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Pot po Sorici	Izhodiščna točka / Starting point	3,7 km	1-1,5 h

Izdala / Published by: **Razvojna agencija Sora | PE Turizem Škofja Loka**

Vsebinska zasnova in besedilo / Contents and text: člani TD Sorica in Marija Demšar

Fotografije / Photos: Jana Kuhar, Jana Jocič, Aleksander Čufar, Matevž Lenarčič, arhiv

Turizma Škofja Loka, arhiv Groharjeve hiše.

Stare fotografije / Old photos: iz družinskih arhivov Ivana Kejžarja, Franca Kejžarja, Staneta Pintarja.

Oblikovanje / Design: Simon Pavlič

Prevodi / Translation: Adele Gray

Tisk / Print: GTO Košir

Naklada / Edition: 4000

Za vsebino informacij je odgovorna Razvojna agencija Sora d.o.o. Organ upravljanja, določen za izvajanje Programa razvoja podeželja RS v obdobju 2007-2013, je Ministrstvo za kmetijstvo in okolje.



POT PO
SORICI

— TEMATSKA POT —

PATH THROUGH SORICA

The Sorica Theme Path has been designed to show visitors a part of Sorica's history and legends and to draw attention to some of the most attractive points in the village. The wonderful landscape, which inspired the painter Ivan Grohar, is also to be admired.



Sorica is one of Slovenia's most charming mountain villages and an idyllic holiday resort with its mountainous meadows and larch groves. Its location, raised high above the floor of the Selca Valley means it is blessed with fresh mountain air and alpine sun, and fog is a rarity. It is renowned for its beautiful promenades, various mountain tours and excellent skiing terrain. It would be necessary to travel some distance around the world to find such a beautiful sight of a village. On the undulating slightly raised slopes, the well-kept houses stand out among the green gardens, roofs covered with blue slate, and look down upon the bold shapen peaks

– RUDOLF BADJURA



The village of Sorica is split into Lower and Upper Sorica. The source of the river Sora springs from above the village, whilst nearby is a water divide between the Black Sea and the Adriatic Sea. Above the village are the peaks of Lajnar (1,594 m), Drauh (1,547 m), Tonderškofel (1,326 m) and Erbelc (1,306 m).

Sorica was first settled by **immigrants from the Tyrol**; in the 13th century, this area was inhabited by the Freising Bishops. According to tradition, initially only eight people came to Sorica. They supposedly found a totally overgrown landscape. On »Gosar Pigeln« they climbed on a linden tree to test the wind and to find out whether or not the earth was fertile. As the wind was favourable they decided to settle here, cut down the linden tree and made a table from it.

The names and surnames are an ongoing reminder of the Tyrolean immigrants. Due to the isolated position of the village its residents long preserved their own dialect and its influence can still be heard amongst chattering locals today. The dialect was preserved the longest, almost until the first world war, in the nearby village of Lower Danje (Spodnje Danje). A teacher from Sorica translated a composition from the alphabet for pupils of the village into Danje dialect.



'Me moude moudarji fri aufštenajo. Na okšel nejmajo getonglato žejnžo in frbindajo kumpf. Fro genajo na moud.' (During harvest, reapers get up early. They take their sharpened scythes on their shoulders and hang a whetstone holder around their waists. They happily set out to harvest.)

The close links of immigrants with their homeland is also shown by the pilgrimage to Innichen, which delegates from Sorica attended every three years (until these towns and villages fell under Austrian rule). There, in church, they gifted candles and kefergeld – money for protecting the fields from pests.

The path through Sorica begins at the information board which stands between Grohar's House (Groharjeva hiša) and the Macesen Inn (Gostišče Macesen). The painter Ivan Grohar was born in Grohar's House



in 1867. Today it houses a gallery and Grohar's memorial collection. A collection of ethnographical objects are also on view, which were once used for work by local farmers and craftsmen. The craft trade in Sorica quickly developed, mainly amongst crofters. The lively craftsmens' tradition is witnessed by the house names and surnames such as Bognar, Gošplar, Šoštar, Žnjadar and Pintar.

The path then leads through Lower Sorica (Spodnje Sorica), known locally as 'Nidre' and steeply across 'Lajšta'. According to the tales of older Sorica residents, a headless man supposedly walked around here, therefore be careful! On the bottom of Lajšta turn right at the crossroads – from here a view opens up towards the Church of St. Nicholas. Then head towards the main road and on the top, stop to observe the memorial to Ivan Grohar.

Cross the main road at the shrine and continue along the track which leads toward the **Church of St. Nicholas**. The church in Sorica was mentioned in the land registry as far back as 1501. In the second half of the 17th century the building was thoroughly remodelled; today's Baroque appearance is from the 18th century. According to legend, the church was first built in 'Pouden' however every morning prepared building materials were found on the hill



where the church stands today, and therefore it was decided to erect the church here. The most important piece of artwork is the ceiling fresco of 'The Last Supper', the work of Janez Šubic from Poljane. Ivan Grohar also devoted much of his work to his local church, largely owing to the priest Anton Jamnik, who was a constant source of encouragement for Grohar's work. Four magnificent **linden trees**, estimated to be around 500 years old, stand around the walls of the cemetery. The scene of Meta's funeral in the film 'Blossoms in Autumn' (Cvetje v jeseni) was filmed in the cemetery in Sorica. Close to the church stands a churchwarden's house which served as a primary school between 1854 and 1892 and was attended by children

The 2.8 metre high statue of Ivan Grohar was placed here in 1981 and its sculptor, Tone Logonder, received the Gorenjska Prešeren Award for his work.



from Lower and Upper Sorica and Lower Danje. Lessons took place in the Slovene language. After 1892 the school was moved into the building which houses today's school.

From the church return along the main road towards the start of the path. However, instead of returning towards the information board, continue straight ahead and upwards towards Upper Sorica (Zgornja Sorica). Turn left beneath the school and head downwards to the valley of the river Sora, where there once stood numerous mills and saws. Judging by the remnants of former mills and saws, it is thought that there were once 35 mills in the villages surrounding Sorica, prior to electrification, of which 17 were in Sorica alone. In 1911, the Electric Machine Co-operative was founded in Sorica and the following year the electricity works began to operate in the village, the third in the Selca Valley. On the 14th February 1912 the first light bulb in the power plant was turned on. Cross the bridge and then immediately turn right up the hill to Lipar's House (Liparjeva hiša). The house contains a rich collection of old objects which have been preserved by its owner, who, if he is at home, is pleased to show visitors around. Thereafter continue the path along the ridge. On the right side there is a view of Upper Sorica, on the left 'Kejžar' can be seen, where one of the scenes of the film 'Lucija' was shot. Sorica can be said to be **one of the most filmed Slovene villages** as 'Lucija', 'Blossoms in Autumn', 'Love is the Ruin of Us All' and 'Little Shepherds' were all filmed here.

Prior to reaching the main road, take a rest on the bench and enjoy the view. Continue the path to the right, along the main road, and at the first turning turn right again into the village, past 'Keržar' and once again cross the river Sora. The path then leads through Upper Sorica – 'Erble', 'Drfle' and 'Trmavn' and back towards the start point. You can also take a peek through the door of the **Gallery and Studio Urša**, where the local painter Miro Kačar creates his works.



Other things to see and do:

- Walk to the Šprucar waterfall
- Walk along Grohar's Path (Groharjeva pot)
- Visit a painting or musical workshop in Grohar's House
- Walk along the Path of Building Heritage (Pot stavbne dediščine)
- Visit the Soriška Highland (Soriška planina) (summer and winter)
- Visit Lower Danje and St. Mark's Church
- Hike up to Ratitovec (start point Upper Danje, 2 hours)
- Visit Zali Log and the Suša Theme Path
- The 9th stage of the Loka Cycling Path 'Along the sunny slopes of Ratitovec (Po sončnih pobočjih Ratitovca).

Catering in the vicinity:

- The Macesen Inn (Gostišče Macesen), Sorica
- The Litostroj Hut (Litostrojska koča), Soriška planina
- Brunarica, Soriška planina
- The Podrošt Snack Bar

