

"I care for Počitelj" - "I care for Stolac"
03 – 11 August 2017



photo: Alberto Sartori

This unique medieval settlement, on the list to be declared a cultural heritage by UNESCO, is situated in the valley of the Neretva River, twenty five kilometers from Mostar, on the way to the Adriatic Sea. In the 1960s, Počitelj began to grow as an art center, promoted also by the famous writer - Nobel Prize winner Ivo Andrić. Počitelj, with its jumble of medieval stone buildings, ancient tower overlooking the river and proximity to the seaside, giving artists and will give you the peaceful and scenic place to work and stay.

In the year 2000, the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina initiated the Programme of the permanent protection of Počitelj. This includes protection of cultural heritage from deterioration, reconstruction of damaged and destroyed buildings, encouraging the return of the refugees and displaced persons to their homes as well as long-term preservation and revitalization of Počitelj historic urban area. The Programm is on-going. But a lot of maintenance services in public spaces and along the stone paths of the old town require voluntary action of few inhabitants.

Structure and Activities of the Camp

Planned activities are:

1. "Active citizenship" actions: working activities in Počitelj and Stolac
2. Other events: public meetings – sightseeing of surroundings

1. Active citizenship actions - working activities

- Cleaning the environment around the old fortress (citadel) and public areas in the old town of Počitelj, pruning bushes, weeds, garbage collection

2. Other events

- meetings with local stakeholders about the future networking activities
- mapping of local cultural and natural values
- sightseeing of:

Mostar (Old center and meetings with local associations)

Blagaj

Žitomislić

Stolac (Daorson, Radimlja, Boljuni, Badanj Cave, Old town)

Gabela – Mogorjelo Vila

Nature park "Hutovo Blato"

Trebižat river – Kravica lake and waterfalls

Accommodation

Participants will have accommodation at the Art Colony MLAZ, which will be the camp-base, and in private houses in the old town Počitelj, except for 3 days when camp activities will be realized in Stolac. Meals will be prepared with the involvement of participants/volunteers - except on certain days determined for trips...

Costs

The camp is co-financed through contributions of volunteers to cover the costs of accommodation and food in Počitelj, local transport, organizational costs and insurance. Contribution is fixed at **250,00 €** per participant.

Documents

Identification card or passport is only required to enter into Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina - for citizens of EU or non-EU Countries.

Sightseeing and visits to local natural and cultural values



photo: Alberto Sartori

Mostar

It is situated on the Neretva river and is the fifth largest city in the country. Mostar was named after the bridge keepers (natively: mostari), who in the medieval times guarded the Old Bridge (Stari Most) over the Neretva River. The Old Bridge is one of the city's most recognizable landmarks: 28m long and 20m high, it quickly became a wonder in its own time. The famous traveler Evliya Celebi wrote in the 17th century that: *the bridge is like a rainbow arch soaring up to the skies, extending from one cliff to the other. ...I, a poor and miserable slave of Allah, have passed through 16 countries, but I have never seen such a high bridge. It is thrown from rock to rock as high as the sky.*



photo: Margherita Squarcina

Blagaj

It is a village-town (kasaba) in the south-eastern region of the Mostar basin. Blagaj stands at the edge of Bišće plain and is one of the most valuable mixed urban and rural structures in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The natural and architectural ensemble of Blagaj is on the Tentative list to be declared a UNESCO World Heritage. It is situated at the source of the Buna river (the largest source in Europe), where there is also historical tekke (tekija or dervish monastery). Tekija in Blagaj was built around 1520, with elements of Ottoman architecture and Mediterranean style and is considered a national monument.



Hutovo Blato, nature national park

Hutovo Blato: this national Nature Park is one of the largest Winter bird ports in Adriatic region. The landscape of Hutovo Blato is quite unique with lost rivers, valleys and gorges, with some lakes below the level of sea creating true crypto depressions. A green paradise with an abundance of plant life spanning swampland, meadows and forest. One such project has determined through their research, that the favorable environmental conditions and influence of Mediterranean climate, more than 600 floral species were identified in the nature park.



Daorski Fort – photo: Tiziano Pizzamiglio

Stolac: on the territory of the municipality Stolac there are so much important historical values that the natural and architectural ensemble of Stolac is listed to be declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site:

- **Daorski Fort:** (Ancient Greek Δαορσών) was the capital of the Hellenistic Illyrian tribe called Daorsi (Ancient Greek Δαόριζοι, Δαούρσιοι). It was built over the prehistoric fortified settlement dating from the Early Bronze Age (17th century BC) to the end of the Bronze Age (9th - 8th century BC). Daorsi lived in the valley of the Neretva River between 300 BC and 50 BC.



Radimlja - photo: Tiziano Pizzamiglio

- **Radimlja:** almost three medieval necropolis are present in the surroundings of Stolac; the most famous is called Radimlja. These types of tombstones, called "stećci" are almost the only concrete trace of the Bogomils - Bosnian old christian church.

- **Boljuni:** the largest medieval necropolis in municipality Stolac
- **Badanj Cave:** is a cave known for its cave drawings, dating between 12,000 - 16,000 BC.



Gabela – photo: Donatella Carlovich

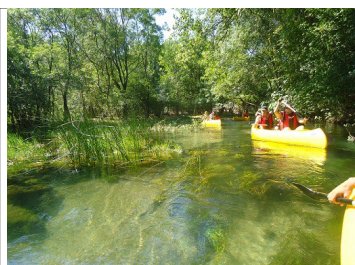
Mogorjelo: is Roman large "villa rustica" that dates from the early fourth century. It is situated on a hill above the Neretva River, 5 km south of Čapljina, near the road to

Gabela. During the Middle Ages, Gabela was an important commercial town on the border between Herzegovina and Dalmatia, for trade between the kings of Bosnia Kings and Dubrovnik; it was occupied by the Turks in the XVI c. and by Venetians at the end of XVII c....



Žitomislić – photo Slavica Mendelski

The **Žitomislić monastery** is located 20 kilometers from Mostar. It is dedicated to the Annunciation of the Mother of God. The monastery was built in the early fifteenth century. During the Turkish occupation, the monastery was one of the most important cultural centers in Herzegovina. The monastery and its brotherhood suffered badly many times throughout history.



Trebižat river – photo Donatella Carlovich

The **Trebižat river** is 51 km long and is the second largest losing stream in Bosnia and Herzegovina that drains into the underground and reappears several times. It flows through an area of remarkable ecological value, hosting protected areas such as the travertine-formation around Kravice Waterfall.

TIME TABLE

Date	Program activities
03 August thu	h.17.00: Arrival in Počitelj of participants – registration – accommodation h.19.30: Welcome dinner – Presentation of staff and participants
04 August fri	h.09.00: Sightseeing of the old town with citizens of Počitelj and experts h.16.00: First “Community Day” action: cleanup the old town of Počitelj h.20.00: Dinner at camp base
05 August sat	h.09.30: Departure to Blagaj – visit to Tekke of Dervishes and spring of Buna river; free lunch in Blagaj h.15.30: Departure to Monastery Žitomislić and Mostar to visit the old centre and the UNESCO World Heritage «Stari Most» (Old Bridge) – free dinner in Mostar h.23.30: Arrival in Počitelj
06 August sun	h.08.30 – 12.00: Second “Community Day” action: clean up the old centre of Počitelj h.16.00: Canoa Safari (extra cost 20,00 €) or free time along the Trebizat river h.20.00: Dinner at camp base
07 August mon	h.09.30: Sightseeing of Nature Park “Hutovo blato” h.12.30: Lunch time in Hutovo Blato h.16.00: Meeting with local associations about future policies for Sustainable tourism in Herzegovina: project ideas presentation. h.21.00: Dinner with traditional food
08 August tue	h.09.30: Sightseeing of Gabela and Mogorjelo villa h.12.30: Excursion to Trebižat river and Kravice lake and waterfalls h.20.00: Dinner at camp base
09 August wed	h.09.30: Departure to Stolac (where will be camp-base for 2 nights) h.10.00: Sightseeing of medieval necropolis of Radimlja (UNESCO site since 2016 July) h.12.00: Arrival in old center Stolac and accommodation, then lunch with local associations representatives. h.15.30: Sightseeing of the old fortress h.18.00: Departure to Daorson, sightseeing of Hellenistic town ruins until sunset h.21.00: Dinner at camp base
10 August thu	h.08.30: Departure to Boljuni – Volunteer action and lunch with local associations h.14.30: Sightseeing of necropolis Boljuni h.17.00: Coming back to camp-base in Stolac – free time h.21.00: Final meeting party with all our partners
11 August fri	h.08.30: Official closure of camp in Počitelj – Departures <i>We propose to all participants who wish to enjoy one or two days more in BiH to come with us to Sarajevo for meetings with some our very interesting friends and to visit the old center and several cultural heritage sites in the city, so...for who wants to continue</i> h.16.00: Arrival in Sarajevo – Meeting with Jovan Divjak in OGBH seat, then accommodation in hostel and visit of the old town until midnight
12 August sat	h.09.30: Sightseeing of the Tunel Museum, of the Jewish Old Cemetery, of the National Library h.14.00: Departure to go home...