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TOWN OF SINJ

tourist guide



UNIMEDIA/DARIO BAURIN



HISTORY

The archaeological finds are evidence of the fact that the Cetina area has been inhabited since prehistoric times. A number of finds from the end of the Copper Age to the Middle Bronze Age are attributed to the so-called Cetina culture. The natives, members of the Illyrian tribe Delmates, appeared in the area during the Bronze Age and their development continued until the Romans had arrived. Although the Delmates persistently opposed the Roman authorities, numerous insurrections were successfully repressed. After the fall of the Roman Empire, barbarians repeatedly invaded the area. At the beginning of the 7th century, Croats came from White Croatia and settled in the region of Dalmatia. This was the time of the foundation of the first Croatian principalities. In the later period, when a kingdom was founded, Sinj became the centre of the Cetina County. As the princes grew in power and influence, the Cetina Principality was founded. The title of princes of Cetina was first acquired by the Šubić princes and from 1345 it belonged to the Nelipić princes. In 1513 Sinj fell into Ottoman hands, up until 1686, when it came under Venetian rule. The Ottomans, however, were still attempting to win back Sinj. The most significant battle was fought in 1715, when 700 defenders of Sinj repulsed an attack of tens of thousands of Ottomans. The disordered Ottoman army left the Cetinska Krajina Region. Sinj remained under the direction of Venetian Governor until 1797, and from that year to 1918 it was under Austrian rule. During this period the Town was also under French domination, but



this was only briefly. After the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and then the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, the Independent State of Croatia, the Italian occupation and the communist Yugoslavia, Sinj has finally become part of independent and sovereign Republic of Croatia.

POPULATION

According to the latest census taken in 2021, the population size of the Town of Sinj and its immediate surrounding area is 23 452, while the Town itself has the population of 10 771 inhabitants.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Geographic coordinates are 43° 42' N 16° 38' E, the area of the Town is 194.27 km².

Sinj is located in the heart of the Dalmatian hinterland, at an elevation of 320 metres, and at 30 km distance from the Adriatic Sea. Surrounded by beautiful mountains of Kamešnica, Svilaja and Dinara, the Town of Sinj is situated at the edge of the fertile Sinjsko Polje Valley, which is invigorated by the clear and cold Cetina River.

CLIMATE

Due to a specific geographic position of Sinj, which is located in a valley, and only about thirty kilometres remote from the sea, the Town's temperate continental climate overlaps with sub-Mediterranean climate. Hot and dry summer days are relieved by cool nights, owing to the nearby mountain ranges. Winter months are abundant in precipitation, when temperatures can be very low.



ALKA OF SINJ

For centuries Sinj has been a pearl each government wanted to adorn itself with, a boundary stone between the coast and the inland, surrounded by the nearby mountain peaks, the Cetina River and its tributaries. Although shaken by earthquakes, destroyed and burnt by conquerors, who imposed foreign languages, religions and customs, the Town still grew stronger, unyielding and defiant. In honour of its heavenly patroness the Madonna of Sinj, who, according to the tradition, forced the Ottomans into flight in 1715, as an eternal vow of devotion and respect, the people of Sinj instituted the Alka – the knights tournament of Sinj, and thus each year on the first Sunday in August the glorious victory is revived. The name *Alka* (Tur./Arab. *halqa*: ring, hoop) is derived from the details of the stirrup bottom from the saddle of a horse, seized from the Ottoman serascher-pasha Čelić. In the Alka ceremony two men lead a horse by the reins, which symbolises the pasha's horse, *edek*. The ring, *alka*, consists of two concentric iron circles joined by three bars, so that the distance between the circles is divided into three equal parts. The central circle, which is the smallest one, is worth three points (*punat*), the upper field two points, and two lower fields one point each. The knight – the *Alkar* – aims at full gallop at the *alka* with an iron-topped wooden lance. The winner of the Alka is the one who wins the greatest number of points (*punti*) in the three races. In the event that more contestants have the same number of points, they gallop again until one of them collects more points than other(s), and this is called *pripetavanje*. The ceremony of Alka lasts for three days. The contest starts on Friday for the *Bara*, whereas the Saturday contest is called the *Čoja*. The solemn Sunday Alka procession is led by the



ANTE GAŠPAR

harambaša and the selected Alka squires (*alkarski momci*). They are followed by mace-bearers (*buzdovandžije*) and the trophy Ottoman shield-bearer. At the rear of procession come the *edek*'s guides. The troop of Alkari, who ride double-rowed, is led by the standard-bearer (carrying the Alka Knights Tournament Society banner, accompanied by the Image of the Madonna of Sinj and Croatian tricoloured flag) with henchmen (*pobočnici*) and the Tournament Master (*alkarski vojvoda*), the commander of the procession, with his adjutant. At the rear of procession rides the commander of the Alkari, called *alajčauš*. The Alka squires march along in the procession, together with their leader (*harambaša*). The Alkari, dressed in the early 18th century authentic knights attire of Sinj defenders ride richly decorated horses. An Alkar has to be born in the Cetinska Krajiina Region and he has to be an honourable and honest man. The Tournament of Alka originated at the time when there were many similar knights tournaments throughout Europe. All of them have now fell into oblivion, except the Alka Tournament of Sinj, which is at the dawn of its three hundredth anniversary and under protection of UNESCO as world intangible heritage. The Alka Tournament is a symbol of the struggle for freedom, peace and hearth, for faith and hope. It unites the past and the future, praises the honour and integrity, the customs of our ancestors, heroism and bravery.

Bara - the first Friday in August at 5.30 p.m.

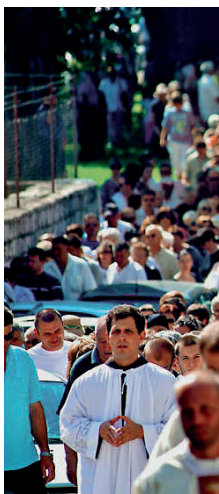
Čoja - the first Saturday in August at 5.30 p.m.

Alka - the first Sunday in August at 4.30 p.m.

Tickets available at: The Alka Knights Tournament Society

Address: Put Petrovca 12

Telephone: +385 (0) 21 821 542 www.alka.hr



PILGRIMAGE TO FEAST OF ASSUMPTION

The Croatian people have always worshipped the Blessed Virgin Mary and in tribulations they have prayed for her help. They have trusted in her heavenly intercession, honouring her in token of their gratitude as the Queen of the Croatian people. They have also invoked her through history as *fidelissima advocata Croatiae* (*the most devoted advocate of Croatia*). In Sinj, one of the greatest Croatian sanctuaries dedicated to the Virgin Mary, a celebration of Feast of Assumption on August 15th is given the special solemn significance. A vast multitude of pilgrims comes to Sinj with only one aim - to kneel with hands clasped in front of the Miraculous Madonna of Sinj, to bow in silent prayer and gratitude to the heavenly Mother, to light a candle before the Image of the Madonna and open their hearts to her grace. Many people from far away vow to pilgrim barefoot or just on foot. The day before the celebration, *užežin*, Sinj is already crowded with people and the hubbub, making the streets and the Church too narrow. The first mass, the traditional early service, is celebrated at 4 a. m. At 7 a.m. the sacred votive mass is celebrated in the small church at the Old Town, thus reviving the feeling of gratitude to the Madonna for having delivered us from enemy's yoke and for comforting us in many temptations. The old fortress is resonant with the song of worship *The Madonna of Sinj, Holy Virgin, God has glorified you wonderfully, wonderfully, voices of the entire world celebrate you, dearest Mother of*



BRANKO ČOVIĆ

your people... At 9.30 a.m., accompanied by the solemn ringing of bells and the sound of fanfare, the Image of the Miraculous Madonna of Sinj is taken out of the Church to be brought into a solemn procession through the streets of Sinj. It is a great honour to carry the Image on one's shoulders. It is carried by the Alkari, the Alka squires, policemen, members of the Croatian Army, firemen, members of the Association of Croatian volunteer combatants, members of the Association of Homeland War veterans and volunteers, members of civil associations, nuns and Franciscans, bandsmen, girls in folk costumes, mayors and benefactors of the Sanctuary of the Madonna of Sinj. Cannon balls (*mačkule*) are fired from the Old Town fortress, thus indicating the benediction place. The people of Sinj sprinkle flower petals from the windows on the Madonna's path. Accompanied by the prayers of the rosary and liturgical songs worshipping the Madonna, the Image is brought back to the square in front of the Church where the service is celebrated. In the evening, the mass is also celebrated in the town square, but without the procession. Feast of Assumption is further celebrated as the Day of the Town of Sinj.

Sanctuary of the Miraculous Madonna of Sinj

Address: Fratarski prolaz 4

Telephone: +385 (0) 21 707 010

www.gospa-sinjska.hr



SANCTUARY OF THE MIRACULOUS MADONNA OF SINJ

Peaceful and majestic, framed with the bronze door in relief made by the academic sculptor Stipe Sikirica, the Church of the Miraculous Madonna of Sinj dominates the town main square. Built during the 1699-1712 period, it has preserved its original appearance, though many times damaged resisting wars and earthquakes. The Image of the Miraculous Madonna of Sinj takes the central place, both in the Church and in the hearts of the people of Sinj. It is a work of an unknown painter, dating back to the 15th or the 16th century. With her head slightly tilted and eyes lowered, she has devotedly watched over her people, ever since they, driven off by the Turks, brought her along from Rama as the greatest treasure and hope to the Cetinska Krajina Region. Legend has it that in 1715 Sinj was once and for all delivered from Turkish rule with the help of her miraculous influence. In token of gratitude, the people of Sinj crowned the Image in 1716 with a golden crown, on which there is an inscription reading *IN PERPETUUM CORONATA TRIUMPHAT - ANNO MDCCXV* (Triumph in eternal coronation – the year of 1715). The Image is nowadays silver-framed, with a relief of Sinj fortress on the back (by the sculptor Ante Jakić), adorned with votive offerings of worshippers. In addition to the Madonna's altar, in the Church there are altars of St Joseph, St Francis, St Anthony, St Nicholas Tavelić and St Paulin. A stone



altar, the work of the academic sculptor Kuzma Kovačić, stands out in the presbytery, as well as stained-glass windows made by the academic sculptor Anton Vrljić. Above the entrance door, there are stained-glass windows showing Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the images of Father Pavao Vučković and St Nicholas Tavelić. The side walls of the nave show the works of the academic painter Ivan Grgat, these being the images of evangelists, Blessed Alojzije Stepinac and Venerable Ante Antić. Behind the main altar, there are a mosaic and a stained-glass window showing the crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Christ on the cross, the work of the academic painter Josip Botteri Dini. In the inner church courtyard, there is a bronze relief by Kuzma Kovačić, showing the Image of the Madonna of Sinj crowned with twelve stars. The relief is the same as the detail on the door of the Franciscan church at Šćit in Rama. The today's church tower, which consists of four new bells and is 43.5 metres in height, was completed in 1927. It was built in the place of the old tower, dating from 1775, which was made out of *muljika*, the domestic stone. In 1958, new organs, made by the *Franc Jenko* firm from Ljubljana, were consecrated. The Church itself was consecrated on the Assumption holiday in 2009, together with the new altar and the Madonna's statue placed in the monastery courtyard, made by the academic sculptor Josip Marinović.



MARKO KAPITANOVIC

KAMIČAK FORT

One of the most scenic and memorable symbols of Sinj, located in the very town centre opposite the Church of the Miraculous Madonna of Sinj. Kamičak is a star-shaped fort, built in 1712 on the hill of the same name. In the south-west, it is joined to the pertaining *kvartir* (the cavalry barracks), the today's Alka Knights Court (*Alkarski dvori*). Kamičak's present-day layout dates back to 1890 when the walls were built and the pine trees planted. A tower that used to serve as an observatory is built in the fort. On the tower there is a clock ringing three minutes before the hour, and ticking on the hour. At the top of the tower there is a bronze bell cast in the foundry of the famous Italian family Colbachini. The foundry was established in 1745 and in 1898 it was granted the right by the Pope Leo XIII to use the papal arms in their production. To this day, the Colbachini foundry has been the only foundry in the world with this exceptional honour. On the bell, richly floral-ornamented, four reliefs in circles stand out – *The Madonna Embracing the Child*, *Moses*, *The Crucifixion* and *St George Slaying the Dragon*. The year MDCCCXXVIII (1828) is inscribed on the bell, as well as the author *Opera di Giovanni Colbachini Trieste*. At the top of the bell there is an inscription reading *A fulgore et tempestate libera nos Domine* (*From the thunder and evil times, deliver us, Lord*). It probably has the origin in folklore, saying that ringing of bells or mortar fire chases away the clouds and hail.

Address: A. Kačića Miošića 5 (Entrance free)



MARKO KAPITANOVIĆ

OLD TOWN

Remnants of the old fortress, that the people of Sinj simply call the Town, have been faithful to watch over Sinj even today, after the passage of centuries. It harboured the people and soldiers during Turkish invasions, guarded and protected the weak, resisted invaders. In the centre of the fortress there was St Michael's church in which, on the altar of St Barbara, the Franciscans from Rama laid the precious and miraculous image of the Mother of Mercy. In 1699, through the advocacy of Father Pavao Vučković, in the town at the foot of the old fortress the building of St Mary's church began. The church was completed in 1712. There is little left of the fortress itself. After 1709, 1768 and 1796 earthquakes and repeated barbarian invasions, the old fortified walls of Sinj yielded so the people began to settle in Podvaroš, at the foot of the hill. A small church, which is nowadays at the Town, was built in 1887, in commemoration of two centuries of arrival of the people of Cetina from Rama. It is a symbol of a vow, a close alliance and devotion which have for centuries bound the Cetina people to the Mother of God. In 2008, in honour of their eternal heavenly patroness, the people of Sinj built at the Town a bronze statue of the Madonna of Sinj, the work of the academic sculptor Josip Marinović. Complete restoration of the fortress walls has been planned to finish up until 2015, with a great celebration of the three hundredth anniversary of the defence of Sinj.

AT THE SPRING (LUCA)

The first public sculpture by Stipe Sikirica (1957), the statue of a girl drinking water from the spring. The people of Sinj call it *Luca*.



IVAN ALEBIĆ

MONUMENT TO AN ALKAR

One of the most representative symbols of Sinj, a bright sculpture of an Alkar is a work of the academic sculptor Stipe Sikirica. It was set in 1965 at the very beginning of the Alka Tournament Course (*Alkarsko trkalište*), called *Biljeg*, a place from which the Alkari start to gallop.



ŽELJKO ZRNČIĆ

THREE GENERATIONS MONUMENT

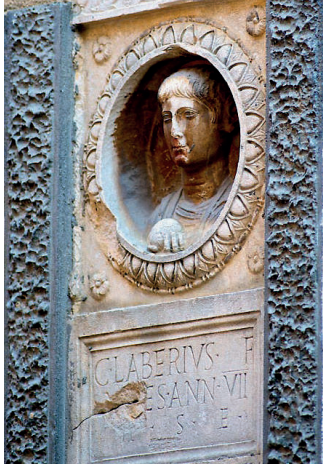
A monumental sculpture with a fountain, by Ivo Filipović Grčić from Sinj, is placed in the centre of the town park. Strongly symbolic, it represents the three men of Sinj holding the alka ring with their arms lifted.



BRANKO ČOVIĆ

GAIUS LABERIUS

A tombstone of a seven-year-old Roman boy Gaius Laberius holding a ball with hexagons joined in the manner of a net-like ornament. The symbol of a real leather ball, it is considered firm evidence that football in Europe was first played in the Cetinska Krajina Region. It was found in the Tilverium site, more precisely the Gardun site, and dates back to the 2nd century.



BRANKO ČOVIĆ

PIAZZA FOUNTAIN

The *piazza* fountain (popularly known as *funtana*) was raised by Mayor Antonio Buglian in 1852. A year later the *piazza* was paved, and street lamps (*ferali*), the iron lamp-posts, were also placed there.



FILIP RATKOVIĆ

PETROVAC FOUNTAIN

The fountain was raised by Mayor Petar Tripalo in 1878, and it bears his name. It is supplied with water from the Miletin spring, located in the south-west of the old fortress of Sinj.



SINI TOURIST BOARD ARCHIVES

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT THE OLD TOWN

From the foothill to the votive church at the Old Town the Way of the Cross is built. Stations were sculptured by the most prominent Croatian sculptors.



SINI TOURIST BOARD ARCHIVES



ROKO PAVLINUŠIĆ

TRIPALO PALACE

It was built in the 19th century, in the very centre of Sinj, near the Church of the Miraculous Madonna of Sinj. It is owned by the Tripalo family, a reputable Sinj family. Due to its historical value, the Palace has been given the landmark status.

GREAT BRIDGE (ALKAR'S BRIDGE)

A large bridge over the Goručica stream was built by Sinj Governor Paolo Emilio Canalis in 1784. The bridge's tablet bears a Latin inscription reading "An ornament of Sinj, comfort to passengers and to the trade benefit".



SINI TOURIST BOARD ARCHIVES

VJERA VILLA

It bears the name of the owner. The house was bought by the Tripalo family from the then landowner and lawyer Ramagnolo, for their daughter Vjera on the occasion of her marriage. Sinj Tax Administration office is at present located in the restored villa.



ZORAN VEJIĆ

FORMER RAILWAY STATION BUILDING

The railway, also known as *rera*, joined Sinj to Klis and to Split from 1903 to 1962. It was very significant for Sinj cultural and economic development.



SINJ TOURIST BOARD ARCHIVES



ORVAS D.O.O.

TRIPALO VILLA

It was raised in southern Sinj in 1920 in Art Nouveau style. The entire property is surrounded by a stone wall. In the north-east part of the villa there is the entrance gate with forged doorframes, dating back to the time when the building was under construction. Although raised in the town, it is a country-style building and is quite exceptional in Sinj, but also in greater Dalmatia. The present owner Mr Branko Roglić started the repair and adaptation work of the building in 2007.

FATHER PAVAO VUČKOVIĆ

The monument to a famous Franciscan is the work of the academic sculptor Kuzma Kovačić. Father Pavao is known as the leader of the people of Rama and the Franciscans, for whom Sinj and the Cetinska Krajina Region became a new home in 1687 after they had fled the Turkish danger, accompanied by the intercession of the image of the Mother of Mercy. He further founded both the monastery and the sanctuary of the Miraculous Madonna of Sinj.



BRANKO ČOVIĆ

DANEK VILLA

It was owned by the wealthy Danek family. The building is remarkable for its architectural design, a large surrounding balcony and the splendid statues of Adam and Eve.



BRANKO ČOVIĆ



FILIP RATKOVIĆ

SINJ FRANCISCAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL WITH THE PUBLIC WORK RIGHT

As the oldest secondary school in the Dalmatian hinterland, it started work in the academic year of 1838/39. Through the 1854 reorganisation it acquired the right of public work. Sinj Franciscan Grammar School is also the first secondary school in southern Croatia which introduced the Croatian language as a language of instruction.



ALKA KNIGHTS SOCIETY ARCHIVES

ALKA KNIGHTS COURT (KVARTIRI)

The Court was built in 1760 as a square fort with a two-building complex. Each complex includes two square towers and two inner courtyards separated by the stables. A complex could house four companies of horsemen, together with their horses. Throughout history the fort was used by all the armies present in Sinj, particularly by the French Army in the early 19th century, and the Austrian Army. It was the time when Home Guard three-storey barracks was added to the fort. Complete archaeological research of the fort has been carried out as well as its restoration as the part of the Alka Knights Court.



MONIKA VRGOČ

WALLY NEUZIL

Viennese Mona Lisa, Walburga Wally Neuzil (1894 – 1917), a muse and girlfriend of Egon Schiele (1890 – 1918) – the famous painter and one of the greats of the Austrian Secession, a student of none other than Gustaf Klimt – was buried at St Francis' cemetery in Sinj. She worked as a nurse at the military hospital in Sinj, where she passed away of scarlet fever on Christmas in 1917. Schiele's painting titled *Portrait of Wally Neuzil* is one of his masterpieces, estimated to be worth 20 million dollars.

DINKO ŠIMUNOVIĆ BUST

It was sculptured by Ivan Meštrović in 1932, honouring the special edition of Šimunović's narration *Alkar*. At that time, Šimunović was seriously ill and lacking in money so that a group of prominent artists initiated a reissue of his *Alkar*.



SINU TOURIST BOARD ARCHIVES



NIKOLA KRIZANAC

BRONZE FLINTLOCK

A bronze replica of a flintlock which was found after the battle of 1715 underneath Sinj fortress, is located in front of the Alka Halls and the Museum of Cetina region. It is the work of sculptor Kažimir Hraste. With a 3,6 m length and half a meter width, it draws attention of anyone passing by.

SCULPTURE OF REVEREND IVAN FILIPOVIĆ GRČIĆ

A bronze sculpture depicting Reverend Ivan Filipović Grčić, one of Sinj's historical heroes, a participant in the battles of 1686 and 1715, is located at the northwestern corner of the Alka Halls. Sculptor Marko Gugić immortalized the priest, poet and knight with a cross in his left and a sword in his right hand.



NIKOLA KRIZANAC

IGOR KRALJICAR



Stelar tombstone of Lucius Mummius (Roman soldier), the mid 1st c. (ant. Tilurium)

NENAD STANIĆ



Head of a goddess with a diadem, Čitluk (ant. Aequum), the mid 1st c.

MUSEUM OF THE CETINSKA KRAJINA REGION

Founded in 1956, it represents the central place of research and exhibition of splendid cultural and historical heritage of the Cetinska Krajina Region. The Museum includes the following collections: archaeological, numismatic, cultural-historical, ethnographic and natural-science collection, but also the collection of arms, orders, medals and medallions, photographs and photographic equipment, documents, postcards and posters as well as an art collection in which the artists from the Cetinska Krajina Region are included for the most part. Stone monuments of various styles are exhibited in the open-air collection of stone monuments and on the ground floor of the Museum. Splendidly architectural-ornamented ancient monuments are of particular significance, as well as altars dedicated to Roman gods and Ruduša tombstones dating back to the 1st century. The tombstones are valuable because of Illyrian names and special ornaments inscribed on them. The most important figure sculptures are the statues of Roman goddesses Roma and Fortuna from Čitluk (ant. *Aequum*). The permanently displayed archaeological collection is presented in chronological order, from Prehistory through Ancient History to the Middle Ages whereas the exhibits are accompanied by reviewed texts, legends, maps, drawings and photographs. Prehistoric exhibits include the stone, ceramic and bone finds from the Cetina Riverbed. The Palaeolithic is exhibited by a particular hand wedge made of stone, found in the Cetina Riverbed in the village of Han, whereas the Neolithic is presented by ceramic pottery fragments and by polished stone



Permanent display of the Museum of the Cetinska Krajina Region

arms and tools. In the Eneolithic period we can find copper wedge-shaped and stone hammer-axes. There are further ornamented ceramic pottery fragments from karst valleys in the village of Otišić. Ceramic pottery, triangular daggers and knives, which belong to a specific prehistoric cultural group – the Cetina culture (the Eneolithic and the Bronze Age, 2250 B.C. – 1600 B.C.), were found in grave-mounds from lake-dwelling settlements at Dugiš near the village of Otok. The Late Bronze Age exhibits include bronze arms and tools samples, ceramic pottery and jewellery. Greek-Illyrian helmets and greaves, spears and knives belong to the Iron Age. Exhibits from different sites in the Cetinska Krajina Region stand for the Ancient Age: figuratively ornamented oil-lamps, amphorae, clay tiles, various jewellery, etc. Two marble heads stand out for their dressing quality – Empress Herennia Etruscilla, the wife of Roman Emperor Traianus Decius, and the diadem-crowned goddess's head. Numerous grave goods found in Early Croatian graves in the villages of Bajagić, Jasensko, Lučane and Jabuka as well as the finds from the bed of the Cetina River witness the Early Middle Ages. The grave finds, especially bronze jewellery and arms, serve as exhibits dating back to the High Middle Ages.

Address: Andrije Kačića Miošića 5

Telephone: +385 (0) 21 821 949

Working hours: Mon – Fri 8:00 - 16:00,

Saturday 8:00 - 13:00, Sunday by appointment

Guided tours and group visits by appointment.

www.mck-sinj.hr



Head of Heracles, Čitluk (ant. Aequum), the late 1st c. - the early 2nd c.

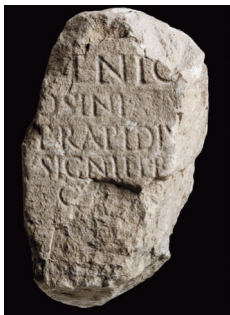


Permanent display of the archaeological collection of the Franciscan monastery

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTION OF THE FRANCISCAN MONASTERY

The archaeological collection of Sinj Franciscan monastery is considered to be one of the oldest and most valuable collections in Croatia. It was founded in 1860 by diligent and ardent Father Ante Konstantin Matas, a great humanist and reformer, the headmaster of the Franciscan Grammar School in Sinj. The Collection's foundation was prompted by the find of the head of Heracles at Čitluk, ant. Aequum, an exceptionally rich archaeological site. The Collection mostly comprises the finds from Sinj environs. Apart from the head of Heracles, the Collection includes a number of valuable exhibits, such as the lower half of an emperor's statue, probably the one of Emperor Claudius I, since it was him who granted Aequum the status of colony and its inhabitants the status of Roman citizens, as witnessed by Čitluk's Latin name, *Colonia Claudia Aequum*. Moreover, there are other valuable exhibits: the statue of goddess Diana Lucifera, 172 cm in height including the pedestal, numerous epitaphs and memorial inscriptions, altar, remnants of the statue of goddess Diana from Gardun, the Medusa relief, the Diana and Bacchus relief, Roman clay pottery, Roman sestertii, the extraordinary statue of goddess Hecate, a large marble inscription M. VALERIVS.F..., three epitaphs of members of the NAEVIVS (NAEVIENUS) family, who made notable officers in Aequum, the DIIS MANIBUS altar. The Collection preserves the prehistoric finds, such as bronze objects from Kaljic and fragments of ceramic pottery, stone knives

MUSEUMS



Votive monument
(ant. Osinium), Sinj, the 1st c.

Statue of Diana Lucifera,
Citluk (ant. Aequum),
the 2nd half of the 3rd c.

and arrows. The ethnographic collection includes objects associated with the folk life and customs of Sinj. Folk costumes, which have preserved the original colour due to the conditions in which they have been kept, stand out in the ethnographic collection. The church collection comprises liturgical objects made of silver, among which the most representative are the ones from Gothic period, whereas the most of them date back to the Baroque. Furthermore, there are valuable Baroque paintings as well as the vestment from the 17th and 18th centuries. The archaeological collection further includes a valuable numismatic collection of sample coins – early Greek, Roman (from the Imperial and the Republican age), Byzantine, Venetian, Bosnian, Turkish and coins of Dubrovnik. Other valuable coins include 14 silver denarii from Sisak (of Emperors Diocletian, Maximilian and Constantius I) and the collection of Split coins, *bagatini*, (13th c.–14th c.), found in 1962 at Trilj near Sinj. In the last twenty years, the collection has been enriched by golden and silver jubilee coins from all over the world. Besides that, of great importance are the ancient glass samples as well as a large number of prehistoric objects.

Address: Fratarski prolaz 4

Telephone: +385 (0)98 180 1574

+385 (0)21 707 010

**Guided tours, individual and group visits
by appointment**



MUSEUM ALKA OF SINJ

In dawn of its 300th anniversary, the pride of Croatian tradition and long-lasting cultural historical heritage has finally been given a home in which it can display itself in its full glory. In the heart of Alka halls, in place of the old Venetian republic's *Kvartiri* – which were the barracks for the Croatian cavalry – now sits a magnificent collection of the Museum of the Sinjska Alka. Between the Petrovac fountain in the south and the Duke's quarters in the north lies a building complex that satisfies even the highest of museum standards. It comprehensively ties the past and the present, and in its priceless value keeps the Alka identity, securing the future for generations to come.

Each visitor will be able to experience the greatness of Alka all year round, culminating in August: from the lavishly decorated original alkar's and alkar's squiers' uniforms, valuable equipment and weaponry, 300-year-old historical objects, to a special attraction – a life-sized display of the Alka procession.

Since the connection between the historical and the contemporary is always present in Sinj in a unique way, one can experience the famous Battle of 1715 in a multimedia environment, as well as browse old Alka statutes and rule books. It is also possible to view a documentary film within the permanent collection,

MUSEUMS



STUDIO AB FOTO

dealing with the history of Alka, which gives a new dimension to the experience of the knightly competitions such as *oko sokolovo* and *čvrsta desnica*.

Museum of the Sinjska Alka is a place where everybody – including natives and tourists, young and old – will find something interesting and surely be inspired by a unique gem of Croatian and global intangible cultural heritage, the value of which is even protected by UNESCO.

A cultural, scientific and a pedagogical-educative institution are united in a unique, professionally designed space, representing, keeping and protecting rich archives.

Address: Put Petrovca 12
Telephone: +385 (0)21 444 730
e-mail: muzej.alke@gmail.com
www.alka.hr
Working hours:
winter: Tue–Sun 9:00–17:00
summer: Tue–Sun 9:00–19:00
Guided tours and group visits by appointment





SIKIRICA GALLERY

Sikirica Gallery is located at the Alka Knights Court (*Alkarski dvori*). The Gallery owes its name to the famous academic sculptor Stipe Sikirica, born in Jabuka, near Trilj, who gave away his complete opus to the Town of Sinj. Sikirica is the sculptor of Sinj, of the Cetinska Krajina Region and of the Alka Tournament. The Town's identity is embodied in his public monuments. Apart from the monument to an Alka contestant at the beginning of the Tournament Course (*Alkarsko trkalište*), Sikirica also sculptured the fountain *At the spring* (commonly known as *Luca*) and the door of the Church of the Miraculous Madonna of Sinj. The monumental door show the brief history of Sinj – the coming of the people of Sinj from Rama and the great battle of 1715 at the foot of the fortress. The protagonist of the story is the Miraculous Madonna of Sinj, whereas among many other characters the author's friends can be recognised. Sikirica's close connection to the Alka Tournament is further witnessed by the *Shield of the Alka Master* (*Štit velikog vojvode alkarskog*), which makes part of the official Alka ceremony. Furthermore, his golden coins are included in the numismatic collection of the Alka Knights Tournament Society. Gallery holdings comprise over five hundred Sikirica's works (sculptures, graphics, drawings, medals). In addition to exhibiting and evaluating Sikirica's opus, the Gallery is the organiser of a number of projects: concerts, lectures, promotions, discussions, film projections, various workshops. It is also an active creator of



BORIS FILIPOVIĆ GRČIĆ

cultural changes in the Town. In this sense, the Gallery is a representative of different artistic practices and new media art. It strives to be a socially responsible institution and open towards all kinds of creative expression. It cooperates with the local community as well as with other similar cultural institutions and associations in the country and abroad. One of its most important activities is the programme for the young through which unestablished artists can present their work.

Address: Put Petrovca 12

Telephone: +385 (0)21 826 049

Working hours: Mon – Fri 8:00 - 16:00,

Saturday by appointment

Guided tours and group visits by appointment

e-mail: galerija.sikirica@gmail.com

www.galerija-sikirica.hr

GALIOTOVIĆ GALLERY

The opening of the Galiotović Gallery took place in August of 1999. It is located inside a 19th century redecorated four-storey building on the Alka Tournament Course (*Alkarsko trkalište*). The Gallery consists of two exhibition rooms and rooms equipped for various workshops. Apart from exhibitions, there are also lectures, promotions, concerts of classical music, etc.

Address: Brnaška 44



Known for its delicious and unique dishes, the Town of Sinj is a true gourmet paradise. Apart from the *arambaši* of Sinj (rolls of pickled cabbage leaves stuffed with chopped meat), the ever-hospitable people of Sinj will be glad to offer other delicacies, such as frogs, crayfish, the Cetina trout, the *rafioli* of Sinj (traditional pastry) and many other specialties typical of the Dalmatian hinterland.

ARAMBAŠI OF SINJ

The most famous specialty of Sinj cuisine, recently protected as intangible cultural heritage. The dish's name is probably derived from the Turkish word *harambaša* (the leader of the historical *hajduci*, in the Alka Tournament the leader of the Alka squires). The *arambaši* make one of the most important festive dishes, cooked on the occasion of Easter, Christmas, Assumption, the Alka, etc. The *arambaši* of Sinj consist of chopped beef, chopped smoked bacon, and these are wrapped up in pickled cabbage leaves together with spices (onion, red onion, parsley, pepper, salt). Then they are arranged in a pot, and a beef bone is also put in the pot. The following step is to cover the *arambaši* with finely cut pickled cabbage. A piece of prosciutto or smoked baby-beef and a few home-made sausages, *sudžuk*, are added. At the end, water is poured over. Cook for several hours and do not mix. The people of Sinj are jealous to indicate the difference between their *arambaši* and the regular *sarma*. The traditional *arambaši* recipe says that meat should be chopped and not minced, which is the case with the regular *sarma*. Unlike to the *arambaši*, rice is added to the *sarma*.



MONIKA VRGOČ

SINJSKI UŠTIPCI/SINJ-STYLE FRIED DOUGH

Another specialty of Sinj cuisine included in every festivity, but it is also often encountered on everyday menu. Excellent in its simplicity, this tasty sweet dessert is also easy to make. It goes well with a glass of wine, the original old *hrvaština*, as well as with cheese, or the famous *pršut* – prosciutto of the Dalmatian-Sinj variety.

To make *ušticipci* you will need to add salt to and sift 1kg of wheat flour, add 2 whole eggs, 2 spoons of sugar and as much lukewarm water as necessary. Mix everything well with a spoon – the dough needs to be rare in consistency, almost like when making crêpes. Homemakers from Sinj will let you in on a secret and advise adding *lozovača* schnapps into the mixture so the *ušticipci* would not become too greasy in the frying process.

Put a fair amount of homemade butter into a pan. When the butter is well-heated the *ušticipci* are poured in, long and thin. While still hot, it is optional to sprinkle them with granulated sugar.



DALMATINSKI-SINJSKI PRŠUT/ PROSCIUTTO OF THE DALMATIAN-SINJ VARIETY

The locals will tell you that *uštipci* go best with the famous *pršut*. It is an unrivalled delicacy, which has a long standing tradition of production in Sinj, and a distinctive taste matched by no other cured-meat product. Thanks to the 100-year-old perfected craft which is passed down through generations, strictly regulated rules of keeping, favourable geographic position and the irreplaceable cold bura wind from the nearby mountains, prosciutto of the Dalmatian-Sinj variety is one of the most highly regarded Croatian exports. Every year it leads the carefully selected offer of domestic products in the national prosciutto fair, hosted traditionally in Sinj.

FAMILY RESORTS

FAMILY RESORT MUSTANG

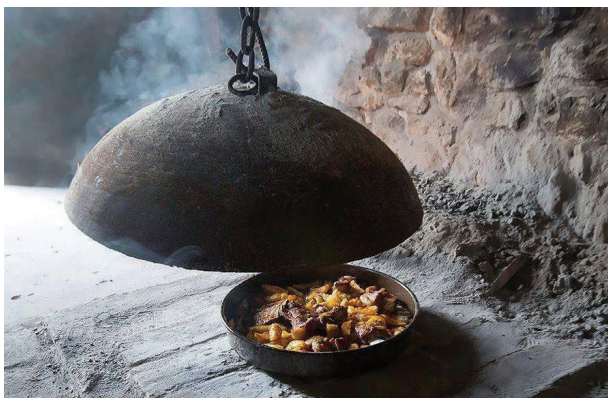
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**“ALKARSKI DVORI”
RESTAURANT**

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Mob: +385 91 1222 237

KONOBA RERA

Address: Domovinskog rata 5
Mob: +385 95 326 6200

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Tel.: +385 (0)21 661 312

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Mob: +385 95 8957 581



RACECOURSE (SINJSKI HIPODROM)

Horse breeding and training has always been a distinctive characteristic of Sinj and the Cetinska Krajina Region. For almost three centuries now Sinj has been the town of the Alka Tournament. Besides that, Sinj has traditionally hosted a number of local and international hurdle and gallop tournaments. The development of Sinj equestrian sport was encouraged by the holding of 1979 Mediterranean Games in Split. On that occasion Sinj racecourse, *Hipodrom*, was completed and put into use. Equestrian sport contests were held there. Sinj *Hipodrom* is the second largest in Croatia, following the Zagreb one. The equestrian club *Alkar* has spawned a number of top horse riders and internationals since its foundation in 1968. Greater Sinj also comprises many smaller private-owned stud farms of high reputation and nowadays there are five equestrian clubs there. Besides the riding school for beginners and advanced learners, several clubs have on offer the therapy riding, which has produced exceptional results in the therapy of disabled persons. New tracks have been built which should attract a greater number of enthusiasts of nature, horses and adventure tourism.

Address: Put šumarije 3

Telephone: +385 (0)21 822 662



SPORTS AIRPORT

Sinj Air-Base was built in 1931. The official name of Sinj Airport, known as *Piket*, used to be Sinj Air-Base – Split Airport. It connected Split with Zagreb, and Split with Dubrovnik. Passengers were transported by bus from Split to Sinj Airport.

Air traffic was active up until the opening of Resnik Airport, which took place in 1964. The Air-Base was used by the Kingdom of Yugoslavia Army and later on by the German and the Italian Army. Shortly after the war had ended, several buildings were raised: airport building with a control tower, airport building, a weather station, a small aircrafts hangar and skydivers testing site.

Due to its complete infrastructure, Sinj Airport has been used by many glider pilots and small aircraft pilots. The Airport actually has on offer both the gliding section and the skydiving school.

The Airport is the liveliest and most crowded at the beginning of August, when the *Alka Skydivers Cup* is held. Skydivers from all over the world jump from different heights, using various parachutes and trying to land into the skydiving target, i. e. a landing site in the form of the alka ring.

Address: Put Piketa bb

Telephone: +385 (0)98 179 1549

Telephone: +385 (0)95 907 8507

www.aeroklubsinj.hr



THEMED TRAILS

A number of themed trails, renewed through *MedPaths* project which includes protection and revival of Dalmatian hinterland in cultural and natural resources, provide an ideal way to discover the beauty of the untouched nature of Cetinska krajina. Away from the city's hustle and bustle lie fresh water springs, old churches with a dash of history, endless fields and steep hillside trails. With its exceptional gastronomic treats and idyllic landscapes, Cetinska krajina proves to be a true paradise to every visitor, cyclist, horse rider, mountaineer and hiker.

Cetina Trail (cycling – cavalry) is a circular trail with the eastern branch tracking the Cetina river from Han to the *St. Mihovil* equestrian club in Trilj, and the western branch leading through the middle of Sinj field. Whether it is riding or cycling, this trail offers kilometres of pleasure to all those who enjoy travelling through cultivated natural landscapes with picturesque pastoral sights down the quiet river flow.

Aequum Trail (cycling) follows the outline of the ancient Roman colony of Čitluk (COLONIA CLAVDIA AEQVVM), across ancient Cetina bridges, through the Turkish paths, to the old mills with gigantic boulders which occasionally still grind grain the traditional way.



IVAN ALEBIĆ

Orlova Trail (cycling) starts on the 200-year-old bridge on Goručica river and moves towards a fairy tale-like plant oasis on the outskirts of town. The view overlooking the unique churches with medieval remains, as well as Gradina with prehistoric remains, is not to be missed.

Sinjska Trail (mountain) is a circular trail located in the hilly area between Sutina and Visoka. Its demanding route is intended for the trained adventurers, ready to face all the surprises and challenges hidden in the wilderness of the Dalmatian hinterland.

Plišivica Trail (mountain) is designed for the outdoor enthusiasts and will graciously reward every hiker with the beauty of breathtakingly rich plant and wildlife.

For detailed depictions of trails visit www.visitsinj.hr

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dujo.krivic@gmail.com

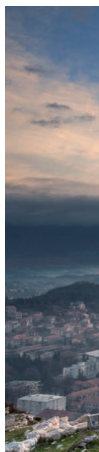
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OUR LADY OF SINJ ROUTE

Worshippers will set off on the pilgrimage route to the Miraculous Madonna of Sinj on marked paths through picturesque landscapes rich with historical heritage. On their spiritual path to the heavenly mother they will pass relics of old paths and bridges, forts, tombstones, sacred places and buildings, and museums.

The Image of the Miraculous Madonna of Sinj was brought from Rama to Sinj in 1687 by the Franciscans who fled from the Turks. Ever since, the faithful people have been coming to their saviour who, according to legend, has defended them when they were greatly outnumbered by the enemy in 1715.

Every year thousands of worshipers, especially the youth, set off on a pilgrimage towards the city of Sinj. The event takes place on the nights of the holiday dedicated to Our Lady of Sinj – from August 8th until August 15th, when the central ceremony is held. Accompanied by the sounds of church bells ringing and fanfares, the Image of the Miraculous Madonna of Sinj is brought from the church onto the streets for a grand procession. To carry the Image on one's shoulder represents a great honour.

Worshippers arrive from several directions, mostly from the south (Solin), and north (Bosnia and Herzegovina).



Our Lady of Sinj Route is 148km long spanning from Solin – Sinj – Livno – Tomislavgrad – Rama. It is a pilgrimage used through centuries to travel from several different directions to the largest Madonna sanctuary in southern Croatia. *Our Lady of Sinj Route* project is approved within the *IPA Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina* project and relies on the traditional walking and riding paths, as well as the abandoned route of Rera, which was once Sinj's railway. By developing the accompanying infrastructure and raising awareness of immense value of cultural and religious heritage, the *Our Lady of Sinj route* is slowly superseding local frames and is gaining an international dimension. The route is active throughout the whole year, not just in the period of the holiday.

It is a unique experience to set on an ancient religious journey by foot, away from the hustle and bustle of the city, to find peace and sanctuary in the safety of *Our Lady of Sinj*.

www.stazagospisinjskoj.hr



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+385 (0)91 723 9794

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Hiking Society “Vukovi” Sinj

Adresa: Radošić 166A, Sinj
facebook.com/pdvukovi/

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Hiking Society Kočari Sinj
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Adresa: Glavice 371, 21 230 Sinj

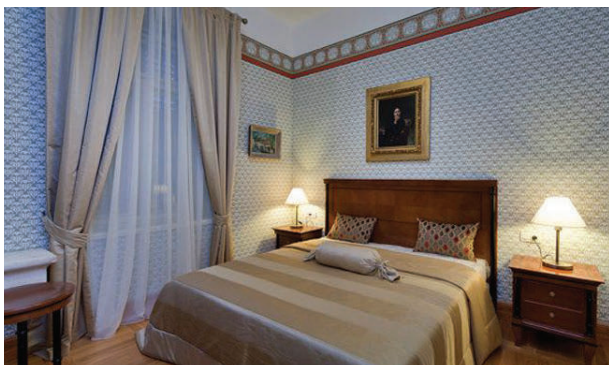
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 Web: www.pizzeriafantasia.com

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 Mob: +385 (0)91 782 4073
 E-mail: maslejuk@gmail.com

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 E-mail:
branko.batarel@gmail.com

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 Mob: +385 (0)95 527 2716
 E-mail: info@hotelcorona-sinj.com

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 Mob: +385(0)99 700 0440

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 Tel.: +385(0)98 978 8084
 E-mail: jpoles43@gmail.com

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 Mob: +385 (0)97 782 3718

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E-mail:
ana.ajducic@gmail.com

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+385 (0)98 361 477

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E-mail: bmarica07@net.hr
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Mob: +385 (0)98 1617 303

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e-mail: antoniamilanovic3011@gmail.com

APARTMAN ŽANKO ***

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e-mail: hih005035@gmail.com
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APARTMAN ****

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Mob.: +385 (0)98 760 926

APARTMAN RUNJE ***

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APARTMAN MILA ****

1 soba (2 ležaja)
Address: Trg kralja Tomislava 2
Tel.: +385 (0)91 953 0326
e-mail: krolo.filip7@gmail.com

APARTMAN NAITA ****

1 soba (2 ležaja)
Address: Lovrića obor 6
Mob.: +385 (0)98 442 577

APARTMAN TRIPALO ****

1 soba (2 ležaja)
Address: Kralja Zvonimira 8
Tel.: +385 (0)21 735-393
Mob.: +385 (0)98 487-575
e-mail: orvas-hotels@gmail.com
www.orvas-hotels.com

APARTMAN

LAVANDA ****
3 sobe (2 ležaja)
Address: Put petrovca 2
Mob: +385 (0)95 530 4066
E-mail: ivana.drzak@gmail.com

APARTMAN BOBA ****

2 sobe (4 ležaja)
Address: Put Pavića 23

APARTMAN CECILIJA ****

(2 ležaja)
Address: Brnaška 10
Mob: +385 (0)98 972 0765

APARTMAN PETROVAC ****

1 soba (1 ležaj)
Address: Put Petrovca 21
Mob: +385 (0)95 198 7338
E-mail: vinkinjo1995@gmail.com

APARTMAN ANTONIA ***

2 sobe (4 ležaja)
Address: Drniška 18 A
Mob.: +385 (0)98 966 3473
E-mail: antonijajukic991@gmail.com

APARTMAN GUGIĆ ***

2 sobe (4 ležaja)
Address: Put Župića 6
Mob.: +385 (0)95 810 6281
e-mail: stipe.gugic@gmail.com

APARTMAN ANA ***

2 sobe (4 ležaja)
Address: Batonova 27
Tel: +385 (0)21 821-198
Mob: +385 (0)99 253 1863
E-mail: ivicakardos@gmail.com

APARTMAN INES ***

2 sobe (3 ležaja)
Address: Antuna Konstantina Matasa 4
Mob: +385 (0) 91 976 6554
E-mail: bmarica07@net.h

STUDIO APARTMAN NADA****

3 soba (6+2 ležaja)
EMMA****
1 soba (2 ležaja)
Address: Put Pavića 103
Mob: +385(0)98 290 319
+385(0)95 360 0583

STUDIO APARTMAN NELA ***

1 soba (2 ležaja)
Address: Suhač 6 C

APARTMAN ZORANA ****

1 soba (2 ležaja)
Address: Bazana 9 A
Mob: +385 (0)98 760 926

APARTMAN MARENDIĆ ****

3 sobe (6+2 ležaja)
Address: Obrovac Sinjski 37
Mob: +385 (0)98 185 2511

APARTMAN VUČKOVIĆ ****

1 soba (1 ležaj)
Address: Stjepana Gunjače 10
Mob: +385 (0)91 553 3448
milan.vuckovic.cuto@gmail.com

STUDIO APARTMAN ***

2 ležaja
Address: Kvaritri 11
E-mail: njinjam@yahoo.com
Mob: +385 (0)98 875 226

APARTMAN IVANA ***

Broj ležajeva: 5 kreveta
Address: Litrin obor 6
Mob: +385 99 693 7042
Email: ivana.perkovic14@gmail.com

APARTMAN JERKO ***

Broj ležajeva: 2/2 + 2
Address: Serdara Tomaševića 44
Mob: +385 92 285 8076
Email: vglavino@hotmail.com

STUDIO APARTMAN

MALA KUĆICA ***
Broj ležajeva: 1/2
Address: Satrić 164
Mob: +385 95 500 9641
Email: lidilja.alebic1@gmail.com

APARTMAN LARA ***

Broj ležajeva: 2/2
Address: Put Medinjaka 1
Mob: +385 98 665 136
Email: kavajin.irena@gmail.com

APARTMAN MARIS/SARA ***

Broj ležajeva: 1/2 + 1
Address: Splitska 6
Mob: +385 99 214 1213
Email: banstipe@gmail.com

APARTMAN ALLEGRA ***

Broj ležajeva: 1/2 + 2
Address: Brnaška 20A
Mob: +385 98 941 4935
Email: alegra.apartmani@gmail.com

APARTMAN KARLA ***

Broj ležajeva: 1/2 + 1
Address: Trg Gojka Šuška 5
Mob: +385 98 471 077
Email: stipesvalina12@gmail.com

APARTMAN GLUIĆ ***

Broj ležajeva: 1/1 + 1/2
Address: Šilanovac 24
Mob: +385 99 720 8060
Email: aleksandra.gluc@gmail.com

APARTMAN BONO ***

Broj ležajeva: 4 kreveta
Address: Brnze 3B
Mob: +385 99 190 0752
Email: sanjamiletic9935@gmail.com

APARTMAN PALMINO

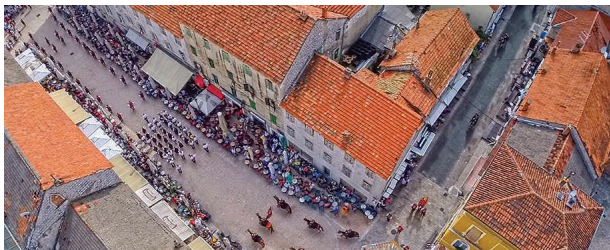
Broj ležajeva: 1/2 + 1
Address: Put Piketa 40
Mob: +385 92 213 8767
Email: gorita0702@gmail.com

APARTMAN BORIČEVAC ***

Broj ležajeva: 2 + 2
Address: Boričevac 5
Mob: +385 91 535 3183
snjezanadomazet@gmail.com

STUDIO APARTMAN

MADONNA DI SINJ****
Broj ležajeva: 3 kreveta
Address: Boričevac 3
Mob: +385 98 601 955
nevenbazina1@hotmail.com



SINJ TOURIST BOARD

Address: Put Petrovca 12,
21 230 Sinj
Telephone: +385 (0)21 826 352
Working hours:
Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
www.visitsinj.hr
e-mail: info@visitsinj.hr



“OSINIUM” SINJ TOWN TOUR GUIDES ASSOCIATION

Languages: English,
German, French
Tel.: +385 (0)98 607 548
sinj.guides@gmail.com
www.sinjguides.net

SINJ BUS TERMINAL

Address: Put Ferate 15
Tel.: +385 (0)21 826 936

TAXI

MARETIĆ
+385 (0)97 6060 701
+385 (0)99 550 0014
taxisinj@gmail.com

ROĐENI TRANS
+385 (0)98 166-8660

EKO TAXI
+385 (0)21 223 223
info@ekotaxi.hr

ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

Tel.: +385 (0)1 1987

TOURIST AGENCY

VUČKOVIĆ TRAVEL
Vukovarska 4, 21230 Sinj
Kontakt: 021 357 431 /
Mob.: +385 (0)95 4444 114
info@vuckovictravelcollections.net

EDUKA SINJ
Trg dr. Franje Tuđmana 10
21230 Sinj
Contact person: Branimir Romac
+385 (0)95 357 0847
branimir.romac@gmail.com

TOURIST AGENCY FIKA
Ivana Pavla II 23, Otok
+385 95 376 6777
+385 95 397 6776

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

SINJ HEALTH CENTRE
Address: Ramska bb,
21230 Sinj
Telephone/Fax:
+385 (0)21 708 040

SINJ POLICE STATION
Address: Vrlička 61,
21230 Sinj
Tel.: +385 (0)21 309 310
+385 (0)21 309 339
Fax: +385 (0)21 309 303

**SINJ VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT**
Address: Put Ferate bb,
21230 Sinj
Tel.: +385 (0)21 821 110



LEGENDA LOKALITETA / LEGEND OF SITES / LOKALITÄTEN LEGENDE

- | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Turistička zajednica / Tourist Board / Reisebüro B2 | | Bolnica / Hospital / Krankenhaus A2 | | Benzinska pumpa / Gas station / Tankstelle B1 D3 | | Autobusni kolodvor / Bus terminal / Busbahnhof C2 |
| | Hotel B1 | | Ambulanta / Ambulance / Ambulanz C1 A2 B3 | | ATM | | Dječje igralište / Kids playground / Kinderspielplatz B3 |
| | Fast food B2 | | Ljekarna / Drug store / Drogerie B2 C1 C2 | | Banka / Bank B2 C2 | | Knjižnica / Library / Bibliothek B2 |
| | Restoran / Restaurant / Restaurant B1 C1 B2 C2 B3 D2 | | Veterinarska ambulanta / Veterinary clinic / Tierarztpraxis C2 | | Autopraona / Car wash / Autowäsche D2 | | Policija / Police department / Polize |
| | Samoposlužna autopraona / Self-service car wash / Service-Waschanlage B3 | | | | | | |