# Kraljevo MOUNTAIN GUIDE



THE TOURIST ORGANIZATION

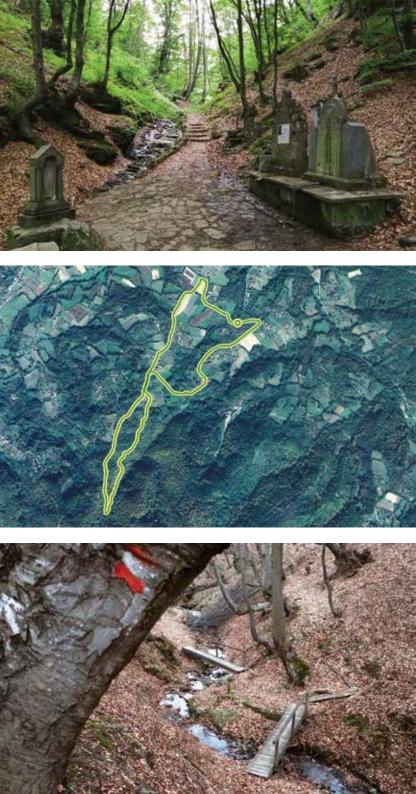
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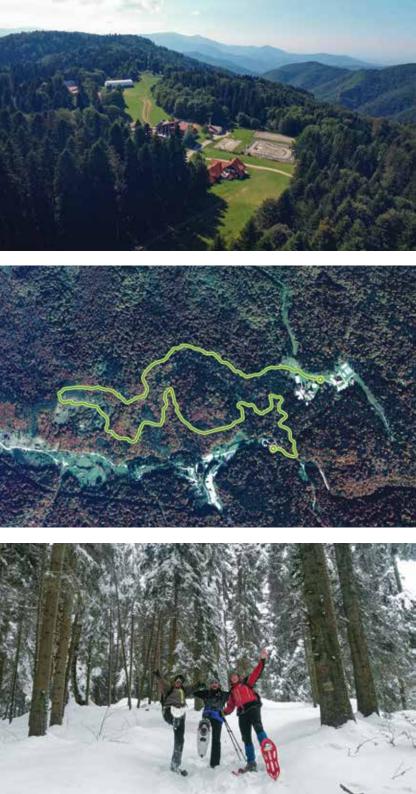
# **TOP 7** MODERATE HIKING TRAILS

We present you seven hiking trails in Kraljevo for hiking beginners. They are arranged from the easiest to the hardest so you can ideally prepare for more serious mountaineering challenges. While visiting these trails, you will discover the hidden gems of our mountains and enjoy the stunning viewpoints over the city and surroundings. All seven trails are recreational, without dangerous terrains and steep cliffs which require climbing skills and using hands. Even though the trails are shorter, it is necessary to truthfully evaluate your form and physical fitness before you visit them. Speed walking and running few times a week is the best way to improve your fitness. We wish you a safe and enjoyable visit!





Dragosinjci village is located at the northern foothills of Goc Mountain and it has around 250 houses. Villigers believe that the village existed in the time of Saint Sava, who reportedly said "Dragosinici, my sons" and "Otroci, my fathers" on the way from Zica to Gracac village. For Sava water, as they call it here, many believe it is healing water. Thanks to the hardworking locals, spring is fixed up with five fountains and huge covered bench with a big table. This place is visited every 27th of March within the event of "Saint Sava days in Kraljevo". Not far away from here at the Strazba place, Saint John's "autumnal" convocation (29th of August) is being held and it is visited by many people from the village and the region. The spring is located at beech tree forest with very little sunlight, so the place appears rather mystical and photogenic. The walking trail is mostly in the shade and the gravel roads leads to a narrow path at the end. There is a small stream with interesting cascades passing next to the spring. It is not easy to find a road to the spring, so using this circle GPS track will help you find it. Parking places close to the spring are also pretty limited so you will definitely love this easy walk.





Goc mountain is located between Kraljevo and Vrnjacka Spa and it appears as it is waving to Zapadna Morava with its indigenous trees of Serbia, it is following its flow. Forest mosaic of old trees of beech and spruce, with pines, oaks, maples and 600 other plants represents the symbol of the mountain and lungs of the surrounding cities. It is just one of the reasons why this natural treasure has the status of protected area from 2014 with four thousand hectares under protection. The round trail which we present is located within the protected area and matches the two well known hotels - Piramida with Dobre Vode, so either of these two spots could be the starting point of your hike. Students of the Faculty of Forestry from Belgrade come here every year to learn about and practice sustainable forestry management. Furthermore, many children from Serbia come here during the year on the program of school in nature. The trail is 5 km long and the elevation is around 1000, which is ideal for recreation and recovering from urban life. This trail is wonderful for summer visits because it passes through the deep forests, but it is especially stimulating to visit it in winter with snowshoes too!

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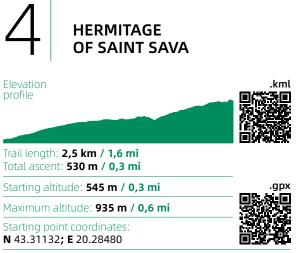






The most visited peak by the citizens of Kraljevo is probably Cava, which is located just 7 km from the city centre. It presents a training ground for local mountaineers, cyclists, athletes, enduro and guad drivers... This place belongs to northern slopes of Goc Mountain. The trail starts from the main Kraljevo - Brezna road and soon climbs up the northern slopes towards the peak. Most of the trail is a gravel road. There are no water sources on the trail. Unfortunately, 10 years ago at this place, there was a large forest fire caused by man negligence, and over 40 hectares of pine forest was burned. These hills, which are visible from the city, should be a lesson for all upcoming generations to leave nothing behind when visiting nature and preserve the forest from fire. Peak is located between Metikos and Ribnica villages. Bring binoculars with you. The mountain top offers a scenic view of Sumadija Mountains, Stolovi, Troglav, Zapadna Morava valley and the city of Kraljevo...





Distance from hiking trail to the city centre: 67 km / 47,6 mi

Cemerno Mountain is forgotten at the mountaineering maps of Serbia even though it was a venue for important historical events from the period of Saint Sava when he built the Hermitage and wrote Studenica typicon untill the heroic battles of the Great War. This short pilgrimage starts from the main road which connects Usce on Ibar river with Ivanjica municipality, at the eighth kilometre from Studenica monastery upstream the Studenica river. A narrow trail leads by steep southern slopes of the mountain through oak and hornbeam forests. First stop is usually the Lower Hermitage with Saint Sava drinking water fountain. The trail goes further above Lower Hermitage about 200 m strait then turns zigzag uphill. At several points there are signals and benches. About an hour of easy walking without breaks is enough to reach "home of silence" - Upper Hermitage of Saint Sava. At the moment of publishing this text the hermitage is open and active. Monks from Studenica Monastery are taking care of it. Visit this place in peace and silence. First village, Savovo, is located in the extension of the trail uphill, but that one we will present some other time. Even though these villages are sparsely populated, you can still hear the song "Hey Cemerno, green meadow". You can go back by the same way. Don't miss a chance to visit Studenica Monastery and Tree of love in the near surroundings.









Distance from hiking trail to the city centre: 8 km / 5 mi

Strmenica (679 m) is also one of peaks easily reachable from the city centre and it is also frequently visited. Here, at the northern slopes of Stolovi mountain, tourist signalization in several different colours has been set up. You will find the starting point of this trail by following Zicka river. At the starting point you can find info table with hiking trails and mentioned signalization. The round trail we recommend is marked by blue and white colours. Even though there are fountains with drinking water at the trail and in the households near the start, we recommend to bringing at least 1l of drinking water with you. There are a few resting places with benches on the trail too. The advantage of this trail is the fact that you can cut it turning to the right by green, yellow or red trail which goes back to the gravel road which takes you to starting point of the trail. As you go further more to the peak, the view of the city and surrounding mountains is more beautiful. The trail goes mainly through the pine forests. Just before you reach the peak, there is a beautiful viewpoint with a small bench and probably the best view of the city of Kraljevo. The trail goes further towards Gradi village and back to Zicka river. The narrow trail follows the contributories of Zicka river through amazing landscapes where you don't get the feeling that you are just 15 min drive away from the city centre. On the way back to the city in summer, besides Zica monastery visit, we recommend you visiting one of the natural pools if Zicka river. The most famous one is Ratkov pool.





Petrified forest - Lojanik is a rare locality site of palaeobotanical character with fossil remains of petrified wood. In addition, it is one of the oldest prehistoric opal mines in the central Balkans. It is located on the northern slopes of Stolovi Mountain, and the easiest way to reach the site is from Mataruska spa by a hiking trail. Besides Lojanik, this hiking trail takes you to Ostra Glavica peak form wich there is a crystal clear view of Kraljevo as well as the valley of West Morava river towards Cacak city. The extensive network of hiking trails in this part of Stolovi Mountain and beyond was traced and marked by the famous local mountaineer Branislav Binic - Bine, honorary citizen of the city of Kraljevo. For the ascend we recommend you take the left side looking towards the mountain. The starting point is the main bus station in the Mataruska spa. The trail follows Haiduk Veljko Street, than gravel roads marked with standard red and white mountaineering signalization. After one kilometer from the bus station you will come across the remains of petrified woods in the stadium of semiprecious stones. If you are not ready to hike along the whole route, you can easily go back the same way. There is one drinking water spring on the trail. You are going to be delighted with the view from Ostra Glavica peak. Downhill is steep at the beginning and it is marked by orange and white tourist signalization.





# STUDENAC TRAIL AT RUDNO VILLAGE Evelation profile Frail length: 11,6 km / 7,2 mi Total ascent: 370 m / 0,2 mi Starting altitude: 1115 m / 0,7 mi Maximum altitude: 1265 m / 0,8 mi Starting point coordinates: N 43.414136; E 20.484272

Distance from hiking trail to the city centre: 95 km / 59 mi

This circle trail was marked by MTB club Ciker from Kralievo with the help of locals and within the cross border project between Montenegro and Serbia in 2012. Although designed for MTB cyclists, it is ideal for hiking beginners. It is about 12 km long with cumulative ascend of about 400 m. The rolling hill terrains of Rudno plateau will not leave you indifferent nor the rural accommodation hosts who have been working here with success for long time now. Over 70 % of the trail are gravel roads with poor traffic and good guality. Starting point is the centre of the Rudno village. You can find a table with the terrain profile and basic information. The trail goes by old households and nice viewpoints where you can enjoy the view on Radocelo peak and it's beautiful surroundings. At the famous Srnjaca hill, in the household of Pansion Nebo, you can fill in your water bottles and have a small break. Spruce and pine forest interchange with endless meadows and pastures full of fungi and herbal plants. From Radova Voda site and from Dzode village you will be able to see a beautiful panorama of Rudno village with scattered households and fields of potatoes, raspberries and buckwheat. You should have in mind that in the moment of publishing this text tourist signalization is not enough to find the way, so following GPS track or hiring a licensed mountain guide is more than needed. Network coverage is also poor in some places. It is also good to know that snow stays here till late April usually, but in May is not a surprise too. After you visit this trail, you will fall in love with Golija which has widespread network of gravel roads and mountaineering trails which await you.





# **7 BEST Day Hikes** In Kraljevo

The city of Kraljevo is surrounded by very interesting and attractive mountains for hiking and trekking. Whichever way you go from the city centre, you are going to reach a mountain with the peak at least 700 m above the sea level. Long tradition of this sport and the activities of mountaineering society and tourist sector contributed to the affirmation of the city of Kraljevo as a recognizable destination for mountain and rural tourism. It is very rare for one municipality to have 4 mountain huts, 5 trekking routes (transversal hiking trails), six mountaineering societies, a European long distance path going through and a route of traditional national mountaineering event organised by Mountaineering Association of Serbia. Out of several hundred kilometres of hiking trails network within the territory of the city of Kraljevo we present to you the most popular seven.





The highest peak of the mountain Radocelo (Krivaca 1643 m) is also the highest of the city of Kraljevo. It can be reached from various directions such as: Monastery Studenica, village Mlanca and Milice or from villages Bzovik and Rudno. Beauty of landscapes, great choice of accommodation, well-marked trail and the smallest ascend are the reasons we chose this trail. This round hiking trail is located within the protected area of the Biosphere reserve Golija-Studenica under UNESCO protection, the oldest in the country. Trail starts from the centre of the Rudno village, at the altitude of 1,100 m and it is about 100 km away from the centre of the city of Kralievo. The trail is 17 km long with total ascend of 750 m. Gravel roads, pastures and coniferous forests alternately change towards the peak. There is a few authentic rural household to see on the way, a nice camping site close to Brevina River and a mystical old beech tree forest too. There are few water springs on the way. When the weather is clear, you are able to enjoy the view on northern slopes of Golija Mountain, Kopaonik Mountain, Cemerno Mountain and many others.

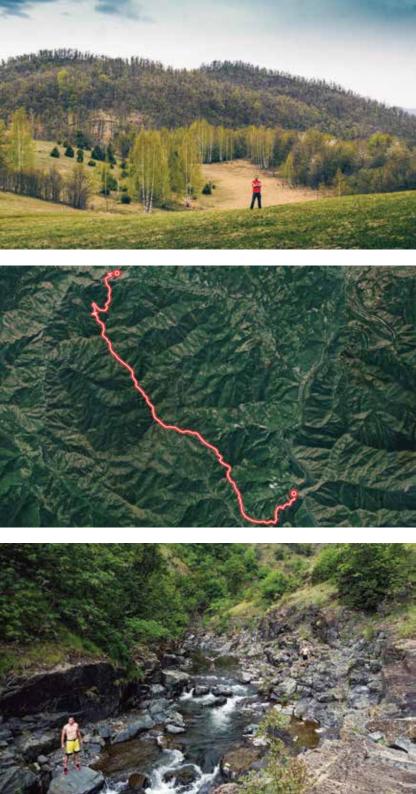
7 BEST DAY HIKES





Probably the most popular hiking trail in Kraljevo is the route of traditional national mountaineering event "Narcisu u pohode" at Stolovi Mountain. This event is being held every year in mid-May when wild daffodil flowers bloom and when all open meadows at higher altitude become white. Starting point is the centre of the village Kamenica which lays at 330 m of altitude and the trail is about 21 km long. First 3,5 km trails follow gravel road until the first resting area "Narcissus" at 700 m from the sea level. From that point you can choose to continue by road or to keep walking the ridge. Whatever you choose you will constantly be able to enjoy the view of the eastern slopes of the mountain. Last 1,5 km before the peak, the trail takes you to great pasture. It is possible to encounter a heard of released horses who live freely in the mountain for a long time. Even though they are approachable for hikers and other visitors, you should be careful during close contact. At the top of the mountain (Kamariste/Usovica 1.375 m) you will see a cross 33 m high placed in 2020 at the initiative of local mountaineering society. You can also find stunning views of Goc Mountain, Zeljin Mountain, Kopaonik Mountain, The valley of the lilacs and urban zone of the city of Kraljevo. Trail is finishes at the mountain hut "Zorica Gizdovic" at the village Brezna, on the southern slopes of the mountain towards Goc.

7 BEST DAY HIKES





Troglay Mountain is the one which reminds us of old Slavic routes and deities. It is surrounded by rivers Lopatnica and Ibar but it is reachable from many sides: from Bogutovacka Spa, village Lopatnica, village Tolisnica, direction of Cudjak stream etc. Chosen trail starts from magisterial road M-22 (Ibarska magistrala) close to Maglic Castle. First uphill takes you through Maglic village towards northwest and mainly by gravel roads. The trail is 17 km long and the highest peak Kom is 1.177 m high. Following the ridge you will climb all three peaks on the top which are nicely overlooking nearby mountains such as Stolovi, Cemerno and Jelica and the city of Kraljevo too. The end of the trail follows a gravel road which takes you to the main road to Tolisnica village. Lovely waterfalls and small whirlpools of the river Lopatnica makes this trail even more attractive. Swimming in the clean and cold river is the best refreshment after a hike in the summer time. The trail is passable and marked in both wavs.

' BEST DAY HIKES









Studena Mountain is located between Goc. Stolovi and Ravna Mountain while south-western slopes descend towards Ibar river valley. This mountain has an extensive network of mountain roads suitable for MTB riding and hiking. Probably the most popular trail is the one which goes from an abandoned Forestry log house located on the main road from Kralievo to Goc. This 15 km round trail has gentle ascents and it is passable on both ways. This hiking trail is not well-marked in the moment of publishing this article. Half of the trail passes through forests with a lot of shade. An endless pasture overgrown with juniper resembles the landscape of Stolovi which southern slopes are visible from this trail. One of the suitable places to rest is the so-called Maretova fountain, just 500 m away from the highest peak. From the top of the mountain there is a 360 view over mountains such as: Ravna, Zeljin, Kopaonik, Cemerno and Golija. Story about the origin of the name Kavgalija you will hear from local mountain guides.

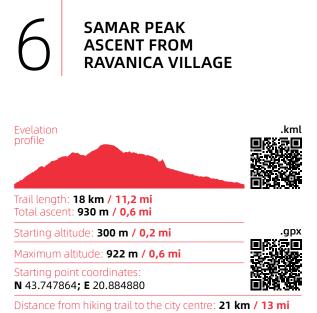






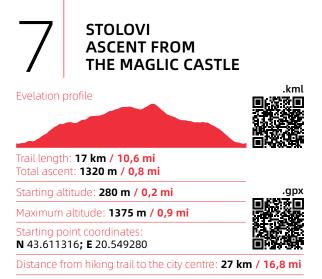
Transversal hiking trails are marked long distance trails, usually thematic. They connect peaks, viewpoints, mountain huts, cultural monuments and checkpoints with stamps on one or few mountains. All of them offer small rewards in the form of a badge in this case for mountaineers who successfully pass them. One of those trails is Zaracka tansversal established in 2006. It was named after Zaracka Mountain which connects the lake from Gvozdacka river at Goc with a small town Usce in the valley of Ibar river. This trail is 23 km long with an average trekking time of seven hours. The trail is marked with blue and vellow colours. Due to less cumulative ascent, it is recommended to start from the mentioned lake. Please, be aware of the fact that the first part of the trail passes through Special Nature Reserve "Goc-Gvozdac". After passing a coniferous than beech tree forest, trail goes by Velika Livada locality (great meadow) towards Gokcanica village. This village is mentioned as one of the gifts of the first king of Serbia Stefan to his endowment Zica in The founding charter of Zica monastery. In the last few years this village with over 80 houses is becoming recognised for its intensive production of fruits such as blueberries, currant and blackberries. Last part of the trail follows gravel roads towards Usce. Two transversal stamps and a book of impressions are located at the building of Railway station in Usce. Diary and badge are issued by Mountaineering club Kraljevo.





The highest peak of Gledic mountain (Samar 922 m) is situated in the corner of three municipalities: Kraljevo, Vrnjacka Banja and Rekovac. This peak is often visited by local mountaineers and MTB riders and it is reachable from many villages nearby: Leseva, Loboder, Gornji Dubic, Kalenicki Prnjavor and Ravanica. We present to you the round trail from Ravanica village which is easy to reach from the city centre. The trail is 18 km long with around 1000 m of total ascend and it follows local gravel roads. Mountaineering signs is not recently renewed. From the top it is possible to see the peaks of Stolovi Mountain and Goc to the south, lastrebac Mountain to south-east, Rudnik Mountain to the north and pyramidal structure of Rtanj Mountain at far east. Gledic Mountain still keeps the forests after the which whole region of Central Serbia got the name, as well as the old rural households with great potential for rural tourism. Taking in count two important medieval Serbian monasteries Kalenic and Ljubostinja in near surroundings, nearby distilleries and wineries of Zapadna Morava wine region this mountain deserves more visits and attention in the near future.





We kept for last one technically and physically demanding hiking trail to the peak of Stolovi Mountain, which is nonetheless very popular among mountaineers, trail runners and tourists. It is about 16 km long with cumulative ascend of 1300 m. The trail is located at western slopes of the mountain and it starts from magisterial road m-22 close to Maglic Castle. To safely cross Ibar river it is necessary to cross the pedestrian bridge which is under reconstruction in the moment of publishing this article. All other bridges nearby are not safe! The trail follows Magasnica river and soon crosses active railway line Kraljevo - Kosovska Mitrovica where special attention is needed. After 300 m trail sharply turns uphill to the right towards Klecak ridge. This rocky terrain overgrown with grass is an ideal habitat of poisonous snakes, so special attention is needed while climbing and resting. Water sources are hidden at this trail and it is hard to find them, so more than 1.5 l of water is needed and enough food for 8 hours of hiking. After climbing the peak, the trail takes you to the ridge which goes directly to Maglic Castle. At this part there are a few big rocks on the trail which could be bypassed going off the trail towards Magasnica river. If you watched Ironclad II, movie directed by Jonathan English, you will recognize this view over the castle surrounded by Ibar river which will leave you breathless. The trail is not recommended in the periods of short daylight. This trail is not recommended for dizzy headed. The trail is dangerous to climb without a licensed mountain guide.



## IMPORTANT INFO

The presented hiking trails are not recommended for the hiking beginners, persons with weak physical fitness and damaged health, bad orientation and without adequate equipment. Trails are not recommended for winter conditions. Not all hiking trails are well-marked. This mountain guide is not enough for finding and orientation at the trail without using GPS device or hiring a licensed mountain guide. Mobile network is usually weak on most of the trails and using mobile applications instead of GPS devices is not recommended. Hiking trail difficulty depends on length, technical requirements and inclination, terrain passibility, ground surface and total ascend. Trail crossing time is relative and depends on number of the members in the group, pace of the slowest in the group, number and time of breaks and many other circumstances.

# RECOMMENDED GEAR LIST FOR ONE DAY MOUNTAINEERING IN SUMMER SEASON

- mountaineering backpack (20-30 liter)
- hiking poles
- comfortable waterproof, deep hiking shoes
- cotton socks and gaiters
- long pants and fleece
- dry fit T-Shirt + spare T-shirt
- windproof jacket and rain gear
- a hat, sunglasses and sun cream
- first aids, personal toiletries and medicines
- water bottle (min. 1,5 l), energy bars, dry fruit and nuts, 1 meal and garbage bag
- valid passport and travel medical insurance
- mobile phone, camera, GPS device, small headlamp, external battery charger
- lighter, whistle, rope and duck tape

Before departure, please consult your mountain guide regarding gear list.







### HIKE RESPONSIBLY

- 1. Keep the forests from fire!
- Don't make unnecessary noise and make sure you don't cause rockfalls.
- 3. Do not pick protected plants and mushrooms and keep their habitat safe.
- All garbage (organic and non organic) bring back with you to the place with a regular and safe waste disposal.
- 5. Greet other mountaineers and locals and offer them your help if needed.

## TIPS FOR SAFE HIKING

Consult your doctor before you start with mountaineering. Choose hiking trails suitable for your current physical fitness, power and health. Never walk alone! Inform some of your friends which trail you plan to go and what time. Carefully plan your activities, check weather conditions and consult local mountaineers about the passibility of roads and trails. Check once more the Recommended gear list before you go. For safe hiking we recommend booking a mountain guide, trained and licensed by Mountaineering Association of Serbia. A list of mountain guides find on our website: http://kraljevoturizam.rs/engleski/planinarenje.html

## **MOUNTAIN RESCUE SERVICE OF SERBIA**

For help in any situation and danger in the mountains, please call Mountain Rescue Service of Serbia: **+381 62 464 646**.

Please note the exact location and describe the type of accident you are reporting. Help is coming, please wait!

### LICENSED MOUNTAIN GUIDES OF THE CITY OF KRALJEVO

All of the mentioned Mountain Guides have been licensed by Mountaineering Association of Serbia. You can book the guide by our office as well: + 381 36 316 000 or + 381 36 311 192

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