

An Island in the Sea of Grain

Fruška gora is an island-mountain, an island in the sea of Panonian grain. It is situated in Vojvodina, in the north of Serbia. It is immersed in the large plain of the Panonian basin. Once it was splashed by the waves of the Panonian Sea, whereas today, towards its peaks climb regional and local roads that reveal beautiful local stories about nature, ecology, the National Park, monasteries, tame mountain villages and temperamental people.

Owing to these traffic arteries, the mountain is well-connected to both small and large municipalities in the area. Wherever one comes from, familiar and delightful mountainous sights will greet them, but also the less known ones, always offering new surprises. Novi Sad is only 17 km away from Iriški venac location, and it is due to this fact that this city and Fruška gora are frequently perceived as two entities of the unique tourist destination in the heart of Vojvodina.

In the northern Srem, the lonely mountain beauty spreads in the west-east direction for approximately 80 km. Its relatively small width of around 15 km proves advantageous concerning each new experience, since the comparatively small space offers a high concentration of the most important national, natural and cultural assets. As far as tourist offers, the area provides for all kinds of tourists – from unique nature to exceptionally rich cultural heritage. Northern part of the mountain's slopes binds the river Danube, probably the most important tourist river in Europe.







First National Park in Serbia

Fruška gora, a low lying mountain, covered with forests, meadow-steppes, orchards, vineyards and bordering settlements, although beautiful as such, it does not immediately reveal all of its abundant wealth and assets. First impressions may be deceitful. Fruška gora is a true repository of natural and cultural-historical assets due to which it was proclaimed a National park in the distant 1960 – first of its kind in Serbia. With respect to the inherent assets and purpose, the Park's space has been divided into three protection zones. In the first protection regime area (3,7% of the total NP's space), all activities are forbidden, except controlled education and scientific research. These are the most valuable natural areas on Fruška gora, among which stand out Papratski do and Zmajevac, where the forests have been best preserved-most similar to the primeval forests that existed before the first appearance of humans. Apart from the conserved forests, some localities received first rank protection due to the presence of the rare bird species (Kalin potok and Orlovac), rare plant species (Kobila, Podgorac), and even Hoverflies (Ležimir, Rokov potok and Javornati do). Protection of inanimate nature is equally important. Locations worthy of attention are also: Grgeteg, Grgurevačka pećina, Čerevićki potok, Orlovac rocks and many others. Aiming to provide most pleasant and safe stay in the nature in the National Park, a multitude of smaller and several large picnic spots have been arranged along the mountain ridge: Čortanovačka šuma, Stražilovo, Glavica, Popovica, Andrevlje, Ležimir, and others.






A **Mirror** of Geological Past

Fruška gora belongs to the low mountains rank, and as such dominates the flatland space that surrounds it. Yet, do not feel reluctant just because you may think that the mountain height may be equivalent to its geological and relief significance. On the contrary, Fruška gora is a mirror of geological past, and a true vault of geological assets of both Global and European importance. It is a young rock mountain, its structure comprises rocks of different ages – from ancient Palaeozoic to the loess dust that keeps the secrets of the Ice Age. Longitudinal view shows that the mountain is split into three sections. Central part, from Đipša in the west, to Banstol in the east, is characterised by the true mountain ridge. It length is around 40 km. True relief features are shaped by deeply carved brook valleys, which, combined with dense forests, create an image of exceptionally pleasant and ecologically valuable landscape. From Banstol in the west, to Slankamen in the east, stretches the eastern wing of Fruška gora. One of the most beautiful sceneries of this section is situated on the tri-border area of Bačka, Banat and Srem. Western wing stretches from Đipša in the east, to the loess section of Telek in the far west. The area boasts rippling yet tame clearings. Geological diversity of Fruška gora is extraordinarily rich, which one can see by exploring numerous geological profiles, fossil discovery sites, and raw mineral deposit locations. For starters, we suggest that you first learn about the secrets of Fruška gora in the natural collection of the Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province.





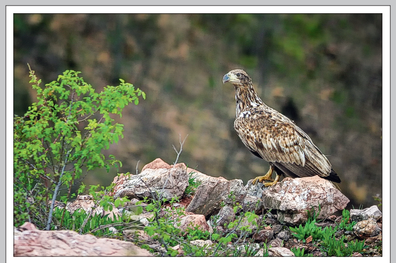


A Place for **Refreshment**

Springs and streams of Fruška gora come to life mostly during spring and after heavy rains. Roar of the water then penetrates stream valleys and forests. Favourite spots for refreshment and reprieve for the growing number of mountain hikers and tourists are precisely these two hundred plus mountain springs located on Fruška gora. Among them stand out: Ubavac springs at Velika Remeta monastery, then Vilina vodica to the southwest from Bukovac, Zvečan in Stari Ledinci, close to Ledinačko jezero, Stražilovski izvor, Hajdučki izvor close to Crveni čot, two springs at Staro Hopovo monastery and others. Density of the stream network at Fruška gora comprises around fifty streams. The streams are mainly short and rapid. Small waterfalls fed by some of the frisky streams represent a special attraction. Most attractive of them are: Dumbovački (≈ 4 m tall), Šakotinački (≈ 6 m) and Rakovački (≈ 3 m) waterfalls, located on the streams by the same name. Medical properties found in the spring waters on Fruška gora have been in use since the times of the Roman Empire. Apart from the mentioned spring at Staro Hopovo monastery, there are three additional spring locations sprouting mineral water – Banja Vrdnik (spa), Banja Stari Slankamen and Erdevička banja. Lakes of Fruška gora are truly a special gem of the Park (15 of them), scattered on the southern slopes of the mountain. Each of these lakes tells a different story, different and unique. These exceptional lakes include: Sot, Bruje, Moharač, Vranjaš, Kudoš, Borkovac, Međeš, Dobrodol, Šelevrenac, Pavlovačko and Ljukovo.







A **Unique** Ecological Experience

Fruška gora is usually considered as a unique space of rich and preserved nature, with exuberant forests, open habitats and colourful flora and fauna. It is mainly a forest area, since most of the trees are located within the Park's limits. The outskirts of the Park are weaved with meadow-steppes, forest-steppes and arable land located near the numerous settlements.

Fruška gora forests comprise a large number of trees and bushes. Dominant species include Sessile oak, Linden trees, European beech and European hornbeam.

There are around 1,500 species of higher plants, of which many are rare and protected, such as: Pheasant's eye, Greater Pasque flower, Hardy cloak fern, Feather grass, Turk's cap lily. Presence of 31 types of orchids growing in the forests and meadow-steppes on the outskirts of the mountain is exceptionally interesting.

Largest portion of living creatures in the world, and likewise at Fruška gora, belongs to animals, majority of them being invertebrates. Although not completely explored, current data indicate around 100 snail species, around 300 spider species, over 1,000 butterfly species, around 100 locust and cricket species, several thousand bug species.

Birds belong to the most prominent animal group at Fruška gora. Most interesting nesting birds are the Black Woodpecker, the Stock dove, Woodlark and many others. Indeed, the place of honour amongst the bird species belongs to the four species of eagles, most important being the Eastern imperial eagle.

Mammals are of special interest to humans, but due to their lifestyle are most difficult to find in the nature. Following species live in Fruška gora: Red deer, Roe deer, Wild boar, fox, jackal, European pine marten, Badger, Wildcat, Edible dormouse, Lesser mole rat, European ground squirrel, European polecat, 16 species of bats and many others.



Treasure in the Colours of Culture

Fruška gora is a true treasure chest of cultural and historic values. Since the days of the distant past, people have lived on the mountain and surrounding areas, leaving material evidence that already attract tourists, or maybe just wait to be discovered by some new visitors. Fruška gora has its share of old country houses and castles: *Castle with park „Marcibanji – Karačonji"* (Sremska Kamenica), *Castle „Špicer"* (Beočin), *Country house „Višnjevac"* (Veliki Radinci), *Castle„Ilion", Castle „Patrijaršija"* (Sremski Karlovci) and *„Ruski" dvor* (Šid). Numerous ethnical groups marked the culture of Fruška gora – ethnicities who still live there today: Serbs, Hungarians, Croats and others. Witnesses to the joint life of people in Vojvodina are *Museum in the open „Neštin"* with the house from XVIII century, *house in Sremska Kamenica* from the end of XVIII century, and *Perkov salaš*. Fruška gora is also known as the *Serbian Holy Mountain*, and as such, pious and loving, gladly welcomes the believers and tourist alike in its monasteries. Out of 35 monasteries recorded during XVI and XVII centuries, there are only 16 left. *Petrovaradinska tvrđava, fortress Morović, Vrdnička kula, Acumincum* – a fortification from the period of Ottoman Empire at Stari Slankamen, guard Fruška gora almost like soldiers. There are monuments from the WWII: a memorial at *Iriški venac*, area of *Rohalj baza* and *memorial complex „Sremski front"* at Adaševci. *Zmaj Museum* at Sremska Kamenica is also situated on this unique mountain. In this house, from 1875, lived one of the most famous and fruitful Serbian writer for children *Jovan Jovanović Zmaj*.






Famous Vines of Fruška gora

Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius Equitius Probus, who was born on a country estate not far from Sirmium, planted in the year 276 first grapevines at Glavica hill near the settlement of Šuljam. That was the beginning of the story about long wine growing tradition of Fruška gora, presented along the Wine route on the mountain. Along with other seven vine routes in Serbia, Fruška gora vineyards and wine cellars present a valuable offer in the wine tourism of the country.

Grape wine of this area has been an inspiration for the people for centuries, and nowadays wine growers are ready to share their experience with tourists. Jewel of this wine-growing region are the vineyards of Sremski Karlovci. Vines from the area used to be consumed all over Europe – from Viennese Court to English inns. Vine-growing tradition of Sremski Karlovci owes its fame to the two special types of wine: Bermet, which contains over 20 kinds of herbs and spices, and Ausbruch, a dessert wine squeezed from dried grapes, of which the legend has it that it was on the wine list of the RMS Titanic.

Good quality vine of this region can be sampled in one of the many vine cellars. This is an experience one should not miss, since besides wine, while talking to the kind hosts, good food from the cuisines of Srem and Vojvodina can be tasted. Other towns offering good wine in the wine cellars are Čerević, Neštin, Banoštor, Erdevik and Irig.






A Taste of **Healthy** Food

People of Srem prefer to eat with a kind of a pen-knife-a special type of long and thin folding knife. This utensil is gladly offered to tourists. Most famous dishes of the flat (pig-growing) Srem and relevant areas of Fruška gora are spicy sausages, kulen sausage, ham, bacon, švargla (stuffed pig's stomach) and liver sausage. These products are made from good quality pork meat.

Stews and soups form a standard part of the menu in this region: chicken soup, pheasant soup, veal stew or vegetable stew. Fish stew is also famous, the dish offered in czardas on the Danube. Menus at the foot of the mountain offer a variety of sweet water fish: zander, carp, catfish, pike and bream – fried or grilled.

Adjective *sremski* also goes with čevapi (grilled minced meat dumplings) pork chops baked in onion, spiced with ground red sweet and hot paprika, and pork ragout/paprikas/. Pudarski ragout, named after the vineyard guardsmen, is made from chicken meat. Grilled vegetables are offered in summer, whereas winter dishes include sarma (stuffed sauerkraut leaves) with smoked meat.

Fruška gora still cherishes the several centuries old tradition of kuglof making, inherited three centuries ago from the local Germans. Following confectionery items are also part of the culinary offer: bundevara (pie with pumpkin), strudels made with poppy seed, walnuts and sour cherries, pancakes with jam etc.






In the Spirit of **Adventure**

Fruška gora is unrivalled for mountain climbers in Serbia. It would be still unrivalled even if there were more than two mountains in Vojvodina. Fruška gora is not afraid of competition. There are not too many mountains in Serbia where one can overcome the climb of over 1,200 m on the route of twenty kilometres – by selecting only the moderately difficult paths.

Probably the best way to become familiar with Fruška gora would be to begin hiking with some of the mountain climbing groups. Details on tours can be obtained on their websites and FB pages.

Bicycle rides on Fruška gora are a unique experience. One of the participants in the traditional MTB marathon wrote "Fruška gora marathon is the most brutal officially organised thing I have ever experienced. The marathon is designed not for riding but for a mere survival! ".

For those who would like to try a very demanding ride, both physically and technically, the route of the Grand Fruška gora MTB marathon, length of 78 km, with 2,550 m of total ascend, would be the right choice. There are less challenging, yet equally interesting courses – recommended for the beginners in mountain biking.

Fruška gora can be explored also riding the trekking or racing bicycles. All tar roads crossing the mountain are suitable for these kinds of rides, regardless of the few potholes one is bound to come across.

"Danube Cycle Rou te", an exceptionally interesting international path, stretches along southern slopes of Fruška gora.







An Area **Well-Deserving** Attention

Visiting the mountain will be complete only once you have visited the towns in its vicinity that have been developing for centuries. Each of these settlements embraces Fruška gora as a precious tourist gem with their unique tourist programmes and packages.

Novi Sad skyline can be observed from the northern slopes and roads of the mountain. City's roofs and church bell-towers look their best from Petrovaradin fortress. This distinctive fortification structure was built based on the French fortification building system established by the famous architect Vauban. Podgrađe (downtown part) of Petrovaradin fortress represents the best-preserved baroque cultural and historic complex in Serbia. EXIT, a music festival, takes place in this historical compound annually.

The road from Novi Sad, that follows the rim of Petrovaradin bog land, leads to the most important centre of Serbian spirituality and culture of in the days of Habsburg Monarchy. The town core of Sremski Karlovci was formed around Branko Radičević square, where, among others, are situated the oldest Serbian Grammar school – Karlovačka (1792), Magistrate, where patriarch Josif Rajačić proclaimed foundation of Serbian Vojvodina (1848) and Patriarch's Palace. Four Lions fountain is located in the midst of the square, built in 1799. Sremski Karlovci with the Chapel of Peace, preserve memory on one of the important events (Karlovci Peace Treaty).

Town of Sremska Mitrovica is located on the area where Roman settlement of Sirmium used to be. Sirmium blossomed at the end of III and the beginning of IV century, when it was referred to as one of the capitals of the Roman Empire. Museum of Srem in Sremska Mitrovica, is an ideal place to learn about the town's history, and the history of entire Srem.

Šid is a small town in western Srem, and it is closely related to the life and artwork of the famous painter Sava Šumanović. Memorial house of Sava Šumanović is situated near the Gallery, in the street named after the famous painter.

SERBIA

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TOURIST MAP OF

Fruška gora

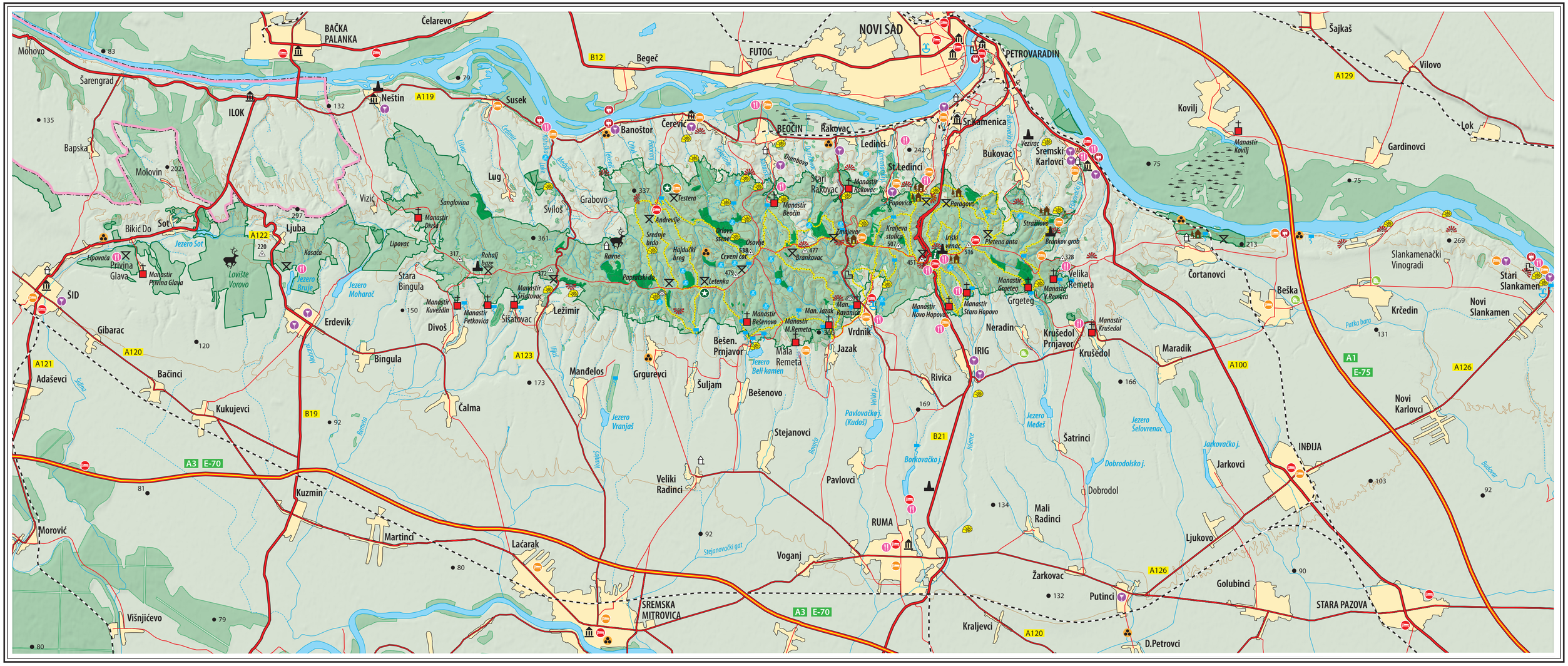







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Begeč
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Sremski Karlovci
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