

IRF -3rd European Rangers training seminar

Croatia, Brijuni National Park, Hotel Neptun/Istra, 13th - 17th May 2014

1. INTRODUCTION

The International Rangers Federation - »IRF« and Croatian Rangers Association - »Croatian Rangers« organize, in 2014, third European Rangers training seminar, which will be hosted from 13th to 17th May, by the Brijuni National Park, Hotel Neptun/Istra, Croatia.

The seminar will be held under the slogan:

CONNECTING RANGERS ACROSS EUROPE - NEW BEGINNINGS

The goals of the seminar are:

- stronger links with the Rangers in Europe as a tool to help overcome future challenges and tools for creating new development opportunities,
- work to encourage an increase in the number of members and the establishment of new national professional associations,
- better cooperation existing member associations IRF, through continuous creation and launching of joint projects and programs, and the exchange and transfer of knowledge and experience.

2. LOCATION

BRIJUNI NATIONAL PARK

[www. brijuni. hr](http://www.brijuni.hr)

Total area - Brijuni National Park	3, 395. 00 ha
Total area - submarine	2, 651. 70 ha
Total area - land	743. 30 ha
Length of the islands' coast	46. 82 km
Length of sea border	22. 93 km

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GENERAL INFORMATION



The Maker intended to shape a part of the Earth to the image of Heaven. That is how Istria came into being, like a garden covered with magnificent trees and vast meadows, washed by the deep blue sea, appealing people to a happier life. But the jealous devil destroyed his work by tearing the bag in which the angel was carrying the unused stones. Thousands of rocks scattered around the Istrian land making it a land of contrasts, gentle and rough, fertile and barren, sunny and cloudy. The desolated angels gathered the pieces of Heaven remaining among the scattered rocks and protected them by the sea waves and created Brijuni.

NATURAL HERITAGE

Flora

Another characteristic that makes Brijuni even more valuable in relation to other areas of this climate is its vegetation. On Veliki Brijun an extraordinary unity of natural elements and anthropogenesis has been achieved. By taking up the farmlands and by clearing the forests and transforming them into landscape parks with vast meadows, a unique landscape on the Croatian Adriatic coast has been created.

It is interesting to point out that on the islands there are some plant species that are among the endangered plant species of Istria (marine poppy, wild cucumber, some grass species etc.), but on the islands they are quite widespread and develop freely.

Fauna



Because of the millennial presence of men on the archipelago of Brijuni, the animal world on the islands, especially Veliki Brijun, besides the autochthonous species, was enriched by many imported species that are not congenial to this habitat but got acclimated to it

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thanks to the almost ideal microclimatic conditions.

Submarine world

The indentation of the coastline, the diversity of the base, the bathymetric configuration and the specific hydrodynamic conditions are reflected in the wide variety of littoral biocoenoses - life communities - that are characteristic for the northern Adriatic region and are still unaffected by direct sources of contamination.

The local seas of Brijuni are important hatching grounds and representative oasis (marine park) for the typical marine organisms of the northern Adriatic, that is their colonies and communities. Of the protected marine organisms in the waters of Brijuni you can find the pen-shell (*Pinna nobilis*) and the date-shell (*Lithophaga lithophaga*). Turtles and dolphins, the protected marine vertebrates, can also from time to time be seen in the waters of Brijuni. There are also some endemic species like the *Fucus virsoides*, and the tunicate *Polycitor adriaticus*. The seabed abounds in sponges, shellfish, sea urchins, crustaceans, fish etc. Among fish the most numerous are sea basses, giltheads, grey mullets, soles, groupers, conger eels, dentexes, black umbers. In the past in the seas of Brijuni were found some species that were never seen in the Adriatic, as well as some species up to then unknown to scientists like the soft coral *Alcyonium brionense* (Kuekenthal 1906) or the variety of the sponge *Ircinia variabilis fistulata* (Syzmanski 1904).

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE



The archipelago of Brijuni is an extraordinary blend of natural, historical and cultural heritage. The mild climate and the favourable geographical conditions, deep retracted bays and easily defendable elevated fortifications, have secured a continuum in the human activity on the island from a pre-historic age until the present day. On a relatively small archipelago, of an area of around 7km², have been registered some hundred sites and buildings of archaeological and cultural-historical value and which comprise

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the period from the first Neolithic settlements, the dugouts in the bay of Soline, until the creation of an elite summer and health resort at the beginning of the last century and the presidential residency visited by statesmen from one third of the world's countries in its 25 years of existence (1954-1979). This concise curriculum vitae of the island, which carefully preserves the traces of 5000 years of human history, makes the legend of its creation even more real and when arriving to the island a part of Heaven discloses in front of our eyes in the unique harmony of the island's flora, fauna and heritage. A unique blend of the green islands sank into the turquoise-blue sea whose bays and hills are laced with the white Istrian rocks.

HOW TO REACH BRIJUNI NATIONAL PARK

The Brijuni islands stretch along the south-west coast of the Istrian peninsula; they are separated from the Istrian mainland by the Fažana Channel which is 3 kilometers wide. The islands are situated 7 kilometers from Pula (a road, rail, air and maritime centre) near Fažana which is the terminal for the frequent connections by boat (15 minute ride).

Distances:

Zagreb-Pula	Rijeka-Pula	Trst-Pula	Ljubljana-Pula	Vienna-Pula	Milano-Pula
240 km	90 km	110 km	130 km	450 km	465 km

Boat Transfer:

Fažana - Brijuni National Park: 6. 45 am, 9 am, 10 am, 11. 30 am, 1. 30 pm, 2. 30 pm, 3. 30 pm, 4. 45 pm, 6 pm, 7 pm, 10. 15 pm.

Brijuni National Park - Fažana: 7. 15 am, 9. 30 am, 10. 50 am, 1 pm, 2 pm, 3 pm, 4 pm, 5. 30 pm, 6. 30 pm, 7. 30 pm, 11 pm.

More information:

http://www.brijuni.hr/en/how_to_reach_us

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3. DEPARTURE OR START OF POST SEMINAR TOURS

Option 1.	Kopački rit Nature Park
	www.kopacki-rit.com

GENERAL INFORMATION



One of the most beautiful and largest flood plains in Europe, created by the Drava but mainly by the Danube River, is Kopa ki rit Nature Park. This valuable wetland, as the second largest natural fish spawning area, has settled in the middle of the Danube's course between the Black Forest and the Danube Delta. Besides being recognised as an Important Bird Area and a Ramsar site, Kopa ki rit is also part of the **Transboundary UNESCO Biosphere Reserve »Mura-Drava-Danube«**. The Park is extremely rich in biodiversity having more than 4000 biological species and serves as an ideal habitat for many marsh birds, mammals, fish, and plant species. In other words, Kopa ki rit is recognised as the **European Amazon**.

Option 2.	Krka National Park
	www.npkrka.hr

GENERAL INFORMATION



Area of 109 km² of basin and stream of Krka is in year 1985 declared as a National park »Krka«. With its seven waterfalls Krka River is a natural phenomenon. National Park Krka is located in the area of the Šibensko-Kninska County and includes the stream of river Krka (two kilometres downstream from Knin to Skradin) and lower part of river *ikola*.

Skradinski buk, the highest and the most popular waterfall on the Krka River is one of the most famous Croatian natural beauties.

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On Skradinski buk there are remains of the former hydropower plant Krka, which began its operations in year 1985, just two days after Tesla's hydropower plant on Niagara Falls.

Visovac Island is one of the most important natural and cultural values of Croatia. Since the year 1445 there is a Franciscan monastery of the Mother of Mercy and the Church of Our Lady of Visovac, which with the beautiful landscape of Visovsko Lake make a unique ambience.

Roški Waterfall is located 36 km downstream from the source of the river Krka. The beginning of the barrier consists of a series of small cascades (popularly called Necklaces), followed by numerous rivulets and islets. The canyon in this section expands like a funnel, where the river Krka from the height of 15 meter crashes into Visovsko Lake.

Option 3.	Risnjak National Park
	www.risnjak.hr

GENERAL INFORMATION

Surface area:	6350 ha
Highest point:	1528 m - Risnjak peak
Lowest point:	290 m - Kupa Valley
Main protection phenomenon:	forest and hydrogeological natural monument - Kupa spring
County:	Primorsko-goranska
City area:	Delnice andabar
Characteristics:	strong climate and vegetation barrier between coastal and continental parts of Croatia, the most important example of upland vegetation division in Croatia, the most beautifully expressed phenomenon of karst sinkhole vegetation, a natural bond between the Alps and the Balkan mountains, a natural habitat for all three European large carnivores (bear, wolf and lynx), 1148 flora species and sub-species.



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Option4.	Plitvice Lakes National Park
	www.np-plitvicka-jezera.hr

GENERAL INFORMATION



With a surface area of 294.82 km², Plitvice Lakes National Park is the largest of Croatia's eight national parks. Plitvice lakes was proclaimed a National park in 1949, also making it the oldest national park in Croatia. In 1979, Plitvice Lakes National Park was included in the UNESCO list

of World Natural Heritagesites.

The park represents a phenomenon one of karsthydrography. The lakes are known for their cascades and the ongoing biodynamic process of tufa formation under specific ecological and hydrological conditions. Tufa or travertine is a porous carbonate rock formed by these dimentation of calcium carbonate from water. It builds barriers, sillsand other form sinkarst rivers and streams. The travertine formation process is especially prominent in the Plitvice Lakes waterfall sand is constant, happening even while visitors are enjoying their walk through the park. With this travertine development, numerous magnificent waterfalls are created. The broader zone of the national park hides rich forest and meadow habitats with many diverse species of plants and animals. The forest communities are predominantly made up of beech and fir. Of particular note is » orkova uvala«, a virgin beech- fir forest, one of the most beautiful virgin forests in Europe.

To date, 1267 different species of plants, including 75 endemic plants and 55



different species of orchids, have been recorded in the park, gives a good overall picture of the richness of the flora. Studies to date in the park area have recorded 321 species of butterflies, 161 species of birds and 21 species of bats, indicating

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the richness of the animal world here. Of the carnivores, the most attractive inhabitant of the Plitvice forests is the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*). **One of the first researchers of this natural phenomenon was Academic Ivo Pevalek. In 1937, he said: »There are water, lakes, waterfalls and forest elsewhere, but Plitvice Lakes are unique. They simply must be seen«!**



Possible activities in the park include: **walking, trekking, electrical boat and train riding, taking photos, cycling, skiing and rowing.** There are 7 different sight seeing programmes marked with letters A, B, C, E, F, H i K and they are classified according to their duration. Programmes A and E take 2 - 3 hours of visiting; programmes B and F take 3 - 4 hours of visiting; programme H takes 4 - 6 hours of visiting while programme K takes 6-8 hours of visiting.

4. VISA REGIME

<http://www.mvep.hr/en/consular-information/visas/visa-requirements-overview/>

Here you can find basic information about the visa regime between the Republic of Croatia and all other countries.

Information on web site is liable to change, therefore we advise seeking additional information before travelling to the Republic of Croatia at the competent Croatian diplomatic mission/consular post.

Important notice:

The Republic of Croatia applies the European Union's Common Visa Policy. This means that the classic visa regime will apply for the citizens of all those countries that need visa for entering the EU member states.

Russian, Ukrainian, Turkish and Kosovo citizens, who are required a visa to enter Croatia can apply for a visa on-line at <https://crovisa.mvep.hr/> Printed and filled out

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application form along with other required documents should be submitted to the competent Croatian Embassy/visa centre or through an accredited agency.

Aliens who are holders of: /residence permits issued by one of the Schengen Area member state/ uniform visas (C) for two or multiple entries - valid for all Schengen countries or long-stay visas (D) issued by one of the Schengen Area member state temporarily do not require a visa for entering and stay for transit through the territory of Croatia.

Nationals of Kosovo, who are holders of Schengen visas with limited territorial validity (LTV visas), valid for all Schengen countries except for Greece and Spain, temporarily do not require a visa for entering and stay or for transit through the territory of Croatia. The above mentioned Schengen documents must be valid at the moment of leaving the Republic of Croatia and enable entry into the Schengen Area. In the line with the Government's decision, the facilitated entry of aliens shall also apply during 2014.

All questions regarding Croatia's visa regime for non-EU countries can be submitted at: vize@mvep.hr

5. OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Since some activities will take place outdoors, minimal hiking equipment is needed: hiking boots, backpack, waterproof jacket and sunglasses.

For the conference day, the official uniform is required.

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6. PARTICIPATION COSTS

The cost of accommodation includes:

-	accommodation including taxes,
-	meals and transportation during the seminar,
-	handouts and promotional materials,
-	the total cost of field trips to other parks,
-	sightseeing of cultural and scenic attractions of the island of Veliki Brijun with a professional guide by tourist train,
-	boat excursion to the island of Mali Brijun - visit to the Brioni Minor Fort built at end of the 19th century and tours of the entire Brijuni archipelago,
-	evening entertainment program with live music and DJ.

For the participants coming by car or van, the guarded parking is secured in Fažana. The price is 90.00 HRK or 11.81 EUR per day. The price is not included in the cost of accommodation and is charged separately.

Important information about accommodation at Brijuni National Park:

In National park Brijuni the following hotels provide special offer for the participants: Jurina, Karmen, Neptun and Istra. Hotel Istra is available for the participants at regular prices.

During the entire seminar, organizers have booked the conference hall »Kastrum«, which has a capacity of 300 seats, for the working part of the program and the evening entertainment program with live music and / or DJ.

Accommodation for participants is provided in double and triple rooms at the Hotel Jurina, single and double at the Hotel Carmen and double at the Hotel Neptun (except in the case of Double room single use) an additional discount on the total price of 10% is provided for early booking by 15th March 2014 and another 10% if listed accommodations are paid by 15th April 2014.

The prices listed in euros (EUR) are for information purposes only (calculated on the 2nd January 2014, according to the middle exchange rate of the Croatian National Bank, which amounted to 1 EUR / 7.62 HRK), and for those who will pay in euros

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(EUR) will be calculated according to the exchange rate that will apply on the day of payment.

Each participant who will be accredited and who will fill out the registration form on web page www.brijuni.hr (see information under item 8) available from mid-January, will receive an offer for payment of accommodation with all the necessary information.

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Accommodation:

HOTEL JURINA

HOTEL JURINA		Price for person/DAY	Plus	Total price/HRK	Total price/EUR
Type of room	Double room (<i>total 60</i>)	235, 00	5, 00	1. 175, 00	154, 19
Taxes		5, 50	5, 00	27, 50	3, 60
Extra meal		190, 00	3, 00	570, 00	74, 80
Extra coast		0, 00	5, 00	0, 00	0
Total price:		430, 50		1. 772, 50	232, 59

HOTEL JURINA		Price for person/HRK	Plus	Total price/HRK	Total price/EUR
Type of room	Double room single use	352, 50	5, 00	1. 762, 50	231, 23
Taxes		5, 50	5, 00	27, 50	3, 60
Extra meal		190, 00	3, 00	570, 00	74, 80
Extra coast		0, 00	5, 00	0, 00	0
Total price:		548, 00		2. 360, 00	309, 63

HOTEL JURINA		Price for person/HRK	Plus	Total price/HRK	Total price/EUR
Type of room	Triple room (<i>total 7</i>)	235, 00	5, 00	1. 175, 00	154, 19
Taxes		5, 50	5, 00	27, 50	3, 60
Extra meal		190, 00	3, 00	570, 00	74, 80
Extra coast		0, 00	5, 00	0, 00	0
Total price:		430, 50		1. 772, 50	232, 59

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HOTEL KARMEN

HOTEL KARMEN		Price for person/DAY	Plus	Total price/HRK	Total price/EUR
Type of room	Double room (<i>total 30</i>)	270, 00	5, 00	1. 350, 00	177, 16
Taxes		5, 50	5, 00	27, 50	3, 60
Extra meal		190, 00	3, 00	570, 00	74, 80
Extra coast		0, 00	5, 00	0, 00	0
Total price:		465, 50		1. 947, 50	255, 56

HOTEL KARMEN		Price for person/HRK	Plus	Total price/HRK	Total price/EUR
Type of room	Double room single use	405, 00	5, 00	2. 025, 00	265, 74
Taxes		5, 50	5, 00	27, 50	3, 60
Extra meal		190, 00	3, 00	570, 00	74, 80
Extra coast		0, 00	5, 00	0, 00	0
Total price:		600, 50		2. 622, 50	344, 14

HOTEL KARMEN		Price for person/HRK	Plus	Total price/HRK	Total price/EUR
Type of room	Single room (<i>total 23</i>)	350, 00	5, 00	1. 750, 00	229, 65
Taxes		5, 50	5, 00	27, 50	3, 60
Extra meal		190, 00	3, 00	570, 00	74, 80
Extra coast		0, 00	5, 00	0, 00	0
Total price:		545, 50		2. 347, 50	308, 05

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HOTEL NEPTUN

HOTEL NEPTUN		Price for person/DAY	Plus	Total price/HRK	Total price/EUR
Type of room	Double room (<i>total 15</i>)	410, 00	5, 00	2. 050, 00	269, 02
Taxes		5, 50	5, 00	27, 50	3, 60
Extra meal		190, 00	3, 00	570, 00	74, 80
Extra coast		0, 00	5, 00	0, 00	0
Total price:		605, 50		2. 647, 50	347, 42

HOTEL NEPTUN		Price for person/HRK	Plus	Total price/HRK	Total price/EUR
Type of room	Double room single use	615, 00	5, 00	3. 075, 00	403, 54
Taxes		5, 50	5, 00	27, 50	3, 60
Extra meal		190, 00	3, 00	570, 00	74, 80
Extra coast		0, 00	5, 00	0, 00	0
Total price:		810, 50		3. 672, 50	481, 94

HOTEL NEPTUN		Price for person/HRK	Plus	Total price/HRK	Total price/EUR
Type of room	Single room (<i>total 4</i>)	500, 00	5, 00	2. 500, 00	328, 08
Taxes		5, 50	5, 00	27, 50	3, 60
Extra meal		190, 00	3, 00	570, 00	74, 80
Extra coast		0, 00	5, 00	0, 00	0
Total price:		695, 50		3. 097, 50	406, 48

HOTEL NEPTUN		Price for person/HRK	Plus	Total price/HRK	Total price/EUR
Type of room	Apartment	615, 00	5, 00	3. 075, 00	403, 54
Taxes		5, 50	5, 00	27, 50	3, 60

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Extra meal		190, 00	3, 00	570, 00	74, 80
Extra coast		0, 00	5, 00	0, 00	0
Total price:		810, 50		3. 672, 50	481, 94

HOTEL NEPTUN		Price for person/HRK	Plus	Total price/HRK	Total price/EUR
Type of room	Apartment single use	922, 50	5, 00	4. 612, 50	605, 31
Taxes		5, 50	5, 00	27, 50	3, 60
Extra meal		190, 00	3, 00	570, 00	74, 80
Extra coast		0, 00	5, 00	0, 00	0
Total price:		1. 118, 00		5. 210, 00	683, 71

HOTEL ISTRA

HOTEL ISTRA		Price for person/DAY	Plus	Total price/HRK	Total price/EUR
Type of room	Double room (<i>total 32</i>)	410, 00	5, 00	2. 050, 00	269, 02
Taxes		5, 50	5, 00	27, 50	3, 60
Extra meal		190, 00	3, 00	570, 00	74, 80
Extra coast		200, 00	5, 00	1. 000, 00	131, 23
Total price:		805, 50		3. 647, 50	478, 65

HOTEL ISTRA		Price for person/HRK	Plus	Total price/HRK	Total price/EUR
Type of room	Double room single use	615, 00	5, 00	3. 075, 00	403, 54
Taxes		5, 50	5, 00	27, 50	3, 60
Extra meal		190, 00	3, 00	570, 00	74, 80
Extra coast		200, 00	5, 00	1000, 00	131, 23
Total price:		1. 010, 50		4. 672, 50	613, 17

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HOTEL ISTRA		Price for person/HRK	Plus	Total price/HRK	Total price/EUR
Type of room	Single room	500, 00	5, 00	2. 500, 00	328, 08
Taxes		5, 50	5, 00	27, 50	3, 60
Extra meal		190, 00	3, 00	570, 00	74, 80
Extra coast		200, 00	5, 00	1. 000, 00	131, 23
Total price:		895, 50		4. 097, 50	537, 71

HOTEL ISTRA		Price for person/HRK	Plus	Total price/HRK	Total price/EUR
Type of room	Apartment	615, 00	5, 00	3075, 00	403, 54
Taxes		5, 50	5, 00	27, 50	3, 60
Extra meal		190, 00	3, 00	570, 00	74, 80
Extra coast		200, 00	5, 00	1. 000, 00	131, 23
		1. 010, 50		4. 672, 50	613, 17

HOTEL ISTRA		Price for person/HRK	Plus	Total price/HRK	Total price/EUR
Type of room	Apartment single use	922, 50	5, 00	4612, 50	605, 31
Taxes		5, 50	5, 00	27, 50	3, 60
Extra meal		190, 00	3, 00	570, 00	74, 80
Extra coast		200, 00	5, 00	1. 000, 00	131, 23
Total price:		1. 318, 00		6. 210, 00	814, 94

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7. CONTACT PERSON IN CROATIA

Operational team - Ministry of Environmental and Nature protection:

	Contact person	Function	E-mail
1.	Mario Josi	Operational team chief (OT)	mario.josic@mzoip.hr
2.	Andrijana Jovanovac	Coordinator (OT)	andrijana.jovanovac@mzoip.hr

Recommended destinations in Croatia:

	Contact person	Organization	E-mail
1.	Ruzica Maruzi	P. I. Kopa kirit Nature Park	ruzica.marusic@kopacki-rit.hr
2.	Ivona Cvitan	P. I. Krka National Park	ivona.cvitan@npk.hr
3.	Silvija Barbari	P. I. Risnjak National Park	marketing@risnjak.hr
4.	Ana Brajdi	P. I. Plitvice lakes National Park	ana.brajdic@np-plitvicka-jezera.hr

8. OTHERS

All relevant information regarding the holding seminars, accreditation, accommodation prices and payment, arrival at the Brijuni National Park, visits to the recommended destinations in Croatia, as well as the program of seminars and field trips, could be found after 15th January 2014 on the website www.brijuni.hr at the sublink to the European Rangers training seminar. .