



English

Karlobag and Surroundings

T O U R I S T G U I D E



Map of Karlobag



Map of Surroundings



Karlobag location

A town between the Velebit mountain chain and the sea, located on the important Adriatic Highway connecting Rijeka with Dubrovnik, and leading towards the interior, towards Gospić, the Plitvice Lakes and Zagreb. Karlobag is a marvelous connection of the Mediterranean and the continent, with a crystal clear sea and the most beautiful Croatian mountain chain reachable by car in only a few minutes. Next to Karlobag, the center of the municipality, there are wonderful places on its Riviera such as: Ribarica, Cesarica, Lukovo Šugarje, Barić Draga and Sv. Marija Magdalena, and on the Velebit there is Baške Oštarije.

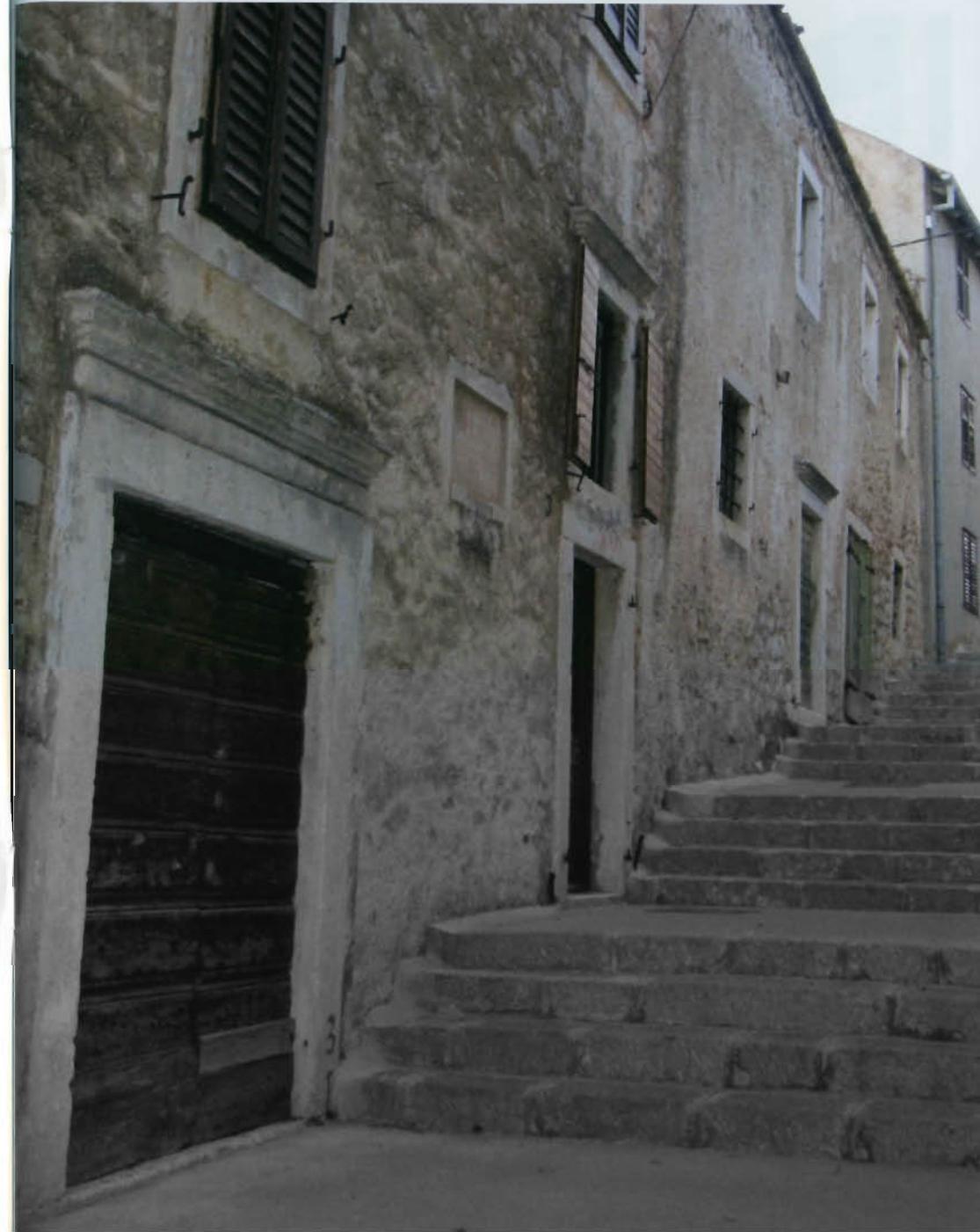
Karlobag is a locality of the Mediterranean and the continental Velebit style, with a rich and varied culinary offer. Karlobag has a Mediterranean climate and in September the weather is still pleasant and warm. The average daily temperature in summer is 28°C and the sea temperature in summer is around 25°C. There are plenty of sunny days even during winter.





History

The tumultuous past of Karlobag is shown by the remains of the medieval fortress emerging above the town – Fortice and some churches. There is a library and art treasure in the Capuchin monastery with the church of St. Joseph containing the particularly valuable Cristoforo Tasca painting of the Last Supper.





The Roman settlement called Vegium was of importance for transport and trade and existed up to the 4th and 5th century when, due to attacks

from the Goths, it was abandoned by its inhabitants who ran off to the island of Pag. But abandoning the settlement did not mean

abandoning the memories of its existence, and due to the similarity to the island of Pag, the locality was named Bag.

During the time of the Croatian King Zvonimir, the area belonged to the coastal parish that belonged to the diocese of Rab. During Venetian rule there were caravans from the natural port of Bag (Baška draga) to the central hinterland of Lika, crossing important Velebit passes and Baške Oštarije.





In 1480 it was taken over by King Matija Korvin and connected to the Senj military district.

After peace was concluded in Sremski Karlovci in 1699, when Lika was joined to Croatia, to the Croatian Military Border respectively, Karlobag was, for some time, the center of the entire Lika area. In 1733 the administrative center for the entire newly conquered area was transferred to the newly founded center of Gospić.





1 St. Joseph's Church

The single nave church with the lateral chapel of St. Anthony. Behind the altar there are choir stalls and a wooden stand for the pulpit from the 18th century from where monks prayed their daily breviary. In the church we find the valuable painting of the Last Supper by Cristoforo Tasca.

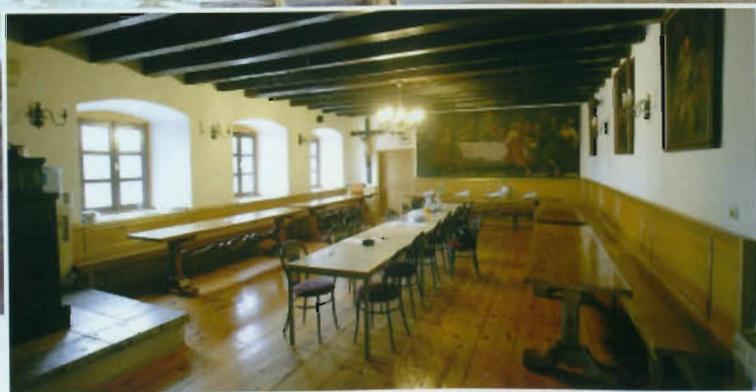


The interior of St. Joseph's Church



The monastery is of square ground plan with a rectangular yard, cloister, with a large cistern (rainfall water) 6 m in diameter of 300-year-long capacity for the needs of the inhabitants of Karlobag.

The monastery has a library with theological literature from the 16th, 17th and 18th cent.





2

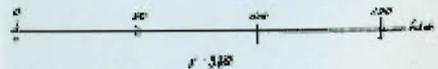
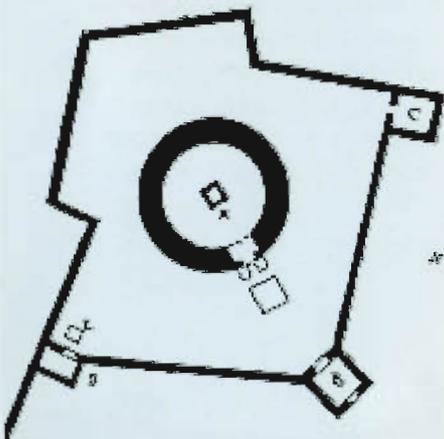
The fortress Fortica and Kava - Mediterranean garden

At the beginning of the Middle Ages the new settlement of Scrisa or Bag developed next to the sea, in the Fortica area. Remains of a small four-corner fortress from the 13th or 14th cent are situated on a higher plateau with a defense tower in the center and at 250 meter above sea level. The fortress is completely of private ownership.





A drawing of Karlobag made by engineer Martin Stier in 1660.



Ground plan of Fortica

A chaplain and a small crew were constantly in the fortress and they provided for the security of the town and supervised the navigation of vessels towards Pag. Remains of the water supply cistern have been preserved. The current and arranged Kava Mediterranean Garden

with an exhibition of private owned mosaics. The name Kava (quarry) refers to the possibility that there may have been a quarry but it is more probable that in the area there were military dormitories. Today there are luxuriant gardens with squares and other buildings.



3

Šterne

In the time preceding the water system network, the only source of drinking water were the šterne. They also represented the key to unity; the wheel would often entangle, new love stories and friendships would arise. Today the šterne are reminders of the past and the old way of life which we have decided to protect as cultural and historical heritage and take you, at least for a moment, through the past of our locality. Karlobag has 6 localities, city šterne that must be visited.





Next to the church stands the monument of Šime Starčević, father of the first Croatian grammar.

4

St. Karlo Boromejski church

A church from 1710, built on the foundations of the church of St. John (1615). It was badly damaged during the bombings in 1943. The remains were removed 1958 except for the preserved tower, one part of the wall and the entire bell fry.





5

Calvary

A chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Seven Sorrows was built in 1727 on higher ground above the town, on Calvary, and it was consecrated on September 12 by the bishop of Senj, Modruš and Krbava, Nikola Pohmajević. The inhabitants covered all the expenses and converted it into a small church in 1740.



6

School in Karlobag

The stone building was built in 1875 through the efforts of Baron Mollinary, and it was the most grandiose building of the time in Karlobag.





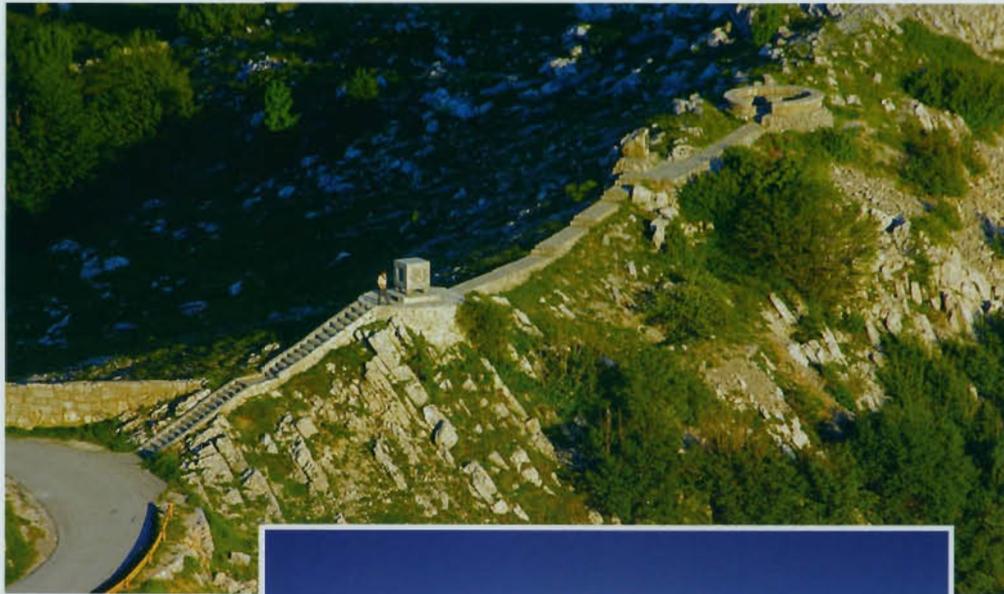
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Baške Oštarije

Baške Oštarije lie on the Velebit, at 924 m N/V in the western part of Lika, in the micro-region of the Lika basin of mountainous Croatia, at 18 km from Karlobag. The locality bore the name Oštarije until 1900 when it was changed into Baške Oštarije. The locality is divided into hamlets: Raketa, Ripište, Stupačinovo, Takalice, Prpić polje. St. Elisabeth's Church in Oštarije was built in 1855 in the parish of the Holy Virgin Mary from Baške Oštarije founded in 1820.

Gospić University Registrar's Office of the Gospić-Senj Diocese.

The church of the Blessed Virgin Mary's Visit to Mary Elisabeth (St. Elisabeth's Church)



8

Kubus

The monument dedicated to the building of the Karlobag– Gospić Road across the Velebit, the Cube (Kubus, Ura) on four spheres is situated on the Oštarije Saddle or Stara vrata, at 927 m above sea level from where the view extends over



Karlobag, the island of Pag and the entire Velebit Channel. In 1846 the Cube was put up during the

construction of the road from Gospić to Karlobag (1844-1850). There are 33 steps leading to the

Cube. On one side of the cube there is the inscription Ferdinand I, Austrian Emperor MDCCCXLVI.





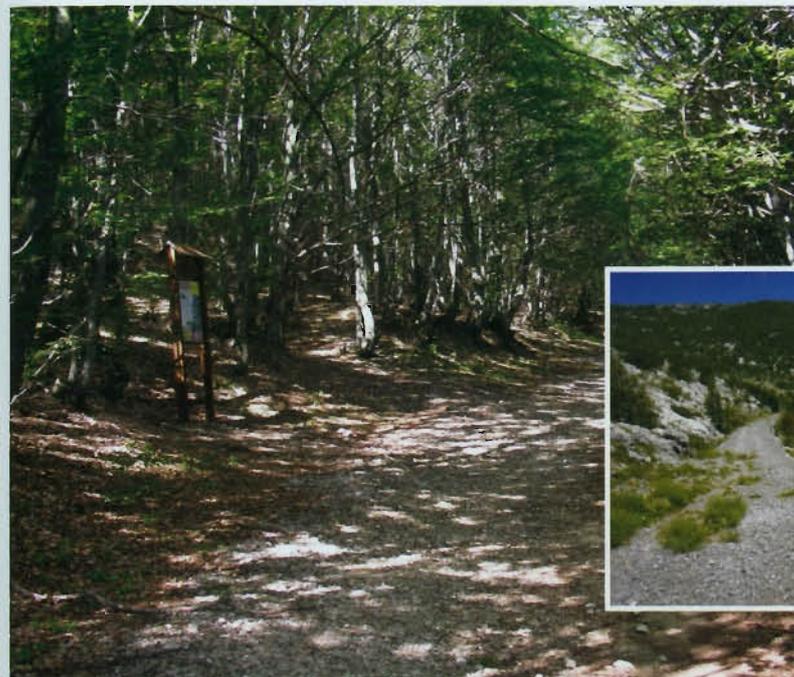
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A fountain made of carved stone

(Baške Oštarije)

In memory of the building of the Knežić– Kekićeve road built from 1844 to 1851.

An interesting fact to mention is that people called this source the source of fertility.



10

The Theresiana Educational Trail

The Theresiana was built in 1786 as a better connection between Gospić, the Regiment Headquarters of the time, and the free port of Karlobag. The order to build a new, modern road was given by Emperor Joseph II. The road was named after his mother Mary Theresa. Wishing to inform people of

the cultural importance of the Theresiana, the public institution of Velebit Nature Park arranged one part of the educational trail. The trail is exclusively for pedestrians and it is particularly interesting due to the region it crosses where in a small area one experiences the two Velebit faces in

their complete beauty. The educational trail begins in Baške Oštarije (924m above sea level.), and descends to Konjsko village (655m/above sea level) 3 km in length. This is the longer walking tour and lasts from 2.5 – 3 h. A shorter tour of about 1.5 h is also offered.

11 The Premužić Trail



The Premužić Trail was named after the construction engineer Ante Premužić who designed it in 1930, while the construction it self was finished in 1933. The trail crosses the most beautiful and most interesting parts of the North Velebit. A beautiful view spreads over the Adriatic Sea and the islands of Pag, Rab, Goli, Prvić and Krk, and onto the Lika hinterland from the continental side. The cultural heritage of the park manifests itself in the numerous remains of old cattle lodgings, houses, drystone walls witnesses of times gone when this region was settled by a greater number of people that later left and settled around the world leaving only traces of their presence in this exceptionally beautiful and unique area.



12 Dabar and Dabarski Cliffs

People call Dabar the karst basin shaped valleys.

The Dabar and Dabar Cliffs region extends along the central part of the mountain massif, from Bačić-kuk opposite Budak mountain to the northwest and up to Ljubački Mountain and to the pertaining cliffs over Oštarije to the southeast, approximately 10 km. Shallow and deep valleys follow one another, Bačić duliba, Došen duliba, Crna duliba, Ravni dabar, Crni dabar. All the Dabars and Dulibes except for Crne Dulibe were settled and cultivated in earlier times.



The Central Velebit region, Ravni dabar locality, is an alpinistic area where sports climbing is permitted on the following rocks:

- Visibaba/Agin kuk
- Čelina kuk
- Rujičin kuk.

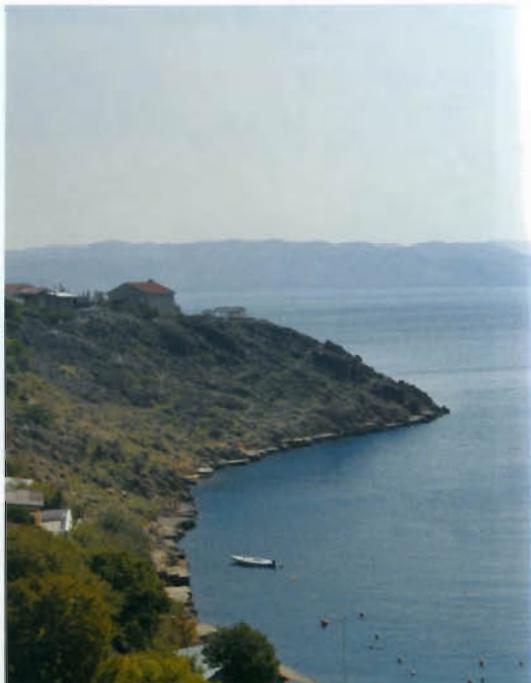
Climbers' lodgings with about 50 beds are situated in Ravni dabar.



13

Cesarica and Ribarica

Cesarica is situated in a lovely cove at the foot of the Velebit in a channel bearing the same name, 7 km northwest of Karlobag and 55 km southeast of Senj, next to the Adriatic Highway. Few are acquainted with this jewel of the Croatian coast. Up to the Second World War this locality had a school, church and monastery. Current Cesarica is more of a weekend locality than a place to live in. It can be proud of its beautiful cove, crystal clear sea and the powerful Velebit in the background inspiring awe with its frequent gusts of the north wind bora. The church of St. Helen with its parish building holds the people together (18.08.).

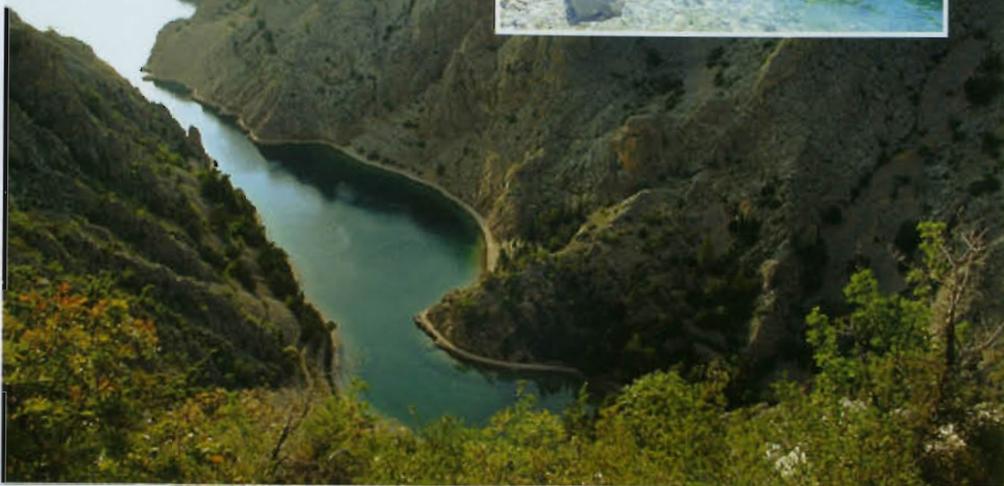


St. Helen's Church



Ribarica is situated under the Adriatic Highway, at the foot of the Velebit in the Velebit Channel. It is located at 5 km northeast of Karlobag and 60 km southeast of Senj. This new locality is only about fifty years old and, thanks to its position, it has developed into one of the tourist centers of the Lika-Senj County.

14 Zavratinica Cove



If you are planning an outing from which you expect to discover new and interesting destinations you must visit Zavratinica - „a significant landscape“ and one of the most beautiful coves on the Croatian coast. From its first appearance Zavratinica was a flooded valley with 100 meter high canyon cliffs. The length of the bay is about 900 m, and the width varies between 50 and 150 m. It first appeared in layers from the Cretaceous Age where numerous sandbanks were formed due to the fragmentation and the planting of trees and underbrushes. 129 types of plants have

been counted in Zavratinica of which 100 are autochthonous and 29 are alohtone. The upper trail with a viewpoint and sea promenade were built at the beginning of the 20th cent. At that time Zavratinica became the sheltered summer resort of the Viennese and Prague elite. How to reach it: You can reach Zvratinica from Jablanac, the ferry port for the island of Rab, a half-hour walk along the sea trail. If you have a mountaineering and adventurous spirit you can descend into the cove using the mountain trail from Zavratinica village.



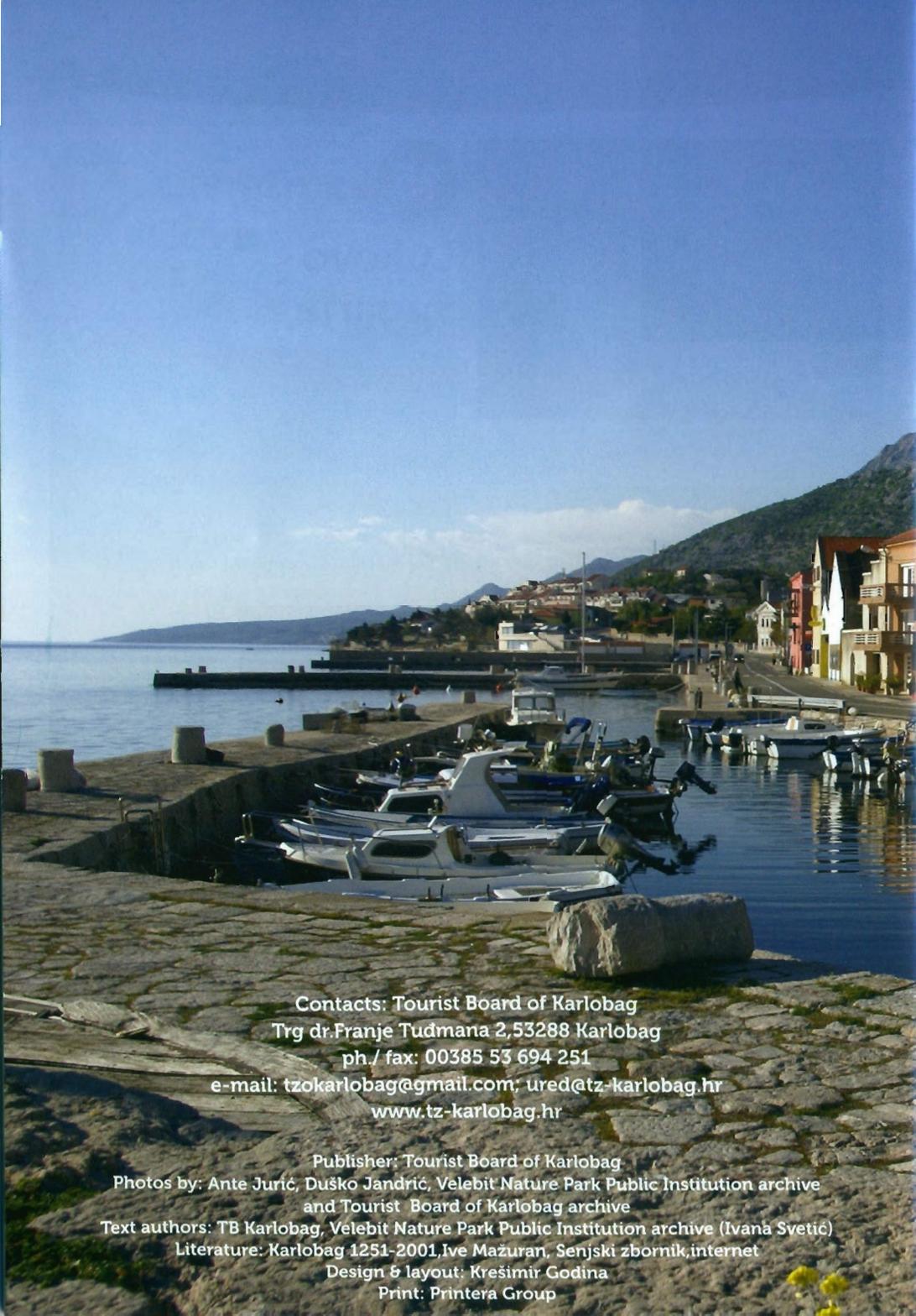
15 Lukovo Šugarje

The Church of St. Luke the Evangelist

Lukovo Šugarje-initially a local development center, south of Karlobag and situated in the cove bearing the same name and a short strait connects it with the open sea. The settlement dates from the Middle Ages and was abandoned in the 17th cent. Later it revived with many localities on the nude and steep slopes of the maritime Velebit. The church of St. Luke the

Evangelist was built in the 18th century and renewed in 1873. The parish was established in 1809. The local cistern was built next to the church in 1840. The elementary school was opened in 1907 although the inhabitants of Lukovo had demanded it from the military headquarters in Zagreb back in 1875.





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