

# Logar Valley Landscape Park

Slovenia Green Park



Municipality of Solčava

Sustainability Report 2019-2022

*'The Logar Valley is not here for us to change it, but rather that it changes us.'*

A green (environmentally and socially responsible) destination is not a project, task, or the responsibility of a tourist organisation on its own. It is something that can only be achieved by working together – all stakeholders in the destination, both in public, non-governmental and private sectors, and not only in tourism, but in all areas of work and life.

It is important that the landscape park is a pleasant home for all those who live and work in it. This ensures that visitors also sense the harmony in which the locals live with primeval nature and respectfully enter this exceptional place of protected nature.

### *The landscape park in numbers*

Due to the numerous natural and cultural assets, the Logar Valley was proclaimed a landscape park in 1987. In 1992, sustainable management of the park was taken over by locals and companies from the Logar Valley. Since 2017, the park has been managed by the Municipality of Solčava public utility unit.

There are 36 permanent and 15 temporary residents in the area of the park. The most important economic activities are tourism, agriculture and forestry. There are six active farms within the park that operate in an ecological and sustainable way. Two indigenous breeds are still bred on the meadows and mountain pastures of the park – the Jezersko-Solčava sheep and cika cattle.

### *The destination is managed responsibly and sustainably*

In 2019, the Logar Valley Landscape Park was awarded the title 'Slovenia Green Park' for its sustainable efforts and management of tourism. The park is an important part of the Logar Valley-Solčava destination, which is also the recipient of a Gold Slovenia Green Destination Label. Together with other hamlets, the park forms an ecologically important area of alpine Slovenia with the peaks of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps and the Karavanke mountain range. In the period from 2019 to 2021, the Logar Valley-Solčava destination was a three-time recipient of the Top 100 Destination award. In 2021, for its sustainable efforts and achievement of the objectives of the Agenda 2030, the destination received the title 'Best Tourism Villages' awarded by the UNWTO.



By completing an online survey, residents were included in the processes of planning the sustainable development strategy of the Municipality of Solčava up to 2030. This allowed residents to contribute their views and proposals on the development of the entire area, with special attention on measures of effective management of protected areas. The locals of the Logar Valley Landscape Park actively cooperate with other stakeholders in the management of the park as part of the Landscape Park Management Committee. Informing residents and the general public about efficiency and continuously acquainting them about the implementation of all important activities in the park takes place through digital and other promotional channels.

**'Let's eat local food and support Solčava's farm, tourist providers and craftspeople.'**

***Monitoring the effects of tourism on nature and preserving its originality***

Renovation work on the Logar Valley Trail was completed in 2021, and the trail was subsequently awarded the title 'BEST TRAIL'. The aim of the trail is to direct tourists visiting the park to experience nature responsibly and to learn about the natural and cultural heritage of the landscape park. The 7-kilometre-long trail has been equipped with additional signage and information boards, a paved base and protective rails along the way, a chute for wood harvesting, and educational elements.

Experiencing primeval nature by providing suitable access to natural assets also allows visitors in wheelchairs and families with young children to enjoy the park. The Palenk waterfall can be seen up close, while the circular platform at the Dom planincev mountain hut is an ideal place to enjoy the botanically colourful part of the route.

The Logar Valley Landscape Park is a member of the Community of Natural Parks of Slovenia and the ALPARC Association. In joint efforts to preserve the nature of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps, it cooperates with the municipalities in the area.

Green guidance has been prepared for visitors. They are informed in a friendly way about how a little effort can greatly contribute to maintaining nature and improving the situation in the area. Visitor satisfaction is measured through surveys.

***Carefully managing natural resources and mitigating the negative impacts of tourism on the environment and climate change***

The majority of tourist facilities are supplied with quality drinking water from the renovated supply system, which the locals manage with the utmost care.



The piped water is potable, and visitors can fill up their water bottles at the tap outside the Tourist Information Centre in the central part of Plest.

We promote soft mobility and public transport. There are five bike hire facilities, with 18 electric and 26 mountain bikes. The electric charger, which was the first in Slovenia, still serves its purpose. Employees have use of an electric car for the needs of inspection services in the park. There are plans for sustainable traffic management in the park.

We promote the use of public transport. Three bus routes at the weekend during the tourist season are a great plus for the area. The regular route runs from Celje, as well as new routes from Velenje and around the Kamnik-Savinja Alps.

We are improving the percentage of waste separation. In the period from 2013 to 2020, there was a 31% improvement, and in the last three years a further 8.65%. Our goal is to become a 'Zero Waste' area.

Tourist providers in the landscape park have succeeded in reducing electricity consumption by around 20% over a period of two years. Most providers are connected to the district heating system, which uses wood biomass.

The four largest tourist providers reduced the consumption of drinking water in the period from 2017 to 2020 by more than half.

Hotel Plesnik and the Eco House na Razpotju guest house are holders of sustainable and environmental awards. There are plans to mitigate climate change.



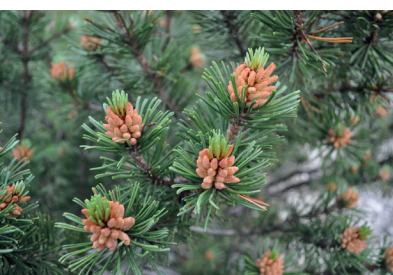
**'Flowers are there to be admired in their natural environment. A photograph provides a reminder of them to take home.'**



*Cultural heritage and tradition go hand in hand with preserving identity and interpretation of genuine experiences of harmony between humankind and nature*

Heritage is included in the tourist experience through guided tours and storytelling with local guides, who have signed the local guide code. Through the interpretation of experiences in typical Solčava dialect – the narrative is only spoken by a third of the inhabitants of the Solčava area – local guides help keep the dialect alive. Solčava's dialect was added to the UNESCO Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2020.

In order to provide their guests with an unique gastronomic experience, tourist providers buy food from local providers. In doing so, they support farms in the wider destination as well as those who carry out supplementary activities of domestic food processing.





Photos: Tomo Jeseničnik, Bernarda Prodnik

Let us be led by the **'green philosophy'** of the Logar Valley Trail:



Let's eat local food and support Solčava's farm, tourist providers and craftspeople.



Let's save water and electricity.



Let's travel on foot or by bike, i.e. 'green'.



Flowers are there to be admired in their natural environment. A photograph provides a reminder of them to take home.



Let's separate waste and not use one-time plastics.



Let's listen to the sounds of nature. Noise disturbs the animals in the park.



Let's visit museums, attend events, and listen to local guides.



*The Logar Valley-Solčava, a connected, enduring and balanced mountain community, which proudly builds on its centuries-long tradition of the sustainable work of our ancestors.*