

The wooded hills surrounding Karojba, around the springs of Valigaštar and Vruk, still abound in historical sites that have not been fully researched. All these hills have been inhabited since prehistoric times but razed to the ground on several occasions making it difficult for the historians to put the fragments together. The majority of them, however, agree that, at Roman times, the area around the spring of Valigaštar contained a Roman military camp near which Roman roads crossed – the modern-day name of Karojba probably derives from the Roman name Quadrivium – a crossroads.



THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW

– is located at the cemetery, built on the site of a former Roman necropolis. A sarcophagus from the Roman times has been preserved in front of the entrance and a Roman gravestone was used to build the church door head.

Numerous antique inscriptions found when the graveyard was extended some hundred years ago were taken to Motovun and are exhibited in its Lapidarium

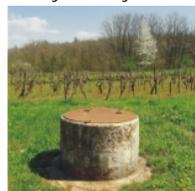


THE PATH OF THE ISTARSKI RAZVOD – THE ISTRIAN BOOK OF BOUNDARIES

– a thematic path arranged by the local association Valigaštar, features interpretation boards written in four languages.

The path starts at the Chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes (1898) and takes us seven centuries back into history, to the Middle Ages, a period when Istria was divided between two masters – the Patriarch of Aquileia and the Count of Gorizia and Pazin. An important legal document, written in the Croatian language and in the Glagolitic alphabet, known as the Istarski Razvod – The Istrian Book Of Boundaries has been preserved from that time. This document witnessed a 21-days long establishment of boundaries undertaken by the representatives of the government and the local inhabitants organised in village municipalities or "komune" headed by the local elected representatives – "župani". The committee visited 44 municipalities and kept minutes on the demarcation in three languages – Croatian, German and Latin. The Committee was followed by the elders who had knowledge of the boundaries, but also by children to learn them and keep

them for future generations. The places of demarcation were marks easily seen in the nature: ponds, brooklets, springs, trees, roads, most of which can still be seen today or only whose names have been preserved.



VALIGAŠTAR is one of the springs mentioned in the Istrian Book of Boundaries. It can be reached if we turn left into the fields after about one hundred meters. Today there is just a stone while previously the springing

water used to fill the nearby pond of the same name, where the local inhabitants would water their livestock. The Book of Boundaries set here the boundary between the municipalities of Motovun and Trviž and the spring was to not only be used but also maintained by both sides. They then made a sign of the cross with nails on the service tree and signs on the walnut tree.



BADAVCA – another spring described in the Istrian Book of Boundaries as the point of demarcation between the municipalities of Motovun and Trviž. On the occasion of the demarcation the participants engraved a cross in the stone, which can still be seen. Around the spring several rustic stone monuments were erected. These were engraved with certain remarkable thoughts written down 700 years ago: "Therefore the Justice cried out for the Injustice to be eradicated". Twelve large stone carrying the names of the nearby "komune" surround the central stone which symbolizes a table and has the following words engraved on it: "And here all municipalities joined together in peace".

Unfortunately, the peace to which the participants of the bygone demarcation described in the yellow stained pages had sworn to, did not last long. The path which follows the solemn and romantic campaign of the Committee, leads us along a local field road to the south to the village of Kvešti, then to the pond Trnova Iokva and away to Sveti Lovre and further on. But you will follow the road towards east and to find out what really happened after demarcation, scan the following code:

>>> more text
>>> accommodation list



SOPAJAC or Veli dol is the largest and deepest karst valley in Istria. The legend says that, after a special and precise ritual in the bottom of Veli dol, one can become invisible. The church of St. Mary used to stand

along this road above the Dol. The market was held once a year around it until one year there was a bloody fight and a murder. It is said that the statue of the Mother of God in the church cried because of that crime. After that deplorable event the church was demolished and the statue of the Mother of God was moved to Karojba. However, the statue would return to Sopajac every night, kneeling and praying on the nearby stone. The legend says that this went on until the statue was transferred to the church of Karojba, where it still stands. Where the Mother of God would kneel and pray knee and footprints of the Mother of God can still be seen.



ŠKROPETI – a village that once used to be on the border of Venetian Istria. The newly built church is dedicated to the Blessed Aloysius Stepinac, Archbishop of Zagreb.



MOTOVUNSKI NOVAKI – was built on a prehistoric "gradina" (a fortified hilltop) and settled continuously throughout the Roman period. In the 13th century it became the

centre of a fief belonging to the Patriarchs of Aquileia and after 1330 it belonged to Motovun, i.e. Venice, and to the Polesini Family. The village once boasted a palace of the Polesini Family (with only its portal being preserved) opposite the Parish Church of St. Mary built in 1879 at the location of a previous 16th century church. The Monastery of the Holy Saviour once existed in the vicinity of the village.



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PARENZANA - a narrow-gauge railway linking Poreč and Trieste from 1902 until 1935. After it was discontinued, the rails were loaded on board of a ship for Abyssinia (Ethiopia). The ship never reached her destination and sank in the Mediterranean. The route of the former railway is today used as an attractive walking and cycling track which will take you to Vižnada or in the opposite direction to Motovun, Livade, Oprtalj, Završje or even Grožnjan. Attractive tourist train was reopened in 2014.

RAKOTULE is the common name for a number of small villages and hamlets situated in the present-day north of the road which connects Karojba and Višnjana.



ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH is situated in Rakotule local graveyard, about a kilometre away from the Parish Church in the northwest direction. The church was built in the 14th century with its front side

extended in the 15th century. Both construction phases were marked by a coat of arms of the aristocratic Barbo family featuring a lion rampant and a bend. This widely branched aristocratic family had numerous estates in Istria and provided many church dignitaries, a captain and a Pope – Paul II (1446). The preserved frescoes represent Maestas domini (Lord-in-Majesty) and scenes from the legend about St. Nicholas: Saint's Birth, St. Nicholas uproots Artemis' Tree and The Golden Legend. The latter describes the benefaction of the Saint who tossed a bag of gold through an open window into the house of an impoverished man to provide his daughters with a dowry.



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