

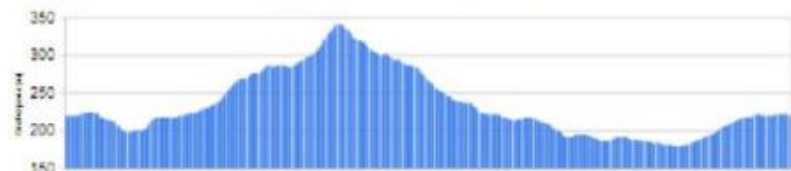
Length: **5.63 km**
Time: **3h**
Difficulty: **Easy**

Tour description

The Azalea Boštanj Nature Trail is a circular trail combining the precious pearls of nature, which are most distinctive of Boštanj and the Lower Sava Valley, along the 6km long hiking trail. The focus of the trail is the habitat of the Yellow Azaleas, which are located on the hill overgrown with forest above the centre of the area, which has been named "Gavge" (gallows) ever since the Middle Ages. In addition to these botanical natural gems of national significance, the information boards also feature information on the fruit-growing activity with the indigenous apple variety called "Sevniška voščenska", bee-keeping activity, forestry and priceless water sources, whether in the form of numerous springs or the River Mirna, where the former female inhabitants of Boštanj used to catch fish using only their bare hands during the spawning season. Since not all the fish could immediately be used, they were dried for future use and used as ingredients to cook rich dishes. You can see a reenactment of this traditional chore by the Azaleja Society upon prior arrangement. After the tour you can buy apples, honey, and other products made from fruit and honey.

The geographical trail instructions

The trail begins at Boštanj Primary School, next to the large information board with the trail map. Here you will receive basic information and some refreshments. The trail takes you to the centre of Boštanj and starts descending just a few steps prior to the rectory towards the water spring below the church, which was in the old days used as a washing place in Boštanj called Vejar. The short circular path leading from Vejar will again take to the meadow next to the Parish church, where the information board next to the neatly arranged beehive offers



an insight into the importance of the fruit-growing and bee-keeping activities for Boštanj and the entire Lower Sava Valley, and especially to the indigenous apple variety called "Sevniška voščenska". The trail takes you past the Parish church and uphill past the cemetery and then towards the forest located above the settlement in the southwesterly direction. The information board, located just before the cart track enters the forest, draws your attention to the Yellow Azalea habitat, the only natural habitat of this type of shrub in Slovenia in addition to the smaller habitat located above Tržišče. The cart track will take you through the forest and to the top of the hill, which has been called "Gavge" ever since the Middle Ages testifying to the former location of the gallows. The trail then descends down the other side of the hill to Boštanj. You will then continue walking along the edge of the fields and descend down the slope covered with shrubs and forest to the Grahovica stream and the River Mirna, where fishing using just bare hands took place in the old times and where the sawmill and the first hydroelectric power plant were located. You can read about these activities on the information board. From here on, the trail continues through Dolenji Boštanj and ends back to where you started in Boštanj. The hike is varied, but undemanding.

After taking the Azalea Trail you can treat yourself to a lunch in one of the local pubs.

In the afternoon we suggest you to visit the nearby town Sevnica, which is most renowned for the majestic Sevnica Castle located above the River Sava. If you would like to take a holiday or engage in outdoor activities, you can visit the surrounding vineyard cottages. To make a reservation visit the www.tvz.si portal.

Additional information

Info: Janez Levstik, +386 51 636 246, www.dozivljaj.si,

dozivljaj@kstm.si