

# Analysis of the Situation and Prospects of Speleo-tourism in the Area of Primorsko-goranska Country

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The subterranean karstic features are often grouped into four larger groups and yam, cave, caves and caverns. They are also called speleological objects and tourism based on them as resources speleo-tourism or caving tourism.

Speleological objects of Primorsko-goranska County (where are registered more than 210) are in the closest connection with the composition of carbonate sediments and hydro geological conditions. Aim of this paper is to make their presentation and look at the possibility of touristic valorization.

Speleological objects in the County were classified into four groups. The first group entered speleo- touristic objects that have a long tradition (Lokvarka cave in Lokve and the cave Vrata in Fužine and Biserujka on the island Krk). Speleo - tourism in these caves has been developed since year 1913 and as a tourist product shows aging characteristics (income and number of visitors for a long time is unchanged). Possibilities for repositioning of tourism can be seen in turning these objects and infrastructural changes in the quality and variety of services.

In the second group entered speleo - touristic objects that had previously tourist function and they lost it (Hajdova hiža near Guče village, Zametska cave in Ri-

jeka and the Pilar icehouse at Mrkopalj). Objects in this group were devastated because there was postponed the trash in them, graffiti were written out or they were illuminated by torches so they are blacken with soot. Great educational role has Pilarova icehouse, because it keeps snow and ice throughout the year. The third group consists of speleological objects on the sea side or seabed (Leech cave near Senj, Blue Cave and the Bear cave) visited by speleologist-divers. Cave diving is every day more popular and its market is expanding rapidly. The fourth group includes speleological potential sites (Bukovac and Golubinja cave near Lokve and Trbuhovica near Prezid). The problem is that caves are marked as potential resources of the area difficult to access and to which should build new roads.

**Keywords:** yam, cave, caverna, speleological objects, speleo - touristical objects, speleo-tourism

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