

GOLOBINA – “Following the Obrh Stream to the Golobina Cave in the Loško polje”

We offer you a chance to learn about the karst phenomena of river sinks and drainage of surface water to the underground, and visit a cave and its inhabitants.

Golobina

The drainage area of the Loško polje (Field), which lies in the heart of the Classical Karst, is where the Obrh Stream disappears into a sinkhole. Some of the water from the stream emerges in the Golobina Cave. The cave developed along the cracks and bedding planes in a tectonically altered zone, which is why it is more varied, is spread across multiple levels, and showcases a labyrinth-like system of passageways. This is perhaps where the name Golobina comes from (“globina” in Slovenian means “depth” or “abyss”) as the cave keeps disappearing into the unknown. The cave consists of 1 km of passageways condensed over 300 m of aerial distance and reaching 70 m deep. The entrance part of the cave is easily accessible.

After long rainy periods, Golobina becomes an active water cave, a sink cave, where a lot of water from the Loško polje disappears. The cave features many different karst formations of unusual appearance. The cave animals that live in the water and on dry land are tiny, adapted to the absence of light, high humidity levels and low temperatures.

Starting point:

The starting point of our journey is **the village of Dane in the municipality of Loška dolina in Notranjska**, which can be reached from Ljubljana by car in less than an hour.

Trip description:

After the initial orientation, we will take a short walk and explore the karst sink area of the Obrh Stream and the entrance areas of the Golobina Cave. The water mysteriously disappears into the ground before the cave itself. We will follow the path created by water during floods and by man with his interventions, trying to force the water into the underground as quickly as possible – that is why an artificial riverbed and an artificial entrance were made.

Guided by an experienced caver, we will descend into the Golobina Cave with the help of our flashlights and discover one of the passageways where the water that we have just seen in the stream on the surface disappears. This running water creates interesting shapes on the cave walls and ceiling, such as scallops and ceiling pockets, which cannot be found in dry caves rich with dripstones. The subterranean lake and its surrounding area provide a home for a host of special and unique cave animals. Most of us have no contact with this unique underground environment, so we do not consider that these caves represent a home to various animals that live in special conditions. This environment demands a high level of attention from visitors if they want to spot the animals inside tiny cracks, behind rocks or under water. It was these conditions that made them different as the cave environment is very specific and, in many aspects, very extreme. Their habitat is also plagued by waste and polluted water, which the local residents often throw or drain into caves. We will analyse the water quality on the surface and in the underground as we will be interested in water purity and pollution. Water from the surface also carries many branches, logs and grass, which is how organic material and waste makes its way into the underground.



Since we are always outsiders – temporary visitors – in caves, one of the main points of our visit will be learning to protect caves and visiting them in ways that minimize the environmental impact on the fragile cave environment and its inhabitants.

Length (km):

- On foot on the surface: 1.5 km
- On foot in the cave: 300 m

Duration:

- Walk in the territory of the Loško polje and near the sinks of the Obrh Stream: 60 min
- Visit to the Golobina Cave: 45-60 min
- **TOTAL: 1 HOUR 45 MIN – 2 HOURS (120 MIN)**

Difficulty:

Walking on the surface is mainly very easy. Walking trails run across flat, slightly undulating and varied terrain. The exception is the **Golobina Cave**, where the **terrain is moderately difficult** as the cave surfaces are slippery and uneven. If you decide not to visit the cave, one of the guides will wait outside with you and will help you explore the cave's surrounding area.

Visitors need to bring their own hiking boots or rubber boots for the tour. Flashlights will be provided for visitors free of charge for the duration of the cave tour.

Programme includes:

Interpretation of the surface and underground heritage, and professional cave guidance.

Price:

2 persons – 25.00 EUR per person
3-8 persons – 15.00 EUR per person
9-15 persons – 12.00 EUR per person

***50% discount for children aged 6 to 15**

Other:

The programme is conducted in groups consisting of a minimum of 2 to and a maximum of 10 people.

It requires **intermediate fitness levels and is also suitable for fit children of 6 years and above.**

If you have a medical condition or any other issues, we ask you to inform the organiser beforehand.

In case of extremely bad weather (heavy rain) or other events beyond the control of the organiser, the programme is cancelled or rescheduled. Customers will be informed of the cancellation at least 12 hours before the start of the trip. Any amount already paid will be reimbursed within 7 working days of the cancellation.

