

POT PRIJATELJSTVA – THE MOUNTAIN TRAIL OF FRIENDSHIP SNEŽNIK – SNJEŽNIK

connects the top of Veliki Snežnik mountain (1796 m) in Slovenia with the neighbouring Snježnik mountain (1506 m) in Croatia.

It takes approximately 12 hours to get from one peak to the other.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

Head southeast from the top of Veliki Snežnik, past the cave and follow a steep rocky path. Once you reach the mountain pines the path becomes more level and later starts to climb. On a smaller clearing (Grčevsko sedlo, 1654 m) take the right turn on the path that comes from Leskova dolina over Gašperjev hrib (Gašper's hill). Continue right and steeply downhill over a few steep rocks in the forest till you come to the bottom of Grčovc which is one of the most beautiful forest clearings and offers an amazing view of Veliki Snežnik. Cross the clearing to get to the start of a road (1285 m) which leads to the crossroads SEŽANJE (1323 m). You can find a control stamp there. It takes about an hour to get to this point.

Turn right at the Sežanje crossroads towards Klanska polica. After approximately four kilometres you reach Marelja, a former Italian barracks, and soon after that also crossroads Mirin (1200 m). There are a few renovated cottages in both of these locations. It is just over four kilometres from Sežanje to this point.

From Mirin head straight south following a road for ten minutes till you come to Velika vrata crossroads; right is Zabiče, and left is KLANSKA POLICA (1150 m). Turn toward Klanska polica which you reach in five minutes. Find the control stamp and cross the state border following the road to Čabarska polica.

After crossing the state border slightly ascend to get to Čabarska polica. Go past the old Yugoslav military building (karavla) Javor and continue on the road till you get to the crossroads. Turn right toward ŠVERDA (1200 m) and find the control stamp on the rock next to the road. Follow the macadam road to reach the crossroads (left toward Čabar, right toward Platak). Turn right toward Platak (the barrier at the beginning of the road) through the forest area called Škurine. After that, you reach a meadow from which you can look back toward Snežnik and the trail you have already walked. Half of the whole Snežnik – Snježnik trail is behind you. The path continues through a lovely beech forest until a well-marked 'roundabout' - crossroads. It takes three and a half hours of moderate walking to get from Čabarska polica to this crossroads, mostly following the macadam road and a wide forest path without any serious climbs.

Follow the macadam road, take the shortcut to avoid a big road turn to get to Javornica. There is a signpost there marking peak Planina (1425 m), path no. 1204 and peak GUŠLICA (1490 m), path no. 1203. It takes an hour and forty minutes to ascend on a forest path and partly macadam road to get from Javornica to a building on Gušlica. Cross the road and continue on the marked path out of the forest. Walk through the meadow and mountain pines to get to the building, following the winter signs. Find the next control stamp on a rock near the National Park board and a bench on which you can rest.

From Gušlica the macadam road leads you 200 m toward the crossroads where you turn left on a forest path toward Međuvrhovi. You are in the Risnjak National Park. This part of the trail is very sunny and exposed to northern wind in winter. The path is technically not difficult, simply follow the winter signs on the grassy slope. The path brings you to a crossroads with many marks: Mirnjak - path no. 205, Lazac – path no. 207, Snježnik (30 min), Guslica – path no. 204, Planina – path no. 1202 and Jelenc – path no. 902.

After 30 minutes of walking along a grassy path and climbing the ridge, you reach Snježnik. The control stamp is near the Branko Lončar memorial plaque. This is where the Mountain Trail of Friendship ends.

Carefully descend from Snježnik following path no. 201 toward Mali dom Sušak which offers food and lodging.

The trail is marked with the Knafelc blaze and the capital letter S next to it.

Starting points for hikers:

To get to Veliki Snežnik take the road from Ilirska Bistrica toward Sviščaki (1242 m). There is a mountain hut there. It is a two-hour hike to get from Sviščaki to Veliki Snežnik.

To get to Snježnik take the road from Rijeka toward Platak (1111 m). There is a mountain hut there. It takes an hour and fifteen minutes to get from Platak to Snježnik.