

Location



Cerovačke
špilje
CEROVAC CAVES



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Schedule of entry

Time of entry	
Lower cave	Upper cave
10:00	11:30
11:30	13:00
13:00	14:30
14:30	16:00
16:00	17:30
17:30	

It is necessary to arrive 30 minutes before the desired time of entry.


Velebit Nature Park Public Institution Cerovac Caves


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 Cerovačke špilje

 cerovacke_spilje

Publisher:

Velebit Nature Park Public Institution

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Photographs:

„Velebit“ Nature park archive

One day studio, Robert Bogdanić



VELEBIT
Park prirode • Nature Park



**THE WONDERFUL WORLD
OF CEROVAC CAVES**

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THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF THE KARST UNDERGROUND

Of all the wonders hidden in Velebit's underground, the Cerovac Caves are among the most intriguing. **Stepping into the very heart of Velebit**, it is hard to remain indifferent to the creative power of nature. With their richness of cave formations, the **Cerovac Caves** surpass all other speleological features in Croatia by far.

The cave complex is located in the **massif of southern Velebit, about 4 km from Gračac**. It comprises three caves – Upper, Middle, and Lower – with a total length of approximately 7 kilometres.

The first 700 m of the Lower and Upper Caves are available to visitors.



The Cerovac Caves were discovered in 1913 during the construction of the Zagreb – Split railroad. One of the designers and builders of the Lika railway, **engineer Nikola Turkalj**, was the one to discover the caves and initiate their protection. Due to their unique natural beauty and numerous finds from the ancient past, **the Cerovac Caves were protected by law in 1961 as a geomorphological monument of nature**.

In addition to the many archaeological remains from the Iron Age (fragments of ceramic vessels, objects made of bronze, bone and stone), fossil human bones, a bone awl and a flint scraper were also found in the Palaeolithic Hunter's Hall, which testifies to human presence from the Upper Palaeolithic.



These caves are **one of the largest cave bear sites in Croatia**. Traces of bear "rubbing" can still be seen here today, created by their movement along the cave walls. The remains of cave bears in the Cerovac Caves make up almost 99% of all paleontological findings, while other remains are related to brown bears, cave lions, horses, deer, chamois and martens.

With its constant dripping, water continues the thousands-of-years-old process of creating speleothems. Stalagmites, stalactites, stalagnates... they all appear in various forms that only our imagination can limit. Walking through the Cerovac Caves, you can come across the Stone Wedding Procession, Santa Claus, the Virgin Mary, and Regoč. Not forgetting that the shadow of the cave bear is always nearby!

What secrets does the Palaeolithic Hunter's Hall hide? Is there treasure tucked away in the Crystal Hall? These are just some of the questions waiting to be answered. **Come and find out!**

The average temperature in the caves is 7°C, so we recommend bringing warm clothing, a head covering and comfortable shoes.

A 15-minute trail leads to the Lower Cave, followed by another 10-minute walk to the Upper Cave. The caves can only be visited with a guide (included in the ticket price).

A visit to each cave takes about an hour.

