



Historical facts describe that once upon a time a path led through Plenšak and across a grassy clearing to Suša from the region of Gorenjska to the Primorska region. Beneath this place, it is thought a lake was situated, this is borne witness by the moorings for tying up boats at the edge of the rocky cliffs. It is from here that the name of the place **Suša** originated, meaning 'place on dry land'.

According to religious tradition, the origins of the church in Suša are linked with a miraculous event. A local named Koblar from Zali Log had a hay-meadow and when he was cultivating a cleared woodland he found an image of Maria of Loreto. He took it home but the next day he found it again in the same place in Suša. He saw this as a special sign from God and in this place a shrine was then built. It is not known exactly when the shrine was built. However, on the small bell from the shrine the year 1680 can be seen. The small image of Maria of Loreto was later hung in the shrine but it was not preserved and the one seen today is not the original.

The church here was built in 1877 under the leadership of



the then priest Anton Pintar. All the building materials were

***The church is included in the Ema's pilgrimage path.***

brought to the building site with the help of small mining wagons, linked together, which travelled uphill on wooden tracks and at the same time the



material which had been dug out was transported away downhill. As with the majority of old houses in Zali Log, the church was originally covered with slate. The church was consecrated on the 14th October 1877 and the following year a new main altar was constructed. In the centre of the altar is a statue of Our Lady of Loreto with Jesus in her lap. Under the statue are the angels who miraculously transported Maria's house by sea from its original location in Nazareth to the town of Loreto.

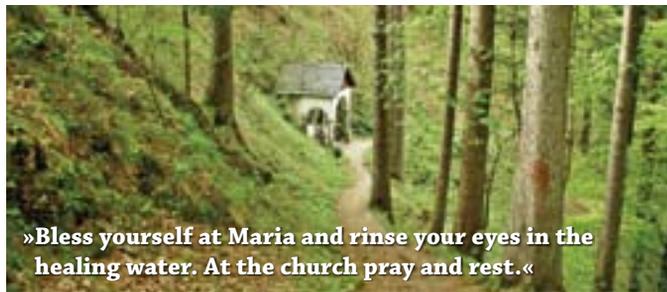
***This place emits a special energy, regardless of whether by the source of the water, around the church or in it. A very pleasant, strong feeling can be felt in the church beneath the dome.***

Christian who visits the church in Suša can receive all pardons which are received in Nazareth's house in Loreto. From then on, Suša began to be named 'Kranjski Loreto'. Through history, a lot of people have sought the help of Our Lady of Loreto in Suša, have had their wishes granted and these are witnessed by the many pictures of thanks which are hung in the church. Still today a lot of pilgrims and other people come here to plead to Our Lady of Loreto.

Pope Pius IX gave this church a great gift – the large altar which had the privilege of giving pardons for souls in purgatory. In March 1880 an even bigger donation was received when a certified letter from Rome arrived, written in Loreto in Italy.

It stated that every religious

## **Shrine with a statue of Mary Immaculate at the source of the water**



**»Bless yourself at Maria and rinse your eyes in the healing water. At the church pray and rest.«**

During the building of the church in Suša, a little beneath the church, a shrine to Maria was built. In 1892 a statue of Mary Immaculate was placed in it. From beneath this shrine a spring rises which is thought by many to have healing properties. According to local tradition, water from the spring is particularly beneficial for the eyes. The story goes that when a mother brought her blind daughter to the spring, after washing her eyes with the water, she

was able to see. The water is special in that it has no bacteria. Even after several months or more the water remains crystal clear and it can still be drunk if it is stored in a clean container. Older locals say that the spring has never dried up, even during the longest drought.

The healing properties of this water are witnessed by a number of stories from those who have been helped with the curing of medical problems by drinking the water from the spring in Suša.



## There are many paths leading to Suša.

The oldest path to Suša leads from Železniki across Plenšak. This path was once the only vehicle connection to the Selška valley from the Primorska region. **(20 minutes)**



Suša can also be reached from the starting point at the Chapel of the Three Wise Men, close to the natural climbing wall. The path rises uphill from the shrine and leads onwards to the shrine with the statue of Maria and the healing spring and then onwards to the church **(7 minutes)**

*The rocky cliff beneath the church today serves as a natural climbing wall.*

For a shorter walk and a quick escape into unspoiled nature, choose the path that starts at the shrine of the Guardian Angel by the road from Železniki to Zali Log. This is the easiest path and is suitable also for older people, families with young children and also for mountain biking **(10 minutes)**

We recommend the path leading from the village of Zali Log, over 'Galetova lajta' and then by the forest path to Suša **(30 minutes)**. The starting point is at the sports playing field in Zali Log.

## Trips and places to visit in the vicinity:

- Walk on the path around Zali Log (1.5 hours).
- Walk to the Strojevc slate quarry (1 hour).
- Walk to Groblje (1 hour).
- Walk to Ratitovec (1666m; 2.5 hours)
- Visit Sorica (walk the thematic path 'Path to Sorica', visit Grohar's House)
- Visit the Soriška highland (winter sports, mountaineering) and the Litostroj Hut
- Davča - visit the Davča waterfall, ethnographic museum
- Železniki - walk the thematic path 'Iron Foundry-Blacksmith's Path', Železniki Museum, the Železniki pool.

## Restaurants:

- Restaurant 'pri Slavcu' - Zali Log
- Bar Podrož

## Parking:

- At the sports playing field (free)

