

1. Circular hiking trail Kotišina – Mlinice

This classic hiking trail on the slopes of the Biokovo above the city of Makarska offers a wonderful insight into the flora and fauna of the Makarska Riviera.

Walking time: 1 ½ hours

Route description: The starting point for the hike is the small village of Kotišina. From the large car park at the lower edge of the village, you follow the path uphill to the Botanical Garden of Kotišina. When you have crossed the lower part of the Botanical Garden, you turn left onto the track. On your right in the upper part of the Botanical Garden, you can see an old fortress from the Turkish-Venetian period (16th - 17th century) which is built directly into the rock. Ignoring the ascent to *Vošac* and *Sv. Jure* on the right, you leave the road after a few meters and follow the wide track leading straight ahead which soon leads into a narrow section. The path is somewhat overgrown to start with but this means you are immersed straightaway and even more intensively into the botanical beauty of the Makarska Riviera and an “aromatherapy experience”.

After 25 min walking time, you reach the old cemetery of Kotišina and the chapel of *Sveti Martin* which is currently being renovated. The view is unparalleled – this is the sort of location you would choose for your final resting place! Sturdy shoes are recommended for this more rocky section of the trail. But the rocky outcrops indicate that you may see a chamois here if you are lucky.

The trail continues to take you along the slope of the Biokovo mountain range until after another 25 min you reach a few old stone houses. Here the

trail meets a small tarmacked road and you turn left into this road. Follow this road for a few bends downhill. After about 10 min, the return path to Kotišina turns off to the left. Before this left fork, there is a drinking fountain with fresh mountain water on the left.

The return path is lined with countless olive trees but very exposed to the sun. It brings you back to the starting point of the trail after about 30 min. The two magnificent “anti-fascist” cypress trees at the Partisan Memorial of Kotišina form an impressive finale to this hike.



How to get there: You can reach Kotišina in 10 minutes from Makarska’s southern city exit taking the road towards Vrgorac.

Interesting facts:

Botanical Garden Kotišina:

The Botanical Garden Kotišina was founded by the famous Franciscan priest and scientist *Dr. Fra Jure Radić (1920-1990)* in 1984. It is part of the Biokovo Nature Park, lies at 350 - 500 m above sea level and shows numerous Mediterranean plant species in their natural environment.

Chamois in the Biokovo mountains:

Although archaeological finds indicate that chamois were native to the Biokovo mountains long ago, the current chamois population is the result of resettlement in the 1960s. A total of 48 chamois were moved from Bosnia between 1964 and 1969. Numbers grew over the years to more than 1,000 animals before declining again in the 1990s. Nowadays, there are fewer than 500 chamois native to the Biokovo mountains.

2. Circular hiking trail Makar - Veliko Brdo

This circular hiking trail above the city of Makarska is an enjoyable and particularly leisurely hiking route on the Makarska Riviera thanks to its shady stretches and the relatively small differences in altitude.

Walking time: 1 ¾ hours

Route description: The starting point for the hike is the village of Makar directly above the city of Makarska. The village of Makar captivates the visitor with the usual triumvirate of church, partisan memorial and bocce court in the village centre as well as the attractive setting of the cemetery around the church of *Sveti Ivan*. Large car park and water supply on the edge of the cemetery.

In Makar, above the cemetery you briefly follow the signs towards *Vošac* (1,422m), but you do not take the steep route to the right towards the summit but continue straight ahead on the relatively level path which gently rises later on. The path mostly takes you through forested terrain and even in the summer this is a generally shady route in the mornings. After about 25 minutes, you come to a small fork in the path and take the upper path. After 45 minutes, you reach the first

houses of Veliko Brdo. Here you follow the course of the road downhill to the main village square with the church *Sveti Jeronim*. There is a small drinking fountain at the monument next to it.

From the main square in Veliko Brdo, you take the path on the left between the electrical substation and the recycling collection point. You continue along the tarmacked road passing the villas of Veliko Brdo which become larger and larger until the road again turns into a dirt track. Shortly afterwards, this track is crossed by a road and you turn left into this road. From here, you walk back through old olive groves. After 25 minutes of walking along this level and eventually gently rising path, you reach the starting point of Makar once more.

How to get there: From the coastal road *Magistrale*, you turn sharply onto the small bridge crossing over the *Magistrale* on a level with the city centre of Makarska. After a few minutes on a steep and narrow winding road, you reach the village of Makar.

3. Circular mountain trail Žlib

On this circular trail, you can breathe in pure mountain air after a steep climb and then enjoy a leisurely return route with panoramic views of the islands of Brač, Hvar and the Pelješac peninsula.

Walking time: 1 hour

Route description: The starting point for the hike is the abandoned village of Žlib. The narrow, well signposted path which is fairly overgrown with broom begins at the upper western end of the village. After 20 minutes of steep climbing, you

reach a path crossing the route and you keep to the left. After a few minutes, you reach a wide path and turn left into it. On the right, there is a table and benches next to a small hunting hut with a watering trough. Here you can enjoy fantastic views of the islands Brač (on the right) and Hvar (on the left) as well as the Pelješac peninsula (situated behind Hvar).

The path takes you back in sweeping bends. After 20 minutes, you come to a fork in the path. Leave the bending road here and go straight on. Here you pass the remains of an old iron gate on the wayside. After walking for about one hour, you reach the starting point again. In the village of Žlib, the enchanting village square surrounded by old oak trees invites you to linger a while. Water dispenser available.

How to get there: At the north-western city exit of Makarska, you take the road towards Veliko Brdo. At the main square of Veliko Brdo, you turn left and after approx. 250 m, follow the signpost to the restaurant Panorama. A few hundred meters after the restaurant, you reach the village centre of Žlib by taking the lower of the two small roads.

Walkers using these paths do so at their own risk!



With love from bbv*

Makarska Riviera

A hiking paradise

Circular hiking trails 1, 2 & 3

