

4. Circular hiking trail Makarska – Tučepi

This circular hiking trail offers both amazing views and the chance to take a refreshing swim. It takes you from Makarska via the villages of Mlinice, Kotišina, Podpeč and Čovići to Tučepi and via the Osejava peninsula back to Makarska.

Walking time: 4 hours

Route description: Above the main square of Makarska, you climb up the steep alleyway of *Ulica Put Makra*. After the bridge that crosses the coastal road *Magistrale*, you follow the road towards Mlinice which is steep in parts. In Mlinice, you turn right following the signpost towards Kotišina. Before this, you can take a refreshing drink of Biokovo mountain water from the fountain above the crossroads.

After walking for about one hour, you reach the village of Kotišina. Here, you turn left at the large car park on the left and climb up through the village to the Botanical Garden. As soon as you have crossed the lower part of the Botanical Garden, you reach a wide track. Before continuing to the right, it is worth visiting the upper part of the Botanical Garden on the left with its Turkish-Venetian fortress. The hiking trail then takes us past the church of Kotišina and on towards Tučepi. Towards the end of this level section of the route, you come across the ruinous village of Marasi on the left, somewhat hidden above the path, where an information panel commemorates the partisan struggles of the Second World War. Shortly afterwards, the villages of Podpeč and Srida Sela situated on the mountainside come into view.

After walking for about two hours, the path

crosses a small road and you turn right into this road. Now you descend the mountain on a winding route until you reach the main road Makarska – Vrgorac. You follow the course of the road to the right and after about 200 m, turn left into a small road. After a few minutes, this takes you into the village of Čovići.

At the end of the village Čovići, the road turns into an old stone path which you follow down towards Tučepi Blato. As soon as you reach the first houses, take the path on the right and continue to the *Magistrale*; cross over the *Magistrale* and continue to the right below it. You pass the Hotel Bluesun on the left and turn left onto the waterside promenade immediately after the Hotel Tamaris. Here the delightful shingle beach and adjoining rocky bays invite you to take a swim (the rocky bays are designated for naturists). The descent takes about 1 hour.

You reach the end of the beach via the path below the old Hotel Jadran which is currently being renovated. Here, the path takes you via the Osejava peninsula back to Makarska; first along the water and then through the forest. At the point where the path turns away from the coast, there is an area of high ground on the left some distance from the path which gives you a magnificent view of the naturist beach *Nugal*. Walking time from Tučepi to Makarska approx. 1 hour.



5. Circular hiking trail Podgora

This circular hiking trail impresses the visitor with an insight into the history of the area and how the forces of nature are affecting the landscape in the Adriatic.

Walking time: 2 hours



Route description: The starting point for the hike is the monument *Galebova Krila* (seagull wings) in Podgora. The hike begins above the arena of the monument where a non-tarmacked road provides a gentle ascent up the slope on the right. The path immediately immerses you in an unreal landscape which will accompany you for the entire route.

The hike takes you to the cemetery of Podgora after about 30 minutes which you pass on the left. Shortly afterwards, you come across a tarmacked road where you turn left. After about 200 m, you turn left below the church onto an old stone path. From here, the path climbs straight up and you cross two small tarmacked roads.

Finally the narrow path divides. Here, you take the fork to the left and then turn right onto the small tarmacked road after about 30 m. You cross

the little village of Pivčevi in front of you along the lower edge of the village below the row of houses and then follow the small path along the slope and uphill again until you come to a road above the vegetable gardens of the village. Walking time up to this point about 1 hour.

You have now reached the highest point of the hike. You now turn left and follow the level track leading back to the start. After 10 minutes, you turn left to the small chapel *Sveti Rok* and take the stone path leading down through a small group of trees. After a few minutes, this path meets the tarmacked road which connects the upper villages on the slopes of the Biokovo towards Vrgorac. Cross the road here. The path soon turns into a narrow overgrown path leading to a completely dilapidated village. Here, there is an information board referring to the birthplace of *Don Miho Pavlinović* (1831-1887); a priest and politician who campaigned for Croatian autonomy.

Keeping to the left, you cross the little village and then turn to the right and after a few metres follow the non-tarmacked road that runs along the slope and leads back to the start. After 10 minutes, you leave the path by turning to the left and follow the signpost to Podgora. At the fork in the route, an information panel refers to the stone burial mounds from the Illyrian period. After about 30 m, keep left at the small stone wall. From here, an attractive old stone path leads us back to the starting point of the hike.

Interesting facts:

Monument Seagull Wings:

The monument is dedicated to the fallen Croatian seafarers who are represented by the broken seagull's wing. The second seagull wing rising to a height of more than 30 m symbolises the victory over fascism in the Adriatic. The monument was inaugurated in 1962 and its location and timeless

beauty are truly impressive.

Forest fires in the Adriatic:

Forest fires have destroyed a large part of the pine forests and olive plantations above the resort of Podgora in recent years. Now, nature is gradually reconquering the soil. However, a multitude of burnt pine trees soaring into the sky still impressively bear witness to the vulnerability of the Makarska Riviera.

How to get there: Podgora is located 11 km south of Makarska on the coastal road. There is sufficient parking space available on the access road to the monument.

Walkers using these paths do so at their own risk!



Makarska Riviera

A hiking paradise

Circular hiking trails 4 & 5