

# Educational and recreational trails of forest ecosystems - New trekking possibilities in Plitvička jezera National Park

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With more than one million visitors every year Plitvička jezera National Park is one of the most visited places in Croatia and the most visited of eight national parks in this country.

There are around 70 km of marked trails in Plitvička jezera National Park. Beside 24 km of trails in a visitor system where visitors can use an electric boat and ride a panoramic vehicle, there are 14, 6 km of educational and recreational trails of forest ecosystem in a hiking trail “Medveđak” and 30 km of educational and recreational trails of forest ecosystems inside the “Čorkova uvala” trail (21 km) and “Plitvica” trail (9km).

It is impossible to have the full experience of the Plitvička jezera National Park unless one gets to know the forest ecosystems covering more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of its surface. The trails run through large forest complexes and mountain meadows with sightseeing points. The purpose of educational trails beside the outdoor recreation and active holidays is to provide visitors, passionate worshipers of nature, with the knowledge about the forests and forest ecosystems.

Educational boards are set up along the trails.

The natural old beech and fir forests as well as meadows are habitats for numerous animal species (bears, wolves, roe deer, red deer, lynxes, wild cats). No less interesting are the traces they leave.

Bird singing will additionally contribute to the atmosphere (woodpeckers and songbirds) and together with the wind rustling and the creaking of branches of continental trees as a trademark, it creates a genuine natural symphony with unique atmosphere.