

22 July 2017

Dear friends of Hotel Gračanica,

We have been working on this project for more than one and a half years. Now finally, the first phase is completed. **Five hiking and mountain bike trails between Gračanica and Janjevo/a** are marked and ready to be explored. **Maps** are printed and **available at the hotel**, but can also be downloaded on our website, <https://www.hotelgracanica.com/things-to-do/hiking-and-biking/>, where you'll also find **photos** of the nature and landscapes on the trails.

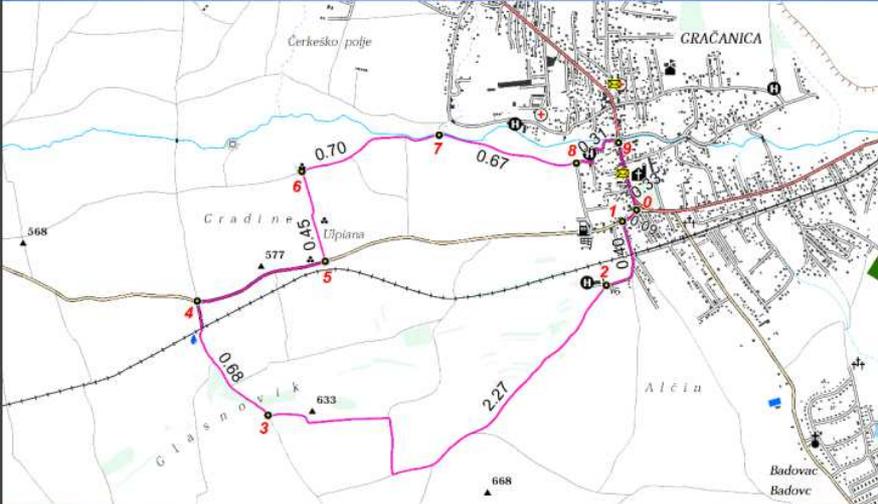
The trails take you between 1 h 40 min and 3 h 5 min hiking and can also be combined. Three of them are loops, so you don't have to bother about transport back to the starting point

Bikers can **rent mountain bikes** at the hotel at a price of 8 € per day or 5 € per half day. If you prefer asphalt, there is a sixth trail – unmarked, but easy to find – through five peaceful villages.

The project has been supported by PPSE/Swisscontact and the Swiss Cooperation Office Kosovo.

Hills and Ulpiana Loop

Length: 6.55km
Min. 574m Max. 655m
1h 40min



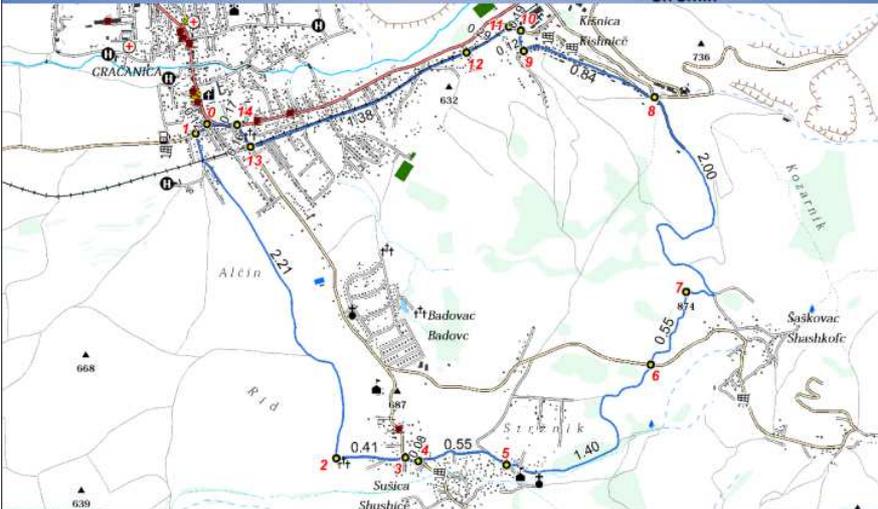
This easy walk takes you on dirt roads over the hills SW of Gračanica, offering beautiful views of the town and the Sharr Mountains. On the way back, you have the opportunity to explore the archeological excavations of the Roman town Ulpiana, and later have a drink or meal at Hotel Gračanica, "Kosovo's first and only boutique hotel" (New York Times).



Shashkoc Loop




Length: 11.21km
 Min. 548.8m Max. 874m
 3h 5min



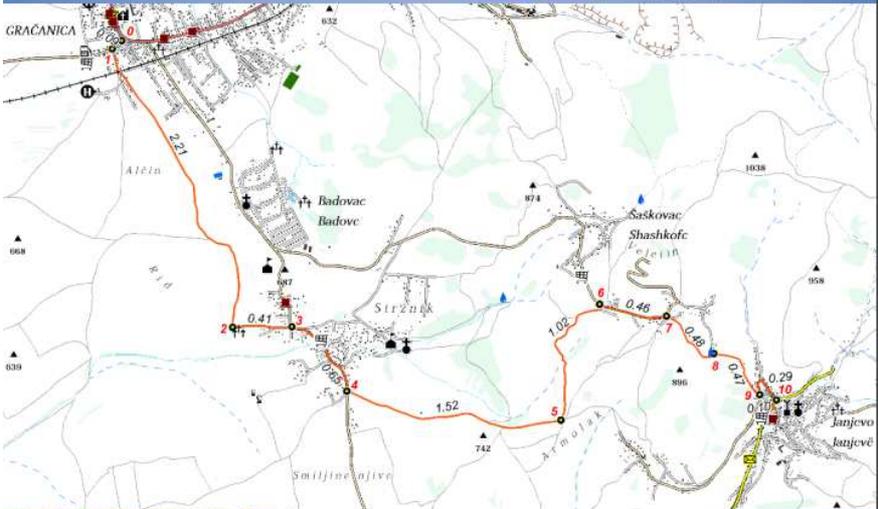


The trail leads on dirt roads uphill through fields, with fine views of Gračanica, to the idyllic village of Sušica with its small church from the 14th century. It continues up the small valley of the Božanka, on a narrow path often used by locals to fetch water from a spring further up, and then over meadows and, further on, rocks with traces of ancient mining to Sušica hill, with magnificent views of the Kosovo field and the Sharr mountain range on the border with Macedonia. Returning, the path leads through dense forests and a small valley to the Albanian mining village of Kishnica, passing the explosives magazine of the now defunct lead and zinc mine, and then through back streets back to the starting point.

Trail Gračanica - Janjevo




Length: 7.70km
 Min. 584.4m Max. 868m
 2h 40min



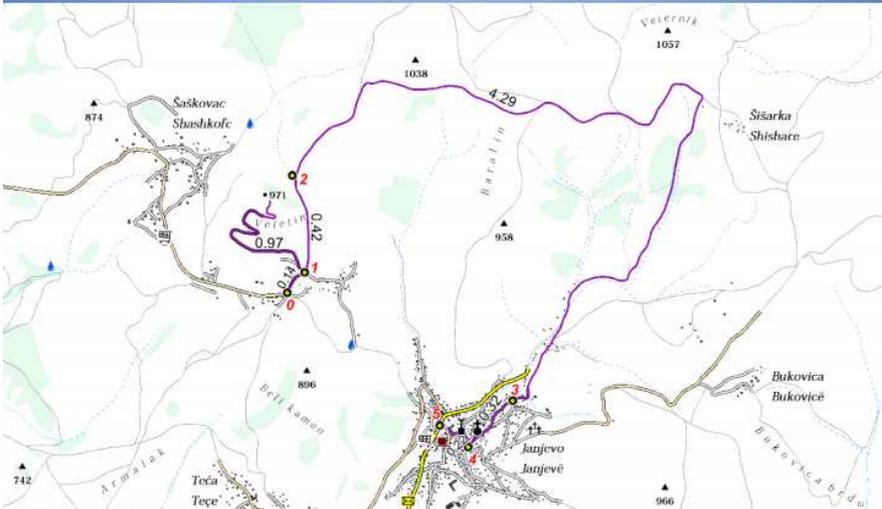


The first part of this trail is the same as the Shashkoc loop, but from Sušica the trail continues over meadows to the eastern end of the village of Shashkoc (the name derives from "Schwabens", early German inhabitants who came as miners) before descending to Janjevo. Janjevo, an old mining town, features beautiful half-timbered houses - many of them now abandoned and derelict, as most of the previous Croat inhabitants left after the war -, the first post-office in Kosovo and a charming mosque from the 17th century. Return by taxi (5 € with Taxi Gračanica, tel. 049-20 80 00) or minibus.

Pine Trail




Length: 6.89km
 Min. 720m Max. 1000m
 1h 35min



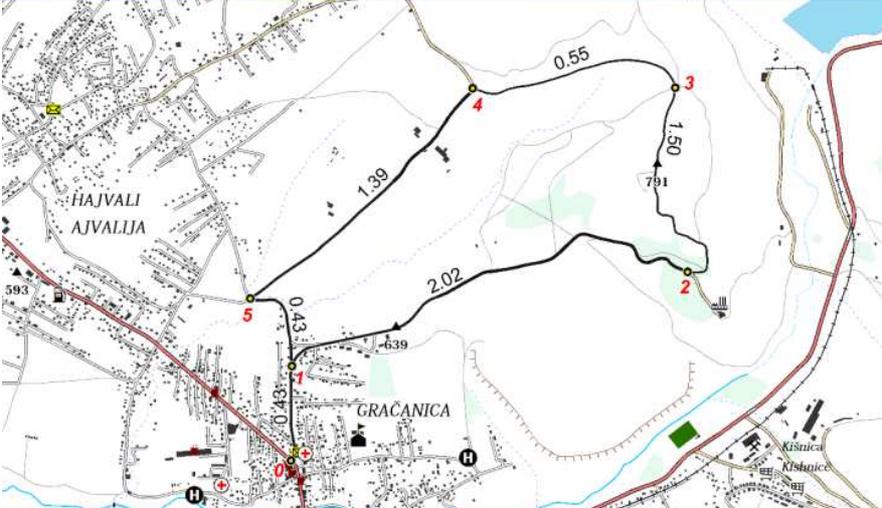


Starting from the eastern end of Shashkoc (3 € by taxi from Gračanica), either first climb the Veletin, an extinct volcano that, in Roman times, was the site of fire telegraph (connecting the fortress and mining town Novo Brdo in the east with Harilaç, above today's airport, in the west). Or head immediately for the trail leading around the basin of Janjevo, passing wild Mirabelle trees, volcanic landscapes, a pine forest and a spooky abandoned hamlet before descending to Janjevo.

Strnjik Loop




Length: 6.32km
 Min. 592m Max. 791m
 2h 40min

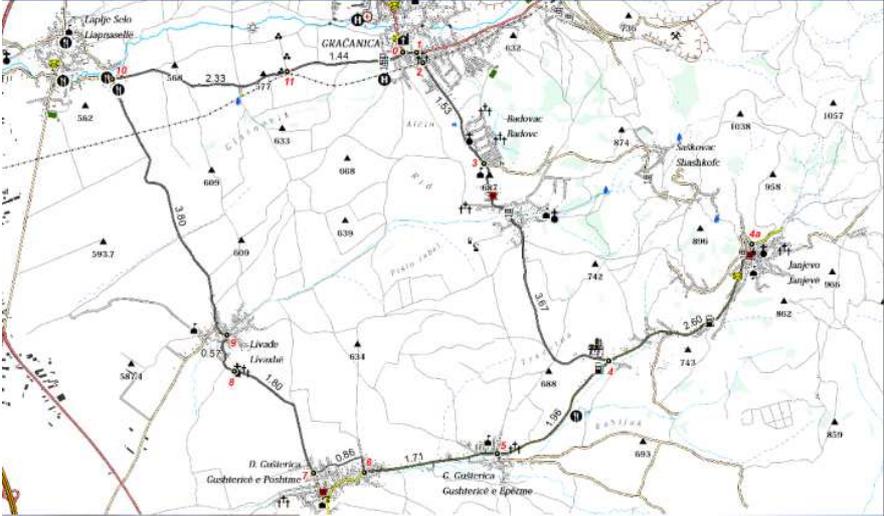




Not for the faint-hearted, this trail shows you all the contradictions of Kosovo, ostentatious wealth (the palace of Behgjet Pacolli) and abject poverty (containers still housing internally displaced persons), beautiful unspoiled nature and spectacular views on the top of the Strnjik and the municipal garbage dump that Roma, stray dogs and cows rummage through for something usable.

Five Villages Loop

Length: 22.76km
Min. 563m Max. 690m



For bikers preferring asphalt, this loop through five peaceful villages mainly on roads with very little traffic is lovely - even though one should beware of the occasional reckless driver and preferably use the sidewalk on the last stretch between Laplje Selo and Gračanica. The steepest climb is right at the start towards Šušica. Later the hills are gentler, with beautiful views and flat stretches in between. Don't be surprised when you suddenly see the Eiffel tower and a big sailing ship on a small pond: Restaurant Anija ("ship") is very popular with locals! Worthwhile: a detour to Janjevo (2.6 km one way).

If you would like to get more often **updates** on what is going on at the hotel, follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/HotelGračanica/

Best regards,

HotelGračanica 

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