

## NETWORLD - NETWORKING IN PRESERVING THE FIRST WORLD WAR MULTICULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE DANUBE COUNTRIES

The **NETWORLD** project contributes to the Danube Transnational Programme objectives and priority area 2 (Environment and culture responsible Danube region) by strengthening the joint and integrated approaches in documenting, preserving, managing and promoting the cultural heritage in the Danube region.

The main objectives of the **NETWORLD** project are to increase the awareness of the First World War (WWI) heritage and its sustainable use for the development of quality cultural tourism.

The **NETWORLD** specific project objectives refer to:

- ✔ preparing a database, a strategy and a management plan for architectural WWI heritage;
- ✔ improving the cooperation between countries of the Danube region in order to commemorate the WWI centenaries;
- ✔ increasing awareness and visitor numbers of WWI heritage by providing diversified quality tourism brochures and by demonstrating the common brand “Walk of Peace” in the Danube region;
- ✔ promoting the value of peace, based on a common commemoration of WWI shared past through e.g. transnational events, scientific conferences, youth exchanges, education and ICT tools.

Fourteen project partners from nine countries of the Danube region and eleven associated partners joint their efforts to implement project activities and tasks, grouped in six main work packages. These packages relate to Project management, Communication, Database and Strategy, Quality Cultural Tourism, Demonstration and Testing, Education and Exchanges. The **NETWORLD** partnership and project activities are led by the **Soča Valley Development Centre** (SLO) with Ms. Vesna Kozar (Project Manager) and Ms. Polona Cimpric (Financial Manager).

**ERDF PARTNERS:** The Walk of Peace in the Soča Region Foundation, Slovenia; Rozmberk Society, Czech Republic; Varna Economic Development Agency, Bulgaria; Regional Museum of History – Dobrich, Bulgaria; Cultural LAB Social Cooperative, Hungary; Municipality of Town Veszprém, Hungary; Danube University Krems/Department for Building and Environment, Austria; Die Berater, Austria; National Institute for Research and Development in Tourism, Romania; Institution for development of competence, innovation and specialization of Zadar County, Croatia; University of Presov, Slovakia.

**IPA PARTNERS:** School of Economics and Business in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Department for Development and International Projects of Government of Zenica-Doboj, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

# WORLD WAR ONE SITES IN THE DANUBE REGION

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## First World War 1914–1918

The First World War was the first armed conflict on a global level. At the height of hostilities about two thirds of the countries of the world were involved in the war. It was triggered by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir to the throne, and his wife Sophie on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 1914. After this had happened, Austria-Hungary issued an ultimatum to the Kingdom of Serbia which the latter did not fully comply with; therefore Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July 1914. The Russian Empire and Germany also reacted to the declaration of war. In the first days of August Germany occupied Belgium and Luxembourg; subsequently also Great Britain and France entered the war. The belligerents were divided into two camps: the Central Powers (Austria-Hungary, Germany, the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria), and the Entente Powers (Great Britain, France, the Russian Empire, Serbia, Romania). Three battlefields were opened in Europe: the Eastern, the Western and the Balkan Fronts. In May 1915, the Kingdom of Italy also entered the war and opened the Southwestern Front along its border with Austria-Hungary. After more than four years of warfare, Bulgaria was the first to sign ceasefire on the side of the Central Powers (on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 1918), it was followed by the Ottoman Empire the next day, and by Austria-Hungary on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November; Germany signed ceasefire as the last one. Symbolically, the armistice began on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1918 at 11 a.m.

It is estimated that 70 million soldiers were mobilised during the war; more than 8 million of them were killed in the battles, 8 million were missing and more that 21 million were wounded.



# Slovenia

The territory of present-day Slovenia belonged to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy during WWI. In May 1915, the Southwestern Front opened between Austria-Hungary and Italy; part of it, the so-called Isonzo Front. The area was occupied by military forces and civil population was forced to leave the land and seek refuge elsewhere. During the 29 months 12 battles took place in which about 300,000 soldiers of different ethnicities were killed. In October 1917, the Austro-Hungarian army, assisted by the German army, launched the decisive battle and the front line moved to the River Piave, Italy. The war left behind an indelible mark, which now represents important international heritage. In combination with natural attractions it is linked into the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic. Not only thanks to its World War I heritage on the territory of the Republic of Slovenia, but also due to its peace mission, the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic has been entered into the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List.



<http://www.potmiru.si>

**Kobarid Museum, other museums and private collections** - There is a lot of movable heritage in places along the former Isonzo Front. The most popular of the museums where it is housed is the Kobarid Museum which presents stories of the soldiers who fought on the Isonzo Front.

**Outdoor museums** - In the more easily accessible areas of the former battlefields of the Isonzo Front outdoor museums have been arranged, which feature as the most prominent points along the Walk of Peace. Visitors can experience trenches and caves first-hand and can enjoy the beautiful nature and panoramic views. The most frequently visited are Kolovrat and Sabotin.

**Memorial Church of the Holy Spirit at Javorca** - The church is situated in the exceptionally beautiful natural environment of the Triglav National Park and boasts the European Heritage Label. It was built by Austro-Hungarian soldiers in memory of their fallen comrades. Soldiers of different religious affiliation attended the Mass here and forgot about the war for a while.

**Military cemeteries and charnel houses** - They are the final resting place of numerous soldiers of different ethnicities who fought along the River Soča. Their graves are in three Italian charnel houses (Kobarid, Oslavia, Redipuglia) and a Greman one (Tolmin) and in approximately 70 Austro-Hungarian cemeteries, such as the ones at Log pod Mangartom, Gorjansko, etc.

**Chapels** - Military chapels commemorate individual events and people of different ethnicities from the time of WWI. The most famous is the Russian Chapel under the Pass of Vršič. It was erected by Russian POWs in memory of the suffering and the death of more than a hundred comrades who were killed by an avalanche during the construction of the road from Kranjska Gora to the Pass of Vršič.

**Karst caves** - Soldiers on the front also sought safe shelter underground. They had to dig out underground shelters, but in the area of the Kras (Karst) such shelters were already there. Many karst caves were arranged to serve military purposes, mainly for dwelling and storage of weapons and ammunition. Some of them are now accessible to visitors: Pečinka cave, Krompirjeva cave, etc.



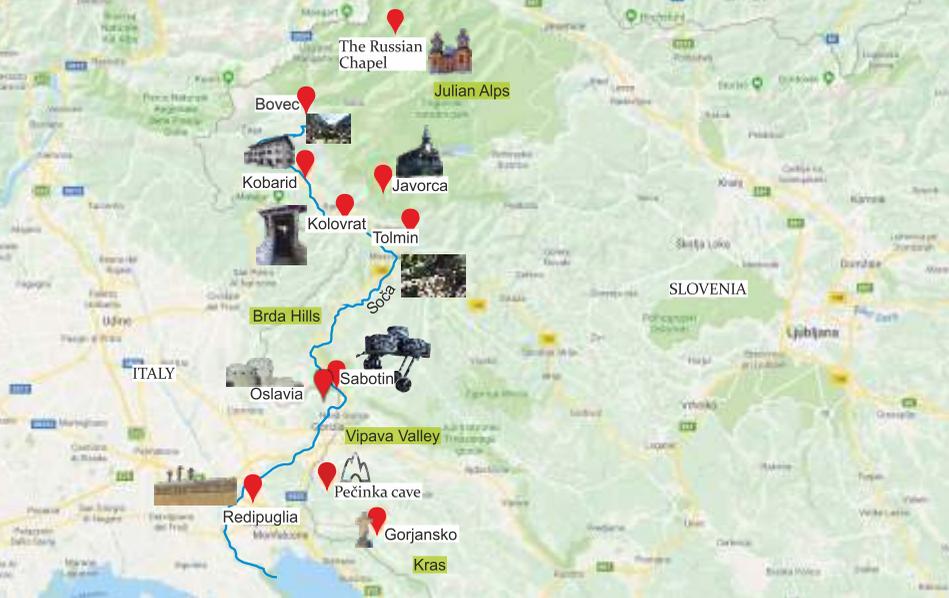
Austro-Hungarian military cemetery, Gorjansko



Church of the Holy Spirit on Javorca plateau



Outdoor Museum, Kolovrat



The Soča River



Škocjan Caves



Outdoor Museum, Čelo



Russian Chapel under the Pass of Vršič

## Other tourism attractions:

The **Walk of Peace** from the Alps to the Adriatic runs through the western part of Slovenia, through the Soča Valley and the Kras, to the Adriatic Sea. The famed River Soča gave the name to one of the most well-known war scenes in Europe. The story of war and peace interconnects the variety of natural and cultural features along the Walk of Peace. Visitors can learn about it on guided tours.

The emerald green **River Soča**, one of the most beautiful rivers of Europe, rises in the heart of the Triglav National Park in the Julian Alps. Its 90 kilometres long course is highly varied in the upper part and attracts adrenaline eager water sportsmen, whereas its calm lower course is a true paradise for anglers.

The **Julian Alps** are part of the long curved ridge of the Alps. There are about 150 peaks that rise to more than 2,000 metres above sea level, the highest among them being Mt. Triglav with its 2,864 metres. The varied fauna and flora, natural and water resources make them a global value and a challenge, a desire of every traveller, biker, paraglider.

The area of **Goriška** is well-known for the wine-growing Vipava Valley and the Brda Hills. The Europe Square connects two cities (Nova Gorica and Gorizia) and two states (Slovenia and Italy).

The **Kras** (Karst) is famous for its stone houses, the wine called teran, the Karst smoked ham pršut/prosciutto, and karst phenomena that have given the name to similar geological characteristics elsewhere in the world. Among the most famous are the Škocjan Caves and Postojna Cave.



Outdoor Museum, Sabotin



Private museum collection

# Czech Republic

Since the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, the Czech lands or “Lands of the Bohemian Crown” have been part of the Habsburg Empire. During the entire First World War, no fighting took place on Czech ground. Nevertheless, the country was heavily involved in the war. From our South Bohemian region, men were drafted mainly into the 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (IR) in the Jindrichuv Hradec district and the 91<sup>st</sup> IR in Ceske Budejovice. Both regiments fought on the Russian (Eastern) Front early in the war but later were involved also in the war on the Italian Front, the front between Austria-Hungary and Italy. As result of mobilizing most of the able men to the fronts, the rural villages were inhabited mainly with children, women, and old people. Goods and food were also used for the war efforts, leaving the rural homeland in hardship. On top of this, wounded soldiers, prisoners of war (POWs) and refugees from the fronts put another large demand on the population. With the end of the war the Czechs regained their independent as the Czechoslovak Republic. The Czech Legion, established during WWI and fighting on the allied side, played an important role in this.



The Czech lands did not experience fighting and has no battlefield heritage. However, large numbers of wounded soldiers, refugees, and POWs came to the country. Existing buildings and temporary hospitals and camps were used to take care of those people. After the war, those buildings changed back to their old use and the temporary camps and even some war cemeteries were disbanded and destroyed in the decades that followed. However, the new country did and does honors it fallen soldiers. Most villages have monuments remembering those who died during the war. In addition, most villages have village chronicles and school chronicles that were obligatory in the new state. Most of these also describe the war years and the people involved. Many of them have been digitalized and are published on the web.

**Nove Hradý** - The historic town of Nove Hradý is situated directly on the border of Austria and the Czech Republic. Today, the municipality includes several of the nearby villages. In some of these villages, monuments did not survive till today. Because of that, a new monument was unveiled on May 5, 2018. The monument is included in a new “Walk of Peace” trail linking the surrounding villages and detailing where the men were born, on which fronts they had been fighting, and where many of them died.

**Kojakovice Museum** - The Kojakovice Museum (Czech Emigration Museum) details the rural society from the failed revolution in 1848 until the end of WWI and the new Czechoslovak Republic. The museum is housed in the old school. The exhibition in the first class room describes the life in small rural villages, including service in the Austro-Hungarian Army and why so many of the local people escaped their homelands (and the military draft) in the late 1800s in search of a better future. In the second class the experiences of these emigrants in the USA are shown. The third class shows the impact of WWI on the villages by stories from the Soča/Isonzo Front and from the Czech legions. Close to the museum is a special statute for the fallen soldiers from WWI made by one of the villagers who fought in the war.



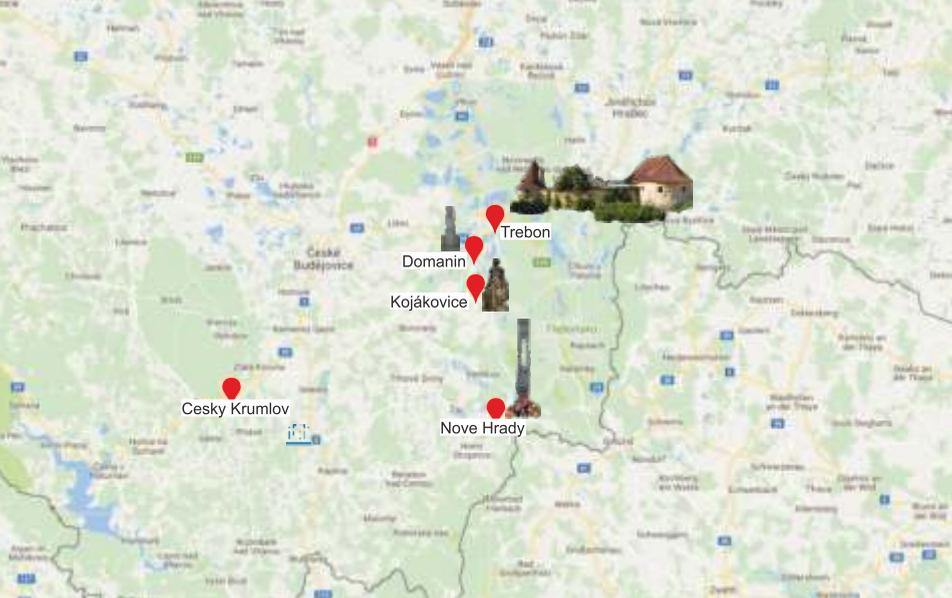
WWI new monument - Nove Hradý



Kojakovice WWI sculpture



Domanin monument



Trebon town wall with moat



Fishpond along a nature trail



Harvesting a fishpond



Market at the blacksmith workshop

## Other tourism attractions:

**Trebon Biosphere Reserve** covers most of the Trebon Basin, a flat river floodplain along the Luznice River. Since the 14th century, the area has been used intensively for forestry and fish farming. More than 20% of the area is watery; including swampy floodplains, swamps, and artificial fishponds. Most of the fishponds were built in the 15th and 16th century. The Rozmberk Fishpond is the largest, built in 1584-90, now 650 ha in size. Over the centuries, the fishponds have developed into semi-natural shallow lakes with a high natural value. It is one of the few places where human activities and commercial use of the landscape is in harmony with nature.

The area has a very high biodiversity. It harbors many protected species including fish otter, cormorant, and white-tailed eagle. The flat landscape is very attractive for nature tourism, with numerous biking and hiking trails. The Trebon Region House of Nature (Dum Prirrody Trebonska) in the historic town of Trebon has a very good exhibition on the development of this landscape.

**Cesky Krumlov** is a famous UNESCO World Heritage Town. The town is dominated by the Rozmberk Castle, one of the largest castles in Europe and the second biggest castle in the Czech Republic. The castle probably is from early 1200. Many of the structures from as early as the 14th century still are being used. The historic town developed below the castle, on a peninsula formed by a meander of the Vltava River.



Water tourism on Nova Reka



Bicycle tourism in Trebon Biosphere Reserve



Czech Legion train museum Legiavlak

# Bulgaria

Although Bulgaria declared its neutrality after the WWI starts, because of the country's strategic position on the Balkans, it is proved to be a preferable kind of partner for both military-political groups. The proposals of the Central Powers, however, turned out to be much more in accordance with the Bulgarian national interests. So on August 24, 1915 Bulgaria entered into an union agreement with them. The Bulgarian participation in the WWI can be divided into two periods - maneuvering (Oct 1, 1915 - end of 1916) when the army wins lots of victories on the front and positional (beginning of 1917 - Sep 29, 1918). During the second period Bulgaria has exhausting positional struggles at the Macedonian and North Fronts. Despite the fact that the national troops remained unconfirmed during the war, Bulgaria turned out to be in the losers' camp and was cruelly punished by the winners during the Paris Peace in 1919.



**Memorial Monument of Eight Infantry Sea Regiment** - built in Varna 1936 in memory of the 3000 warriors, fallen during the wars in 1912-1913 and 1915-1918. The architectural and sculptural composition of the portal is determined symmetrical. Its central part is a triumphal arch with two lateral wings, flanked by two high pylons and sculptures of a soldier and a volunteer in human height.

**The Monument of the Border Guard** - built in 1918 in memory of the dead officers, sergeants and soldiers of the 15<sup>th</sup> Border Brigade of Varna Eight Infantry Sea Regiment. The monument is located in the seaside part of Varna Sea Garden, close to the Museum of Natural History, which has once been used by border guards for border posts. On the three sides of the Monument there are slabs showing the names of those killed in the battles.

**Naval Museum in Varna** - presents and promotes the maritime and naval history of Bulgaria. Thousands of exhibits have been collected for 130 years, including ones related to WWI. The Museum preserves maritime weapons, mines, coastal and marine artillery, uniforms and decorations, ship models, photographs, 2 helicopters, the Drazki Ship Museum. The Museum has 15 collections.

**Dobrich Military Cemetery** - is one of the few original and completely preserved in nowadays military cemeteries in Bulgaria. It is an unique monument of culture related to the fights of the town in 1916. More 3500 soldiers are buried together not depending on their nationality or religion.

**Tutrakan Military Cemetery** and the "Military Tomb - 1916" is found for the memory of more than 10 000 soldiers from different nationalities. An obelisk-monument was built in 1922 at the cemetery and there the phrase „Honor and glory to those who knew how to die for their fatherland“ was written.

**Monument of Gen. Ivan Kolev** - is unveiled with a special commemorative ceremony on September 7, 2016, for the 100th anniversary of the Liberation of Dobrich. More than 3,5 tonnes of cartridge cases were used for the monument's moulding. In 2017, the memorial plaques with the names of 1 013 soldiers of the Third Bulgarian Army, were lit around.



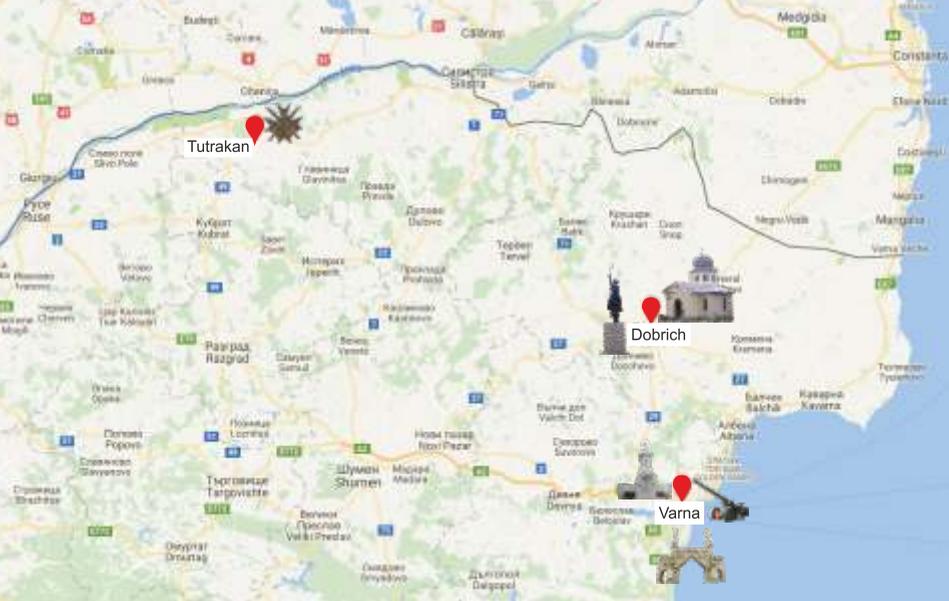
Memorial Monument of 8th Infantry Sea Regiment



The Monument of the Border Guard



Naval Museum in Varna



Varna Sea Garden



Archeological Museum, Varna

## Other tourism attractions:

**Varna Sea Garden** - situated on 850 decares along the coastal line, it was reconstructed at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by Anton Novak. Nowadays the Garden is an impressive park where one can visit the Natural Science Museum, the Naval Museum, the Observatory, the Zoo, the Terrarium, the Dolphinarium and Aquarium, swimming pools, tennis courts, the Open-air Theater and the children complex with a lot of amusements.

**Archeological Museum, Varna** - Found by Varna Archeological Society on initiative of Czech brothers Karel and Herman Škorpil, the first archeological exhibition was opened on 11 June 1906. Today the museum has several depositories, a library, a children educational museum and a displayed area of 2150 sq.m. It houses the oldest worth gold in the world. The artifacts are over 6 thousand years old, produced by artisans from a civilization which lived in the area between 4400-4100 BC.

**Ethnographic House** - Dobrich - was built in 1860 next to the church "St. George". Its owner was a prominent trader and in 1970 his heirs had a special wish and the place became a museum. The interior represents the lifestyle of the population from 19<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The exhibition shows traditional costumes, agricultural tools and domestic crafts specific for the region.

**Memorial House "Yordan Yovkov"** and the House Museum "Yordan Yovkov" are situated in the central part of Dobrich and keep the memory of one of the greatest Bulgarian writers who dedicate his life and works to people from Dobrudzha. His characters are eternal symbols of humanity and kindness and will always be dear to the people.



Ethnographic House



Memorial House "Yordan Yovkov"



Dobrich Military Cemetery



Tutrakan Military Cemetery



Monument of Gen. Ivan Kolev

# Hungary

In the World War I from August 1914 until November 1918, Hungary participated as a member state of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy under the Central Powers. All together 3.8 million hungarian soldiers fought heroically for the Imperial and Royal Army and for the Hungarian Royal Defense Forces on the Balkan, Russian, Romanian, Italian, Ottoman and West Front lines against the Entente Powers, until the collapse of the military power at the beginning of November 1918, followed by the break-up of the Astro-Hungarian Monarchy and the break-up of the historical Hungary. On the frons of the Great War 660.000 hungarian soldiers had fallen and around 800 000 persons was captured in prisoner camps and the same number of soldiers was injured.



**Jaeger Statue, Budapest** - The Jaeger (mountain infantryman) Statue is situated in the 12 District of Budapest called the Városmajor, made by Zsigmond Kisfaludy Strobl. The statue presents two soldiers. The veteran of the WWI is giving his place to the younger generation. In the background fighting soldiers can be seen. The statue was prepared in the 1940s.

**Déri Garden, Baja** - In the Déri Garden of Baja the 23 m high monument is dedicated to the fallen of the WWI. The prismatic shaped column has a sword with the date 1914–1918 and a stylized triple mound with the double cross and a quotation from the Szózat poem of Mihály Vörösmarty.

**Monument of WWI, Veszprém** - This Monument is located at Vörösmarty Square in Veszprém. Prepared by Malasits Ferenc, inaugurate din 1939. On the top of the Obelisk there is a Turul Bird sitting with a sword in his beak. On the upper part of the obelisk you can see the date 1914-1918, and the title: for the memories of the Austro-Hungarian 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment and Militia of Veszprém.

**Monument of the 38<sup>th</sup> Mollinary Regiment, Kecskemét** - The statue of the Mollinary soldiers (1867-1918) was established in 1943 nearby the Katona József theatre in Kecskemét, Hungary. The statue sculptor is from Zsigmond Kisfaludi Strobl. The monument has the inscription: „1867-1918. Memorial for the heroes of the 38<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. There is no match to the Mollinary-soldier.”

**Miner's Memorial, Pécs** - The miner's memorial was built in 1938. The figures of salt glazed pyrogranite were made in the Zsolnay factory of Pécs. The irregular pyramid formed monument features three figures: a miner's figure on the lower left, an infantryman above to the right, and the main figure of the sculpture is the Patrona Hungariae, the Virgin Mary as Hungary's Patron Saint.

**Memorial of the 13<sup>th</sup> Hussar Regiment, Kenderes** - The statue commemorates the heroes of WWI from the 13<sup>th</sup> Hussar Regiment from Jász - Nagykun county. Governor Miklós Horthy planned a composition design by Gedeon Gerlóczy. The sculpture was made by Dezső Erdey. On the top of the Chorintian column the angel St. Michael holding a sword and a shield in his hands.



Jaeger Statue, Budapest



Déri Garden, Baja



Monument of WWI, Veszprém



Budapest



Heroes' Gate, Veszprém



Zsolnay Factory, Pécs



Lake Balaton



Memorial of the 13<sup>th</sup> Hussar Regiment,  
Kenderes

## Other tourism attractions:

The World Heritage sites in **Budapest** make the Hungarian capital one of the most beautiful cities in the world. The **Banks of the Danube** are protected by the UNESCO's program, and from the Gellért Hill to the Rudas Baths are forming a harmonic integrity, including the Danube Bridges and the opposite Pest side with the Budapest Parliament and other architectural masterpieces.

At the **Heroes' Gate**, opened in 1939 and renovated in 2013, visitors learn about the history of the building, its original function, heroes and events of **Veszprém** during the Revolution and War of Independence of 1848 and 1849, World Wars I and II, and revolution and the Revolution and freedom fight of 1956.

**Zsolnay Cultural Quarter**, Pécs the Mediterranean-style city was awarded European Capital of Culture title in 2010. Zsolnay Cultural Quarter is where the Zsolnay family, known of porcelain production, used to live in the 19 - 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The Zsolnay heritage lives on, with a new content at the beautiful region.

Whether one looks after a peaceful and a quite place, **Lake Balaton** is there to satisfy everyone's need. Smooth waters, fresh wines, sand and surf, fishing, splashing, sailing, concerts, partying, beach volleyball and biking, castles and sleepy villages, beautiful landscapes and crystal clear air, Lake Balaton has it all.



Monument of the 38<sup>th</sup> Mollinary Regiment,  
Kecskemet



Miner's Memorial, Pécs

# Austria

The assassination of the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie in Sarajevo and the following declaration of war of Austria-Hungary on Serbia on 28 July 1914 triggered off the First World War. After Italy's (1915) and Romania's (1916) entry into the war, Austria-Hungary was surrounded by enemies at most of its borders. WWI was disastrous for the country, because state and army were not prepared for a war of this dimension. The most important scene of war on the territory of today's Austria was the southern mountain front in the Carnic Alps, where fierce military action under extreme conditions took place from 1915 to 1917. While soldiers fought and died at the fronts hostile prisoners of war were forced to work in the front region or were kept in camps. Also civilians suffered: the food supply for the Austrian population was very poor, especially in the last war years. Politically, Emperor Karl I, who followed Franz Joseph I. after his death in November 1916, did not succeed to avoid surrender to the Entente Power and eventually had to give way to the new Austrian Republic in 1918.



**World War One heritage in Lower Austria** - One area in Austria most relevant for World War One heritage is a region in Lower Austria which forms a triangle from Amstetten in the west to Gmünd in the north and Zagging in the east. The architectural heritage in this area illustrates important political, military, religious and social aspects of life in the First World War and thus allows for a multi-perspective approach. The **Memorial of Iron Soldier** on the main square in Amstetten and the **Gate of the Town Hall of the borough of Melk** are fine examples of so-called "war nailings". People making a donation to war widows and orphans were allowed to hammer a nail into the figure.

More than 80,000 prisoners of war and guard soldiers lived from 1915 to 1918 in large **prisoner of war camps** in the municipalities of Wieselburg and Purgstall.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie found their rest in the **Crypt of Castle Artstetten**, the heirs to the throne who were assassinated on 28 June 1914 in Sarajevo. The castle also houses an exhibition on Franz Ferdinand and the First World War.

Of **Brückenkopf Krems**, a major defense point (bridgehead), remains such as stone walls, parts of trenches, communication passages, stone steps, trails and inscriptions can still be found.

In the **Graves of Honour at Krems cemetery** (also called heroes' graves and later war graves), 597 people from the Austrian crownlands as well as the fallen soldiers of enemy armies (Italy, Russia and Serbia), who could not be transferred back to their homelands were buried.

The **refugee camp Gmünd (-Neustadt)** was founded and one of the largest of the monarchy. Around 200,000 refugees were accommodated here during the course of the First World War, and around 30,000 people also found their last resting place in the camp cemetery that still exists today.

The **Russian Orthodox chapel in Zagging** was built by Russian prisoners of war in the Spratzern POW camp near St. Pölten where they were housed. After the POW camp was dissolved, the chapel was disassembled, transported to the town of Zagging with horse carts, and re-erected there.



Memorial of Iron Soldier



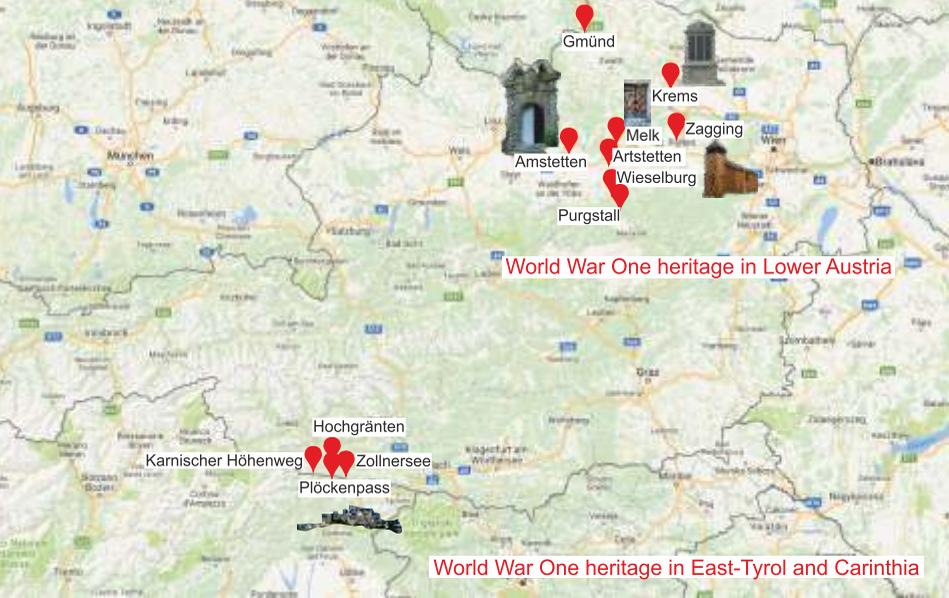
Gate of the Town Hall of Melk



Crypt of Castle Artstetten



Prisoner of War camp Purgstall



World War One heritage in Lower Austria

World War One heritage in East-Tyrol and Carinthia



Trail of Peace



Military cemetery Hochgränten



Open-Air Museum, Plöckenpass



Chapel of Peace at Zollersee

**World War One heritage in East-Tyrol and Carinthia** - For the first time in history the heights of the Alps became battlefields where fierce and long military actions took place. The Carnic Ridge from Hornischek to the Nassfeld belonged to that mountain front between Austria-Hungary and Italy also called Southwestern Front. Military hot spots were Plöckenpass and the bordering heights between Cellon, Kleiner Pal, Freikofel and Großer Pal. Along the **Trail of Peace in the Carnic Alps** (Karnischer Höhenweg), many archaeological traces from the First World War can be found. The remains are in different conditions and some of the sites are already heritage-protected.

The **military cemetery Hochgränten** (2,429 m) in the Carnic Alps is the highest-situated military graveyard in the eastern Alps. It was laid in 1915 and contains the graves of four riflemen who lost their lives on the ridge between the Hochgränten Joch and the Hollbrucker Spitz. The graves are decorated by wrought iron crosses and an obelisk with a cross and inscribed panel. The cemetery itself is surrounded by a stone wall with wrought iron chains and lattice doors.

The **Open-Air Museum of the Mountain War 1915-1917**, Plöckenpass consists of the Hausalm, MG-Nase, Kleiner Pal and Cellonstollen sectors. In the area of the Kleiner Pal sector more than 70 historic objects have again been made accessible.

In memory of the fallen soldiers of the First World War, the **Chapel of Peace at Zollersee**, located at approx. 1,750 m above sea level, was inaugurated in 1987. Before construction of the chapel, a wrought iron cross was erected on Kleiner Trieb (2,199 m) in the year 1978. Members of the Austrian Alpine Association section of the ÖAV set it up together with the Austrian Dellach im Gailtal comradeship association as a sign of admonition for peace.



Bridgehead Krems



Krets Cemetery



Refuge camp Gmünd



Russian Orthodox chapel in Zaggging

# Romania

Romania joined the World War I on the side of the Allied powers from 1916, after two years of neutrality. The highest priority was the union of Romania with Transylvania which had 3 mil Romanian people. The Allies wanted Romania to join its side in order to cut the rail communications between Germany and Ottoman Empire, and to cut off Germany's oil supplies. Britain made loans, France sent a military training mission, and Russia promised modern munitions. The Romanian campaign was an extension of the Eastern Front, with Romania and Russia allied with Britain and France against the Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Ottoman Empire.

The area presented in Vrancea's Land and Bacău County, was a part of the Romanian line of the front during July - August 1917, where three important battles took place: Mărășești, Mărăști, Oituz.



**Heroes Mausoleum, Mărășești town, Vrancea** - The mausoleum, built in 1924, is among the most important memorial monuments in Europe. The mausoleum is a massive pyramid-stepped construction. The upper part is like a round tower, 30 m high. The museum near the mausoleum hosts a photo exhibition, military costumes, weapons and armament from the Romanian army in that period.

**Heroes Mausoleum, Soveja, Vrancea** - The mausoleum built between 1922-1927 is a sober and imposing construction, in the shape of a cross with rounded apses; the access to the main entrance is made on stone steps with a wide opening that optically magnifies the monumental and massive impression. The Mausoleum shelters the remains of 528 Romanian, Russian, German and Hungarian heroes.

**Heroes Mausoleum, Mărăști village, Vrancea** - The monument shelters the remains of the Romanian soldiers fallen in the First World War in the battle of Marasti. The basement houses the sarcophagi with the remains of the three great generals of Romanian army. In the basement, there is a small museum where objects and weapons from the First World War were exposed.

**Heroes Mausoleum, Focșani, Vrancea** - The construction of the heroes mausoleum started in 1926 with public contribution, with the support of the Society of Tombs of War Heroes. The architecture of the Mausoleum is of Byzantine inspiration with curved lines, highlighted arcade, arched side cups and three turrets. The mausoleum was built of brick, stone and concrete on a cross-shaped plane.

**Heroes Mausoleum, Târgu Ocna, Bacău** - The monument was built between 1925-1938 with the support of the "Heroes' Cult". The works were executed by the military. In the mausoleum the bones of some thousands of unknown Romanian soldiers are deposited. In its rooms are exhibited documents and various objects, which evoke the struggles of the Romanians and Germans in the summer of 1917.

**The monument of the cavalry heroes, Oituz, Bacău** - The Monument of the World War I is located on the Coșna Hill in Oituz and was built in 1924 by the "Cult of Heroes" Society with public support. The monument is a 5m high obelisk made of stone, placed on a foundation. At the base of the obelisk there is an attacking cavalier, a horse and a heraldic shield with Romania's bronze coat of arms.



Heroes Mausoleum Mărășești



Heroes Mausoleum Mărăști



Heroes Mausoleum Soveja



Focșani town



Târgu Ocna salt mine



Odobesti Vineyard



Natural Park Putna

## Other tourism attractions:

**Focșani town** - Located on the shores of Milcov river, in Vrancea's Land, Focșani, easily accessible from Bucharest and the Bacău, is one of the most famous viticultural areas in the country. Focșani is a small chic town, a starting point for many tourist routes. Crâng Petrești is a recreation area in the north of Focșani town. It is the main leisure area serving the city. Part of it is a protected area, being a reserve of architecture and folk technique.

**Odobesti** (11 km from Focșani town), **Panciu** (30 km from Focșani town) - vineyards - Odobesti vineyard is the largest and one of the most famous vineyards in the country.

**Natural Park Putna, Vrancea** - 64 km from Focșani - The landscapes of the protected area are specific to the mountain relief, including steep slopes with stunning walls and cliffs, alpine and subalpine meadows, mountain hills with special flora, compact forests, mountain villages with architecture, customs and specific traditions. The Putna Waterfall and the Tișita Gorge are the most spectacular attractions of the park.

**Târgu Ocna salt mine** - 58 km from Bacău - The new and modern recreational area, placed in the Trotus mine, 240 m deep, offers optimal conditions for relaxation, sports and treatment of respiratory problems.

Near Targu Ocna town there is **Slănic Moldova** spa resort, close to the Nemira Mountains, in a valley surrounded by beech forests and fir trees. Here there are two protected areas: the limestone with Lithothamnium in the locality of Cireșoiaia, and the Falcau tuff.



Heroes Mausoleum Focșani



Heroes Mausoleum Târgu Ocna



The monument of the cavalry heroes Oituz

# Croatia

During WWI, Croatia was part of Austria - Hungary. Its territory was administratively divided between two political centres – Vienna and Budapest. According to this administrative division, the mobilized Croatian soldiers were assigned to Austrian or Hungarian military units and they fought in the Serbian Front, Galicia, and since 1915, on the Italian Front, where almost all Croatian units were assigned in late 1917/early 1918. Croatian general public knows very little about the fate of its soldiers in the WWI. Archival material of a military nature has been poorly preserved in the Croatian State Archives in Zagreb and the majority is being kept in the Austrian State Archives in Vienna and several archives in Budapest.



**Tomb and monument at Mirogoj Cemetery, Zagreb** - At the Mirogoj, the main cemetery of the City of Zagreb, Croatia, there is a mass grave with the remains of 3300 soldiers of various nationalities fallen in WWI: Croats, Hungarians, Austrians, Serbs, Slovenes, citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russians, Romanians, Montenegrins and Czechs. Also, on the tomb there is a Monument to the fallen soldiers of World War I.

**The Naval graveyard in Pula** - The Naval graveyard in Pula, Croatia is a memorial graveyard, one of the largest military graveyards in Europe. During the WWI, a large number of war victims were buried in the cemetery, primary officers and soldiers of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and later, soldiers of other armies. Victims of a Marine Accident at Baron Gautsch (1914) and crew members of the submersible battleships Szent Istvan and Viribus Unitis (1918) were buried in this cemetery, making it even more special.

**Zadar City Cemetery** - At the Zadar City Cemetery there is a monument dedicated to Italian soldiers who died during WWI. It is built in 1932 and located in the old part of the cemetery which is, since year 1974 protected as a cultural heritage. In year 1932, the remains of deceased Italian soldiers were collected and put in tombs in this monument. Altogether there are 88 tombs with 89 soldiers buried there. In one tomb there are the remains of two soldiers.

**Obelisk in Čakovec** - A monument to the people of Čakovec who died in World War I was erected in 1929 by the Municipality of Čakovec in the city park next to the palace of the Old Town. The 3-meter-high obelisk is made of white stone. It stands on a stone plateau which is set on an earthen mound. The upper part of the monument is decorated with relief wreaths and swords made of stone, and on the lower part there are four panels with a total of 72 names of citizens of Čakovec decided in WWI.



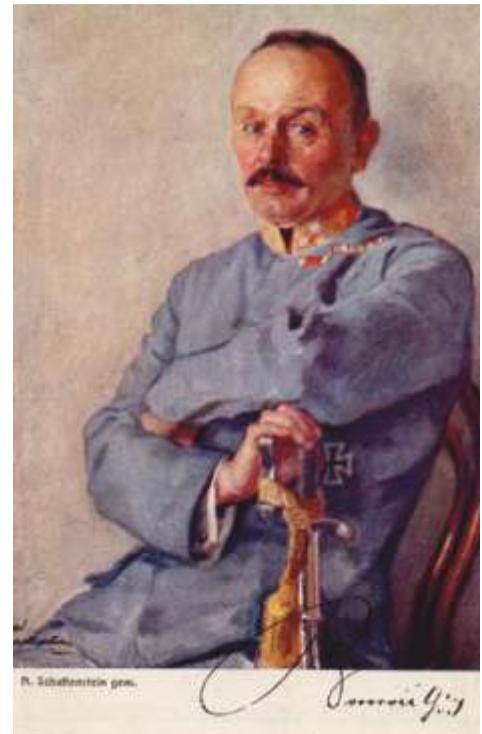
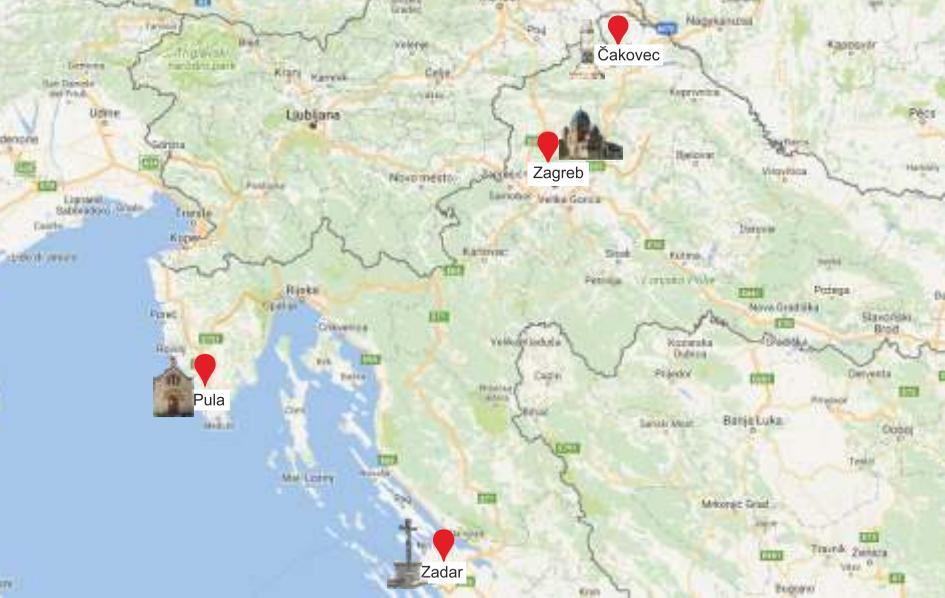
Zadar City Cemetery



Naval graveyard in Pula



Monument at Mirogoj Cemetery, Zagreb



## Other tourism attractions:

**The Plitvice Lakes National Park** - Famous for its lakes arranged in cascades, Plitvice Lakes National Park, founded in 1949, is the oldest and the largest national park in Croatia. The protected area extends over 296.85 km<sup>2</sup>. In 1979, Plitvice Lakes were added to the UNESCO World Heritage register. Lake gardens connected by cascades and hugged by mountain forests, Plitvice Lakes represent a majestic and dynamic face of nature in constant transformation.

**National Park Kornati** - Comprised of 140 islands covering 18 kilometers of coastline in the Adriatic Sea, Kornati National Park is a beautiful Mediterranean archipelago with unique geographic features. The uninhabited islands are characterized by the deep blue hues of the surrounding seas and rich marine life, which is now protected.

**National Park Paklenica** - Due to its unique natural features, magnificent forests and extraordinary geomorphologic structures, the area of Velika and Mala Paklenica was proclaimed a national park in 1949. The Paklenica National Park stretches on the area of 95 km<sup>2</sup>, on the littoral slope of South Velebit under the zone of highest mountain peaks Vaganski vrh (1752m) and Svetobrd (1753m).

**Nature park Vransko Lake** - The biggest freshwater lake in Croatia with an ornithological reserve where 110 bird species nest and are visited by 230 more species. As such, it's a Mecca for fishing and birdwatching. The land there is very flat, so it's perfect terrain for biking - it's encircled by a 30km bike trail, which gets more hilly and interesting to the north of the lake.

**Svetozar Boroević von Bojna (1856 –1920)** was an Austro-Hungarian field marshal who was described as one of the finest defensive strategists of the WWI. He came from Croatia but spent his entire life in the imperial military, becoming a nobleman as Baron von Bojna, and later rising to the rank of Field Marshal before the end of the First World War in 1918.

He led the 3rd Austro-Hungarian army in the Eastern front. During 1915 he was commanding the 5th Army on the Italian front. During the last two years of WWI he commanded the group of Armies (including 1st and 2nd Army) and became famous because of his strategic planning and holding up the Italian front. He remained faithful to the King all to the end of Austria-Hungary. After the war, due to his reputation and rank, he became persona non grata in the new Kingdom of SHS. However, he also lost his right to an Austrian pension due to applying for a citizenship of the Kingdom of SHS. Without solving those problems he died homeless and in poverty on May 23, 1920 in Klagenfurt, Austria.



Obelisk in Čakovec



Obelisk in Čakovec

# Slovakia

During World War I, Slovakia was a part of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. According to estimates, approx. 70,000 soldiers from the territory of the Slovak Republic have died on the fronts of the World War I. Battles of the World War I directly affected six districts of the northeastern Slovakia. From autumn 1914 to spring 1915, the intensive battles took place in the Carpathian Mountains with more than 50,000 soldiers from the Austro-Hungarian, German and Russian army dead. So-called "Easter Battle" in the Carpathian Mountains in spring 1915 was the most intensive one.

Today, almost 200 military cemeteries, several memorials and memorial sites, as well as preserved trench line in the Carpathian Mountains present the visible remnants of the war events.



**The Museum Exhibition "Carpathian Front 1914/1915", Nižná Polianka** - The exhibition is located in the single room with guide signs that inform visitors on combat actions on the territory of northeastern Slovakia. The exhibition includes showcases with replicas of uniforms, gears and weaponry of the armies involved in the battles. The exhibition is a part of district office in Nižná Polianka village. In addition, there is an educational trail leading to the World War I. battlefield on the "Kaštielik" hill. The opening hours of the exhibition are available on the website: [www.kvhbeskydy.sk](http://www.kvhbeskydy.sk)

**The Veľkrop Military Cemetery** - The largest World War I military cemetery in Slovakia is located above the Veľkrop village. Up to 8,662 soldiers from the Austro-Hungarian and Russian army are buried here. An educational trail leads from the village center to the military cemetery. The trail tour takes about an hour.

**The "Carpathian Mountain Easter Battle" educational trail, Výrava** - The educational trail leading to the World War I. battlefield starts in the Výrava village downtown. Two military cemeteries are the part of the educational trail. The trench lines are still visible on the battlefield today. The trail tour takes about 3-4 hours. The military cemeteries in the Svetlice and Zbojné villages are located outside the educational trail route.

**The World War I battlefield bell-tower, Hostovice** - The bell-tower is located on the World War I battlefield above the Hostovice village. The bell-tower was built on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the battle that took place here. An educational trail leads from the village downtown to the military cemetery. The trail tour takes about 4-5 hours. There is also a military cemetery located in the Hostovice village.

**The crypt of World War I soldiers, Osadné** - There is a unique crypt of soldiers killed in World War I located in Osadné village. The crypt was built after the World War I. It is located beneath the Orthodox Church. 1,025 soldiers is buried here.

**Stakčín Military Cemetery** - This military cemetery is a remnant of a field hospital operated in the village during the World War I. 960 soldiers from the Austro-Hungarian and Russian soldiers are buried at the cemetery.



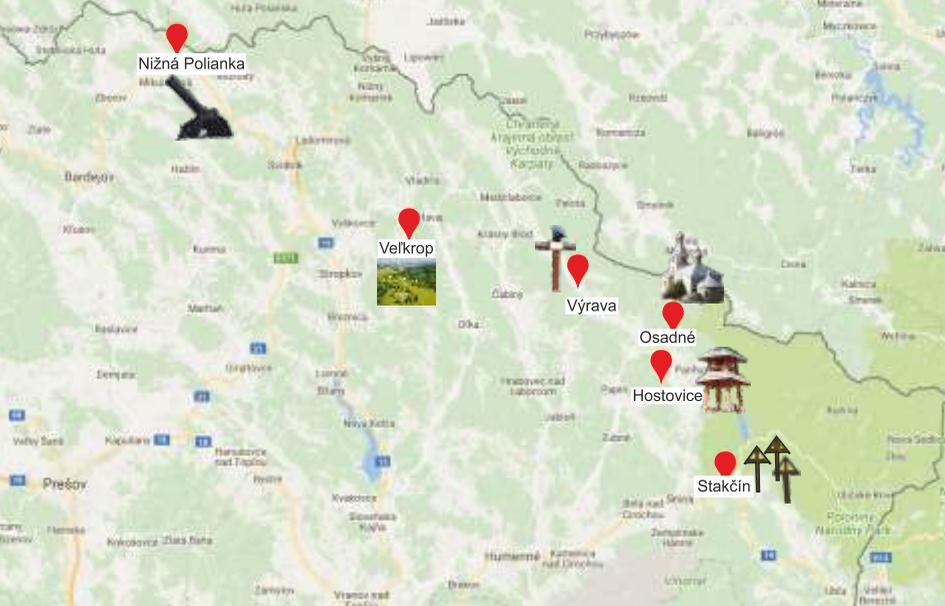
Museum Nižná Polianka



The Veľkrop Military Cemetery



The "Carpathian Mountain Easter Battle" educational trail, Výrava



Saint Egidius Basilica in Bardejov (UNESCO)



Svidník Military Museum



Wooden Church in Bodružal (UNESCO)



Poloniny National Park

## Other tourism attractions:

**The historic downtown of Bardejov (UNESCO)** - The city of Bardejov is situated in the northeast part of Slovakia in the Šariš region. The Gothic St. Egidio's Basilica and the Renaissance Town Hall are located on the main square. The well-preserved medieval downtown has been listed as UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000. In addition, the famous spa is located in the city.

**Svidník Military Museum** - The Museum Department is specialized in military history of Slovakia before and during the World War I in the Eastern Carpathian Mountains, the inter-war period and the World War II period with focus on the Carpathian-Dukla operation, the Partisan movement and the liberation of the territory of Slovakia between 1944 and 1945.

**The East-Slovakian wooden churches** - A group of wooden churches from the 16th - 18th century is situated in the northeastern part of Slovakia. Four sites are listed in the UNESCO World Heritage List (Hervartov, Ladamírová, Bodružal, and Ruská Bystrá).

**Poloniny National Park** - Poloniny National Park is located in the district of Snina in Prešov Region. This Park is named after mountain meadows on the main Bukovské Mountain ridge called "poloniny". Some parts of the National Park (Stužica, Havešová and Rožok primeval forest) were listed in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2007. The National Park is also a part of the Eastern Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. The Park administration headquarter is located in the Stakčín village.



WWI battlefield bell-tower, Hostovice



The crypt of WWI soldiers, Osadné



Stakčín Military Cemetery

# Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina entered the WWI as part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Before the war, fortifications around Bileća, Trebinje, Mostar and Sarajevo were built to prevent possible attacks from Serbia or Montenegro. Narrow gauge railroad – Eastern railway or Ostbahn – was also constructed, with branches to Serbian and Ottoman border. Outbreak cause of WWI was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and Duchess Sophia in Sarajevo in 1914. Soldiers from Bosnia were mobilized into Austro-Hungarian army and fought in the Balkans, on Italian and Galician fronts. Bosnia and Herzegovina regiments retained a high reputation for loyalty and effectiveness until the very end of the war.

**Sarajevo City Hall** (Vijećnica) is part of the “Sarajevo assassination” heritage. It was built during Austro-Hungarian period, from 1892 to 1896 in a pseudo-Moorish style. It was at the City hall that Archduke Franz Ferdinand and Countess Sophie were greeted by the Mayor Fehim effendi Ćurčić and other city and military officials during their visit on June 28th 1914. After WW2 Vijećnica became home to the National and University Library of B&H. On the nights of August 25-26 1992, during the Bosnian war, Vijećnica was set ablaze. Nearly 90% of the library’s collection went up in flames and the building became a symbol of the Siege of Sarajevo. Vijećnica’s reconstruction got underway in 1996 and official opening took place on May 9, 2014.

**The Sarajevo Museum/The Sarajevo Assassination Site** is located near the Latin Bridge in central Sarajevo. It holds a collection of items and photographs from the Austro-Hungarian rule in B&H. This Museum stands at the corner where Archduke Franz Ferdinand and Countess Sophie were shot by Gavrilo Princip, a member of the movement “Young Bosnia”. The exact spot where Gavrilo Princip was standing was marked by embossed footprints and memorial plaque was placed on the corner of the street. In 1941 during WW2, the memorial plaque was removed for the first time by the occupying Nazi army. In the years following the Bosnian War, the local perception of history flipped one more time. The museum has been reinstated, this time as a museum of the Austro-Hungarian rule in Sarajevo, and a new memorial plaque was placed on the street corner.

**St Elias Church and Parish** office were built in 1836 and then modernized in the appearance that we can see today in 1909. 1917 is important because the famous writer, Nobel Prize winner, Ivo Andrić was held in house arrest in the church's Parish Office at that time. The church has been a witness of many events and is one of the most important and oldest buildings in B&H, and because of that, in 2007 the church and the Parish Office was declared a national monument of B&H.

**The Franciscan Monastery and Museum** of Fojnica is located in central Bosnia, and it was moved to the higher ground over Fojnica, on the hill Križ. There are two libraries in the monastery; one is a library of newer books, and those books were published since 1850, and those books were meant for writing diploma papers, for children's school readings, for students, for research. The Monastery has a great historical significance for the entire B&H. The museum is the only one that has a constant exhibition concerning WWI in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Museum of the Monastery was a candidate for the “European Museum of the Year” (EMYA).



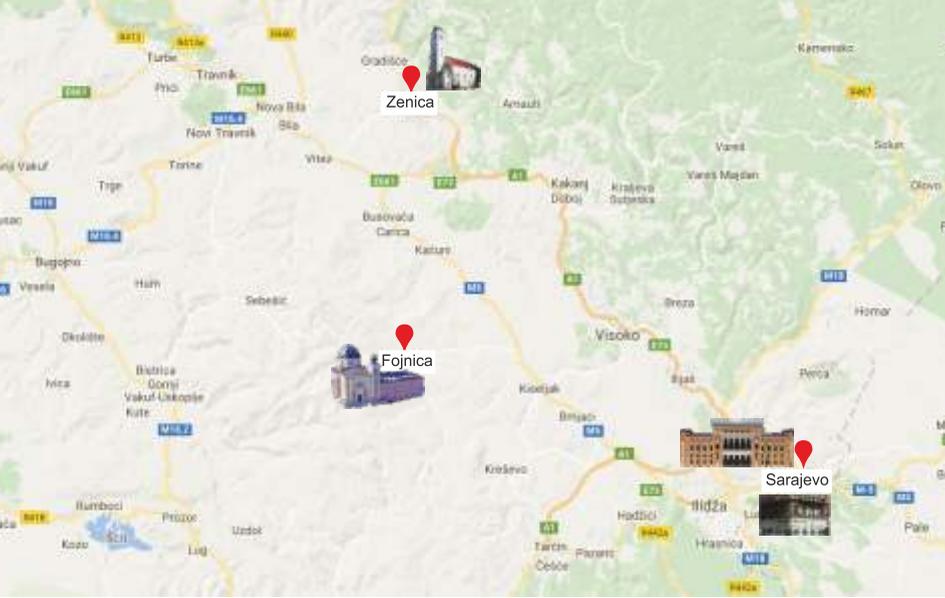
The Sarajevo Museum



St Elias Church and Parish office, Zenica



Franciscan Monastery, Fojnica



Mostar



Prokosko Lake

## Other tourism attractions:

From the Adriatic coast in Neum, through Mediterranean Herzegovina or continental mountainous Bosnia, a traveler can find attractions and hospitality. Sarajevo – „European Jerusalem“, Old Bridge in Mostar, picturesque medieval towns of Počitelj, Tešanj, Travnik, Maglaj, Vjetrenica cave, swamps of Hutovo Blato, spectacular waterfalls of Jajce, Kravica or Skakavac and national parks Una, Kozara and Sutjeska are only few of the gems in Bosnia and Herzegovina's rich natural, cultural and architectural heritage. The Dinaric Alps chain that divide Mediterranean Herzegovina from continental Bosnia offer numerous possibilities in ecological and rural tourism, alpinism, mountaineering and hiking, along with well-established winter sports facilities on Olympic mountains Igman, Bjelašnica, Jahorina and Vlašić.

**Prokoško Lake** is a known habitat of rare species of water lizard triton. A lively environment, authentic cattle ranch and rich gastronomic offerings are a treat for all nature lovers.

**The Vranduk fortress** in Zenica was built on a rock surrounded by the Bosnia River and thick forest that protects it and makes it more beautiful. First, it was a Governor city, then a Royal city where kings of Bosnia received delegations, signed contracts and issued charters.

**The Kozice waterfalls** are located near Fojnica, which with its beauty has long drawn attention to many nature lovers. The ambience is made up of three smaller waterfalls and one larger, about 20 meters in height.

**The White bastion fortress** is originally built in XIV century. It was later upgraded by Ottoman (1730s) and Austro-Hungarian army (1878 - 1918). It is the strongest point within the walls of the old fortifications of Vratnik, and dominates the eastern entrance to the city. The fort is almost inaccessible from the south side and provides extraordinary view.



Zenica, Vranduk Fortress



The Kozice waterfalls



Fort Vraca Sarajevo



Jajce Barracks Sarajevo



The White Bastion fortress, Sarajevo

# World War I 1914 -1919

World War I - the Great War involved nearly all biggest powers of that time, split in two fighting forces - Triple Entente and Central Powers.

The origins of the conflict were in Europe but it gradually covered the whole world in one way or another. More than 70 mil military personnel. Over nine million combatants and seven million civilians died as a result of the war. It was one of the deadliest conflicts in history, and paved the way for major political changes, including revolutions in many of the nations involved. The Triple Entente were: British Empire, Russia, France, Italy, United States, Japan, Romania, Serbia, Belgium, Greece, Portugal and Montenegro. The members of the Central Powers were: Germany, Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria.

**June 28, 1914**

Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, who was killed in Sarajevo along with his wife Duchess Sophie by Bosnian Serb Gavrilo Princip.

**July 23, 1914**

Beginning of the "Black Week". Austria-Hungary sends an ultimatum to Serbia. Serbia doesn't meet their demands.

**July 28, 1914**  
Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia!

**Schlieffen Plan**, battle plan first proposed in 1905 by Alfred, Graf (count) von Schlieffen, that was designed to allow Germany to wage a successful two-front war.

Russia mobilizes.

**August 1, 1914**

**August 3, 1914**  
Germany declares war on France!

Germany declares war on Russia!

Germany invades Belgium.

**August 4, 1914**

Britain protests the violation of Belgian neutrality, guaranteed by a treaty

**August 6, 1914**

Austria-Hungary declares war on Russia, Serbia declares war on Germany.

The United Kingdom declares war on Germany!

**September 5-12, 1914**

First Battle of the Marne. The German advance on Paris is halted, marking the failure of the Schlieffen Plan

**September 26 – November 11, 1918**

Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the final phase of the Hundred Days Offensive and of World War I.

At 6 am, Germany signs the Armistice of Compiègne.  
End of fighting at 11 a.m., 11.11.1918.

**1919 - 1920 Paris Peace Conference**

**June 28, 1919**

Treaty of Versailles signed with Germany

**September 10, 1919**

Treaty of Saint Germain signed with Austria

**November 27, 1919**

Treaty of Neuilly with Bulgaria

**June 4, 1920**

Treaty of Trianon signed with Hungary

**August 10, 1920**

Treaty of Sevres signed with Ottoman Empire

**July 15 – August 6, 1918**

Second Battle of the Marne and last German offensive on the Western Front, which fails when the Germans are counterattacked by the French.

**March 21 – April 5, 1918**

First phase of the Spring Offensive, Operation Michael/ Second Battle of the Somme. The Germans obtain a victory.

**September 14-29, 1918**

Vardar Offensive, final offensive on the Balkan Front.

**April 6, 1917**

The United States declares war on Germany!

**January 19, 1917**

The British intercept the Zimmerman Telegram.

**March 3, 1918**

At Brest-Litovsk a peace treaty between Russia and Central powers is signed, ending the Eastern front"

**February 18 – March 3, 1918**

Operation Faustschlag, last offensive on Eastern Front.

**October 27, 1917**

Battaglia di Caporetto (Kobarid), Italian Army was defeated by the German - Austrian army.

**June 25, 1917**

First American troops lands in France.

**January 8, 1918**

Woodrow Wilson outlines his Fourteen Points - a statement of principles for peace that was to be used for peace negotiations in order to end World War I.

The German Secretary Zimmermann sends a telegram to Mexico ambassador, to propose to the Mexican government an alliance against the United States, promising them US territories.

**January 16, 1917**

**December 18, 1916**

Battle of Verdun ends with enormous casualties on both sides.

**May 23, 1915**

Italian Kingdom declares war to Austro-Hungarian Empire, therefore a new south-west front is opened.

The Gallipoli Campaign ends with the Ottoman victory.

**January 9, 1916**

The Battle of Somme begins. 1 mil soldiers were killed or injured.

Battle of the Ancre (closing phase of the Battle of the Somme).

**November 13-18, 1916**

**July 1, 1916**

**December 24, 1914**

In some sectors of the Western Front, an unofficial Christmas truce is observed between German and British forces.

**February 19, 1915**

British and French naval attack on the Dardanelles. The Gallipoli Campaign begins.

**November 22, 1914**

The Triple Entente defeat the Germans at the First Battle of Ypres.

Project web site:

<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/network>

World War One Sites - The NETWORK Database:

<https://ww1sites.eu/>



**Photocredits:**

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