4 stećaks, the remains of the medieval town of Hrtar and a carved stone chair.

The medieval town of Hrtar (13 km north of Visegrad) is not mentioned in the written documents, but it is known that it belonged to the Pavlovic feudal family and protected the crossing over the Drina. On the left bank of the Drina are the remains of a fortress with at least two towers, which at that time controlled the road to Žepa downstream Drina River, while on the right side of Drina there are remains of the ramparts and three round towers. Fortress Hrtar was not archaeologically explored. The largest tower had a diameter of about 7.7 m, while the wall thickness was about 1m. There are several caves on the right beside the rampart, the lowest of which is used as a storage and a monitoring area for the crossing of Drina river.



Panorama of Visegrad - tourist attraction of Andrićgrad in the background and the mouth of Rzav River in Drina

In today's state of Bosnia and Herzegovina there are no monumental sacral buildings or ruins of medieval churches, as it is a case in Serbia and Macedonia in the east, or in Croatia in the west. While monumental monasteries were built in the east as well as the cathedrals in the west, there are no such buildings in the territory of today's Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Middle Ages.

The Dobrun Monastery is located about ten kilometers from Višegrad below the fortress of the medieval town of Dobrun.



Monastery Dobrun

According to historical data, in the place of today's monastery in the second half of the XIV century, the Orthodox Church Kruševo was built. The church was built by prefect Pribil in the first half of the 14th century, and his son Peter paid for painting (frescos) around 1343. These are the oldest frescoes in today's territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The frescoes are the family portraits of the Serbian king Dusan, his wife Jelena and son Uroš, as well as frescoes with the founder of monastery, the parishioner Pribilo, his sons and son-in-law Stan with several other historical portraits. Zdravko Kajmaković dates these frescoes in the middle of

the XIV century. Dobrun's vivid was created in an area temporarily annexed to the Serbian state.

The monastery has for a long time served only as a Dobrun's church, and since 1993, the monkhood has been restored and Dobrun again becomes an active monastery.

In the rocks above the monastery, there is a cave whose entrance was built with speleothems. Inside, there were living ascetics who were descending into the monastery only during large holidays.

Within the monastery complex there is the Museum of the First Serbian uprising, the Gallery, as well as the museum of the Metropolitanate of Dabar-Bosna.



Dobrun's fresco of King Dusan, his wife Jelena and son of Uros

The old Dobrun town is located near the Dobrun monastery, 150 m higher in the rocks. It was once the most famous medieval town in this area. The name of the town is first mentioned in 1433, at the time when it belonged to a powerful feudal family of Pavlovic. They built the medieval town of Dobrun. The remains of this old town and scattered stećaks round it can still be seen at the top of the hill above the bridge. It consisted of a fortress with a parish court and three watchdog-towers. In the Middle Ages the town also had its outskirts in which Dubrovnik merchants stayed. To date, only the remains of the tower have been preserved.

Thermal waters of Višegrad spa (5 km north of the city) of 34° C are used for the treatment of rheumatic diseases, neurological conditions, orthopedic diseases and deformities, gynecological diseases, respiratory diseases, geriatric diseases.

In vicinity of this spa center is the valuable monument of communal culture from the time of the Ottoman Empire - the hamam, which emerged during the construction of the famous Bridge on the Drina in 1575. During the excavation of the stone for the construction of the bridge, workers found a source of mineral water, and it was decided to create a hamam that is still in use.



Detail from Old hammam in Vešegrad spa

With the construction of the Višegrad hydroelectric power plant, Višegrad artificial lake was created, stretching along the length of 54 km along Podrinje, Višegrad, Novo Gorazde and Rudo were formed. The surface of the lake is about 1.070 ha.

In order to build a tourist attraction and raise the technical culture of citizens, Višegrad is connected with the protected nature park "Mokra Gora" in the neighboring Republic of Serbia and the museum-tourist complex "Šarganska osmica" through reconstructed section of the former Užice - Višegrad - Sarajevo railway line. The museum train "Nostalgia" is now running on this track.

The construction of the old bridge in Višegrad inspired the writer Ivo Andric for the novel "Na Drini ćuprija", in which he wrote: "Everything that man is raising and building in his life, in my eyes is not better and more valuable than bridges." For the literary opus "Bridge on the Drina River", "Travnik's chronicle" and "Miss", Ivo Andrić received the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Inspired by the character and work of Ivo Andric, film director Emir Kusturica has built a tourist attraction "Andrić-town" or "Kamengrad" near the bridge at the mouth of the river Rzav in Drina, which, with about fifty objects such as theater, galleries, the cinema ... to the memorial of the Ivo Andrić's house, is a great tourist and administrative center, which enables organization of various cultural events.

8.6. Gorazde (345 m / n.)

The Municipality of Goražde contains a large number of cultural monuments, and it attests to the distant past and the presence of human activity in this area. In the valleys of the Drina, Prača and Kolina rivers the life existed ever since the Stone Age. In Lug and Popov Do, in 1958, two neolithic settlements were discovered. During the Ilirian period, the area was densely populated. In the Roman era, other settlements were also developed.

The archeological site of Lug in Zupčići was declared by the Commission to Preserve National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2008 as a National Monument. The archaeological site Lug is located in Zupčići, 500 m from Drina river and 3.5 km away from the town of Gorazda. The material found at this site dates from the end of IV and the beginning of the III millennium. The excavations that were carried out in the Zupčići

settlement resulted in finding of stone daggers, stone axes, hammer and vase as well as brick clay pots.

Beside data on architecture of houses and lifestyles of people in them, original sculptures have been found that depict a woman's figure with hinged hands and abstractioned legs and head. These clay-figured sculptures point to the main role of women in the social life of this neolithic community.



Sculpture of female figures from the village of Lug

According to the typological and ornamental characteristics of the preserved ceramic material and a female figure found in this site, the Neolithic settlement Lug belongs to the end of the Turdaş-Vinča culture phase. Another settlement, in the locality of Popov Do, on the other side of the river, belonged to the later phase of the Neolith.

Today's Goražde is a medieval settlement and was mentioned for the first time in the XIV century (1379) in Dubrovnik Archives as an important shopping center where sold wax, live cattle, lead and silver and imported mostly salt and fabric. Such economic importance Goražde maintained in the time of the Ottoman Empire.

In this area there are national monuments: Necropolis of the stećaks in Hrančiči in Goršić Polje, Kosače and Ledine.

Necropolis Hrančiči in Goršić Polje in Gorazde, a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been entered on the World Cultural Heritage list - UNESCO. The necropolis counts 325 visible stećakos, of which 69 are goblets, 271 chests and 15 plates, which are supposed to originate in the period from the 13th and 15th centuries. In both parts of the necropolis there is one tall chest. The necropolis was made with high precision so that it can be noticed that the stećaks were planned to be placed in the semicircular rows. The ornaments are visible on 4 stećaks (motif of lilies made in high relief, motif of the sickle, canelurama (perpendicular groove), cross with circular ends inside the circle and a deer. The

inscription in the transcript says: Se leži Njegoš(?) Vidojević, zemlja mu na Obrju. Počrljeno Mastanom(?).

A section of 30 stećaks is separated about 40 m from the rest of the necropolis and it is considered that the number of stećaks is higher than currently evidenced. Stećaks are covered with moss and drowned in the ground.



Necropolis Hrančiči in Goršić Polje, Goražde

The National Monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina (historical area), the necropolis of stećaks Kosača (village of the feudal family Kosača), is located on the Provisional List of National Monuments under the name Goražde - Medieval Necropolis of Kosača.

At the site of Ledin in 2005, analyzes were made on the status of stećakes when it was found that the stećci were covered with moss and wild plants. Of the four groups of stećaks, as evidenced by the largest encyclopaedist for stećaks Šefik Bešliagić, two were preserved. The other two groups of stećaks were devastated in the construction of individual residential buildings.

Part of the significant cultural heritage of this area is also the medieval town of Samobor, known as the summer residence of Kosača (today belongs territorially to the area of the municipality of Novo Goražde). As one of the most important medieval cities of this area, it was entered in 2006 on the list of national monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Samobor was one of the most significant cities in its area. It is mentioned for the first time in 1397, in the parish of Pribud. Sandalj Hranić was often there, and he was mentioned in 1430. As a property of Herceg Stjepan is mentioned in 1444, 1448, 1454 and 1461.

The city is basically a triangular shape with an oval guard tower. The fortified city of Samobor, in fact, was a powerful defense system consisting of three parts and was one of the most widespread fortifications in mid-Bosnia. From this fortress, in the Middle Ages, the main intersection of the roads connecting Bosnia with Serbia, Dubrovnik and other parts of the country was controlled.

The Ottomans occupied it, according to archeologist Mark Vegi, before 1466, probably in 1463. From the last years of the 15th century to 1832, the city had a permanent crew with a dizdar.



Old town Samobor near Gorazde

The first printing office in Bosnia-Herzegovina was 1519 in the monastery of St. Đurđa in Donja Sopotnica near Gorazde founded by Božidar Gorazdanin. In it, the brothers Teodor and Đurađ Ljubavić printed the well-known books of Služabnik 1519, Psaltir 1521, and Molitvenik 1523.



Goražde's Psaltir (1521.)

It is known about 25 copies of "Služabnik", which are located in domestic and foreign libraries, starting from Russia to Hilandar and Belgrade. The only copy of the first book of "Služabnik" from 1519 was preserved at Hilandar in its original size, and the "Psaltir" was reconstructed of three individual copies. The original copies and parts of the Goražde's printing are kept in Venice, Dubrovnik, Trgovište, Belgrade and St. Petersburg.



Detail from Mustafa-Pasha's mosque in Kreči

The near Gorazde represents a religious and cultural monument. It was built in distant 1553/54 year, in the mountain area in the village of Kreča - Ilovica. Mustafa Pasha was a commander (general) and it was a military mosque at that time. It is a rare mosque in Bosnia and Herzegovina that has never been demolished and represents an autochthonous building in which a wooden floor has recently been installed. The mosque should be soon put on a list of national monuments.

8.7. Bajina Bašta (257 m/nv.)

The place on the right bank of the Drina, at the estuary of Rača river. It used to be called Plijeskovo. The current name is given by Osman Baja, who had large gardens here - Treasure on the roads of Yugoslavia, Yugoslavia, Belgrade, 1983.

There are interesting remains of the medieval towns of Višeslav, 5 km north of Bajina Bašta and Solotuša (Solotnik), 10 km south of Bajina Bašta.

Medieval necropolis of stećaks in Perućac and Rastište near Bajina Bašta are located in the area of the National Park Tara. The necropolis in Perućac dates back to the 15th century and has 85 monuments at the moment, while at the end of the 19th century there were about 200. In the part of Uroševina near Rastište, about seven kilometers from Perućac, there are 38 monuments. Most of these monuments are in the form of gabled plate and crates, as well as panel-shaped monuments. There was also a quarry found where these tombstones (stećci) were chiseled. Some have decorations in the form of cross, moons, arrows and harbors, swords and circles. Both necropolises (together with the necropolis the Greek Cemetery in the village Hrt near Prijepolje) are inscribed on the World Cultural Heritage list - UNESCO.



Marble Perućac

The Austrian travel writer Feliks Kanic expresses his impressive vision at the end of the 19th century: "It was named after the sipahi of Baja, lying surrounded by maize, tobacco and fruit cultures in the sunny Bušinsko polje, 250 meters high and seemingly very pleasant. Here is the best tobacco in Serbia. With the church of St. Elijah, sanctified in 1893, it got a nice center with its 118 houses whose red bricks suppress wood. They are grouped around a large square, planted with oaks and apples, to which four main streets lead out. In that square is a small local school. A sympatic county headquarter building and a quarantine station are located in the street leading to the Drina ... "

The old monastery Rača is located on the slopes of Tara mountain, not far from Bajina Bašta. By tradition, it was founded by King Dragutin (1276-1316). Rača monastery was then abandoned and demolished, but it has been restored by the monks of the Tronoše monastery in the 16th century. The monastery has become famous during the 17th century when the activities of printing and decorating manuscript books were developed.

During the Great Migration (1690), monks from Rača found shelter in Beočin in Fruška Gora, where they continued with their activities.



Rača Monastery

Current church of sliced stone was restored in 1835, on the foundations of the old temple. The wall paintings are the work of Dimitar Posniković, and the iconostasis of Georgije Bakalović.

8.8. Ljubovija (174 m / n.)

Ljubovija was named after Beg Ljubović, who in the time of social and economic upsurge built a tower above the Drabic polje. Some still believe that the name was given by the river Ljuboviđa, taking into account the migrations from Montenegro, when the settlers named after Bjelo polje's river Ljuboviđa. Residents of this region often call it Azbukovica.

The area on which Ljubovija stretches was inhabited in the prehistoric and antique times, as evidenced by numerous and archeological finds, tombstones in Lonjin and hillforts from Rujevac.

At the time of the Roman Empire, this region belonged to the province of Dalmatia, where it linked Domavija and Singidunum. In order to protect this route, as well as the road to the Drina Valley, the Romans raised several fortifications: Đurim, Nemić, Gradac and Kulina-Mikuljak. The mines in Crnča were managed from Domavija (today Srebrenica) and the remains of mining settlements were discovered in Vrhpolje, Crnča and Uzovnice.

Many Roman monuments are scattered around Azbukovica, and some of them are placed in the National Museum in Šapc.

Sokograd with preserved walls of the fortress represents the great cultural and historical sights of Azbukovica.



Remains of Soko Grad near Ljubovija

Several buildings have been proclaimed for the cultural assets of Azbukovica: Monument to the Mačkov kamen, Old Bridge on Ljuboviđa, church-cabin in Donja Orovnica, Church in Selanac, Bačica moat, Mali i Veliki grad and center of village Gornja Trešnjica.

The Latin Bridge or the Old Stone Bridge over the Ljuboviđa river, originated in the 16th century. It is made of flowstones with limestone walls. The width of its pavement, made of paving stones, is 3.4 meters, while today its fence is completely destroyed so there are no elements for its reconstruction. The basic works on its rehabilitation were carried out in 1985, and since 1983 it is under the protection of the Republic of Serbia, as a cultural monument of great significance.



Latin bridge on Ljuboviđa

The memorial monument of nature "Mačkov kamen" was put under the protection in 1976 by then local government of Ljubovija. During the First World War, the Serbian army led one of the bloodiest battles. The memorial monument was raised in 1929, and within the memorial complex there is a memorial church with an ossuary, built next to the old church of St. Vaznesenje Gospodnje. It is interesting that the candelabrum was made of bullets, bayonets, sabers and grenades gathered from the battlefield.

The church-cabin in Donja Orovica is dedicated to the Holy 12 Apostle with interesting relics. The church's building time was not defined with certainty, but it is considered to be older than 200 years. There are many icons in the church, and four are under the protection of the state and represent a special value.



Cabin-curch in Donja Orovica

The church in Selanac is dedicated to St. Apostles Peter and Paul. There is no information when it was built, but it is believed to date from the XIII century. It was rebuilt in 1816 and protected by the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments. There is a crypt in the church, where the priests are buried.



Churc in Selanac

In Gornja Trešnica are the remains of a very old fortress, for which there is no reliable information from which period. Its height in some places is up to 7 m.

On the northern elevation, very steep and inaccessible from all sides, but with a good view of the Trešnjica valley, the remnants of the Great City rise. The elongated base is 20 m in length and 8 m in width. On the north side there is a massive walled tower.

Both foundations are made of crushed limestone with solid white mortar. The ceramics found from Mali Grad belong to the Middle Ages. The remains of the city are about 6 km from the Drina river and are located on the old route from the lower Podrinje villages to Valjevo.

At about 25 km from Ljubovija is the mountain Bobija, with the highest peak of Tornička Bobija (1272 m). The mountain is rich with very strong and cold springs of drinking water at high altitudes which makes it rare. There are over 100 such springs on Bobija mountain and most famous is Dobra voda.

Protected natural resources on the territory of Ljubovija municipality are:

- Special Nature Reserve "Trešnjica River gorge", potentially EMERALD area (Emerald network is identical to NATURA 2000 ecological network).
- Memorial monument of nature "Mačkov kamen",
- Natural hatchery of huchen
- Internationally Important Bird Area (IBA) of Valjevo Mountains.

Trešnjica river gorge has been put under the protection of the state as a natural good of extraordinary significance. The emphasis was given to the preservation of the 45 birds of prey, the first of which is the Gyps fulvus, and other natural rarities, geomorphologic forms of river and valuable ethno heritage. The special nature reserve is located in the southwestern part of the municipality, a distance of ten kilometers. The Trešnjica river canyon is one of the most beautiful canyons and is a habitat for 17 pairs of eagles (Gyps fulvus), still inhabited only in the canyon of Uvca.



Trešnjica River Canyon – extreme trekking adventure

The natural hatchery of huchen (*Hucho hucho*) is a habitat whereby the natural flourish of the huchen takes place. It covers the area of the lower river Trešnjica, downstream from the partition dam in the village of Gornja Trešnjica to the mouth of the Drina River, as well as 300 m of the Drina River downstream. According to the Nature Protection Act, huchen (*Hucho hucho*) is on the list of strictly protected species of plants, animals and fungi. The inhabitants of this area call it (huchen) the "Queen of the Drina".

Important Bird Areas (IBA) represent a global network of areas of great importance for bird protection. The criteria on the basis of which these areas are defined are determined by the international organization for bird protection Birdlife International. There are 42 such areas in Serbia, one of which is the IBA of Valjevo Mountain.

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