



Society for the commemoration the rescue of the Allied soldiers during
The National Liberation War in Slovenia – The Crow's Flight to the Freedom

Društvo za ohranjanje spomina na reševanje zavezniških vojakov v času NOB –
Vranov let v svobodo

INTERANTIONAL MEMORIAL TRAIL OF ALLIANCE -
- THE CROW'S FLIGHT

The Crow's Flight Trail (6th – 10th September 2017)

"The International Memorial Trail of Alliance - The Crow's Flight"

The Crow's Flight story unveiled one of the most exceptional event of WWII in Europe. 80 British POWs from New Zealand, Australia and England, imprisoned in the POW camp Stalag XVIII D in Maribor, on 31 August 1944 were liberated by about one hundred Partisan combatants in company with seven British POWs who escaped to them a day before. In mountains another 9 British and 10 French were joined. Led by partisans, together 106 POWs marched 330 Km for 14 days to village of Semič. On 18 September 1944, at the partisan airfield Otok near town Metlika, they boarded on aircrafts Dakota's DC 3 and flew to the Allied base Bari in Italy.

Read memories "**A Hundred Miles as the Crow Flies**", by Australian Ralph F. Churches.

As far as the historian Matija Žganjar discovered, the Slovene Partisans supported by loyal residents rescued 439 British POWs, the escapees from Italian and German camps, as well as 806 downed Allied airmen.

You are invited to be present at our memorial events. Maybe you like to march a section of the Crow's Flight Trail in company with our hikers.

This year at GEOSS and in the area of "The Partisan Corridor" the main event will take place. We plan to organise rafting across the Sava River in village of Zgornji Hotič.

If you decide to arrive private, get contact with Eduard Vedernjak via ELMS director Roger Stanton, or for the participation interested persons mail your presence to info@agencija-m.com as soon as possible, please.

Here is our program in cooperation with Agency M from Maribor – the offer for you:

Day 1: Wednesday, 6 September 2017

Individual arrival to Maribor

- **Maribor** airport, Slovenia; Look info on <http://www.maribor-airport.si/en/Home.aspx>
- **Ljubljana** Airport - Airport Jože Pučnik, Slovenia; then taxi or shared ride Shuttle Service to Maribor, 130 km highway ; estimated time 01:30;
- **Graz** airport, Austria , then taxi or shared ride Shuttle Service to Maribor 60 km highway; estimated time 00:45
- **Vienna/Wien** airport, Austria , direct train from airport Vienna to Graz 260 km, and then taxi or shared ride Shuttle Service from Graz to Maribor, 60 km highway ;
- **Zagreb**, Croatia (International Airport), then taxi or shared ride Shuttle Service to Maribor, 125 km highway, estimated time 01:30;
- **Trieste / Trst**, Italy, then taxi or shared ride Shuttle Service to Maribor 250 km highway, estimated time 02:30
- **Accommodation** in a Hotel in the centre of Maribor
- **6 00 pm – Introduction meeting with organizers; (film March to Freedom)**
- Overnight Maribor

Day 2: Thursday, 7 September 2017

- 7:00 Breakfast
- 8:30 Visit the museum “Muzej NO Maribor”
- 9:30 Passing memorials in Maribor city centre – transport to city quarter Melje, the location of the POW camp Stalag XVIII D
- 11:20 Transfer by bus to Ožbalt to the area of the escape and liberation of the British POWs
- 12:45 Transport to the village of Lovrenc na Pohorju
- Lunch in a local inn
- 16:00 Return to Maribor, free, overnight in a hotel in Maribor

Day 3: Friday, 8 September 2017

- 7:00 Breakfast
- 8:00 Departure to the valley of Zg. Savinjska dolina, settlement Mozirje , short program
- 10:20 Transfer to a mountain village of Šmihel nad Mozirjem, alt. 800 m – the section of the «International Memorial Trail of Alliance- The Crow’s Flight» in the valley will be presented – meeting with some residents
- Transport to the airfield of an local aviation club in the municipality Rečica ob Savinji, meeting before a monument which remembers the emergency landing of a British Halifax bomber EB 188 R on 6 November 1944 – snack and drink
- 13:00 Departure to the settlement Gornji Grad, meeting with the mayor, visit of the famous cathedral - transfer to the town Celje, tour to some medieval and ancient sights
- Dinner, overnight in a hotel in Maribor

Day 4: Saturday, 9 September 2016

- 7:00 Breakfast
- Transport to the village of Blagovica (alt. 410 m) – 8:30 start: MARCH direction GEOSS (alt. 640 m), undemanding tour for 2:30 hours – 11:00 - 12:00 GEOSS: the memorial event at 10th anniversary of The Crow's Flight Project ; socializing at snack
- 13:00 March, direction Zg. Hotič (alt. 260 m) for 1:30 hours; stop before the monument dedicated to the partisan combatants / ferrymen and to the Crow's Flight, short program
- 15:00 Crossing Sava river by boat (or bus transfer for non interested), on the right bank in settlement Kresnice drink farewell
- Departure to Metlika, dinner, overnight in Metlika

Day 5: Sunday, 10 September 2016

- Breakfast – transport to the partisan airfield Otok– short program
- Departure to the settlement of Semič, brief stop before »amerikanski hotel« = “American hotel”, as in 1944 this old school was called by locals.
- Transport to the capital city Ljubljana
- Individual decision to stay in Ljubljana, or depart to the homeland.

Hikers: Those who want to join hiking group should be **individually insured**, in **good health** and **prepared for moderate hiking effort**. Hikers must also take their own hiking equipment appropriate for all weather conditions.

PRICE

No. of persons in the group	10 pax	15 pax
	455 EUR	395 EUR

Supplement for single room: 80 EUR for four nights

Services included in the price:

- Day 1: 1 BB (overnight, breakfast) in hotel 3* in double rooms in Maribor
- Day 2: 1 BB (overnight, breakfast) in hotel 3* in double rooms in Maribor, lunch in local restaurant, entrances according to the programme (National Liberation Museum Maribor, Stalag), local guiding
- Day 3: 1 HB (overnight, breakfast, dinner) in hotel 3* in double rooms in Maribor, light meal, tour guide
- Day 4: 1 HB (overnight, breakfast, dinner) in hotel 3* in double rooms in Metlika, light meal, lunch, tour guide
- Day 5: tour guide
- Bus transfer according to the programme
- Organizational costs Agency M
- Organizational costs of The Crow's Flight Society not included. It means: snack and drink on Day 3, 4 and 5 on account of the Society. A contribution for transport by boat organized at the place: 3.- Eur. Transport organizes the Club Rafting -Vidra from Litija.

APPLICATIONS

To make a reservation for The Crow's Flight Trail you should:

- Fill out the application form and sent it to: info@agencija-m.com
- Pay a deposit of 200 EUR till 15th May on agency bank account. About 30 days before the tour we will inform you about final price (depending on the number of applications) and ask you to make the final payment.



ADDRESS: Agencija M, d.o.o., Partizanska cesta 6, 2000 MARIBOR, SLOVENIA
BANK: Delavska hranilnica d. d. Ljubljana, Miklošičeva 5, 1000 LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA
IBAN: SI56 6100 0000 6058 870; SWIFT: HDELSI22
PLEASE NOTE: Bank transfer costs go on your account!

Logistic will be organised by tourist agency »Agencija M« from Maribor.
Read their presentation <http://www.agencija-m.com/en/>

The program planed by Committee of the "THE CROW'S FLIGHT SOCIETY".
Chairman of "The Crow's Flight Society" Eduard Vedernjak, the coordinator of this presented event 2017

For the participation interested persons mail your presence to info@agencija-m.com



MARIBOR

http://kraj.eu/slovenija/maribor_staro_mestno_jedro/eng

<http://wikitravel.org/en/Maribor>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maribor>

Photo: Maribor on 7 January 2017

Pos. 1

POW camp in Maribor from 1941 to 1945

Pos. 2

Barracks - assembly centre for deportation conscious Slovenes and Yu and British prisoners of war in June/July 1941



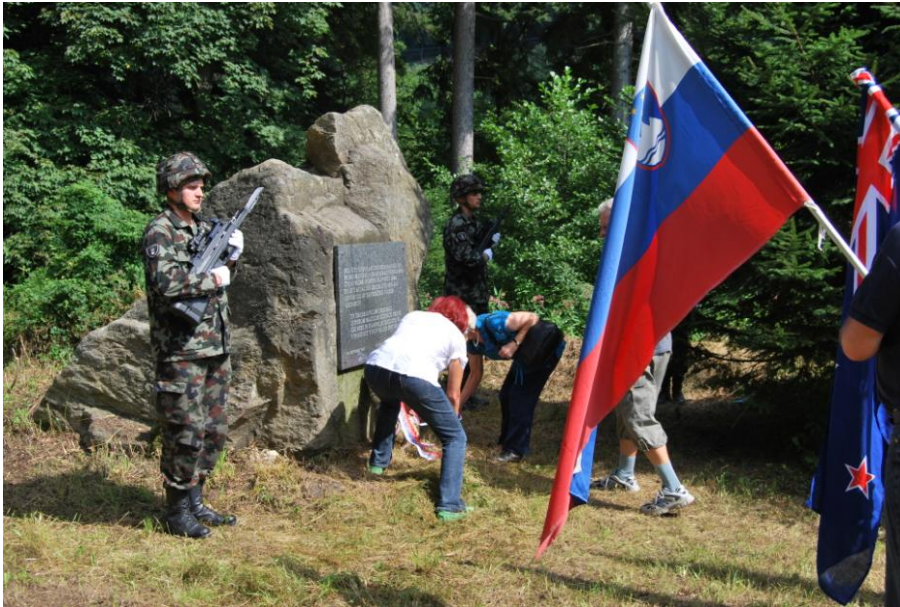
Photo archive: Australian War Museum

British POWs in Maribor, city quarter Melje, from July 1941 - October 1942 camp signed as Stalag XVIII D (306), in 1943/44 Camp GW 1046



Photo: E.V.

Site on 7 January 2017



OŽBALT, on 21 August 2010

The Memorial plaque on a rock, along the railway line on the bank of the Drava river in Ožbalt, is dedicated to the partisans who liberated 80 British POWs on 31 August 1944. Slovenian flag accompanied by Australian and New Zealand flags.



Waiting for the memorial celebration at the site, approximately 1 Km downstream of the historical event.



Gornji Grad on 14 September 2013

International Memorial Trail of Alliance –
The Crow's flight Trail crosses the
municipality Gornji Grad.
A group of hikers finish their march to be
present at the memorial event.





GEOSS, 10 September 2016



The area below of the village of Zgornji Hotič is one of the sections of the Partisan Corridor. The river Sava is visible down between trees. Arrow indicates the position of the monument dedicated to the partisan combatants-ferryman, and memorised The Crow's Flight.



Hikers march towards the bank of the Sava River.



Crossing Sava River at the historical location in area of "Partisan corridor"



OTOK 2016 on 25 September

The central event of the Crow's Flight Project 2016

In the presence of the ambassadors of UK and US talks Prime Minister of Republic of Slovenia Dr. Miro Cerar. Behind the British flag are flags of NZ and Au.



Dakota DC 3 is a museum article – the monument settled in the village of Otok is one of the 34 planes which were used at partisan airfields Otok and nearby Krasinec in 1944/45.