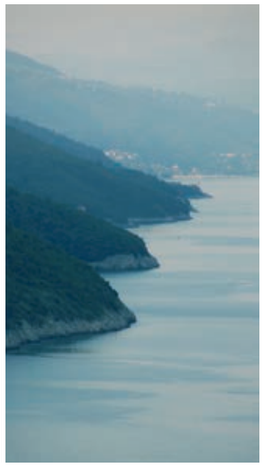
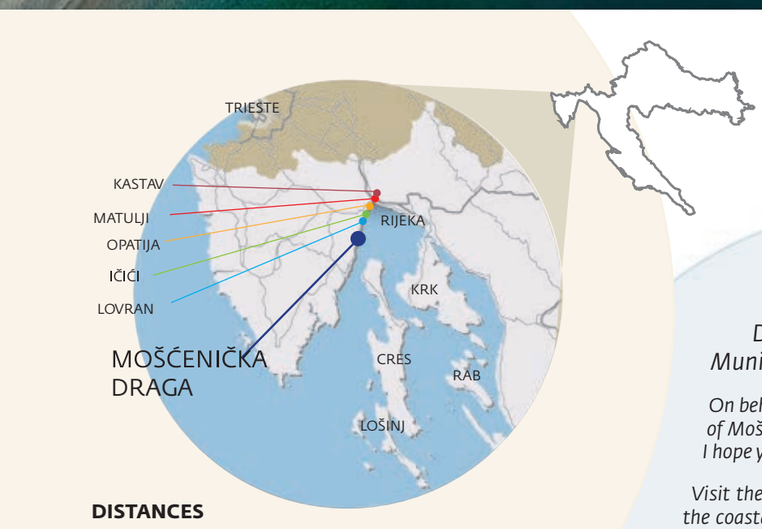
ENG

MOŠĆENIČKA DRAGA

OPATIJA RIVIERA





DISTANCES

By road:
500 km - Munich, Vienna, Milan, Budapest

Train stations:
Opatija-Matulji (13 km) | Rijeka (25 km)

Airports:
Krk (45 km) | Pula (83 km) | Trieste (105 km)
Ljubljana (135 km) | Zagreb (180 km)
Venice (215 km)

Dear guests of the
Municipality of Mošćenička Draga,

On behalf of the Municipality and the Tourist Board of Mošćenička Draga, we wish you a warm welcome! I hope you will spend an unforgettable holiday with us.

Visit the Medieval towns of Mošćenice and Brseč, head to the coastal and mountain paths and enjoy the panorama of our beautiful coast, filled with beaches and bays. Taste some fish in our restaurants, attend the various cultural and enteratainment events that will make your holiday even more active and enjoyable. Feel as if you were at home, in this oasis of untouched nature, rich cultural heritage, clear sea and excellent Littoral cuisine!

Welcome!

THE MUNICIPALITY MAYOR AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE TOURIST BOARD OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MOŠĆENIČKA DRAGA

Ratko Salamon, M.D.

A FAMILY HOLIDAY

If you take a pebble from our beautiful beach in your hand, you should know that you didn't simply take an ordinary stone, but a "living" souvenir of our pebble microcomos. The pearl of the Kvarner, beneath Mt. Učka, belongs precisely to Mošćenička Draga, that is, to the Municipality of Mošćenička Draga, a territory that has been carved in the rocky cliffs of the Eastern coast of the noble Istria.

Somewhat detached from the world, it has been attracting tourists, curious visitors, weekend trippers, walkers, athletes, artists and nature lovers for centuries. With its autochthonous Mediterranean architecture, Littoral tradition, fishery, as well as history, it steals the heart of every intentional or occasional visitor. If you are a history lover, you should definitely head to *Mošćenice* and *Brseč*, two Medieval towns located on the cliffs; the first one at an altitude of 178 m, while the second one on a 157 m high rock above the wavy Kvarner.

The Municipality of Mošćenička Draga covers the area from *Cesara* cove to *Stupova* cove, beneath the village of *Zagore* (Stepča). It comprises 7 pebble beaches and numerous woodlands, that is, mountain paths. The area is highly mountaneous, it stretches on 63 square kilometres and it covers 4.396 hectares of surface. The territory significantly extends into the *Učka Nature Park*. The area of the Municipality of M. Draga comprises about 1500 inhabitants.

The Lungomare Promenade towards Sv. Ivan's (St. John) beach will trigger your romantic feelings, while all along the path you will be accompanied by the sounds of the sea and the scent of the Mediterranean flora. The crown of this path is *Villa Zagreb* (the former Ossoinack), followed by a series of charming old villas towards St. Ivan's beach. The picturesque old town, with its clustered houses and ravines, descends aslope all the way down to the sea. At its basis, there is a little charming port, home to fishing boats, smaller boats, while during the summer months there is a mini marina for tourists' vessels. Mošćenička Draga originated as a fishing port of the town of Mošćenice, while the preserved ancient documents mention even a settlement in the port beneath Sv. Marina (St. Marina), the little church called after the place, located in the centre of the town.

THE BEACHES

When someone mentions Mošćenička Draga, you will certainly visualise, in your thoughts, the Draga beach, because it has the most beautiful pebbles in the Kvarner and perhaps, in the entire Adriatic. We call it *Sipar* and it is a couple of hundred metres long. It was created from the sand coming from the brook of Draga, that originates from the slopes of Mt. Učka and its pebbles were shaped by the sea waves. The beach stretches to the south, towards *Sv. Ivan*, and particularly beautiful is the part hidden between the cliffs, beneath Villa Zagreb. Naturists will find their place under the sun at the *FKK beach Senjavac*, immediately after Sv. Ivan's beach and naturally separated from it by rocks and cliffs. Above this beach, high on the rocks, you will be able to see the red land - a place from where many generations of young people from Draga and Mošćenička used to, and still do, jump into the sea, breaking the records and mantaining this tradition.

We suggest you to take a little boat from Draga, in order to enjoy the rocky views of the coast and the vegetation on a slow and pleasant ride. Anchor the boat in the *little port of Kraj* and walk up to the village, a pictoresque Mediterranean nucleus, only two kilometres distant from M. Draga. Between Mošćenička Draga and Brseč, there are two larger beaches, *Uboka* and *Jelenščica*. You can reach them by sea, or by foot, through the paths leading there from the main road Rijeka-Pula. By boat, take the direction of *Pod Brseč*, towards Plomin, and you will get to the *Stupova* beach. The beach is located beneath the settlement of Zagore and it can be reached only through a narrow path from the village Velo selo.

By car or by foot, through the valley of Brseč, beside the cemetery, you will get down to the beaches of *Klančac* and *Riva*. Relax on the beach and enjoy the blue sea. In case you should have a smaller boat, take a visit and explore the coast of Brseč. Admire the outlines of the coast of Kraš, its particularly shaped cliffs, coming out steeply from the sea, the barren Mediterranean vegetation and even an occasional fig and olive tree. Hide in the shade of the little pebble bays. In the neighbouring beaches you will see the old stone fishermen houses which were used by the owners after fishing, and still are nowadays, to store boats and fishing equipment. In the evening hours, try to catch a fish, a squid, or at least fill a bag with fresh mussels, throw everything on the grill, stew with sea water, pour yourself a glass of wine, and you will realise that you are in a piece of Mediterranean heaven in the Kvarner.

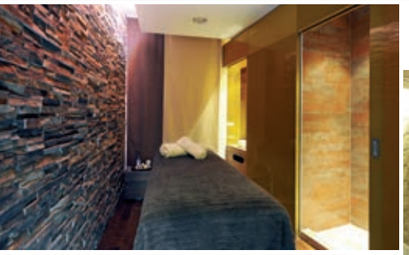
THE HOTELS

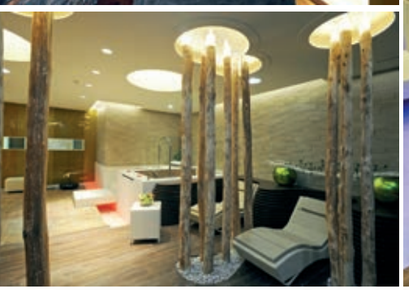
The hotels Remisens Hotel Marina and Smart Selection Hotel Mediteran, located in the mere centre of the town, are part of the Hotel chain Liburnia Riviera Hotels, based in Opatija.

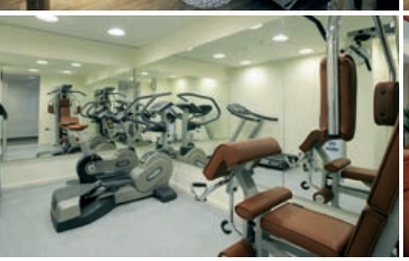
The Smart Selection Hotel Mediteran*** is a typical hotel with Littoral architectural style, with balconies, vaults and terraces from which you hear every stroke of the fishermen's oars, smell the scent of pine trees and the gentle odour of the sea. The hotel has 69 rooms, most of which have a balcony, and all of them equipped with a phone and a TV. In the ground floor there is a TV lounge, an aperitif bar and an air-conditioned restaurant. In case of rain, you may use the swimming pool with heated sea water in the Remisens Hotel Marina. We suggest booking a room with a balcony "on the roof" of the Smart Selection Hotel Mediteran, you may take the hotel elevator to get there, and watch the lights of the fishermen boats in the open sea, during a summer night, as they catch the fish that will be served on your dish the day after.

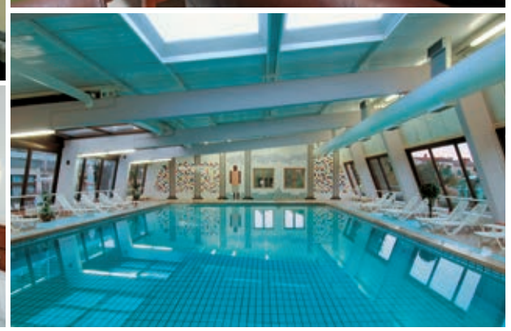
The Remisens Hotel Marina**** was named after *St. Marina*, the patroness of Mošćenička Draga. The Hotel, classified as a four stars one, has 178 accomodation units: 4 apartments with balconies and a sea view, 8 family rooms with balconies, 104 double bedrooms, also with balconies (partly on the sea side and partly on the Mt. Učka side), as well as 16 double bedrooms with French balconies (all the double bedrooms

offer the possibility to add an extra bed), 46 single bedrooms with French balconies. Room equipment; TV, satellite programme, phone, mini bar, air-conditioning, room safe, the possibility of an Internet connection. The Hotel owns a panoramic elevator, an air-conditioned restaurant and a large terrace in its atrium, where you can enjoy various events. The Remisens Hotel Marina has a swimming-pool with warm sea water (the biggest indoor swimming-pool in the Kvarner, that is partially opened during the summer) and a smaller outdoor one for children. On a surface of 800 square meters, the *Five Elements Wellness & Spa* offers a pool area, a spa relax zone (Finnish sauna, Turkish bath, infrared sauna, whirlpool for 4 persons, massage baths and a rest area), fitness, as well as a beauty and massage centre, 2 tennis fields with illumination, a large congress room for 220 seating places, as well as two supporting rooms with 20-30 seating places (all air-conditioned areas), an aperitif bar, a pizzeria and a restaurant à la carte, and a guaranteed large parking place that serves both hotels. From the sea side of the hotel, there is also a bank, while on the other side you may find a hair salon. The Remisens Hotel Marina is surrounded by green pines and other Mediterranean plants, while in front of it there is a park and a children's playground.









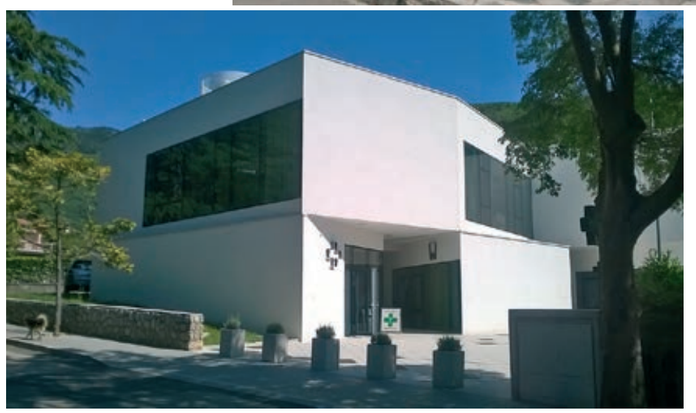
INFORMATION CENTRES AND AGENCIES

In our Information Centre and Agencies you can ask for accomodations arrangements. The *Tourist Board's* main office is located beside the bus station in Mošćenička Draga and it is involved with the tourist development of the destination, the promotion conception, it participates in the organisation of events, it manages public parking places, it serves as an information point for all the tourists, renters, tourist and catering workers.

At the Agencies of the company *Annalinea d.o.o.*, in the centre of the town, as well as at the *Info Centre*, on the crossroad, you will be able to get all the information regarding accomodation in the hotels, apartments, rooms, villas, or on the various events, cultural sights, as well as real estate. Our receptions offer a rich palette of one-day and two-days excursions during the entire year. We suggest you take boat excursions on the islands of *Krk* and *Cres*, where you will enjoy the isolated beaches. Apart from the sea excursions to the islands, there are also the coastal ones, so that you can enjoy a slow ride through the *Opatija Riviera*. Aside from the boat, it is also possible to take numerous excursions by bus, to closer, but also further destinations such as the *Plitvice Lakes, the Krka waterfalls, Istria's hinterland, Postojna, Lipica, Venice*... Or even join the organised walking excursion to the village of *Trebišće* or to the hill of *Perun*, beneath Mt. Učka. Therefore announce your arrival at the Tourist Agencies, one-two days before the planned departure and choose the excursion that will enrich your holiday with cultural contents, an untouched nature, or simply a real Mediterranean party.

THE PUBLIC SPACE BUILDING

The new modern building in the mere centre of the town, nearby the central parking place, is a *public space building* property of the Municipality of Mošćenička Draga. It includes a general medical practice service and a private specialised practice service for family medicine, a pharmacy, a dental practice, a library and a multifunctional hall. The availabilty, the functionality, the practicality and, above all, the contemporary character of this centre, are an important link in the social life of the inhabitants of the Municipality and its tourists.



THE CAMPSITE

Almost in the centre of Mošćenička Draga, there is the *Campsite Draga* that will offer you a peaceful holiday, on its green areas, under the boughts of the hundreds-year-old chestnut trees. Pitch your tent or place your caravan in this untouched nature, along with the gentle mountain breeze that blends with the pleasant sea air. Of course that all the occasional and intentional guests are welcome, the campsite works even at night and it is open almost the entire year. The immediate proximity of the town centre and the beaches, will make your holiday in this campsite very relaxing.

THE VILLAS

With their architectural style and elegance, the Villas in Mošćenička Draga, more than one century old, are particularly attractive to tourists. In the Contovo park, right at the seafront, there is *Villa Biser*, while next to the park you will notice the very elegant *Villa Maria*. Right on the beach you can see one of the oldest Villas in Mošćenička Draga, which belongs to the Hotel Mediteran, *Villa Slatina*. Further along the promenade, draw your attention at the *Villas Gorgay* and *Rossa*, on the righ side of the Lungomare, immediately close to the monument on the beach. Only a few steps further you will certainly notice an unusual "sea castle" that will impress you with its beauty. This Villa was named after the city of *Zagreb*. Nearby it, under the Littoral pines, you will also find *Villa Plan*. On the promenade for Sv. Ivan you will also find *Villa Istra* and *Primorka*, two more "sea palaces" built out of the Draga pebbles. In Sv. Ivan's beach, you will see *Villa Obala* and *Rubin*, two beautiful old "sea castles" that were renewed. Another very distinct Villa that must be mentioned is *Villa Amelia*, in the centre of Mošćenička Draga. All these "beauties" were built at the end of the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th century.

Take a visit at these noble palaces, take a glance and enter one of them, take a picture in front of their doors and you will feel the presence of their glorious past. There are also some more modern, very beautiful villas, which stand out with their Mediterranean architecture, swimming pools, sport facilities and of course, luxurious rooms and apartments.

The Kvarner, that is, the Draga scampi (prawns) are a gastronomic specialty of this region. The sandy and clean bottom in the bay represents an ideal habitat also for crabs. Our unique scampi can be found always fresh in the menu of almost every fish restaurant. They are prepared in many ways, so try one of them, and trust us, you will want to try also the others.

However, healthy food isn't represented only by scampi, but also by asparaguses, that sprout on the entire area of the Municipality. They are prepared in a thousand ways and they are an excellent basis for every meal. Asparaguses are picked from March all the way to May, and the healing properties of these herbs are known also to foreign tourists who explore this region precisely in the season when asparaguses sproud from the land, usually around Easter.

RESTAURANTS, PIZZERIAS AND KONOBAS

Enjoy the gastronomic delights offered by our restaurants. The preparation of almost every Mediterranean meal is based on the healthy olive oil. In the spring months, you should definitely try also the wild asparaguses, while in the autumn days the chestnut delicacies (marrons) won't surely leave you indifferent.

If you want to taste the noble white fish and fresh Kvarner scampi, we recommend the *Restaurant Johnson*, on the road for Mošćenice, nearby the main crossroad in Mošćenička Draga. At the *Konoba na Rivi kod Benita*, you shoud order some fish, have some wine, along with quiet swing of the small boats in the port of Draga. On the sea promenade, there is also the *Konoba Zijavica*, where you will be able to taste fish and meat dishes, pasta, and sweeten your palate with the specialties of the creative cooks who "pull out from the traditional local cuisine" Mediterranean delicacies based on fresh fish, on a daily bases. Nextdoor, is the *Bistro Plaža* "bathed" with the sea waves, where you can taste meat and fish delights. The *Restaurant Dora*, with its romantic terrace, also attracts a large number of walkers. You should spend an unforgettable Mediterranean night here, under the light of the lanterns, drinking wine and tasting fish. The *Buffet Sportsko* is already known for its excellent grilled dishes, and the friendly host will also offer you some fish specialties. It is located next to a soccer field and a bocce ball field, therefore - athletes, there's a place for your recreation! In the immediate proximity is the *Konoba Feral*, with its palette of the most various Croatian dishes. At the entrance of Mošćenička Draga, pop into the *Restaurant Sidro*, which represents an attraction for many visitors of Mošćenička Draga for years now, with its meat and fish specialties, its roasted meals under the bell and grill. On the terrace of the *Restaurant Motar (Smart Selection Hotel Mediteran)*, order some meat and fish delights, while in the *Pizzeria Marina*, order a tasty pizza, pasta, or even an entire sequence of Mediterranean dishes based on fish and meat. The *Pizzeria-bar La Vita*, in the mere centre of the town, offers an excellent pizza during the summer months, along with a wide palette of top quality beers. Pizza is also offered at the *Restaurant – pizzeria Gimi* and in *Pizzeria Val*, the first one located at the Sipar beach, while the second one at Sv. Ivan beach. In Sv. Ivan you can also taste fish and meat specialties and pizzas at the *Restaurant Rubin*.

In Mošćenice, you can visit the *Restaurant Perun*, with a large terrace above the Kvarner and a wide spectre of fish and meat, as well as Istrian, specialties. In the heart of the old town, you can also find the *Konoba Tu Tamo*, offering a very intimate atmosphere, with a terrace that overlooks the sea and the interiors that remind us of some past times. Here you can taste fish and meat prepared from the "original recipies of the cook tradition". In Sv. Jelena (St. Helena), in the heart of nature, on the terrace of the *Konoba Slamnjaki*, taste the local specialties from Istria and Kvarner. In Brseč, don't forget to visit *Konoba Batelan*, "carved" in the Istrian stone, where you can enjoy the real Istrian prosciutto with cheese, and have some local wine. The offer includes also fish and Kvarner scampi. There is also the *Pizzeria Sisol*, with a beautiful terrace on the city square.

Try something new every day in another place and you will see that the menus are varied and adapted to your gastronomic demands. Bon Appetite!

Apart from the sea and the beautiful beaches, the area of the Municipality of Mošćenička Draga offers numerous possibilities for various outdoor activities for sports lovers. Whether you wish to take a slow walk, or go for a day trip to the mountains, ride a bike (road or off-road), climb on the steep rocky cliffs, explore the sea and the coast on a kayak, dive or even sail, we believe you will find the real challenge for you. The Mt. Učka at the back and the sea in the palm of your hand, are the perfect combination for all the outdoor fans.

Before you go for an adventure, we want to draw your attention to the Mošćenička Draga Outdoor map that we have prepared specifically for you. The bike, mountain and kayak tours are only some of the possible itineraries. Will you follow them, or make your own personal tours, is a decision that is up to you. The map was made with the aim to offer you as many useful information as possible, therefore we hope it will help you to create your own personal adventures.

*You can take a **free map of MOŠĆENIČKA DRAGA** at the Tourist Board Office of the Municipality of Mošćenička Draga/ Aleja Slatina bb, 51417 Mošćenička Draga*

THE UČKA TRAIL

One of the best promotors for outdoor sports, for the beauty of nature and the hinterland of Mošćenička Draga, is definitely the *'Učka Trail'* race - a unique connection of sea and mountains, of the Mediterranean climate, of the diverse forest vegetation, of the blue and the green. The race trail connects the most beautiful mountain paths of the Učka Nature Park, guiding the competitors through many villages and settlements in the hinterland of Mošćenička Draga, offering them the possibility to see and experience places where history, tradition, mythology and ancient legends are intertwined with the beauties of nature, along with the magnificent views on the Kvarner Bay, the islands, and Istria on the west, making this competition special and unforgettable.

Look for more detailed information on the 'Učka Trail' race on the competition's official website: www.uckatrail.com

THE UČKA NATURE PARK

The hills are in front of you, so go and conquer them. You will find the marked trails, gorges and viewpoints where you can walk. Try climbing the cliffs in the *Mošćenička Draga "canyon"*, or use the climbing trail to the *Zijavica cave*, nearby the village of *Obrš*. From Obrš you can take a slow walk towards the village of *Sv. Anton*, almost above *Kraj* and *Cesara*. If you are a more persistent walker, we suggest you hike towards the peaks: *Učka* (1396m), *Sisol* (835m), *Kremenjak* (827m), *Perun* (881), *Bodaj* (907m), *Maj* (969m), or simply take a walk in the forest pathways. All the roads are open for the mountain bikers, so tighten your muscles if you wish to cover everything on two wheels. If you like to fly, "ride" on a hang glider or "throw" yourself from the highest peaks with a parachute. However, before your flight, turn around and enjoy all the benefits of the Učka Nature Park.

The connection between the sea and the mountains, the Mediterranean and the continent, are the basic features of Mt. Učka; a mountain in the Littoral which, thanks to the diversity of its habitat and its living species, represents one of the hot spots of biodiversity of the European continent. Mt. Učka is certainly the only place in the world where you can see the steno-endemic *Bell Flower (Campanula tommasiniana)*, as well as one of the last European locations where the patient eye of bird lovers will be awarded with the impressive silhouette of the *Bjeloglavi sup (Griffon vulture - Gyp fulvus)* or *Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)*. Among Mt. Učka's many natural values, some of the attractions that are definitely worth to mention are also its autochthonous culture and building heritage, as well as its traditional agriculture. The specific aesthetics of Mt. Učka's landscape originated from the interweaving of traditional human activities, primarily related to agriculture, livestock farming and forestry exploitation. With his work and long-term resource management, man

has shaped the original cultivated landscapes, characterised by numerous dry stone walls, shephers' shelters and other elements of the historical building legacy, that nowadays constitute this authentic cultural-historical heritage. Many findings are proof of a long history of human activities in this area, some of which date from even 12 thousand years B.C. *(the Pupićina cave)*.

On top of the *Vojak* there is a viewpoint shaped as a tower (inside the tower, there is an educational exhibition about the history of Učka), that offers a magnificent view on *Istria, the Kvarner, the islands, the Gorski Kotar, the Velebit, the Alpes*... while in the immediate proximity there is a runway for free-flying. Free climbing and alpinism lovers, shouldn't definitely miss paying a visit to the spectacular karstic passage *Vela Draga*, commonly a geomorphological monument to nature.

Range: the area of the Mt. Učka massif and parts of the Ćićarija
Park surface: 160 km²
Highest peaks: Vojak 1401 m, Veli Planik 1272 m
Establishing Act and year of proclamation: Law on the proclamation of the Učka Nature Park, April 1999
Counties: Istarska and Primorsko-Goranska County
Cities: Opatija/ Municipalities: Kršan, Lanišće, Lovran, Lupoglav, Matulji and Mošćenička Draga

SPORT AND RECREATION

Together with recreational swimming and morning jogging, you can take advantage of the sport courts and services that they provide. In Mošćenička Draga this is, above all, the soccer field *NK Draga*, established as early as in 1924 and which constitutes an integral part of the *Sports Society of Mošćenička Draga*. Among the traditional games, the one that excells is the *bocce ball game (boće)*, with balls rolling on the nearby bocce ball court (jog), where you can attend the actual competitions. You can also play *tennis* on the newly renewed tennis courts of Remisens Hotel Marina. Thanks to the Maestral wind that softly blows every afternoon in the spring and summer months, national, European and world championships in *sailing*, in various categories, were held here. You can use the same wind to take your windsurf far away, in the open sea. Even today, same as a long time ago, the *JK Orion* is responsible for the regattas in the categories Optimist, Laser and Šljuka.

Since you are already at sea, you can play *water polo* on the beach, rent a *kayak*, a *canoe* or a regular *pedal boat* at the *Rent-a-boat centre*. Rent yourself also a small boat, go to explore the isolated beaches and try fishing. In the open sea, you will also see the powerful speedboats dragging actual parachutes; "ride" them, rise above the Kvarner and enjoy the view of the scenery. In case you are a speed lover, rent the planetary popular *jet-sky* and "ride" the waves in the open sea, breaking the record. You should, however, keep a distance of at least 300 m from the beach, in order not to jeopardise swimmers.

The underwater around Mošćenička Draga, especially the area towards Brseč, reveals a couple of sunken ships and a diverse seabed, with many ravines and caves. The *Dive Centar - Marine Sport*, located on the main beach of Mošćenička Draga, just a couple of hundred metres from the Draga river, can provide you a safe enjoyment in the depths of the sea, as well as diving courses, just as the *Dive Center - I love dive*, nearby the Contovo park, a hundred meters from the Draga river. Apart from these two centres, the *DNB*, that is, the *Diving Boats Orka, Poseidon* and *Kon-tiki* are also incharged for the transport of divers. While you dive, your eyes will enjoy the variety of colours, corals, the most diverse types of fish, weird sea grass, reefs. Light up these beauties, capture them with a camera and take them home as the most beautiful souvenirs.

During the entire year, Mošćenička Draga, with its surroundings, offers various kinds of enteratainment. The Fishermen nights are already a tradition, and one of the most popular one is the party organised for the day of Sv. Marina (the patroness of the town), known as Marinina.

For the occasion, there are popular music bands playing, different games and animations related to the Littoral customs are organised, while the the end of the evening is reserved for pompous fireworks. The Marinina is usually reserved for the performance of popular vocal groups, such as the "Klapas" (a form of traditional a cappella singing) while the event weekend is completed even by the assignation of accomplishment awards in the tourist sector, by the Tourist Board. In the centre od the town you will often hear the *"Primorske klape"* (Littoral vocal groups) and *choirs*, singing traditional Littoral, Istrian and Dalmatian chants, under the mulberry trees, near the port.

We suggest you visit the various exhibitions, culturally related to the past, the tradition, the culture and tourism of this area. During the summer, there are also *classical music concerts* in Sv. Andrija's (St. Andrew) church in Mošćenice. In the same church, as well as in Sv. Juraj' s church in Brseč, the *Christmas and Easter concerts* also take place. Let's mention also the *Sipar poetry festival*, taking place at the end of June, and dedicated to the poet Rikard Katalinić Jeretov. But the party that you definitely shouldn't miss, is the *Marinina*; in the heart of the summer, on the 17 July, the Day of the Municipality.

Every year, at the beginning of January, the Carnival opening ceremony in Mošćenice begins by raising the Carnival flag, which also symbolises the opening of all Carnival events in the entire area. The end of Carnival is also spectacular, with the traditional *burning of the Carnival mascot* at Mošćenička Draga's pier. There is also a "space rocket", so that after the issuance of a "judgement" the Carnival mascot, Gobo, is sent to the Moon. The "burning" takes place on the Ash holiday, the so called Ash Wednesday, which is also a fasting day; therefore, after this unforgettable Carnival ending, we recommend you some white cod-fish spread or stewed cod-fish, that you can find in all resturants, especially the most famous one, Hotel Marina, where the last Carnival dance will be waiting for you.

Everyone can find something for oneself here; whether it's a concert, an exhibition, a traditional manifestation, a children's programme or a festival - look for your favourite event and enrich your holiday.

REVIEW AND REGATTA OF TRADITIONAL SAILBOATS

Apart from the beautiful and clean sea and coastal landscape, the area of the Municipality od Mošćenička Draga has an extremely rich fishing and maritime heritage, displayed in the *Interpretation Centre for Fishing and Maritime Heritage in Mošćenička Draga*. The permanent exhibition is a combination of the classical and the multimedia presentation theme. Apart from the permanent exhibition, the *pier in Draga* is also used, with its "live" background (boats tied in the port, the sailing in and sailing out of boats, the fishermen with their activities, the fish market -"peškarija" - and similar) included in the museum's exhibition, which is a significant feature of the *"Ecomuseum"*, that organises an entire series of events, such as the Littoral evenings with music and an offer of autochthonous meals and drinks, the sale of eco-ethno products and the organisation of educational workshops of traditional skills, in order to promote the local fishing and the maritime and shipbuilding heritage.

The most attractive event is the *Review and Regatta of traditional sailboats in Mošćenička Draga* which gathers, every year in the middle of July, lovers of these wooden beauties, as well as many visitors and tourists. This attractive three-day long manifestation, brings together the largest number of traditional boats from the Kvarner and Istria in the north Adriatic, and offers the visitors an entire series of accompanying maritime and cultural contents.

MOŠĆENIČKA'S PAINTBRUSH

The *Department of the Chakavian Council of the Municipality of Mošćenička Draga*, is an Association whose members wish to contribute, with their work, to the teaching, the conservation, the care and the improvement of the material and cultural heritage of the people from the area of the Municipality of Mošćenička Draga, with a particular emphasis on the conservation and the promotion of the specific speech and language of this area - the *Čakavšćina* (Chakavian). With its activities, the Association participates in the cultural development of the Municipality of Mošćenička Draga and, since 2003, it has been the initiator of many events which are now taking place traditionally (the *Kandalora - the Historic Day of Mošćenice, the Andrejna - dedicated to the fishermen and maritime of these areas, the Mošćenički pinel - Mošćenice paintbrush - the Review and Regatta of traditional sailboats, classical music concerts*, etc.)

The *Mošćenički pinel* (Mošćenice paintbrush), is a traditional international art colony, held in the Medieval town of Mošćenice, where artists from different countries arrive to participate. The colony is held every year, on the last week of August, and it starts with an initial exhibition where artists present their earlier works. The colony lasts seven days and it ends with an exhibition of the newly created works. During the duration of the colony, Mošćenice becomes the city of painters, and on its narrow streets, stairs, shops, squares, you can meet artists who were inspired by this region to create art works. Within the "wing" of the colony, creative art workshops are also organised under the name *Mošćenički pinelić* (Moščenice's little paintbrush), where children of different ages participate and create their works, inspired by the surroundings.

THE B & D BLUES FESTIVAL

The revival of the area in front of the small church of Sv. Magdalena (St. Magdalene) in Brseč, with the organisation of various *happenings, exhibitions, traditional manifestations, even church celebrations*, has induced the organisers to try and hold a smaller blues festival. The success of this event has "moved" the following years of the festival to the central square of Brseč, while recently it was held in three different locations: Brseč, Mošćenice and Mošćenička Draga. The performance of about ten groups from Europe, captures the attention of the media, the tourists and the local public; hence this international manifestation has become one of the most significant in the area of the Municipality of Mošćenička Draga. It is held every year at the end of July, and it somehow represents a "prelude" to the *Kastav blues festival*, that starts only a couple of days after the end of the *B&D Blues festival*. With its strength and quality, this festival doesn't fall behind the best blues festivals in this part of Europe. The festival organisers are the Italian Community of Mošćenička Draga, the *Tourist Board of Mošćenička Draga* and *Annalinea d.o.o.*

BETTY - THE HOUSE OF CULTURE

Only a hundred of metres from the centre, in the direction of the Contovo park, there is the newly renewed *House of Culture "Betty"* , which is home to the gallery *"La Cisterna", "Caffe bar La terrazza"*, and to the library of the Italian Community of M. Draga. Normally, the building is also the seat of the Italian Community Association of M. Draga, but it also acts as the cultural seat of Mošćenička Draga and its surroundings, with the aim to bring together artists and cultural workers, who exhibit and interpret their works. The charming terrace of the House of Culture is ideal for the organisation of smaller, more intimate manifestations, while the distinctive gallery at the ground-floor of the building, offers the possibility to exhibit for local and foreign authors.

THE ASSOCIATION "JENIO SISOLSKI" AND "OZ" THEATRE - THE SMALLEST THEATRE IN THE WORLD

The Association "Jenio Sisolski" is one of the oldest Associations in the Municipality of M. Draga, seated in the house where the writer Eugen Kumičić was born. For many years now, it has been attracting art lovers to its exhibitions at the Eugen K. gallery, at the ground floor of the writers' home. Authors who exhibit there, are mostly well-known names of the Croatian and European cultural-artistic scene. But besides the exhibitions, the Association is also an active promotor of the traditional heritage that promotes our culture in many exhibitions abroad. It is even one of the main creators of the renewal of the traditional regional architecture, especially of the historical and sacral attractions of Brsečʼs old town. The recently established theatre intended for children, but also adults, is the "Oz" Theatre, which has "deserved" the status of "smallest theatre in the world". Apart from plays within its own miniature space, in the heart of the old town, this theatre is engaged with art workshops and children's performances outside of the Brseč walls, and even throughout Croatia. At the top floor of its seat, there is a workshop for the reparation of wind music instruments, one of the two work shops presently existent in Croatia. And there's Brseč, in the glow of the artists' colours.

THE ECOMUSEUM MOŠĆENIČKA DRAGA

The *Ekomuseum Mošćenička Draga ("Perun's world" – the mystic soul of the Kvarner)* is made by four components: *the Mythological - Historical trail "Trebišća - Perun", Mošćenice - the Living Historical Town, Brseč – the Astonished Town of Eugen Kumičić and the Interpretation Centre for Fishing and Maritime Heritage*. Within the long-term project *"The Croatian origins on the slopes of Mt. Učka and Perun"*, the *Mythological - Historical trail "Trebišća – Perun"* project was developed in the *eco-ethno village of Trebišća*, together with the Interpretation Centre. This project is the result of a ten year long research by the *Department of the Chakavian Council of the Municipality of Mošćenička Draga*, in cooperation with the scientific and professional institutions (The Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zagreb, the Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb and others), within the long-term project *"The Croatian origins on the slopes of Mt. Učka and Perun"*. With the realisation of this project, the research presentation on the *Slav mythology*, significant not only to the Municipality of Mošćenička Draga, but also to the Primorsko-Goranska County, will enrich and improve; moreover, we will be able to present ourselves as one of the biggest historical and cultural monuments in Croatia, which is definitely worth to include in our offer.

A very detailed interdisciplinary research was carried out also in the project *"Mošćenice - the Living Historical Town and Brseč - the Astonished Town of Eugen Kumičić"*. Part of the research from the final conference, was carried our in cooperation with ECOVAST-om (The Eurpean Association for Village and Small Towns), in order to find the best solutions for the conservation and the revitalisation of Mošćenica and other similar towns in the Primorsko-Goranska County.

Apart from conserving and renewing the little towns and presenting their valuable heritage, both "in situ", both in the Interpretation Centres, an entire series of cultural-artistic manifestations, such as exhibitions, concerts, performances, recitals, festivals and others, are already being organised within its spaces. Moreover, scientific and professional conventions by eminent institutions, but also popular events (for instance, folklor parties), with elements of autochthonous values. They are working on the preparation of performances, based on historical ad ethnographic elements (overview of historical events and old crafts and similar). In particular, there are attempts to revitalise and enhance the significance of the non-material heritage.

TREBIŠĆA AND THE OLDEST SANCTUARIES

Trebišća, a village stolen from the sun, in eternal shade, conceals its fairy tale spirit that it has preserved from the past. When Old Slavs (Croats) first came to this area (7th and 8th century), they found the possibility of survival in this idyllic village at the foot of the Perun hill, named after Perun, the highest *Slavic God of the pantheon*, the God of thunder and lightning. What Olimpus is to Greeks, Perun is to the Croats and Slavs. The *Iris*, a Croatian national flower (called "Perunika" in Croatian), is also related to Perun, and it had a special role in the cult of this God. You can find it in April and May, growing wild in the gardens along the entire canyon. In the proximity of the village, there is a well which creates a brook going through the canyon of Mošćenička Draga and further towards its mouth on the beach of Mošćenička Draga. We suggest starting your trip in the morning from Mošćenička Draga, across *Sv. Petar* (St. Peter) and along the road to *Potoki*, and then along the path to Trebišća. You will enjoy the nature, the delightful woodland smells, the pleasant shade and the sounds of the brook. When you enter the village, you will see the authentic Istrian stone houses, a little bridge across the brook, a stable, a historical blacksmith's workshop, and a mill. Trebišća has been registered as an archaeological heritage, and is part of the territory of the *Učka Nature Park*.

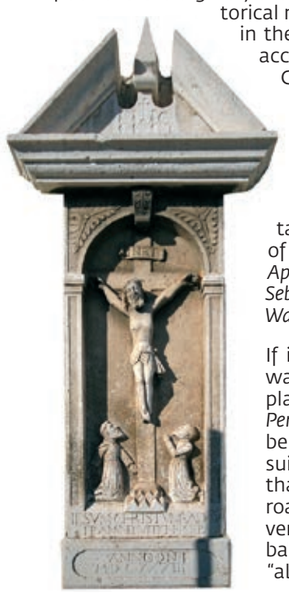
Part of the origins of this area's culture is also the *little church of Sv. Petar* situated in the same village. Next to the church, you will notice the remains of an abbey, as well as a stone for the blessed water dating from 1573, in Glagolitic script. What closely connects us with Mošćenička Draga and its surroundings, is its historic *seafaring*. This area has given birth to many famous captains and worthy seamen, in confirmation of which there are numerous *votive paintings* in several churches of the Mošćenice and Brseč parish. This coast's most important votive paintings are probably to be found in the *Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary* in Kraj. These were given as a sign of gratitude to Our Blessed Lady.

MOŠĆENICE

Mošćenice is a medieval town situated at the foot of the Perun hill, above Mošćenička Draga and Sv. Ivan, from where you can enjoy the view of the beautiful outlines of the Kvarner Bay and its islands. The town was mentioned when Slavs inhabited this area – Croats inhabited it in the 7th and 8th century, and before that this area belonged to the Liburnians. However, Mošćenice is most frequently related to the first priests saying mass from Glagolitic (Old Croatian) missals, that is, to the 16th century, when about forty Glagolitic texts of so called '*Žgombićev zbornik*' were written, one of whom is '*Lucidar*'- a kind of medieval encyclopaedia. The holy

mass was not said in Latin, as in other European countries, but instead, the Old Slavic language was used, both spoken and written, and the alphabet that was called *Glagolitic script* was used until the second half of the 19th century. Mošćenice had also a *constitution*, (the "*Zakon*" - "Law" in Croatian) dating from the first half of the 17th century, a type of contract between feudal lords and serfs. The most important day for Mošćenice (which is celebrated even today), is the *Kandelora* (Candlemas), a day when women take candles to the Church of Sv. Andrija for consecration, which was announced to be a *Historical Day of Mošćenice*, a celebration that takes place every year, at the beginning of February. The *Mošćenički urbar* (The Statute of the town of Mošćenice), which is preserved in the National Archive in Zagreb, dates from 1622. A very important family name that is related to the history of Mošćenice is the local *Negovetich de Cumbox* family, who became aristocracy in Mošćenice in 1687. On the town gate there is the *coat of arms of the Habsburg Monarchy* and the year in which the town gate was restored, 1654. As part of the Austrian province, Mošćenice became an independent Community in 1896. In the 19th century, the inhabitants of Mošćenice started moving down towards the sea and a new settlement was founded - Mošćenička Draga.

When you are in Mošćenice, we strongly suggest you look for the *Ethnographic Museum* at the very entrance to the old town. In the proximity you should also visit the "*Toš of Mošćenice*"(the Mill of Mošćenice - the mill for olives) - the symbol of this Medieval town about three hundred years old. Apart from the "toš" (the mill), the Ethnographic Museum, and *Kosnica* (Kostnica – once a graveyard, today a square near the church), there are some other interesting things about Mošćenice that you should see, such as "*stražnica*" (the guardhouse) – the town lodge, the *cistern* (in the past it represented the main water storage in the town), the "*kaštel – kula*" (the fortress) right in front of the entrance to the town where there is an Elementary school now, and on the ground floor there is a *gallery and an exhibition hall*. In 1968 the historical nucleus of Mošćenice was entered in the registry of real cultural heritage according to the Law on Monument Conservation. In the heart of the old town, hidden between the little narrow streets, you will also find the atelier of the local artist Tonči Adulmar. The rich religious heritage of Mošćenice is certainly worthy of seeing, so take some time for a thorough visit of the *Parish Church of St. Andrew the Apostle, St. Bartholomew's Church, St. Sebastian's Church and the Chapel of the Way of the Cross* on Calvary hill.



If it's late and you are tired after a walk in the town, you will need a place to stay. Apart from *Restaurant Perun* in Mošćenice, there are a number of romantic private rooms and suites in the old town and outside it that can be rented. Along the main road to Mošćenička Draga there are very attractive villas with suites, balconies and terraces with a view "above" the Kvarner Bay.

BRSEČ

Brseč is situated on a 157 m high cliff, at the edge of which this town has been standing proudly for centuries, overlooking the Kvarner Bay. We suggest you take a look at the island of Cres from the west entrance to the town (called "*Pregrad*"). You can enjoy an unforgettable view from the cliff near the *Church of St. Magdalene*. Brseč is a typical Medieval town. The first written records go back to the year 1102. The area was inhabited a long time before that, testimony of which is the Sisol hill, that is, the ancient fortress at its feet, where remnants of a settlement dating from the late antiquity have been found. More relevant information about Brseč date from the first half of the 17th century, when it was shortly under the Venetian government and in the same century, together with Lovran, it was part of the County of Pazin. In the 19th century, the economic development was improved by a new road from Pula to Plomin, and further on to Brseč and across Mošćenice, all the way to Rijeka. The Medieval spirit of the town, which can be felt in its streets and passages, has been preserved until the present days. Most of the houses were built in the 17th century, while the walls, the towers and the church-tower date from the early Middle Ages. The *Kaštel* (the Fortress), the old nucleus around which the settlement was founded, also dates from an earlier time. The houses are a typical example of Littoral architecture and some of them still contain inscriptions in *Glagolitic alphabet*. Even Brseč has its own "toš" (a mill for olives) dating from the 17th century. At that time, *Josip Mavrović, the parish priest of Brseč*, had built the *"Mašunerija"*, a residential building with a large number of rooms, chambers of commerce, and a lodge, and he also had the parish church restored. In the vicinity there is an aristocrats's mansion, a large two-floor house with a fenced terrace and a cistern on the terrace, dating from 1862. *Rajmund Jelušić, another parish priest of Brseč*, who founded the Croatian Reading Club in 1887 and strongly promoted Croatian national awareness, also lived in this house. The *Gradska šterna* (the Town Cistern), is in the central square of the old town. Integral part of the same square, is the School of Brseč, built in 1868.

At the entrance to the old town of Brseč, in the town lodge, there is the bust of the famous *Eugen Kumičić* (a Croatian writer and politician, one of the most popular and read authors of the 19th century). He was born in Brseč, place where the house in which he was born is also situated (on which there is an inscription with his name and a relief in bronze demonstrating a scene from his novel "*Začuđeni svatovi*"- Astonished wedding guests - made by Ljubo de Karina, a sculptor with an academy degree), and today it was turned into a library and a very impressive Gallery called "*Eugen K.*", in which works of art by eminent Croatian and foreign artists are exhibited. The *eminent sculptor, Ljubo De Karina*, lives in the settlement of Zagore (2 km from Brseč), therefore we suggest you to visit his "open-air gallery". His sculptures are displayed to the public in Croatia and abroad (Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Japan).

Believe us, you will be impressed by the value of each single church and chapel of Brseč. This is only a list of the most important sacral objects: *the Parish Church of St. George, the Church of St. Cross, the little Church of St. Magdalene, the little Church of St. Steven* in the cemetery of Brseč, *the Church of St. Helen* in the village of Sv. Jelena (St. Helen), and also *the Chapel of St. Nicholas* in Golovik, nearby Brseč.

KRAJ

And in the end, you are in Kraj, the birthplace of *Viktor Car Emin*, a prominent writer. Testimony to the early presence of people in this area can be found on *Gradac*, a hill above the *Cesara cove*, (which represents the northern borderline of the Community of Mošćenička Draga), where archaeological findings from ancient times can be seen. There are remnants of a road control station and a control fortress. It is divided into *Donji Kraj* and *Gornji Kraj*. Today Kraj is a typical Mediterranean village that reminds at one of the scenes from Paul Cezanne's paintings. The *Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary* in Kraj is a Medieval sacred building, included in the Register of architectural heritage.

SEE YOU AGAIN!

We are sure that you have enjoyed the crystal clear sea, left your footprints on a sandy beach, climbed the mountain peaks, got to know the myths of the god Perun, smelled the scent of the history of the streets of Mošćenice and Brseč, bought paintings and souvenirs, ridden horses and waves, fell in love again at the enchanting moonlight, relaxed on the beaches of Uboka and Jelenščica, seen fishermen off to their night fishing, slept on the pebbles of Sv. Ivan's beach, spent a night in our hotels, private rooms and suites, sailed on yachts and sailing boats, dived in the blue of the sea, run on sports fields, visited art galleries, old houses and buildings, healed your soul with the scents of the sea and pine trees, attended numerous concerts and exhibitions, tried our delicious food and toasted with home-made wine, collected pebbles, floated on a boat in hidden coves, flown with a parachute, jumped off a cliff into the sea, listened to Mediterranean songs, danced on traditional parties and came back to us to see our winter carnivals. And in the end, climbed up to the hill on a sunny day, where you could enjoy the view of this marvellous scenery with villages, old towns, settlements, the sea, beaches, coves and mountain peaks, and silently promised yourself: I will be back next year!

MOŠĆENIČKA DRAGA

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