Invitation to the 25th Cave bear symposium in Paklenica NP and UNESCO World Heritage Property “Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe” on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Paklenica National Park

Underground tunnels, Velika Paklenica canyon, Paklenica National Park, Croatia

September, 18th – 22nd 2019
**National park Paklenica:**

Due to its unique natural features, magnificent forests and extraordinary geomorphologic structures, the area of Velika and Mala Paklenica was proclaimed a national park in 1949. The main reason for proclaiming this area a national park was the protection of the largest and best preserved forest complex in the territory of Dalmatia, which was threatened by overexploitation. The Paklenica National Park stretches on the area of 95 km², on the littoral slope of South Velebit under the zone of highest mountain peaks Vaganski vrh (1752) and Sveto brdo (1753).

It covers the area of torrent flows of Velika Paklenica and Mala Paklenica, and their distinctive canyons carved vertically into the south slopes of Velebit and the broader surrounding area. The relatively small area has an abundance of geomorphological phenomena and forms, diverse flora and fauna, attractive landscapes and intact nature. Diverse habitats in the area of Paklenica, along with elevation stratification, provide a home for diverse fauna.

Distinctive features of Paklenica National Park are autochthonous forests of black pine, several types of beech forests and deep canyons with torrent flows of Velika and Mala Paklenica. Wider area of Paklenica National Park prides itself with rich and diverse cultural heritage.

**Venue: Starigrad-Paklenica**

Starigrad-Paklenica is a small settlement located at the Velebit Channel on the Adriatic coast, at the foothill of the Velebit Mountain, in the southern part of Croatia, 260 km away from the Croatian capital Zagreb. Zadar is the nearest town, 46 km away from Starigrad-Paklenica. [http://www.rivijera-paklenica.hr/en](http://www.rivijera-paklenica.hr/en)

**Arrival: How to get there?**

You can get to Starigrad-Paklenica as follows:

**By air** – the Zemunik Zadar Airport (ZAD) is well connected to all the major cities in Croatia and Europe and is only a 30-45-minute ride from Starigrad Paklenica. You can find more information at [www.zadar-airport.hr](http://www.zadar-airport.hr)

**By car** – you can reach Starigrad-Paklenica from several directions, but the fastest way to reach us via the A1 highway in the direction Zagreb-Split. It is best to exist the highwayт at either the Maslenica or Posedarje interchange and take the main road towards Rijeka. If you arrive from the direction of Rijeka, take the Adriatic road - state road D-8. All information on road traffic can be found on the web pages of the Croatian Automobile Club at [www.hak.hr](http://www.hak.hr)

**By ferry** – Ancona-Zadar, if you are arriving from Italy. The shortest route possible is to take the Zadar-bound ferry from Ancona. The trip takes 8 hours (the ferry usually leaves at 10 pm and arrives to Zadar at 6 am). When you arrive to Zadar, it takes only 45 min to get to Starigrad-Paklenica. More information at [www.jadrolinija.hr](http://www.jadrolinija.hr).

**By bus** - Zadar is the center of northern Dalmatia and has good connections with all major Croatian cities and major European capitals. You can find more information at [www.autobusni-kolodvor.com](http://www.autobusni-kolodvor.com) or [www.liburnija-zadar.hr](http://www.liburnija-zadar.hr).
Distances from Starigrad-Paklenica:

- Starigrad-Paklenica – Zadar 40km
- Starigrad-Paklenica – Zagreb 250 km
- Starigrad-Paklenica – Split 170 km
- Starigrad-Paklenica – Ljubljana 325 km
- Starigrad-Paklenica – Vienna 615 km
- Starigrad-Paklenica – Munich 735 km
- Starigrad-Paklenica – Budapest 1050 km

Accommodation

Hotel Vicko
Vicko Hotel is a 3-star family hotel and it is situated on the west side of Starigrad Paklenica, 1 km away from the National Park Headquarters. It consists of a main building and Villa Vicko. Hotel Vicko has 23 rooms, single and double rooms with sea view. Rooms are equipped with bathroom, telephone and satellite TV. Villa Vicko **** has 16 rooms and 2 suites. Rooms are equipped with air conditioning and a balcony with sea view. The hotel is located at the main road and it is only a few minutes away from the beach, the villa is situated at the beach.
Address: Jose Dokoze 20, 23244 Starigrad-Paklenica, Croatia www.hotel-vicko.hr
E-mail: info@hotel-vicko.hr; Phone: +385 23 369 304; Fax: +385 23 359 191

Hotel Rajna
A small, family-run hotel located on the east side of Starigrad-Paklenica in the vicinity of the Paklenica National Park. The offer includes comfortable accommodation in 9 twin/double or triple rooms. It is located in the walking distance to the Paklenica NP entrance 1 and only a few minutes away from the Paklenica National Park Headquarters.
Address: Dr. F. Tuđmana 105, 23244 Starigrad-Paklenica, Croatia www.hotel-rajna.hr
E-mail: rajna-paklenica@inet.hr Phone: +385 23 369 888

Bluesun Hotel Alan
The hotel was built in 1968 and completely renovated in 2004. In 2005, wellness center was added. This is a 3-star all-inclusive hotel. It is located in the Starigrad Paklenica, a few minutes from the Paklenica National Park Headquarters and 2 km from the National Park Entrance. It is located near the main road and next to the beach. The hotel is 40 km away from Zemunik Airport and only 12 km away from the Zagreb-Split highway.
Unfortunately, in September 2019 only mobile houses at the hotel camp site are available.

Other available accommodation in Starigrad-Paklenica:
www.rivijera-paklenica.hr/en/accommodation
## Program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 18th</strong></td>
<td><strong>1st day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16:00-18:00 h</td>
<td>Individual arrival of participants to Starigrad - Paklenica</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18:00-19:00 h</td>
<td>Registration of participants</td>
<td>Underground tunnels, Velika Paklenica canyon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>20:00 h</td>
<td>Opening ceremony</td>
<td>Hotel Vicko Jose Dokoze 20, 23244 Starigrad</td>
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<td>Welcome Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September 19th</strong></td>
<td><strong>2nd day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>08:00 -15:00 h</td>
<td>Pre-Conference Excursion day to Paklenica National Park</td>
<td>Lunch at the Forester House in Paklenica National Park</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Excursion day to Paklenica National Park</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Manita cave</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Meeting point: entrance in Velika Paklenica canyon</td>
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<td>18:00 – 21:00 h</td>
<td>Excursion to Zadar (Unesco World Heritage Site) Archeological Museum or Natural History department of Museum in Zadar</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 - 9.00 h</td>
<td>Registration of participants</td>
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<td>9:00 - 12:00 h</td>
<td>Plenary Session Oral presentations may be given in English (official language of the symposium, no simultaneous translation.</td>
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<td>12:00 - 13:30 h</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:30 - 17:00 h</td>
<td>Oral presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:00 - 18:00 h</td>
<td>Poster presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>20:00 h</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>08:00 - 11:00 h</td>
<td>Post Excursion to Modrič cave Nature Park Velebit with guide Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 - 13:30 h</td>
<td>Lunch Cerovačke cave Nature park Velebit, Grab</td>
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<td>15:00 - 17:00 h</td>
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**September 20th 3 day Friday**

**September 21st 4 th day Saturday**

Nature Park Velebit
Symposium will be held at the presentation center "Underground city of Paklenica"

Excursions:


**Modrič cave:**
The **Modrič Cave** (Špilja Modrič) is situated between Rovanjska and the village of Modrič, about 8 kilometres from the Paklenica Sport Apartments. The cave was discovered in 1985, but it was not open to visitors until 2004. The cave is not very long—just a little bit over 800 meters—but it is resplendent with spectacular natural formations. In addition to the stalactites and stalagmites, human and animal bones were found there as well as prehistoric ceramics, showing evidence of human habitation. Even though there are several caves in the area, this one is special enough to deserve legal protection.

The Modrič Cave is an **easy ten-minute walk** from a parking lot in Rovanska, 29 meters above sea level. After the guide helps you don your overalls and helmets, you will enter the world of fantastic underground creations. You will be surrounded by magnificent stalactites, stalagmites, and pillars as well as intricate speleological shapes resembling jellyfish, cuttlefish, red queens and a host of other surprises. After just a few short passages, you will find yourself in spacious, vaulted chambers.

Cerovačke cave:

The Cerovac Caves are located 4 km from Gračac along the road towards Knin. If you intend to take the motorway, please take the exit to Sveti Rok. The distance between Sveti Rok and Gračac is 25 km.
Cerovačke Pećine or Cerovac caves are a cave system composed of 3 superimposed caves; The Upper, Middle and Lower cave. Only the Upper and the Lower Cerovačka Pećina caves are open to the public, and electrified. The Middle cave is much smaller, and not suited for visits. Only the Upper caves was traditionally known to the local population, and was called the Kesića Pećina cave. However, this original name is in the course of time forgotten, and the cave is usually referred to as The Upper Cerovačke Cave (which means The Upper cave of Cerovac, the closest settlement). The Lower Cerovačka Pećina cave was discovered on 30th October 1913 during the construction works on the Gračac-Knin railroad by engineer Nikola Turkalj. Turkalj was not only the discoverer of the cave, but also its first explorer, and he even undertook first paleontological excavations, with the findings sent to the Natural History Museum in Zagreb. To his honour the cave is commonly referred to as the Turkalj’ s Cave, but this name is nowadays seldom used, and the new name the Lower Cerovačke Pećine Cave prevails. The caves were paleontologically explored, partly at the time of their discovery, and more thoroughly 1953-1971, when majority of fossil remains of the cave fauna were recovered. The caves are protected as a geological monument since 1961.

The first 700 m of the Lower and Upper Caves have been prepared for tourist visits. These caves abound in traces from the distant past. In addition to large quantities of archaeological findings, they are also among the largest discovery sites of the cave bear in Croatia. One may easily spot claw marks gorged into the cave walls as the bears moved against them. Water has worked for thousands of years to create dripstones. It is therefore vital to treat these cave ornaments with care and not touch them, as just a single careless move may put an end to a process that has been going on for decades. The temperature in the caves is between 8° C and 11° C - warmer clothing, a head cover, and comfortable shoes are recommended.
Technical Information

Suitable equipment will be at disposal for Power-Point presentations. In case of necessity of other equipment (such as slide projector or others), please put your request in the (Pre-) Registration form.
Duration of the presentation: 30 minutes including 5 minutes for discussion.

Fees

The conference fee is 70,00 Euros (50,00 Euros for students).

Pre-registration

The pre-registration for the symposium should be answered with the enclosed form before 31st may 2019

Abstracts and full papers

Abstracts:
Deadline for submission: June 15th 2019
Abstract format:
First name and name of Authors (underline author who will talk/present)
1 Address and e-mail of author 1
2 Address and e-mail of author 2
1 Page A4, 2500 characters including spaces
Format: Word, Arial 12
Figures: Format .jpg
Margins: L/R: 25mm
**Oral presentations and posters**

Lectures will last 25 min + 5 min discussion, Projector for Power Point presentation is available

**Poster:** Format A0, we will provide boards and tapes.

**Important dates**

**Submission of abstracts: 15th June 2019 (also deadline for the final registration)**

**Further information**

For all your inquiries contact the conference organizers: nadja.kavcik@univie.ac.at

**Organizers:**

Gernot Rabeder  
Nadja Kavcik - Graumann

In collaboration with

Natalija Andacic  
Gordan Lukač

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PAKLENICA

Nacionalni park  
National Park
Registration Form

Mr  Mrs

Last Name: _______________________________________________________________
First Name: _______________________________________________________________
University/Organization/Company: _________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
E-mail: ___________________________ Telephone: (___)__________________
Complete Invoice Address (i.e. your University/Organization/Company):
________________________________________________________________________________________
Presentation type:   oral    □
                      poster □
                      without talk and poster □

Preliminary title of my contribution

I shall attend the excursion on September 19th 2019: yes □ no □
I shall attend the excursion on September 21st 2019: yes □ no □
Arrival at symposium by own car: yes □ no □

Special requests:

Please return the pre-registration form by e-mail to: nadja.kavcik@univie.ac.at