

Lazar's Canyon as Potential Geotourism Destination of Serbia

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Lazar's canyon is located within ten kilometers from the town of Bor. The canyon is six kilometres long and between 300 and 500 meters wide, and it's the longest canyon in eastern Serbia. The oldest rocks found in this area are of paleozoic age. The canyon was formed during millions of years from the neogene period until today.

Because of it's steepness it still remains partially unexplored. The canyon is famous for its numerous caves and pits. The most famous of them are Lazar's cave (also known as Zlotska), Vernjikica and Dubasnicka pit. The entire canyon is under government protection and has the status of a natural monument, due to its unique beauty, as well as its abundant flora and fauna. It is cleft into a limestone

massif of the South Kucaj mountain, and the Lazar river flows through it. It is sheltered by rocky mountain reefs from all sides: to the north there are Strnjak (720 m) and Kornjet (696 m), to the south and southwest there is Malinik (1087 m) and to the west there are Pogara (883 m) and Mikulja (1022 m). Canyon sides are vertical and smooth, and in its narrowest part the canyon is less than seven meters wide. The canyon is rather inaccessible: there are no hiking paths, and climbing down the steep rocky sides is nearly impossible. Ancient forests of oak, beech and hornbeam make this venture even more complicated, and only experienced mountaineers with the right equipment dare to challenge the canyon. Forests are inhabited by wild boars, wolves and bears, and gray eagles, hawks and falcons can often be seen cruising the sky above the canyon.

The flora of this entire area has over 720 species and subspecies which means that it's five times more diverse than the flora of the entire country.

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