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Između obronaka planina Velike Kapele i Velebita, na putu prema Jadranskom moru, na staroj Jozefinskoy cesti, smjestilo se **Brinje** (lat. *Monetium*), naselje u Ličko-senjskoj županiji, bogate i slavne prošlosti. U starom vijeku nastanjivalo ga je ilirska pleme Japodi, a kasnije (od 35. godine pr.n.e.), Rimljani. Padom rimske civilizacije nestajao i naziv *Monetium*, a prostor, na prijelazu u srednji vijek, naseljavaju Hrvati. Samo Brinje, današnjeg naziva, prvi se put spominje davne 1343. godine, a najvrijednije tumačenje kaže da je ime nastalo prema čakavskom izrazu „brnja“ za ljkovitu biljku borovici ili klek, koju ovdje ima u izobilju. Budući cijelo područje obiluje plodnom zemljom i prostranim pašnjacima, krškim izvorima i vrelima, spiljama i rijekama ponornicama, kroz srednji vijek formirala su se brojna naselja od kojih potiče 12 današnjih naselja općine Brinje: Brinje, Križpolje, Jezerane, Stajnica, Lipice, Letinac, Vodoteč, Križ Kamenica, Prokike, Glibodol, Žuta Lokva i Rapain klanac.

Brinje (lat. *Monetium*), a town in Lika-Senj county, lies between the slopes of Velika Kapela and Velebit mountains, on the old Josephine road leading to the Adriatic Sea. It is a town with rich and famous past. During antiquity, it was populated by the Illyrian tribe of Iapodes, and later on (from 35 BC) by the Romans. With the fall of the Roman Empire, the name *Monetium* fell into disuse as well, while the area, with the onset of the Middle Ages, was populated by the Croats. Today's name, Brinje, was first mentioned as early as 1343 AD. According to the most widely accepted interpretation, the name derived from the "brnja", a word for juniper berry, an abundant herb in the area. Since the entire area abounds with fertile land, spacious pastures, karst springs, caves and subterranean rivers, a number of villages developed during the Middle Ages, and 12 settlements of today's Municipality originated from them: Brinje, Križpolje, Jezerane, Stajnica, Lipice, Letinac, Vodoteč, Križ Kamenica, Prokike, Glibodol, Žuta Lokva and Rapain klanac.

Brinjski se kraj ponosi poznatim povijesnim ličnostima, od prosvjetno - pedagoških, preko književnika i pjesnika, od hrabrih junaka kroz mnogobrojne ratove do svećenika i ratnika Marka Mesića, osloboditelja Like od Turaka.

The area of Brinje prides itself on famous historic people, among them those in the pedagogy-educational field, writers and poets and brave heroes who fought in a number of wars. One of the most famous was priest Marko Mesić, who liberated Lika from the Turks.



Diljem Europe i svijeta, brinjski su majstori bili poznati kao vršni mneri i graditelji mnogobrojnih cesta i tunela.

The craftsmen of Brinje were well known around Europe and the world as excellent miners and builders of a number of roads and tunnels.

Spomenik brinjskim mnerima
Monument to miners of Brinje



Marko Mesić,
osloboditelj Like od Turaka
liberator from the Turks



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Mnogobrojni **krški izvori ili krška vrela** osebujne su i karakteristične pojave izviranja pitke vode na površinu, tipične za ovo krško područje. Na području općine ima 48, što povremenih što stalnih izvora pitke vode, od kojih oni izdlašnji služe za opskrbu stanovništva pitkom vodom.

There is a peculiar and typical phenomenon in this area: fresh water emerges from below the surface in the form of numerous **karst springs**. The Municipality has 48 temporary and permanent fresh water springs, the larger among them being used to bring fresh water to the locals.



Stari grad Sokolac / The old town Sokolac

Tijekom novog vijeka krajem gospodare krčki knezovi Frankopani koji uz važnu trgovacku cestu kroz Liku u Brinju podižu utvrđeni grad Sokolac, čiji ostaci postoje do današnjih dana.

Starigrad Sokolac (početak 15.st.) izgradio je Nikola IV. Frankopan, na istaknutoj uzvisini u brinjskoj kotlini. Grad je bio važno sastajalište plemenitaških obitelji cijele Europe. Sredinom 15.st. ulazi u nadležnost Vojne kraljevine i postaje prva linija obrane protiv Turaka. Do današnjih je dana ostala sačuvana trokatna Kapela Presvetog Trojstva, jedan od najvažnijih spomenika gotike u Hrvatskoj. U svetištu kapele sačuvane su izvorne oltarne menze s gotičkom profilacijom te skulpture Madone s djetetom i Pieta. U podrumu kapele smješten je stalni postav izložbe „Plemićki grad Sokolac“



During the Modern Age, the area was ruled by the Frankopan Counts family. Along the important trade road through Lika, they erected the fortified town of Sokolac in Brinje; its remains are still standing.

The old town of Sokolac (early 15th century) was built on a prominent hill in Brinje basin by Nikola 4th Frankopan. The town was an important meeting place of noble families from all over Europe. In mid-15th century the town became part of the "Military Frontier" administration and thus the first line of defense against the Turks. The three-story Chapel of the Holy Trinity, one of the most important Gothic monuments in Croatia, remains preserved today. The chapel shrine still houses the original Gothic profile altar mensa and sculptures of Madonna and the Child and Pietà. The Chapel's cellar hosts a permanent exhibition, "The noble town of Sokolac".



© Anita Brbot

Kapela sv. Fabijana i Sebastijana (kraj 14.st.) jedan je od najstarijih sakralnih objekata na području Gacke doline. Stilske karakteristike govore da je riječ o kasnoromaničkoj građevini. Posvećena je sv. Fabijanu i Sebastijanu, zaštitnicima Gacke.

The Chapel of St. Fabian and St. Sebastian (late 14th century) is one of the oldest sacral objects in Gacka river valley. Style details identify it as a late Romanesque building. It is dedicated to the protectors of Gacka, St. Fabian and St. Sebastian.



© Marko Perković

Crkva sv. Vida (kraj 14.st.) gotička je građevina sa svetištem šiljastog obliku i zvonikom na čijem su pročelju uklesana dva grba, stari grb knezova Frankopana i grb Knezova Divinskog. Na pročelnom zidu tornja ugrađena je kamena medvjeda glava s prednjim nogama, a priča se da ju je, u znak zahvalnosti, postavio bogati mještanin koji je u blizini crkve preživio napad medvjeda.

The Church of St. Vid (late 14th century) is a Gothic building with a pointed shrine and a belfry. Its façade has two coats of arms, the old coat of arms of the Frankopan Counts and that of the counts of Divino. There is a stone bear head with front paws on the façade wall of the tower; it is said that it was put there by a grateful rich local who survived a bear's attack near the church.



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Crkvu uznesenja Blažene Djevice Marije (oko 1700.g.) izgradio je poznati branitelj i osloboditelj Like od Turaka, svećenik Marko Mesić, porijeklom iz brinjskog kraja.

The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (around 1700 AD) was built by a well-known defender of Lika from the Turks, the priest Marko Mesić, originally from the Brinje area.



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Kameni most sa sunčanim satom (1801.g.) djelo je brinjskih i primorskih kamenorezaca.

Stone bridge with sun clock (1801 AD) is a work of stonecutters from Brinje and Primorje.



© Ana Manjerović

Siničić spilja, rijedak morfološki dragulj krških Dinarida, 4 km od Brinje na cesti prema Letincu. Spilja se nalazi na popisu Natura2000 kao zaštićeni objekt za očuvanje vrsta i stanišnih tipova. U njoj živi endemska vrsta rakuša, zvani *Redenšek rakušac*.

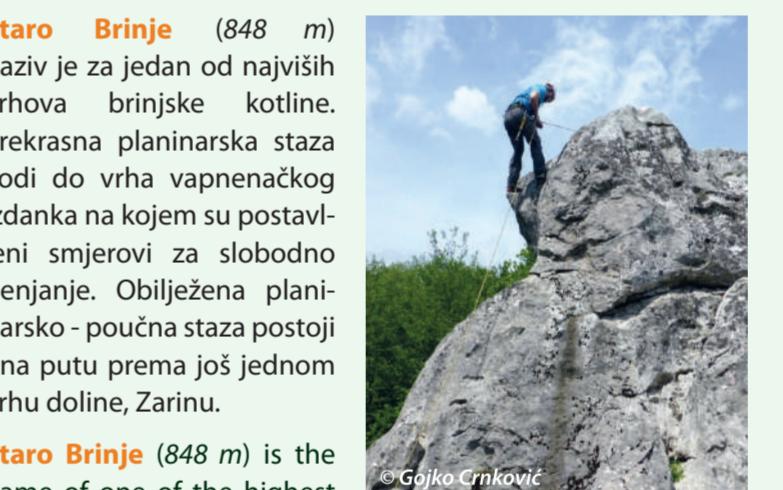
Spilja također čuva i vrijedan arheološki zapis paleolitskog lovca koji do današnjih dana nije dešifriran, a arheolozi njegovu starost procjenjuju na preko 10 000 godina.

The Siničić cave is a rare morphological jewel of the karst Dinarides, 4 km from Brinje, on the road to Letinac. The cave is on the Natura 2000 list, as a protected site for preservation of species and habitat types. An endemic type of niphargus, *Niphargus redensis*, lives here.

There is also a precious archeological inscription by a paleolithic hunter inside the cave. It hasn't been deciphered as yet, and archeologists estimate it is over 10 000 years old.

Rokina bezdana, smještena nedaleko Jezerane, između dviju Kapela, jedan je od omiljenih speleoloških lokaliteta i dobro znan krški fenomen među speleologima. Jama, dubine 100-110 m, ulaznih dimenzija 22x12 m predstavlja ulaz u mistične i mnogobrojne podzemne vodene kanale, koji povezani čine najveću podzemnu rijeku u Hrvatskoj.

Rokina bezdana, located near Jezerane, between the two Kapela mountains, is a karst phenomenon well known among speleologists. The pit, 100-110 m deep, entrance dimensions 22 x 12 m, is a gateway to mysterious and numerous underground water channels, which, connected, make the largest underground river in Croatia.



© Gojko Crnković

Staro Brinje (848 m) naziv je za jedan od najviših vrhova brinjske kotline. Prekrasna planinarska staza vodi do vrha vapnenačkog izdanka na kojem su postavljeni smjerovi za slobodno penjanje. Obilježena planinarsko - poučna staza postoji i na putu prema još jednom vrhu doline, Zarinu.

Staro Brinje (848 m) is the name of one of the highest peaks of Brinje basin. A beautiful climbing route leads to the summit of a limestone spire where directions for free climbing have been posted. There is another marked climbing route-educational trail; along the way to one of the other summits of the valley, Zarin.

Biciklistička staza u ukupnoj dužini od 49.40 km obuhvaća veći dio općine i povezuje 18 lokaliteta prirodne i kulturne baštine.

Cycling path, totaling 49.40 km in length, comprises the larger part of the Municipality and connects 18 natural and cultural heritage sites.



© Ivan Butković

Jezero Brodić pokraj Lovčkog doma Brinje idealno je mjesto za ljubitelje pecanja.

Brodic lake, next to the Brinje hunting lodge, is an ideal site for fishing aficionados.

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Staze brinjskih minera / Brinjski mineri routes / Brinjski mineri Routen

 TEŠKA / HARD / HART

Dužina / Length / Länge - 36.66km Visina / Height / Höhe - 528m

ht / Höhe - 528m



Dužina / Length / Länge - 9.91km

ht / Höhe - 154m



BRINJE

