



Slovenian photo tours

**I FEEL
SLOVENIA**

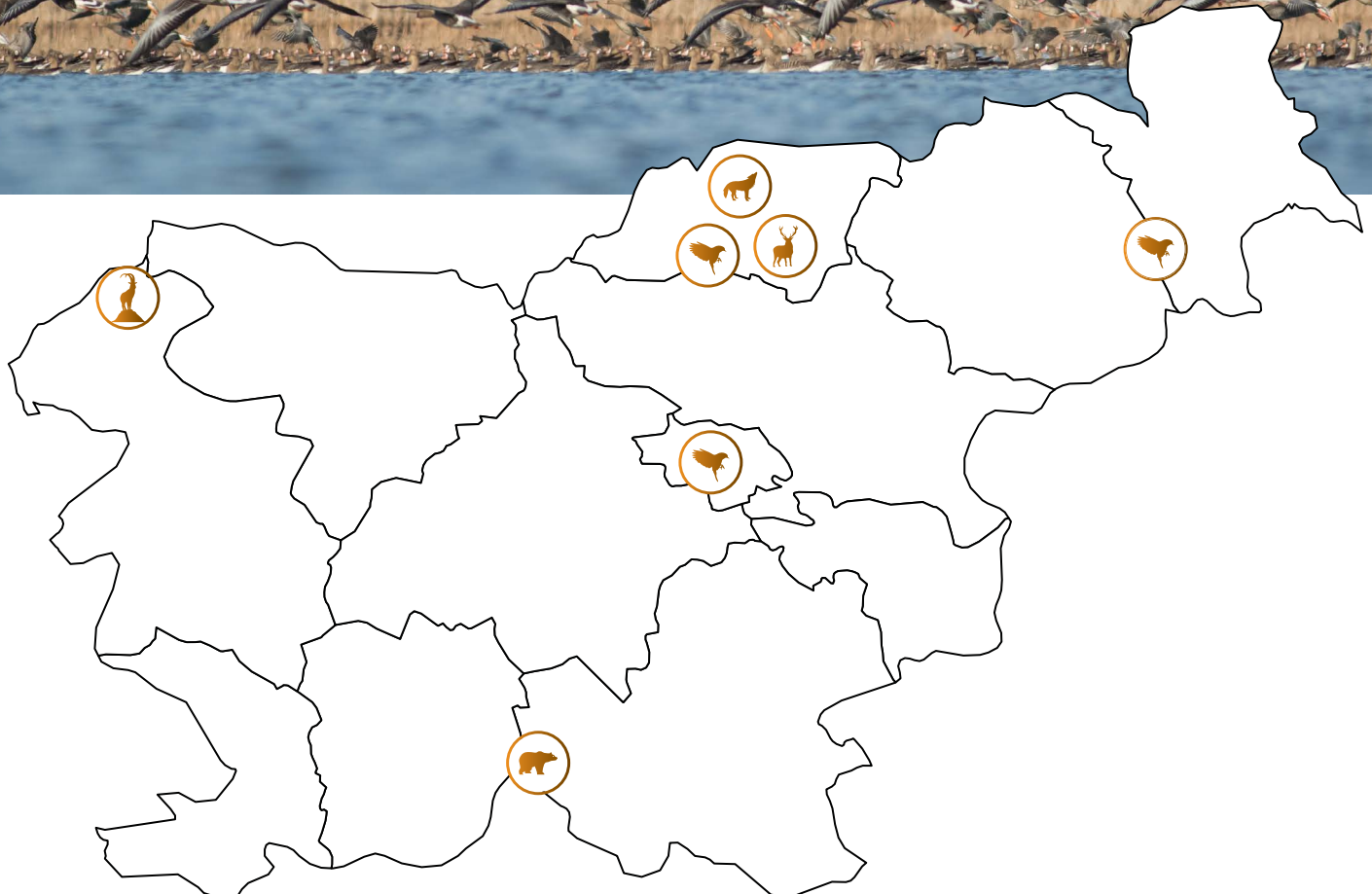
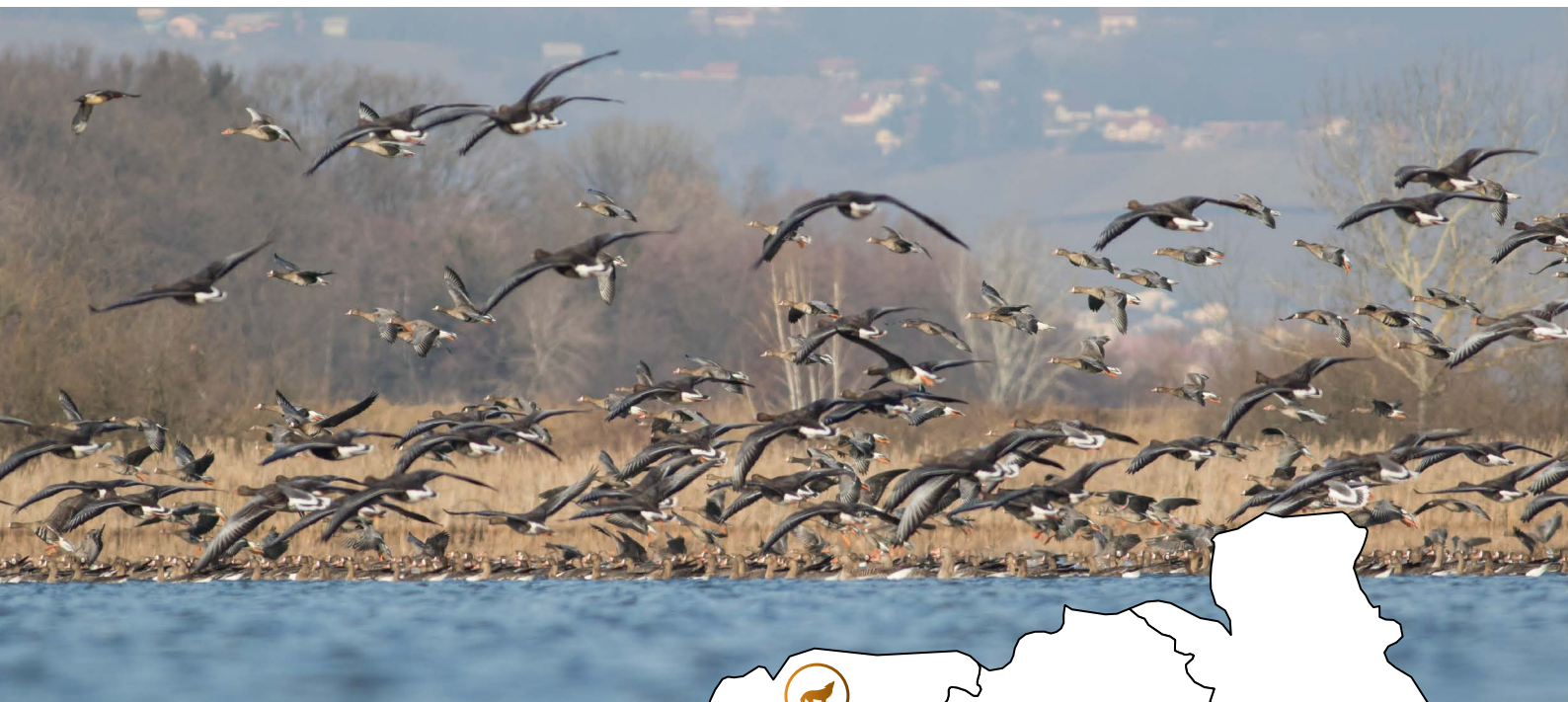


 facebook.com/FotoNatur

 instagram.com/fotonatureu

 fotonatur.si / slovenianphototours.eu

 info@fotonatur.si  +386 40 433 945



We are a young tour operator from Slovenia who has been working in the field of photo tourism since 2018. We are the only company from Slovenia who can offer complete photography tours in our beautiful country. Our main goal is to offer as a unique experience. Slovenia is, with its diversity, definitely the only area in Europe who can offer so much on so little space.

The Fotonatur team is comprised of young and experienced birding Slovenia adventurers, which all have something in common: the love of nature and animals.

The owner of the company, Janez Žalig, is also an experienced photographer. He travelled across numerous photo tourism destinations around the World. His biggest wish is to present Slovenia to the World. With its numerous animal species and diverse nature, it's one of the more beautiful countries in the World.

OUR MISSION:

To care about the nature and wildlife. To introduce Slovenia to photographers and show them all the secret corners of our beautiful country. We want to work together with NGO's, which are working towards the preservation of animal species and nature. With the help of wildlife photography tourism we want to raise awareness and be a socially responsible company, which will help NGO's and work towards the preservation of nature and animal wildlife.

OUR VISION:

To work together with the best within this field and develop wildlife photography tourism in Slovenia. In the next 5 years we want to become one of the biggest and best companies in this field for Slovenia.

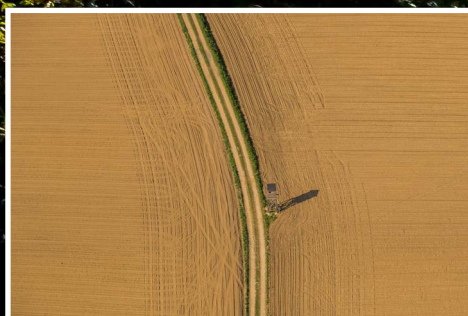
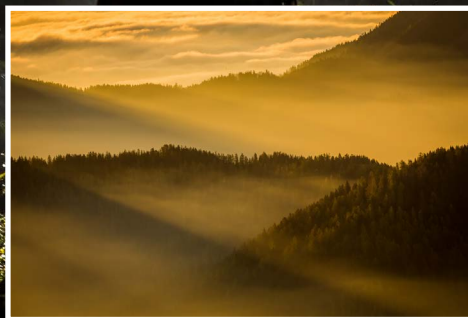
A small bird, possibly a reed bed bird, is perched on a thin, vertical branch. The bird has a grey head, a white body, and a bright orange beak. It is facing right. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with more branches and a warm, golden light.

FOTONATUR

LOCATIONS

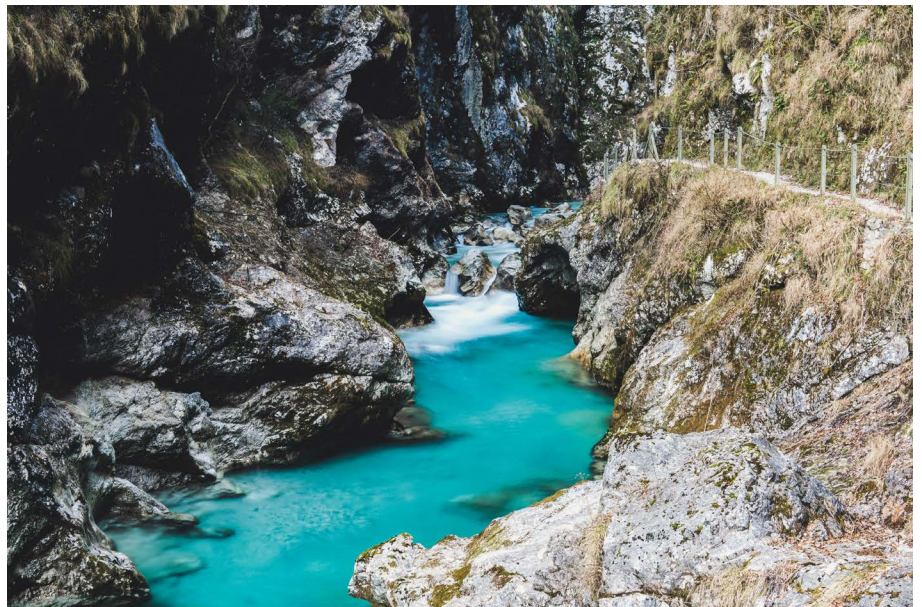
General information:

Slovenia is a European country with a geographical position in the far north of the Mediterranean and in the far south of Central Europe. It borders on 4 countries, in the west with Italy, in the north with Austria, in the northeast with Hungary, and in the east and the south with Croatia. It lies at the junction of the Alpine, Mediterranean, Pannonian and Dinaric worlds. The area of 20,273 km² is classified as a medium-sized European country. Slovenia is a European country and provides many new interesting photo footprints. In the lens we can capture a diverse landscape, a varied animal selection and many natural features. According to the international criteria of Green Destinations, Slovenia is the first country to become the green destination of the world. As mentioned earlier, it lies at the junction of the Alps, the Mediterranean, the Karst and the Pannonian world. In one day, we can take a photo of the sunrise on the top of Slovenia's highest mountain - Triglav and the sunset at the sea. We can also be a tourist for half a day in Ljubljana, while the other half is spent waiting for the best bear photo. Despite its small size, Slovenia is characterized by a large variety of animal species, which depends on the diversity of the environment, vegetation and the geological past. Only a small proportion of species are known to live on our territory. According to estimates from 2000, around 19,000 species of animals are to be found on the continent, marine animals are poorly researched. Subterranean animals are interesting because of their way of life and not so much variety, only a few species are known. Slovenia is one of the few countries where wolves, bears and lynx still live, which have long since disappeared in most Western European countries. This testifies to her incredible animal wealth. Lake Eagles and deer you will meet in wetlands along the Drava, the wolf, the lynx and the bear in the mountain forest, the chicken nests in the Karavanke forests.





In addition to the wide choice of photogenic animals, we can also enjoy culinary delights. In Slovenia, love passes through the stomach. Different tastes and dishes can be found in 24 gastronomic provinces and three wine-growing regions. Slovenian tables have always been rich in local mineral waters, and recently interesting beers of Slovene craft breweries. The tastes of Slovenia in the Alps are different from the coast of the Adriatic Sea; in the Karst they differ from those in the Pannonian Plain, and each region has its own rounded gastronomic areas. Slovenia has 170 authentic dishes! Their characteristic is that they are prepared from locally produced ingredients. We have a lot of protected authentic Slovenian cheeses, meat products, sausages, oils, honey and other foods. Typical dishes and wines can be found in family-owned taverns across all of Slovenia. Dishes from local ingredients are offered on tourist farms as well as on hiking, mountain and cycling routes.



1 CARINTHIA AND MEŽICA VALLEY



ENCOUNTERED ANIMALS:

Black grouse, Capercaillie, Chamois, Ibex, Wallcreeper, White throated dipper, Pygmy owl, Boreal owl



General:

Carinthia is one of the Slovenian regions in the north-west of Slovenia, on the border with Austria. It covers the area of three valleys - Meža, Drava and Mislinja valleys, and three mountain ranges - Pohorje, Karavanke, and the Savinja Alps. It is known for its unspoilt mountain nature and forests with a wide network of mountain roads. The paths of Carinthia offer a variety of exploration trips.

The Meža valley features a river with the same name and is surrounded by high mountains. On one side, the mighty Peca mountain is majestically rising from the earth, being the easternmost two-thousand-meter mountain in Slovenia and belonging to the Karavanke Mountains, and on the other side it is surrounded by the Kamnik- Savinja Alps. The untouched mountain nature assures the tranquillity and the rest for the soul. The Mežica valley is known for its various natural features, diverse animal life, and unique cuisine and, of course, the friendly and open-hearted people.

In the area of the Mežica valley, many species can be caught in the lens, including those that are considered endangered in the world. From our hunting grounds, you will be able to take pictures of the chamois, capercaillie, eagle, deer and roes. We will also try to present to the photographers other natural features - the ones underground. With the closure of the lead and zinc mine, the Meža valley gained a great potential for the development of tourism. Now we have the opportunity to photograph cave life and visit the Peca underground.

Accommodation and cuisine:

We chose three local tourism providers in the Carinthia and Mežica valley for our new tourist product The Phototours in the Eastern Slovenia region. Our goal is to offer our guests various accommodation options, which must all offer excellent local cuisine, coziness and outstanding views on area around.

Partners:



HIŠA POLJANA
*B&B*** / Karavanke*

HIŠA POLJANA
(22 Poljana, 2391 Prevalje)



GOSTIŠČE PIK
(Lokovica 31, 2391 Prevalje)



GOSTIŠČE KRIVOGRAD
(Poljana 10a, 2391 Prevalje)

2 ALPINE SLOVENIA (MANGART, KRANJSKA GORA)

ENCOUNTERED ANIMALS:
ROCK PTARMIGAN, HAZEL GROUSE,
IBEX, MARMOTS



General:

The highest alpine road in Slovenia leads to a botanically rich area with an incredible view, located under Mangart, the third highest peak in Slovenia.

Hikers, cyclists, botanical enthusiasts, lovers of nature and explorers of the alpine world - an alpine paradise awaits you on Mangartsko sedlo. Grassy plains, coloured by carpets of colourful flowers in the summer, are home to many marmots, ibexes and jackdaws, which are chasing high towards the heavenly walls of the mighty Mangart. Are you interested in what a perfect viewpoint looks like, where you will not run out of spectacular scenes for taking photos and videos?

These mountains are among the few locations (or, in some cases, the only location) where you can find plants such as the creeping avens and marsh yellow cress. The Alpine swift also nests here. Its unusual geological formation with reddish limestone sandstone deposits (Rdeča glava, Rdeča skala) makes Mangart very popular with photographers.

Kranjska Gora is a famous Slovenian outdoor resort, which is as popular in the winter time as it is in the summer. It's great place to get away from the city heat and to enjoy the mountains and fresh air. The town is conveniently situated near Italy and Austria, in the NW part of Slovenia. Surrounded by Julian Alps on one side and Karavanke mountains on the other, it is a perfect place for hiking.

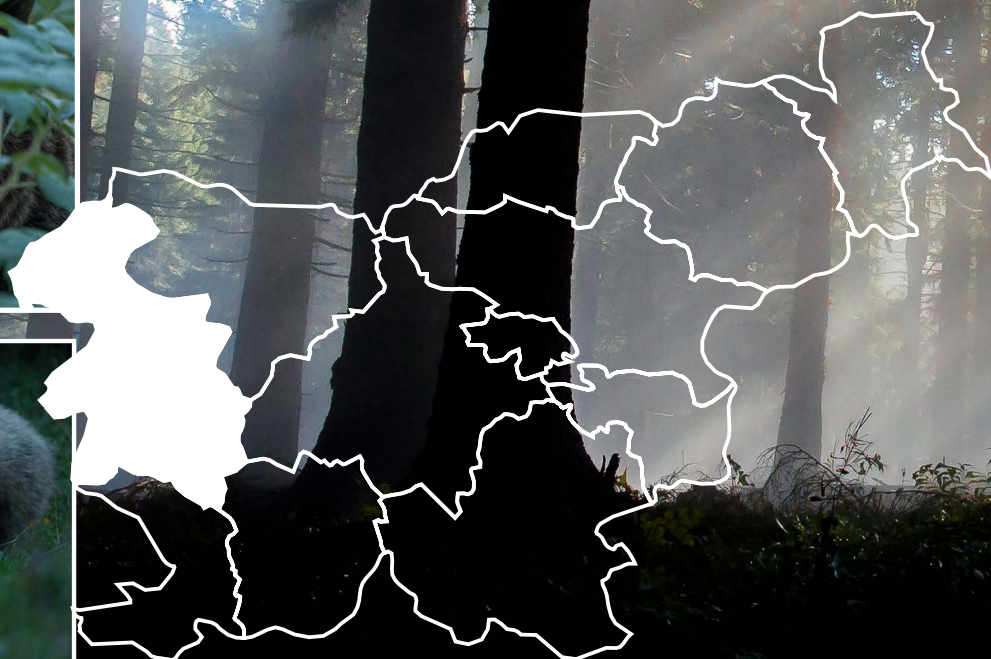
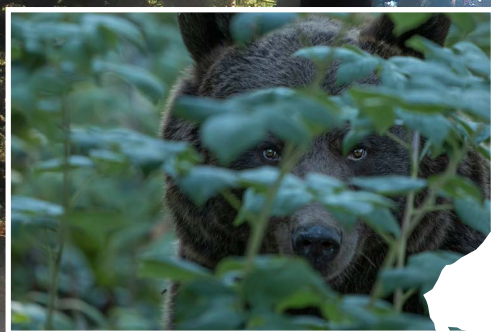
ACCOMMODATION & CUISINE:

Hotel & Restaurant Miklic: very large rooms, excellent staff close to nature and great mountain sights. The restaurant is known for its exquisite cuisine and its fame extends beyond the country's borders.



3 NOTRANJSKA REGION (LOŠKI POTOK)

ENCOUNTERED ANIMALS:
BEAR & FOX



General:

If you want to get away from the noise of the industrialized world and find refuge in unspoiled nature, amongst trees and by clear waters, in the peace and quiet of the underworld; if you're yearning to hear bird song, and wish to remember the sound of croaking frogs; if you've never skated on endless icy planes; if you want to see where birds make their nests; if you wish to relax, feel your spirits lifted and your strengths renewed, then visiting Notranjska region is the right answer.

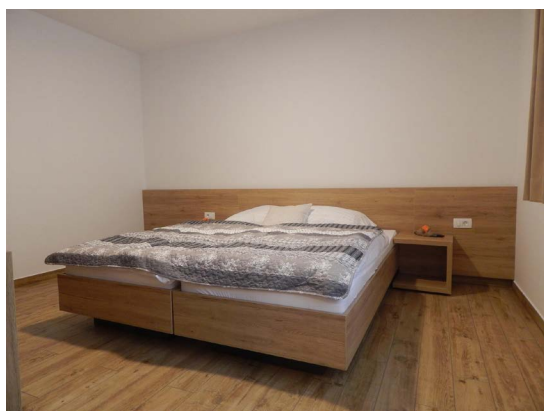
This region in the south, south - east of Slovenia connects the Land of the Woodenware & the Land of the Brown Bear. The unspoiled nature of these forests is a popular bear habitat. There, all the Photographs enthusiasts and adventurers can catch a sight of the brown bear and create new photo collections. In addition to the main attraction which is obviously the bear, you can find there the famous »snake spruce« which is an exceptional natural rarity and therefore declared a natural monument. An example of such a spruce grows in our village of Loški Potok.

Loški Potok, the meeting point of the mysterious Kočevje Forest and the characteristic Karst forms. The Log stream meanders through Travnik Plain, an area encompassed by forests and home to many animals. Apart from the three main European beasts (the bear, the wolf, and the lynx), these include stags, deer, wild cats, wild boar, and many others. This part of the world is heaven for forest enthusiasts and nature lovers in general.

In this area we also colaborate with Miha Mlakar, Slovenian Brownbears.

ACCOMMODATION & CUSININE:

Gostišče Ana: Featuring a garden and bar, as well as a restaurant, Guesthouse Ana is located in center Hrib-Loški Potok village. This 3-star guesthouse offers new large cozy rooms, serving local food and have a great sight on the valley Loški potok. Guesthouse is close to hides.



4 STYRIA (RAČE)

ENCOUNTERED ANIMALS:
KINGFISHER, SAND MARTIN, PYGMY CORMORANT,
FERRUGINOUS DUCK, GAGANEY, HERNOS,
GREBES, COMMON BUZZARD, MARSH HARRIER,
SPARROWHAWK, HAWFINCH, ...



STYRIA

Styria is the largest Slovenian region, divided into the Upper Styria and Lower Styria. The central vein of the Upper Styria is the Drava river flowing between Kozjak in the north and Pohorje on the south side. The Lower Styria is the area around the Savinja river. Pohorje is more than 1,500-meter-high natural oasis with forests, waterfalls and precious peat bogs. Styria is also known for its Drava and Ptuj lowlands and wine-growing hills.

One of the important complexes of the compact lowland mixed forest and standing waters on the outskirts of the Drava lowland, is the Rački ribnik - Požega landscape park in the surroundings of the Rače municipality. The park is a living space for rare and endangered plant and animal species - which is not meant only in the regional and Slovenian scale. There are over 210 species of birds, 50 species of dragonflies, and 12 species of amphibians present there, if only the most noticeable and the loudest are mentioned. Therefore, you can capture more than 200 of bird species in your lens, a third of which will also be nesting in this park. The most common nesting bird species are:

- Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)
- Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)
- Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)
- Coot (*Fulica atra*)

In the time of the spring and autumn bird migrations, flocks of cormorants, ducks, geese, seagulls will stop there, and raptors are also common:

- Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
- White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaetus albicilla*)
- Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)

The above bird species are just some of the many to be found at the Rački ribnik landscape park.

ACCOMMODATION & CUSININE:

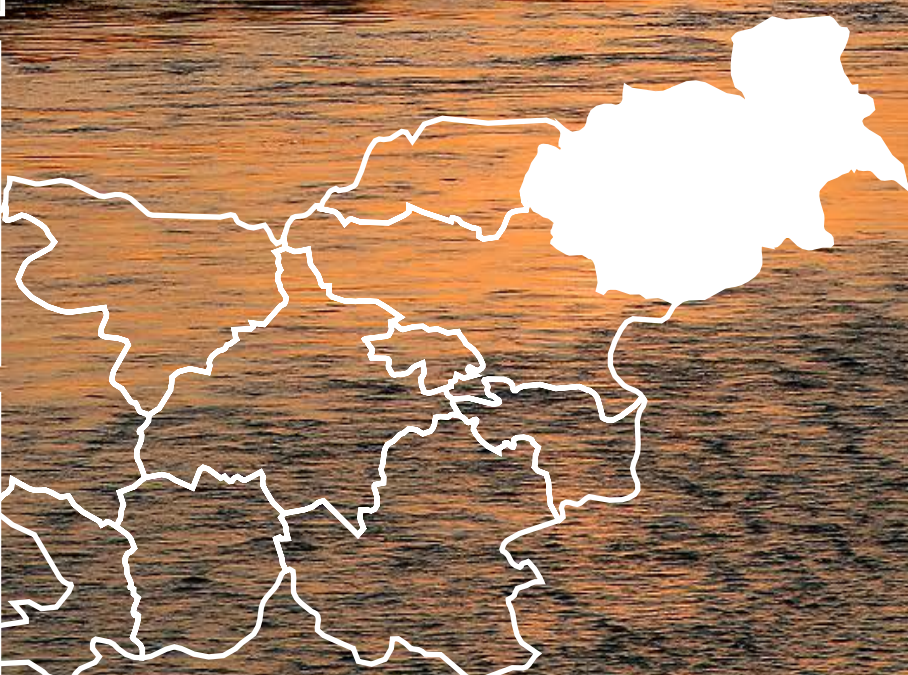
GOSTIŠČE IRŠIČ: Family restaurant with a tradition of 25 years. Inspired by the harmonies of nature we provide unforgettable culinary adventures for our guests.



5 PRLEKIJA

ENCOUNTERED ANIMALS:

BEE-EATER, HOOPOE, SOMMON CUCKOO,
GREEN WOODPECKER, CRAKES, KINGFISHER



PRLEKIJA

Prlekija belongs to the Pannonian land between Mura and Drava rivers. It is characterized by the Slovenske gorice and the typical agricultural industries - viticulture and fruit growing. In the lowlands, the most fertile soil is in the Apače valley and the Mura lowland confined by the Mura river. It is also located in the northeastern part of Slovenia, bordering Croatia and also Austria, surrounded by hills, plains and rivers.

The Ormož municipality is part of Prlekija and is known for its three extraordinary goods - the wine, unspoiled landscape, and its people. The most famous feature in Ormož is the Ormož lagoons. Those are 55 hectares of an anthropogenic wetland lying in the Drava river ecosystem near the Lake of Ormož. It is composed of shallow pools with reeds and cattails, and is surrounded by a flood forest, a rare remnant of a river ash trees in Slovenia. The wetland is of exceptional national and international significance for many endangered bird species.

At the Ormož lagoons, the Photohunt enthusiasts may catch the important nesting sites of the water birds and the key stopping place for the migrating birds in Slovenia. Already 29 nesting species of water birds have been reported, among which there are also the endangered and rare species such as the little bittern, little crane, ferruginous duck, black-winged stilt, common redshank, and the common tern. At the time of migration, 30 species regularly appear here and the number can reach to tens of thousands of birds during the migration period, among which the wood sandpipers and ruffs are the most numerous.

ACCOMMODATION & CUISINE:

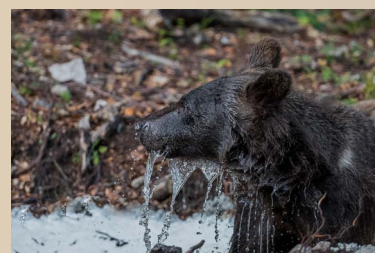
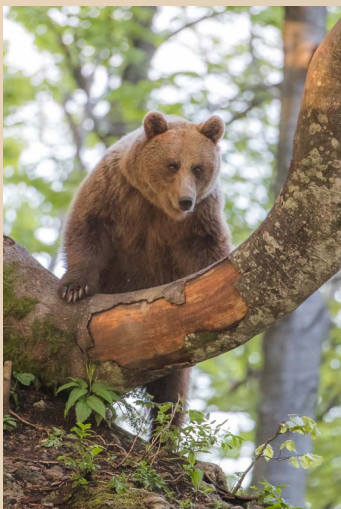
TK Hlebec



HIDES

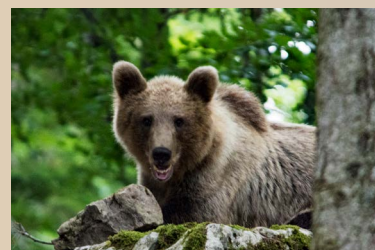
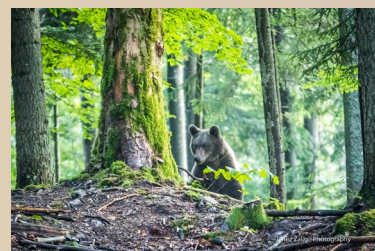
Brown Bear Hide #1

Location: Gorski Kotar, Hrvatska
Animals for photohunting: Bear
Photohunting season: April - November



Brown Bear Hide #2

Location: Gorski Kotar, Hrvatska
Animals for photohunting: Bear
Photohunting season: April - November



Brown Bear Hide #3

Location: Gorski Kotar, Hrvatska
Animals for photohunting: Bear
Photohunting season: April - November



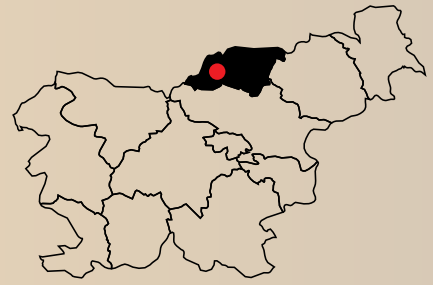
Chamois Hide

Location: Carinthia and surroundings, Slovenia
Animals for photohunting: Hoofed animals, Birds
Photohunting season (Chamois and Eagle): November - March
Photohunting season (Wallcreeper): October - November



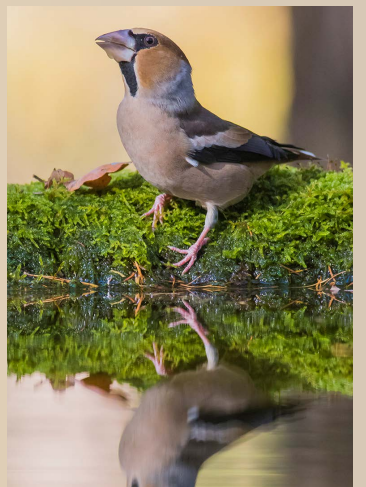
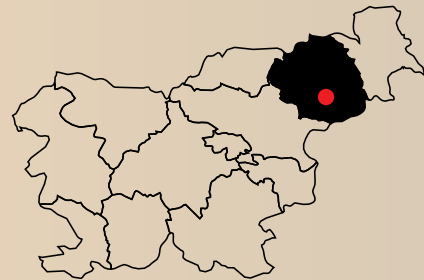
Drinking hide Stalekarca

Location: Carinthia and surroundings, Slovenia
Animals for photohunting: Birds
Photohunting season: All year



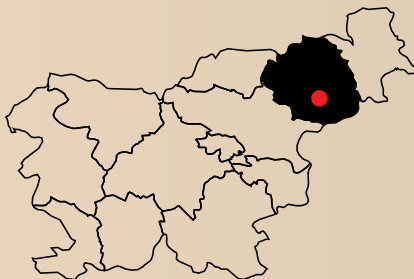
Drinking Hide Rače

Location: Dravsko polje (surroundings of Rače), Slovenia
Animals for photohunting: Birds
Photohunting season: All year



Sand Martin Hide

Location: Dravsko polje, Slovenia
Animals for photohunting: Birds
Photohunting season: May-July



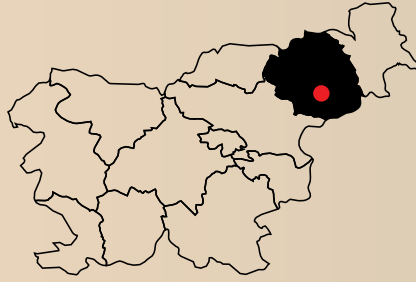
Kingfisher Hide

Location: Ormož, Slovenia
Animals for photohunting: Birds
Photohunting season: May-July



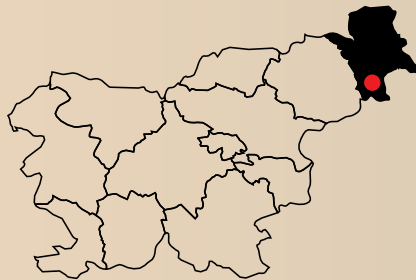
Floating Hide

Location: Dravsko polje, Slovenia
Animals for photohunting: Birds
Photohunting season: All year



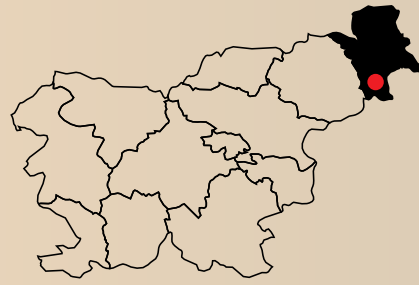
Hoopoe Hide

Location: Ormož, Slovenia
Animals for photohunting: Birds
Photohunting season: May-July



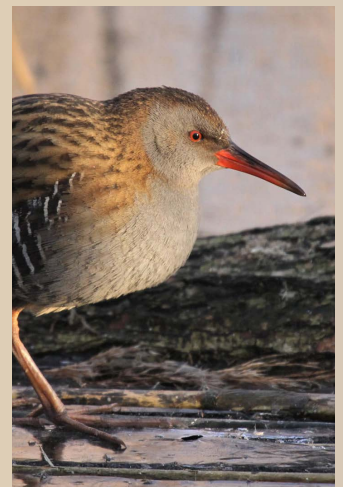
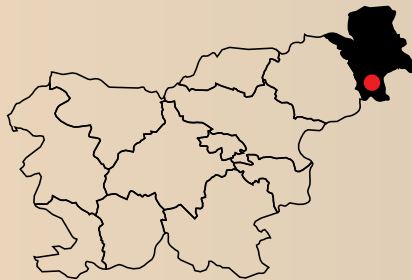
Bee-eater Hide

Location: Ormož, Slovenia
Animals for photohunting: Birds
Photohunting season: May-July



Reedbed Hide

Location: Ormož, Slovenia
Animals for photohunting: Birds
Photohunting season: June-October



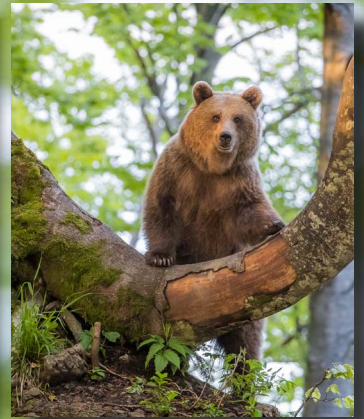
SPECIAL

BEAR

Location: GORSKI KOTAR
Best chance between: 15. 5. - 10. 9.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Chance in %: 85 - 100%
INTENSITY: LOW (5 MINUTES WALK)

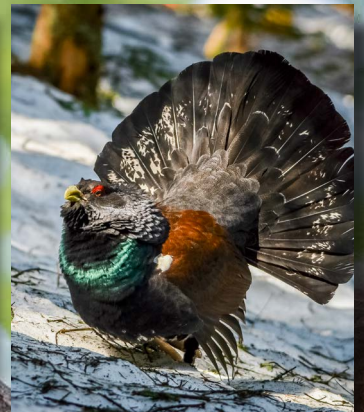


CAPERCAILLIE

Location: KOROŠKA
Best chance between: 20. 4. - 25. 5.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Chance in %: 40 - 60%
INTENSITY: MEDIUM - HIGH (1H WALK)

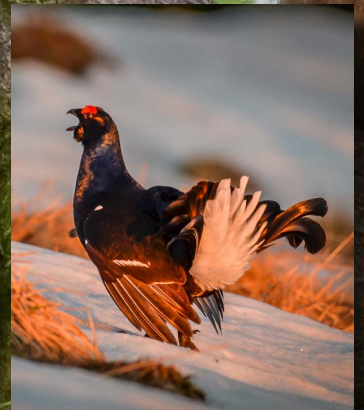


BLACK GROUSE

Location: KOROŠKA
Best chance between: 15. 4. - 10. 6.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Chance in %: 75 - 90%
INTENSITY: MEDIUM (½ H WALK)



SPECIES

WALL CREEPER

Location: KOROŠKA

Best chance between: 01. 9. - 20. 10.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Chance in %: 90 - 100 %

INTENSITY: LOW - MEDIUM (20 MIN WALK)



IBEX

Location: KOROŠKA

Best chance between: 15. 5. - 15. 9.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Chance in %: 95 - 100%

INTENSITY: MEDIUM - HIGH (1,5 H WALK)



HOOPOE

Location: ORMOŽ

Best chance between: 1. 5. - 31. 7.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Chance in %: 95 - 100%

INTENSITY: LOW (5 MIN WALK)



BEE-EATER

Location: ORMOŽ

Best chance between: 10. 5. - 15. 7.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Chance in %: 95 - 100%

INTENSITY: LOW (5 MIN WALK)



KINGFISHER

Location: ORMOŽ

Best chance between: 15. 6. - 15. 11.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Chance in %: 95 - 100%

INTENSITY: LOW (5 MIN WALK)



PYGMY OWL

Location: CARINTHIA

Best chance between: 15. 5. - 15. 11.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Chance in %: 95 - 100%

INTENSITY: MEDIUM - HIGH (1,5 H WALK)



Water Rail, Bittern and Gt Grey Shrike

Location: RACE

Best chance between: 01. 12. - 15. 2.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Chance in %: 05 - 100%

INTENSITY: LOW (5min WALK)



COMMON CUCKOO

Location: ORMOŽ

Best chance between: 15.04. - 15.05.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Chance in %: 95 - 100%

INTENSITY: LOW (5 MIN WALK)



LITTLE OWL

Location: RAČE

Best chance between: 15. 5. - 15. 9.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Chance in %: 95 - 100%

INTENSITY: LOW (5 MIN WALK)



BOREAL OWL

Location: CARINTHIA

Best chance between: 15. 8. - 15. 11.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Chance in % : 95 - 100%

INTENSITY: MEDIUM - HIGH (1,5 H WALK)



BIRDING TOURS



Slovenia has a rich and varied bird world. The most interesting species (written down below) can not be seen in whole year round so we have different winter, spring, summer and autumn tours available. As Slovenia is a country with a lot of habitat types, we have a wide range of bird species to be observed. From mountains to valleys with various rivers, lakes and marshes.

You can visit only one location, or you can travel around the country in search of more birds. Trips can be easy or busy as some species are not hard to find, but on the other hand some birds can take us much more time to find or to get to. Locations to be visited can be in the heart of Alpine mountains or on the shores of lake Cerknica for example. For some birds we can also jump over border to Croatia like for the Black-headed Bunting which is present in nearby Mirna valley.

Some interesting bird species that can be seen with us:

Legend (chance to see in %):

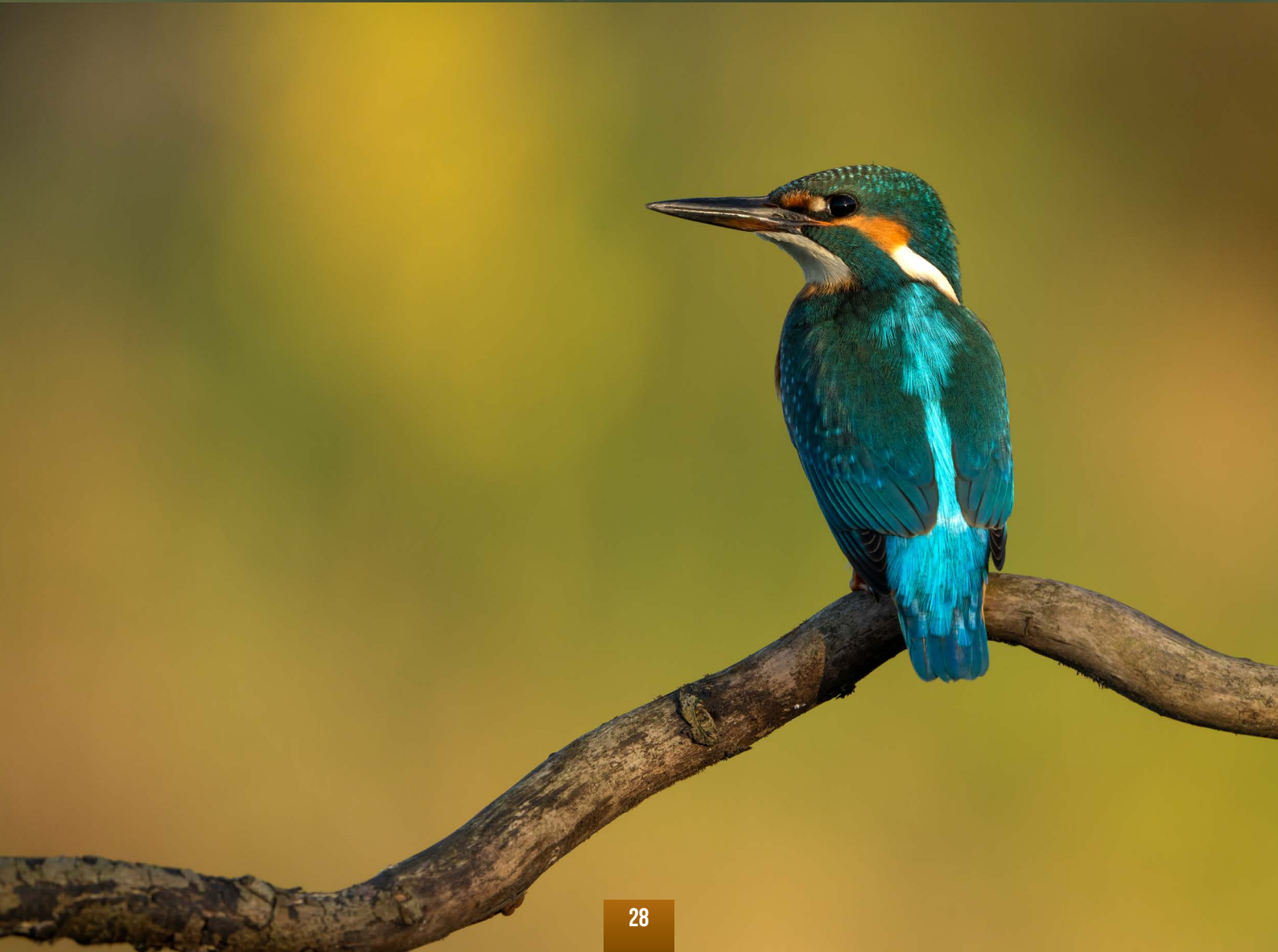
- **0-40 %** *
- **41-70 %** **
- **71-100 %** ***

NOTE: The stated percentage is valid for separate seasons and not all year round.
The following shortlist features only the most attractive birds and not all species, which can be seen in Slovenia.

Garganey ***	Little Crane *	Red-rumped Swallow *	Red-backed Shrike ***
Ferruginous Duck ***	Black-winged Stilt ***	Tawny Pipit **	Nutcracker **
Smew ***	Kentish Plover ***	White throated Dipper ***	Alpine Chough ***
Rock Ptarmigan **	Mediterranean Gull ***	Alpine Accenator ***	Golden Oriole ***
Black Grouse **	Eagle Owl *	Ring Ouzel ***	Spanish Sparrow **
Corncrake ***	Ural Owl *	Barred Warbler **	Snowfinch **
Red-necked Grebe *	Tengmalm's Owl *	Sardinian Warbler **	Hawfinch ***
Pygmy Cormorant ***	Pygmy Owl **	Subalpine Warbler *	Crossbill ***
Bittern *	Alpine Swift ***	River Warbler **	Common Rosefinch ***
Little Bittern **	Hoopoe ***	Savi's Warbler ***	Ortolan Bunting **
Night Heron **	Bee-eater ***	Cetti's Warbler ***	Girl Bunting ***
Black Stork **	Black Woodpecker ***	Zitting Cisticola ***	Black-headed Bunting **
Griffon Vulture *	Grey-headed Woodpecker ***	Melodious Warbler *	Rock Bunting ***
White-tailed Eagle **	Middle Spotted Woodpecker ***	Red-breasted Flycatcher *	Crag Martin **
Golden Eagle *	White-backed Woodpecker *	Collared Flycatcher **	
Short-toed Eagle *	Three-toed Woodpecker **	Wallcreeper ***	
Spotted Crane *	Great Spotted Woodpecker ***	Lesser Grey Shrike **	



We also offer combined tours with different activities: you can easily mix and match birding, bird and bear photography sessions. Let us know if you are interested in a combination tour and we will tailor it to your needs and wishes. Just choose which species you want to see and photograph and leave the rest to us!



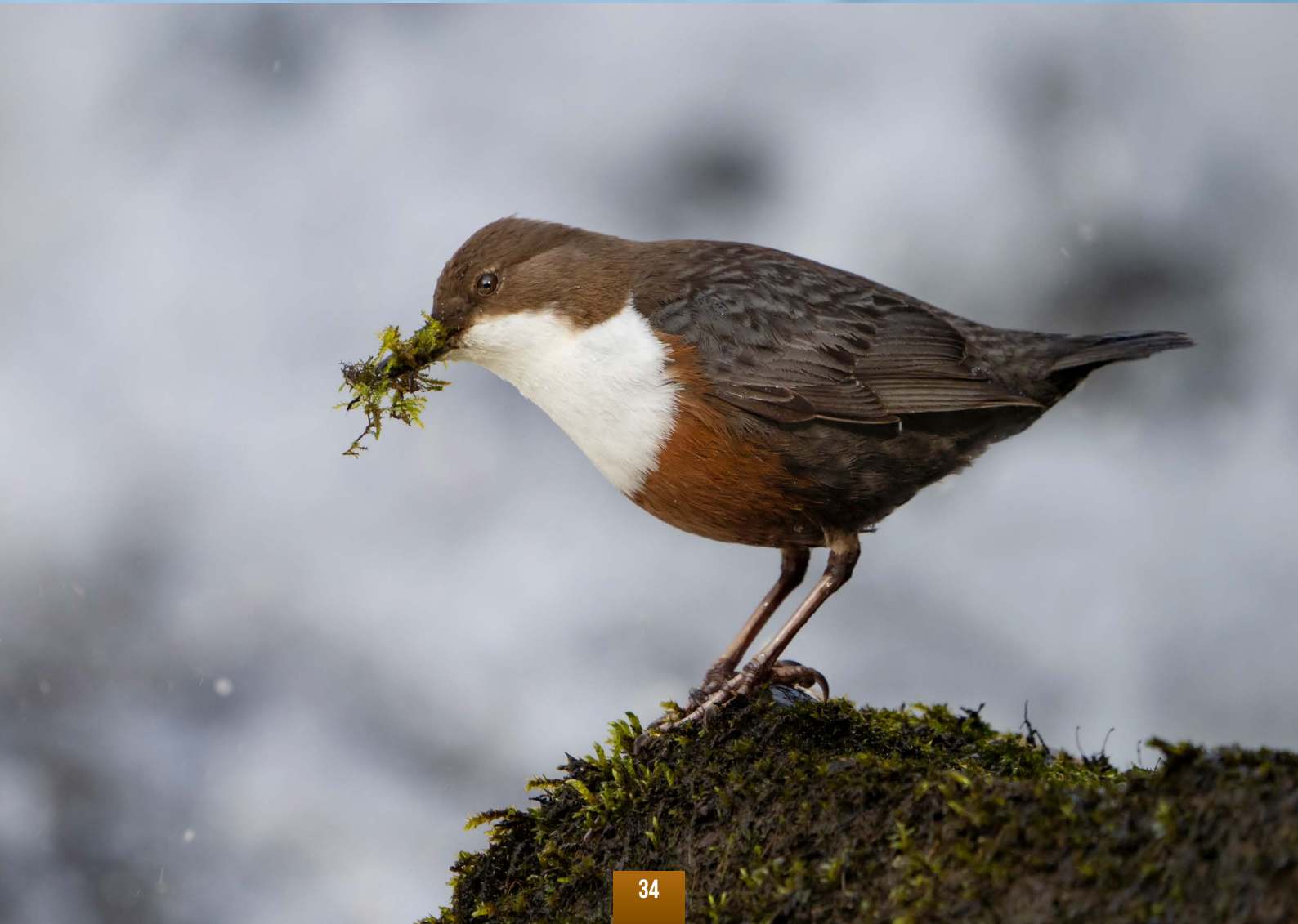


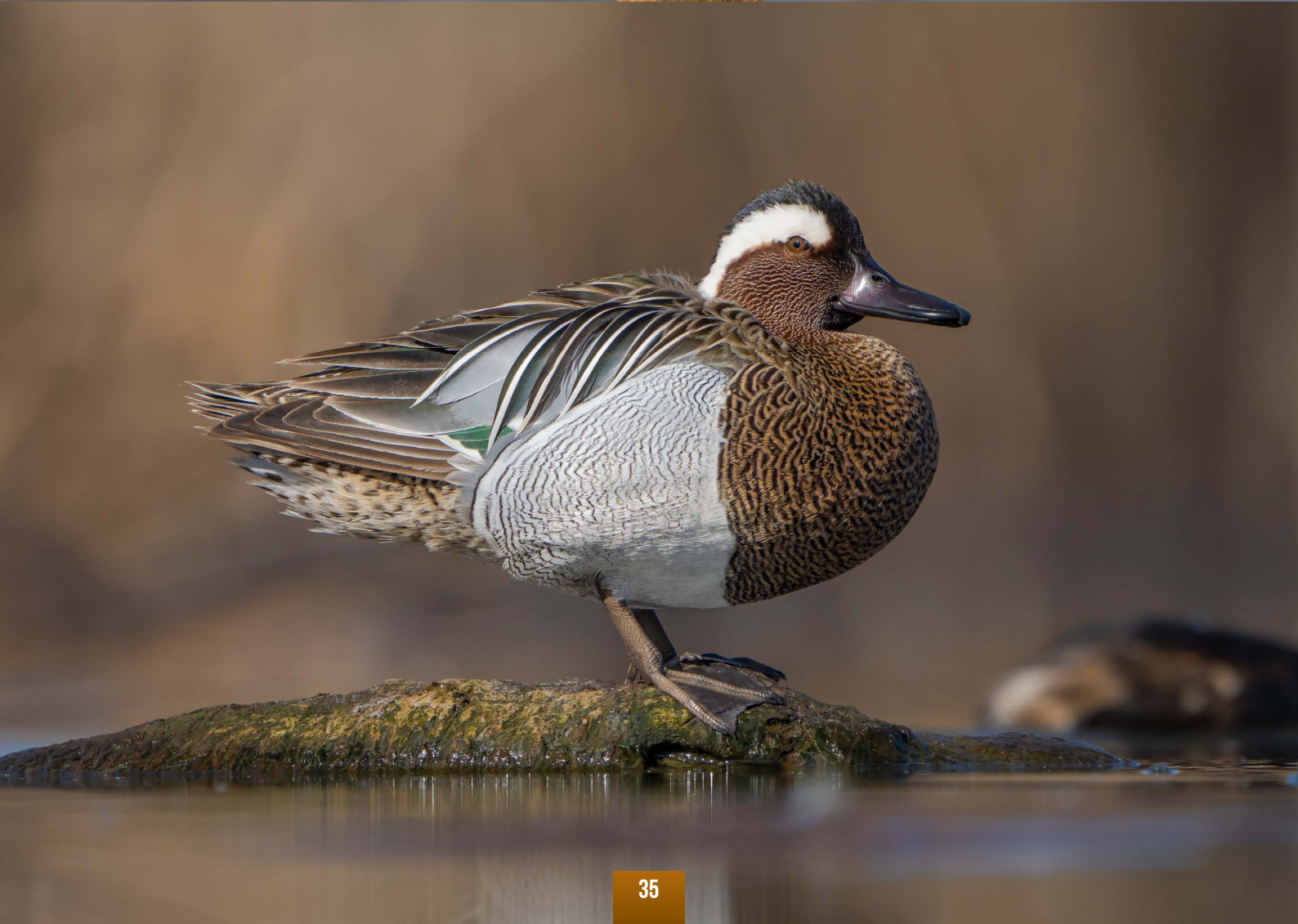




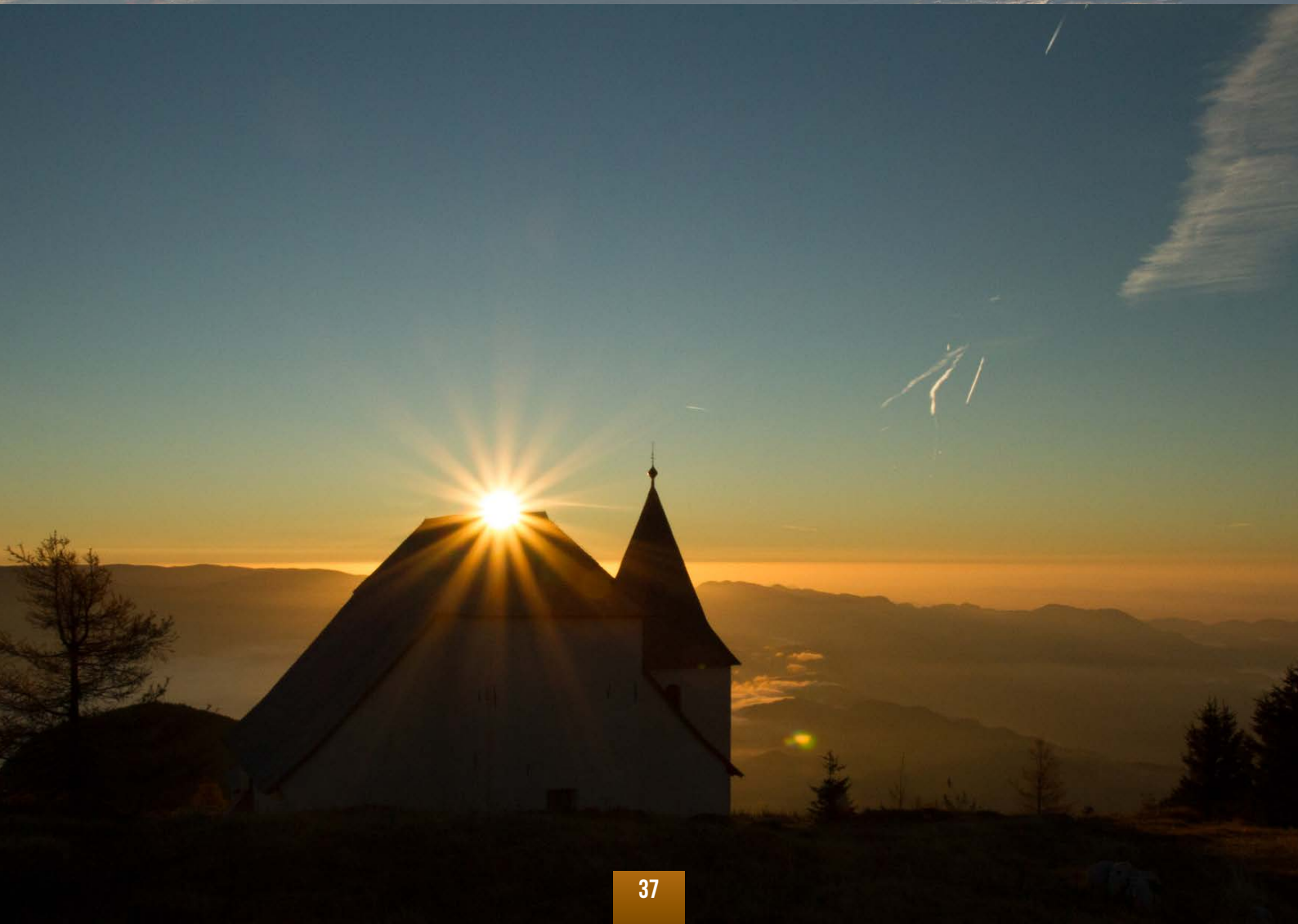












MEET OUR TEAM



Janez Žalig
OWNER



Aleš Logar
OWNER



Zala Logar
DIRECTOR

PHOTOGRAPHERS AND GUIDES:



Jure Novak



Alexander Voda



Jože Lešnik



Stojan Mihorič



Marko Zabavnik



Roman Abraham



Gorazd Golob

Come and visit us!

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