

## ISU - Botanical excursion 2025 – Slovenian high karst landscape

### APPLICATION FORM

Please apply until 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2025 by e-Mail to: [info@isu-perennials.org](mailto:info@isu-perennials.org)

The maximum number of participants is 15 people.  
The registrations will be considered after their arrival in time.

#### Participant 1

Title:             Ms.  Mr.

Name/first name: -----

Address: -----

Town/Postcode/Country: -----

Mobil number:/Email: -----

Date of birth: -----

#### Participant 2

Title:             Ms.  Mr.

Name/first name: -----

#### Cancellation apply:

Until 31. April 2025:            50 % if no replacement person is found

From 01. May 2025:            100 % if no replacement person is found

Please remember to take out adequate travel insurance cover and note the entry requirements for your country!

#### Payment

Payment of 100 € is to be made by confirming the participation.

You will receive the corresponding invoice stating the definitive amount (depending on number of participants) in April. The remaining amount is payable until 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2025.

**Please transfer the down payment of 100,- € and the invoice amount to our account:**

**Volksbank Köln Bonn eG**

**IBAN: DE58 3806 0186 4909 4490 10**

**BIC: GENODED1BRS**

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**Place, date**

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**Legally binding signature**

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**and company stamp**

# Excursion 2025



## ISU-Excursion Slovenian High Karst landscape 16.-20. June 2025

Three striking mountain ridges form the north-western foothills of the Dinarides - the High Karst with its great diversity of species. Typical for this region are: Trieste Carniolan tragacanth (*Astragalus carniolicus ssp. tergestinus*), Carniolan iris (*Lilium carniolicum*) in association with Siberian iris (*Iris sibirica*), Illyrian iris (*Iris illyrica*), grass iris (*Iris graminea*) and Illyrian gladiolus (*Gladiolus illyricus*).

Thomas Ster, former director of the Botanical Garden of the Graz University, knows the High Karst from many hiking tours and guides visitors unerringly to the interesting sites.

In the west, towards Nova Gorica, the wooded ridge of Trnovski gozd (Ternovan Forest) can be recognised. Only on the southern flank does the beech-fir forest recede. Here have developed, probably reinforced by grazing, the species-rich karst meadows of the Caven (Mali Gora 1034m). In early summer, an endemic umbellifer up to 1.50 metres high dominates, the glossy motherwort (*Ligusticum lucidum ssp. seguieri*) and the overgrown yellow gentian (*Gentiana lutea ssp. symphyandra*). The most special feature, however, is the palaeoendemite pastinac-hladnikia (*Hladnikia pastinacifolia*) in places rich in rock debris.

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Also noteworthy as the most southerly occurrence would be the shining rue (*Artemisia nitida*), which is widespread in the Southern Alps from South Tyrol to Carinthia and Slovenia. Particularly impressive in the transition from the beech forest to the karst meadows are the ancient beech stands of the “*Kampfwald*”.



*Edrainanthus graminifolis*

Only the small rocky drop-off towards the Wippach valley is characterised by strong karstification. The largest part of the approx. 100 km<sup>2</sup> forest area with its unique sinkhole landscape can be categorised as Illyrian forest. Particularly around the old mining town of Idria, the typical undergrowth of the Illyrian forest can be found with some specialities such as the Carniolan primrose (*Primula carniolica*), the Carniolan ragwort (*Scopolia carniolica*) and the finger toothwort (*Cardamine pentaphylla*).

Nanos and parts of the Ternovan Forest form the Trnovski gozd-Nanos Natura 2000 area.

While easy roads lead up to Nanos and Caven, the 1795 metre high Sneznik (Carniolan Snow Mountain) in the southern part has to be climbed. The mountain takes its name from its ‘snow cap’ that used to be visible from afar until early summer.

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Separated from the actual High Karst by the Adelsberg Gate, the Carniolan Schneeberg can be seen as a direct foothill of the Dinaric mountain range. The meeting of the southern Alpine and Dinaric flora elements can be impressively recognised here. As strenuous as the ascent (approx. 550 metres difference in altitude) may be, it is always worthwhile. A belt of mountain pines (Legföhren), which is loosened up with tall shrubs and is reminiscent of the Alps, surrounds the rocky parts of the summit area.

Nowhere else we can so perfectly observe the meeting of typical Mediterranean flora elements such as the grass-leaved tufted bellflower (*Edraianthus graminifolius*) with the Edelweiss (*Leontopodium alpinum*) so familiar from our Alps. Scopoli watercress (*Arabis scopoliana*) is probably one of the rarest plants in the High Karst. It occurs sporadically in the Dinaric Mountains, with the northern limit of its distribution running along Sneznik and Nanos.



*Lilium carniolicum*



*Scopolia carniolica*



Ancient beech stands in the battle forest form the transition from the forest to the karst meadow.

We will of course send all participants comprehensive lists of the plants that can be seen on the “High Karst” in advance.

The excursion area is not very well developed for tourism and hopefully it will stay that way. However, this is always a little difficult when preparing an excursion: there is little accommodation and the roads are sometimes closed, so time-consuming detours have to be planned. As botanically interesting as the High Karst is, it is also little known among many botanists!

# Excursion 2025

## Program

### Monday, 16.06.2025 Arrival

17:00 h Meet and Greet Point at Ljubljana Airport  
Transfer in group bus to Adjovcina approx. 1,5 hours

### Tuesday 17.06.2025: High Plateau Nano

9:30 h: Transfer to excursion starting point (approx. 40 min.)  
Botanizing  
Picknick  
Approx. 16:00 h return to the hotel

### Wednesday 18.06.2025: Caven, Illyrska Bistrica

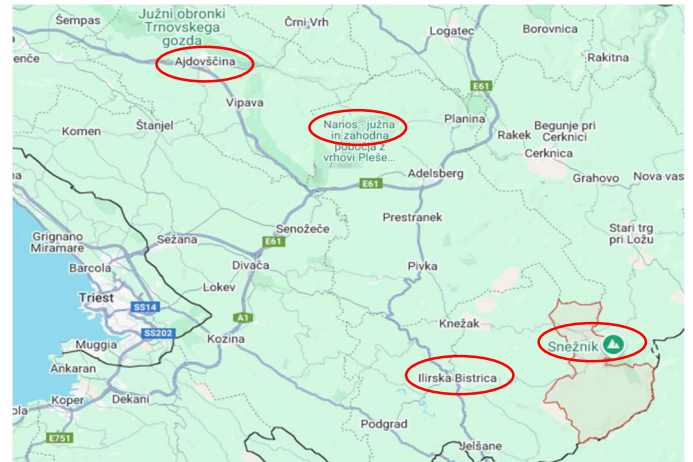
9:30 h: Transfer to excursion starting point (approx. 1 hour)  
Botanizing  
Picknick  
Approx. 16:00 h return to the hotel

### Thursday 19.06.2025: Sneznik

9:30 h: Transfer to excursion starting point (approx. 25 min.)  
Hiking tour (approx. 500 meters of altitude, easy hiking trails)  
Picknick  
Approx. 16:00 h return to the hotel

### Friday 20.06.2025: Departure

Approx. 7:00 h Transfer to Ljubljana Airport



### Tour Guide

Thomas Ster  
Phone: +43/664/73178354  
[thomas.ster@gmx.at](mailto:thomas.ster@gmx.at)

### Contact for pre- and post-tours

Ruefa GmbH  
Christina Brunnsteiner  
8010 Graz, Hauptplatz 14  
Phone: +43/0316/ 826456

[christina.brunnsteiner@ruefa.at](mailto:christina.brunnsteiner@ruefa.at)

### Accommodation:

#### Monday and Tuesday:

Milosevic Tourist Farm  
Vitovlje 68, 5261 Šempas  
Phone +386 5 307 88 90

[Turistična kmetija Malovščevo](http://www.turisticka-kmetija-malovscevo.si)

#### Wednesday and Thursday:

Hotel Gostinstvo Tomex  
Cankarjeva Ulica 26, Ilirska Bistrica  
[GASTHAUS GOSTINSTVO TOMEX](http://www.gasthausgostinstvo.com)



# Excursion 2025

**Number of participants: Minimum: 8 / Maximum: 15**

**Meeting date: June 16, 2025**

17:00 h Meet and Greet Point at Ljubljana Airport

**Costs:**

The costs vary depending on the number of participants. We will inform you as soon as we know the final number and send you an invoice.

ISU members

double room 1.065,00 € (15 participants) – 1.160,00 € (8 participants)

single room 1.240,00 € (15 participants) – 1.335,00 € (8 participants)

Non-ISU members

double room 1.165,00 € (15 participants) – 1.260,00 € (8 participants)

single room 1.340,00 € (15 participants) – 1.435,00 € (8 participants)

**Price includes:**

- 4 x Overnight stays in 3\* hotels/guest houses incl. breakfast
- 4 x Dinner
- 3 x Paket lunch / Picknick (day 2,3 and 4)
- Transfer from and to Ljubljana airport
- All transfers to and from excursion starting points

**Not included:** Tips and personal expenses

**Conditions for payment and cancellation:**

up to 30 days before departure 35%

up to 20 days before departure 50%

up to 9 days before departure 85%

from 8 days before departure 100%

**Deposit: 20% for fixed booking**

**Final payment: 21 days before departure**

**Hints:** Access to the excursion starting points is only possible by car or minibus (good mountain roads), so carpooling is recommended.

Sturdy footwear and good mountain equipment with rain protection is required for the hikes!

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**Contact: Internationale Stauden- Union      International Perennial Society**  
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