


ON THE PATHS
OF
GROŽNAN'S

SACRED HERITAGE





Eight stations offer a unique opportunity to explore Grožnjan's sacred heritage and find spiritual and physical renewal...

- DISCOVER THE PATHS WALKED BY THE MARTYR OF BLESSED FRANCESCO BONIFACIO

- EXPLORE THE SACRED HERITAGE OF THE PARISHES OF GROŽNJAN, KOSTANJICA, ZAVRŠJE, AND ŠTERNA THROUGH EIGHT SPIRITUAL POINTS

- TRAVERSE A UNIQUE ROUTE BLENDING VINEYARDS, OLIVE GROVES, THE KORNARIJA FOREST, A DESERT, THE BUTORI WATERFALL, FIELDS, A CROSS, AND HISTORICAL LANDMARKS...

- PILGRIMAGE BY WALKING OR CYCLING (MTB) PART OF THE ROUTE OR COMPLETING THE ENTIRE 38-KM JOURNEY

- MEET THE LOCALS, CUSTODIANS OF GROŽNJAN'S HERITAGE

- DISCOVER WHAT IS HIDDEN IN THIS TOWN OF ARTISTS AND JAZZ

- ADMIRE THE STUNNING VIEWS OF MOTOVUN, THE MIRNA RIVER, AND THE SEA ALONG THE PARENZANA TRAIL



1.

Parish Church of St. Vitus, Modestus, and Crescentius, Grožnjan

SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY – Reaching for what fulfills our spiritual needs is not a luxury but a fundamental human necessity. It addresses both individual and collective well-being, including the health of our civilization, which relies on the wellness of its members.

Did you know? Along this route, you will encounter the world's smallest wooden chapel, crafted by an unknown local artist. St. Vitus is one of the **14 helper saints invoked** in times of great distress, particularly by those with epilepsy, hysteria, possession, winegrowers, actors and everyone in great need.

Merciful God, through Your grace, St. Vitus endured martyrdom at a young age. As we honour his memory, we entrust all whose faith is in peril to You. Strengthen them in hope and love through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



2.

Parish Church of St. Peter and Paul, Kostanjica

CONNECTION- Progress has always been driven by the interaction of diverse groups of people, the linking of distant places, and the building of roads, bridges, and railways. This is true for this region as well. The railway once connected these small villages, bringing fresh opportunities and a breath of new life. Today, the area continues to thrive on its openness to others.

First mentioned in written records 1102 as **Villa de Castan**, the village was a gift to the Aquileian Church. A walk through this tranquil village, surrounded by orchards and olive groves, immerses you in complete **silence and the serenity** of nature, untouched by the noise of modern technology.

The Apostles Peter and Paul - When we mention these names, we do not refer to unknown martyrs: "Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world." (Romans 10:18). These martyrs bore witness to what they preached. They followed justice, proclaimed the truth, and died for it.

St. Peter and St. Paul, pray for us so that our earthly journey may lead us to heaven.



Parish Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Završje

MEMORY – Every person overlooked by history holds a rich personal story that they do not wish to be forgotten. Each of us carries a wealth of personal history, where every event, artefact, and memory is significant.

Did you know? In 2017, Završje's medieval core served as the perfect backdrop for the birthplace of **Robin Hood** and earned a place on the list of **the best European locations** for filming historical movies.

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary marks the beginning of God's plan, fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, the Redeemer and Savior of the world. Your birth and mine are the start of God's plan for us and our place and world. Will you answer the call and take the first step? Mary, as a mother, will guide you to her Son.



4.

Parish Church of St. Michael the Archangel, Šterna

FREEDOM - St. Michael the Archangel, to whom this church is dedicated, is God's agent of action and defender of freedom. He is the victor over the enemy, who spares no effort to enslave us. Freedom, therefore, is a fundamental gift that God desires to give us.

Did you know that near the parish church is an **inexhaustible water** source and a desert that is very close to each other?

It is comforting to know that we are not alone in spiritual battles. If we choose God's side, He descends to save us with His angels and archangels.

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray: and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.

FORMATION - passing through the desert toward
St. Cancian

<https://spiritualgroznjan.com/>



Istarski piski



5.

St. Cancian, Cemetery on the Hill of Šterna

WONDER - To honestly know oneself, one must understand who they are and where one comes from - not just on a physical level but on an existential one. Where do we come from? We often admire nature for its magnificence and beauty. However, we should ask ourselves how much more admiration is due to the Creator of all these wonders, who evokes such admiration and delight in us.

Did you know? Every time we step into nature, we **discover** a fragment of "paradise" that has been here for us since **the beginning** of the world, regardless of whether we feel good or bad.

St. Cancian was a martyr during the persecution of Christians under Emperor Diocletian. He refused to bow to false gods. He remains a deeply venerated saint in neighbouring Slovenia under the name St. Škocjan.

St. Cancian, pray for us to remain faithful to Jesus, starting from our hearts.

IDENTITY: Passing through the Butori waterfall
toward St. Florian

<https://spiritualgroznjan.com/>





6.

St. Florian, Kornarija Forest

HARMONY - Harmony must be present for something to function and form a meaningful whole. The same applies to humans: body, mind, and spirit must be balanced to be whole and wholly healthy and maintain a healthy relationship with our surroundings.

Did you know? **Kornarija** is the most renowned **forest** in northwestern Istria, covering an area of 160 hectares. It is a popular oasis for **walking and cycling**, crisscrossed with numerous paths and trails. At the heart of this forest lies the small church of St. Florian.

St. Florian, also a martyr, is remembered for his courageous stand: "Inform the emperor that I too am a Christian and am ready to share the fate of other Christians." Despite being offered a promotion and a pay raise, Florian refused to renounce his faith.

St. Florian, pray for me to reject all that leads me away from harmony and God.



7.

The Cross and Plaque, The site of Blessed Francesco Bonifacio's abduction

TRUTH - We all admire people with firm convictions, but some, like Blessed Francesco Bonifacio, go as far as sacrificing their lives for their beliefs. Even outside the faith, such individuals are deemed heroes when they die for a noble cause they hold to be true. However, contrary to popular belief, it was not their death that made them saints or heroes—it was their lives.

Insights from the life of Blessed Francesco Bonifacio: In his diary, he wrote: "It seems impossible to me that those claiming to be **our liberators** are the very ones trying to **strip us of freedom.**"

Subject: **Anger**

"Unfortunately, I often succumb to anger, especially with my household and parishioners. I get irritated over small things, even in the confessional. Chosen to represent Him who is gentle and humble, I too must strive for gentleness." That's why you should treat your household well and the people even more. Be prepared for all possible circumstances.

I am a man of God; thus, my entire life must be a hymn of praise to God and a light to His people. From now on, this means committing to faithfulness in my schedule, devotion to prayer, and an unwavering fight against laziness. In practice, this involves rising without delay and giving greater attention during my examination of conscience.





Parish of St. Vitus, Modestus, and Crescentia, Grožnjan

BEAUTY - Art is not limited to exhibitions, galleries, or performances. People become artists when they express themselves, beautify their surroundings, and seek beauty.

Did you know? Blessed Francesco Bonifacio held monthly spiritual retreats. A few notes from these retreats highlight his ideals. **Love for oneself:** Shown most clearly in efforts to avoid sin and maintain a constant spirit of repentance for offending God's infinite love. **Priesthood:** The ideal priest must love God above all, dedicate all glory to Him, and strive to deepen their knowledge of asceticism and mysticism. **Love for others:** Loving others from supernatural motives and prioritizing the good of their souls.

Conclusion - Walking, running, or cycling these paths will remain etched in your heart. Continue living out these encounters - with your Creator, yourself, and others - so you can be a beacon of light in this world.

As Blessed Francesco would say: "**I must be in my Father's house.**"



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