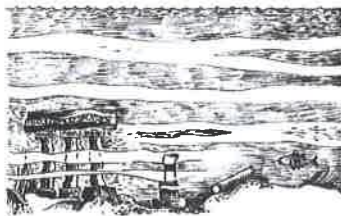


10. A SUNKEN ROMAN TOWN

According to an old belief, in the settlement of Mirce, near Lovište, there is a sunken ancient Roman town. In the days when the sea is particularly clear, swaying forms can be frequently seen at the sea bottom. Then, it is easy to believe that that could perhaps be a castle, sunken a long time ago, or the remains of an antique Roman town. It is certain that Romans could not have founded any town here, as long as these areas were inhabited by Illyrians, being ruled by Queen Teuta. After the first Illyrian war, in 232 B.C., Illyrians were defeated, and Queen Teuta abdicated. At that time the main navigable routes intersected before the promontory of Lovište, where there is the bay of Mirce, as well as the ancient ruins. This cannot have been a town, but it certainly was a Roman house, and the remaining stone ruins can still be recognized.

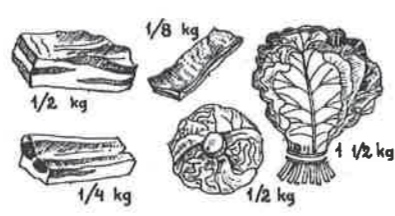


11. GREEN "MENESTRA"

Most old kitchens have long disappeared on Pelješac. In them dry (twigs were burned and water was drawn up in buckets on chains from rain-water cisterns. Only a few kitchens from those times have been preserved in rare families who cherish tradition. Recipe for 6 persons: a) wash the meat in water, let it come to boil, throw the water away; b) pour little water over the meat (just to cover it), add 3 sliced garlic lobes, and parsley. Boil on smothered fire for 5 minutes, take it out, drain; c) let the cleaned cabbage boil for 5 minutes, take it out, drain it and add it to the meat; d) add 3 spoons of olive oil. Boil all together for another 15-20 minutes (DUBROVNIK: "raštika" and white cabbage without potatoes, PELJEŠAC: only "raštika" with potatoes)

"Zelena menestra"
1 1/2 kg raštika (a kind of green cabbage on a stalk)
1/2 kg white cabbage
1/2 kg bacon

1/4 kg dry-cured ribs
1/8 kg dry-cured goatmeat or mutton (so-called "kaštrudina")
olive oil, garlic, parsley, salt and pepper



12. TYPICAL CAPTAIN'S HOUSE

Old stone houses of captains from Pelješac are distinguished by two typical roof windows. Below the terrace there is a storage called "orsan", for keeping boats, nets, oars, sails, anchors, ropes and other sea equipment. Such houses are richly furnished, because Pelješac captains brought furniture made from exotic woods, large Far-East vases, valuable china dishes and tableware from their long voyages. In those times one could recognise a captain at first sight. He was wearing a black suit and had a long gold chain of the pocket watch, which hung around his neck and was folded at his waist. Strong, sturdy, well-built, with a strict look, big moustache and rich beard. Then it was a disgrace to shave one's moustache and beard. Even young captains of sailing ships wore full, well-kept beard.



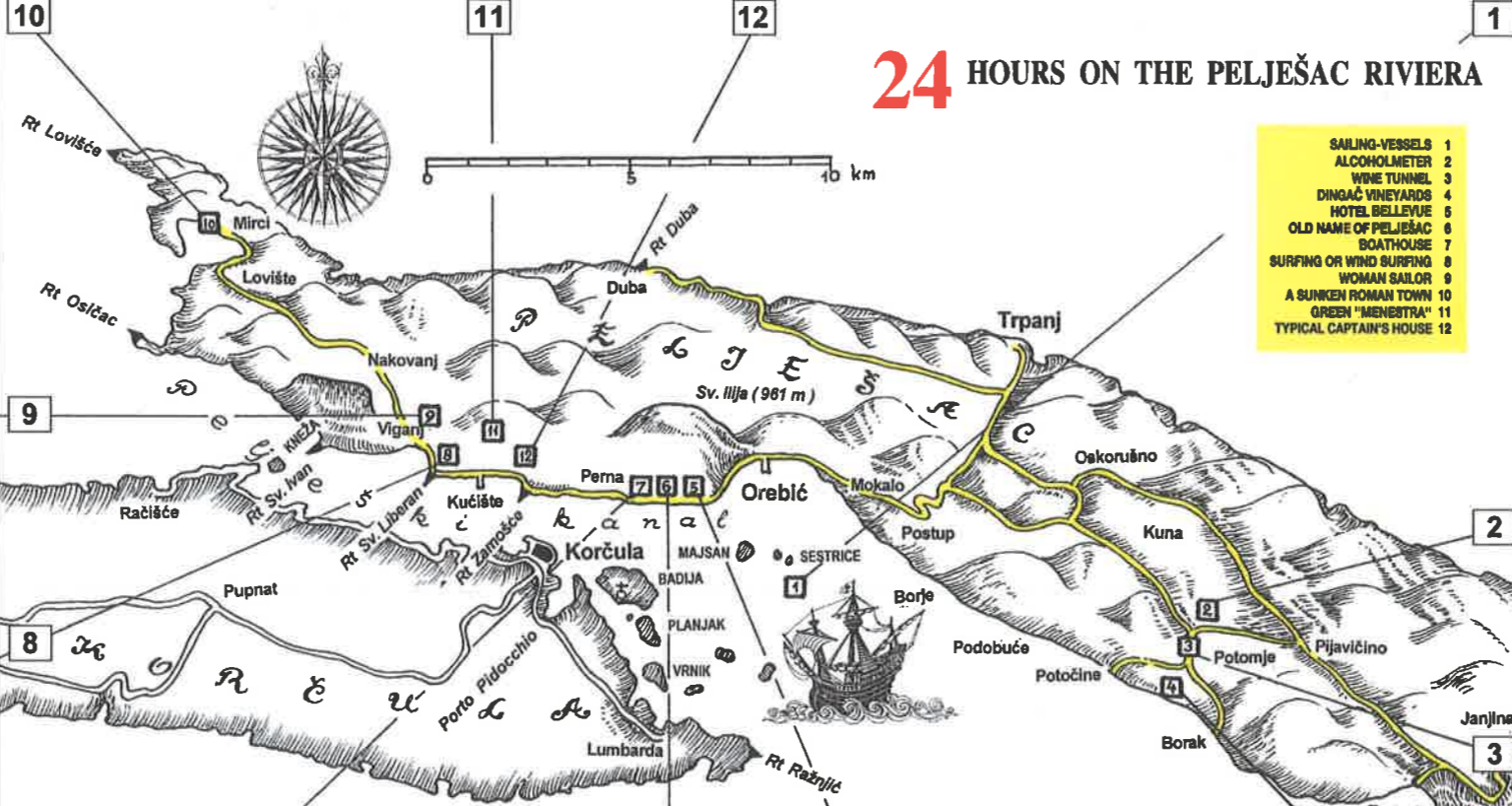
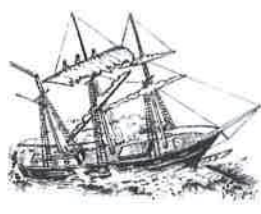
1. PELJEŠAC SAILING-VESSELS

Once sailing vessels used to sail through the Pelješac Channel, carrying corn from Italy, Egypt, Syria and France. The sailors had rifles for defence from pirates, and there were even cannons! Nowadays large luxury ships with tourists sail through the Channel. The Pelješac painter Celestin Medović immortalized the beauty of this scenery in his wonderful paintings such as "The Pelješac Channel" (1908) and "Vrjes" (1911). During the time of Napoleon's occupation of Dalmatia it was established for the first time that this region was suitable for the development of health-recreational tourist trade. After the First World War this opinion was reestablished by the experts of the League of Nations in Geneva. After the Second World War the same was confirmed by a study of Professor Branko Cvjetanović which was made in cooperation with the experts from the United Nations.



9. "SULTANA" - WOMAN SAILOR (1820-1890)

Nowadays it is not surprising at all if women are sailors or even captains of large ships, but at the time of sailing-vessels such things were unthinkable. The first woman-sailor from Pelješac was Marija Grčić. She was born in a hamlet, uphill from Viganj. Owing to her tallness, resoluteness, male voice and bearing, the sailors called her "Sultana". At the age of 19 she went through Greece to Istanbul on foot. There she learned several languages in sailors' pubs. She embarked on an English sailing-vessel, as a help to the captain's wife who expected a child. In London she disguised herself into a sailor and sneaked into a sailing-vessel heading for America. She told the captain she had no money for fare and promised to do all the jobs that sailors did. She was unusually skilful and quick in manoeuvring the sails and preparing meals. Thus she soon became a steerman, and then a boatswain. She got married to a countryman in New Orleans, where they made quite a lot of money cultivating oysters and fishing, and then returned to Viganj. Today, only ruins have remained from her house.



24 HOURS ON THE PELJEŠAC RIVIERA

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2. ALCOHOLMETER

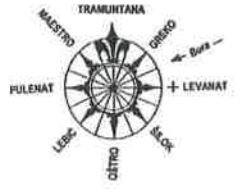
An alcoholmeter of museum quality, older than a hundred years, is exhibited in Matuško wine cellar. This device is professionally called bullometer or mallgand after its constructor Mallgand, and it has been in use since the beginning of XIX century. Its principle is based on determining the boiling-point of water and wine, and the scale is read in percentages of alcohol content. Louis Pasteur (1822-1895) published a number of scientific papers on wine, by Napoleon's order. The result of his research is summarised in the conclusion that wine is the healthiest and most hygienic beverage, since no microorganisms harmful to man's health can exist in wine, due to alcohol, polyphenol and low pH. In the end Pasteur wrote his well-known statement: "There is more philosophy in a bottle of wine than in all the books." More recently Hemingway expressed a similar thought in a different way: "Wine is one of the greatest signs of civilisation in the world."



Louis Pasteur

8. SURFING OR WIND SURFING

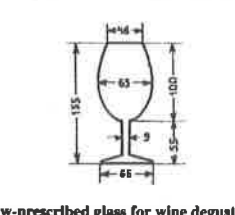
The Pelješac Channel is one of the best surfing areas in Europe. There is always wind in the Channel, as it naturally pumps in the air from the surrounding area. It is sheltered from big waves, which is also fortunate for sailing. In summer many surfers gather on two protruding promontories on both sides of Kućište. In the east is Zamošće promontory, and in the west a promontory before the small chapel of St. Ilijan. "Windsurfing Center Viganj" is situated here, offering the summer sailing school, sports equipment and numerous accompanying facilities with restaurants and other tourist services. Surfing competitions take place here every summer. In this area there are also many tourist camps, which can accommodate both those who look for solitude as well as those enjoying company and active life. Shops supplying consumer goods are about 500 m to the left and right from the camp.



3. WINE TUNNEL

A wine tunnel, 400 meters long, was dug near the place Potočine as early as 1974. Thus a direct approach to dingač vineyards lying on the south side of the hill was enabled. One can drive down to the coast by car, passing the villages of Borak and Potočine. The wine tunnel resembles, in a way, the wine roads such as lead through wine-growing districts. This is the first protected quality wine "dingač" (1965) in this area, the reputation of which has become rightly known all over the world. Every "top quality" wine, bearing the controlled-origin mark, should, according to the law, be protected and bottled in its own wine-growing district. The processing of grapes into wine was known in very old times, being described already in Ancient Rome by Plinius (23-79). This is not the earliest record, since wine had been mentioned in Homer's epics of "Iliad" and "Odyssey", much earlier than in Plinius. Here is a short survey of how many times wine is mentioned:

- Odyssey - 46
- Iliad - 120
- Bible - 235



Law-prescribed glass for wine degustation

4. DINGAČ VINEYARDS

Immediately after the tunnel exit on the seaside slope of the hill, the vineyards of high-quality Pelješac wine dingač stretch to the seashore. The area of about 60 hectares gives approximately 2000 - 3000 hectolitres of wine annually. Malicious tongues say that as much as ten times that quality is sold in shops! Therefore, it is safest not to miss the opportunity to buy dingač in the original bottle on the spot. Postup is the second, immediately after dingač, protected high-quality wine in Croatia (1967). The celebration of grape-harvest on Pelješac is called "sabatin", which originates from the Greek word "sabaton", meaning "free Saturday". This traditional custom was recently revived in numerous Dalmatian towns, including Orebić (1993). Celebrations last for several days, filled with wine degustation, prize allotment, art exhibitions, and the night of poetry about vine and wine.

7. BOATHOUSE

"Orsan", the name of a hotel, is the word used for a small building by the seashore which served for storing boats and maritime equipment. Almost every villa in the region of Dubrovnik Republic had an "orsan", e.g. the Skočibuha Villa on the island of Šipan. The roof of such a building was used as a terrace, usually with a small chapel on it. The third part of "Dubrovnik Trilogy" takes place on such a terrace in Gruž, the port of Dubrovnik. This famous work by Ivo Vojnović has been translated into English, too. Next to the hotel there is an "orsan" for the boats belonging to friars from the neighbouring monastery.

- 200 beds
- 3 apartments
- hotel beach, swimming pool, tennis, surfing
- telephone 00 385 20 713 026

6. OLD NAME OF PELJEŠAC

The hotel name "Rathaneum" is the old name of Pelješac Peninsula. There have been at least six different names for Pelješac under the influence of Greek, Latin, Italian and Croatian. The word Rathaneum is derived from the Croatian word "rat" which means "promontory", a piece of land stretching into the sea. Such is the configuration of the coast near Ston, and hence another variant of the name "Stonski rat", meaning also Rathaneum. Another name is Sabioncello, derived from the Italian word "sabbia" meaning "the sand on the beaches". The most accurate name is Pelješac, originating from the Greek word "pelios", denoting the greyish-blue colour of Mount St. Ilija above Orebić.

- 380 beds
- 30 apartments
- hotel beach, swimming pool, tennis, surfing
- telephone 00 385 20713 022

5. HOTEL "BELLEVUE"

The name of "Bellevue" Hotel originates from the French word "lovely view", which is also the name of many other hotels and towns worldwide. The hotel was built by the Austrian Karl Borer. Complete renovation has been finished prior to the 2004 tourist season. "Bellevue" has been a part of the long history of tourist tradition in Orebić, which is celebrating the hundredth anniversary of tourist trade (1904 - 2004). The hotel has a beach which is only 20 meters away, providing lovely view of Korčula and the Pelješac Channel, through which once big Pelješac sailing-ships used to sail. Today one can see countless surfers, enjoying the wind speed.

- 140 beds and 4 pavilions in a pinewood
- 13 separate cottages with terraces for 2 - 6 persons
- hotel beach, swimming pool, tennis, surfing
- Telephone 00 385 20 713 148

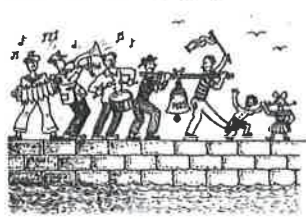
25. PELJEŠAC PURCHASE (1333)

In the Middle Ages Serbian and Bosnian rulers claimed that Pelješac was their territory. In a shortened version Dubrovnik Republic performed the Pelješac purchase simultaneously with both sides (1333). The inhabitants of Dubrovnik sent two delegations to the two countries with the same message at the same time: "We are aware that Pelješac belongs to your country exclusively, and not to the other country. Therefore, we would like to buy Pelješac from you at the price of 8000 perpers." Thus, the same bill was paid twice, but this ensured peace on Dubrovnik borders with both neighbouring countries. The equivalent of perpers can be approximately calculated into today's value on the basis of the income of the Ston salt-works from that time: the value of one perper would be about 100 Euros today. That means that 1 600,000 Euros were paid for Pelješac in total.



22. THE OLDEST BELL (1422)

During the First World War Austro-Hungary collected bells to obtain the material for casting cannons. This was also noted down by Mladineo, a teacher at the local primary school at Kućište, in the school chronicle on 17th October 1917. "Today soldiers removed the bells from the local churches. The ancient bell from St. Lucas' Graveyard is also gone." An Austrian officer recognized the bell's historic value and kept it on Korčula. There is another record in the school's chronicle, dated 29th December 1921: "After many troubles the ancient bell has been returned to St. Lucas." A great welcome celebration was held when the ship ("trabaku"), brought the bell from Korčula. It was an impressive fete, indeed, music was playing, everybody had a great time throughout the whole day, and St. Lucas' bell was long ringing.



23. NINE COLUMNS FOR SAILING-SHIPS AT KUĆIŠTE

Counting from the East to the West, the first column was carved in the live rock in front of Captain Kosović's house some 200 years ago. The last, ninth column at Kućište is immediately before the big pier. Small ships, which still had steam engines before the First World War, used to dock here. The most protected place for sailing-ships in the case of rough weather was Kućište, where they were anchored and tied to one of the nine columns. The neighbouring Viganj is exposed to landward-breeze waves and Orebić to the waves of the southern or the south-east wind. According to an ancient story, three brothers blacksmiths used to live at Kućište until they split. Then one of them took the anvil and moved to a place which is called Nakovanj (Anvil) today. The second took a "viganj" (which means "a pair of bellows") and moved to the place which bears the name Viganj today. The third brother remained in his house ("kuća") which is today called Kućište. That is how these three places on Pelješac got their names.



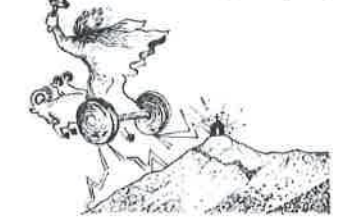
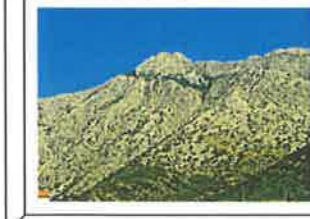
24. OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS - MONASTERY ON THE BORDER

The Franciscan monastery above Orebić used to be on the maritime border between Pelješac, the territory belonging to Dubrovnik Republic, and Korčula, which was under the rule of Venice. In those times no war fortifications could be built on the border. Therefore, a monastery was built here, having thick walls and gun slits, which was not considered a fortification according to the peace agreement valid at that time. Today, there is an extraordinarily interesting museum in the monastery, containing numerous votive paintings, donated by seamen from Pelješac. When departing or returning from long voyages, the captains would greet the monastery by sounding the ship siren, and the friars would answer by ringing the church bells. Not far away, on a hill above the monastery, there is the church of Our Lady of Carmen, where there are some of the oldest cypresses in the entire Dalmatia. The remains of the former Duke Palace can still be recognized a little higher up on the hill.



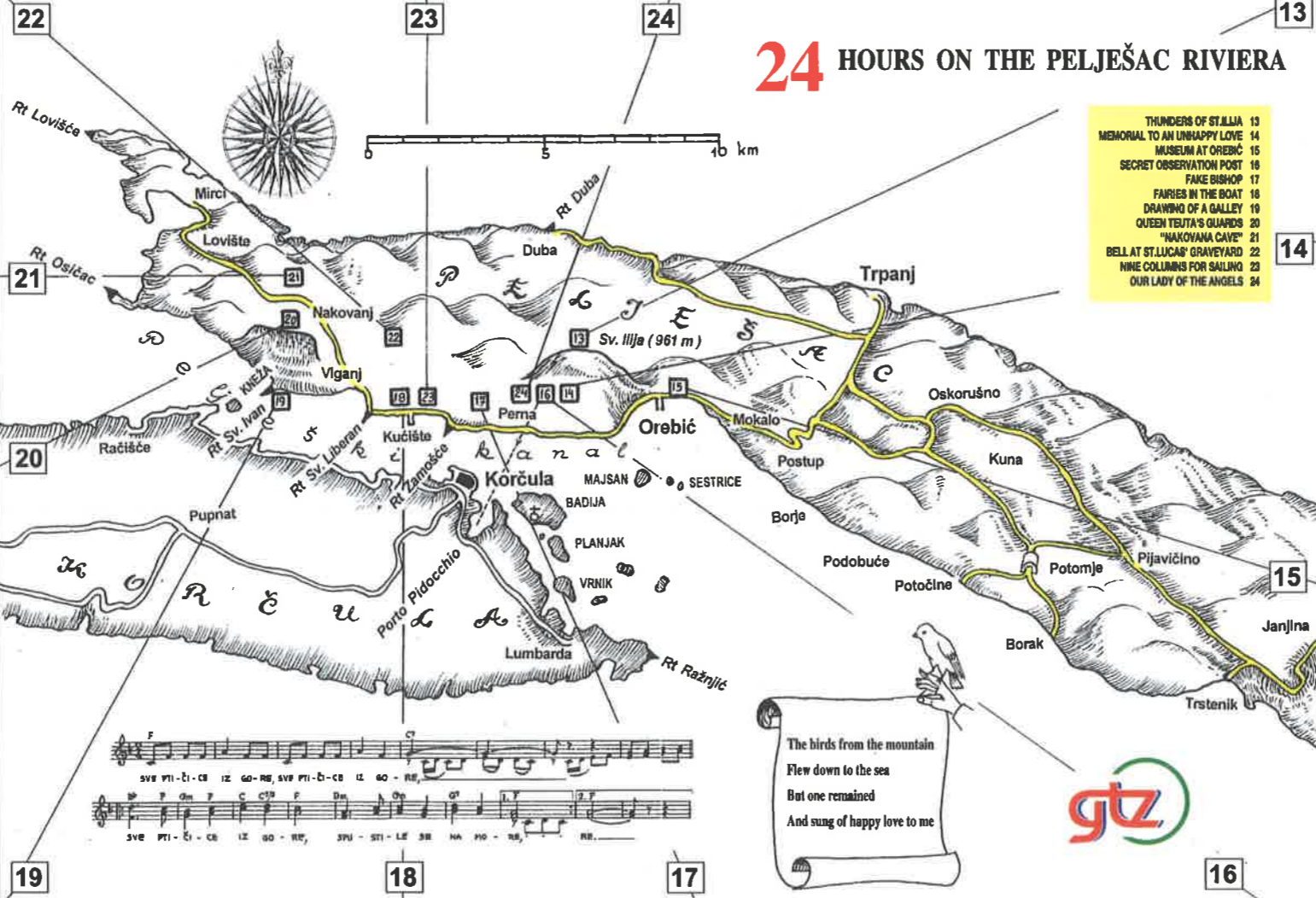
13. THUNDERS OF ST. ILIJA

On the top of St. Ilija's Mount (961 m) there was a small chapel of St. Ilija. According to a legend, this chapel was destroyed by St. Ilija himself. He travels around the sky in his chariot with the thundering sound of its wheels. Similarly, in Norwegian mythology, the thunders are sounds made by the wheels of the god Thor, whose chariot is driven by two goats across the sky. It is unknown who of those two really destroyed the chapel, of which only the cross and a large heap of stones remain today. The second story relates to a well, about a hundred meters below the peak. A shepherdess was herding the sheep and spinning the wool at that place. Carelessly, she dropped her spindle into the well, which appeared in the sea a few days later near the Zamošće promontory, on the east side of Kućište. This story is perhaps not true, but it is possible because Pelješac is geologically, made of Karst, which abounds in caves and underground passages.



21. MYSTERIOUS "NAKOVANA CAVE"

The first traces of people in the cave, filled in a long time ago, date back to the Neolithic Age about 6,000 years B.C. The cave lies opposite Queen Teuta's citadel, but it is not visible from the road. It was discovered in the summer of 1999. Today it is locked and not accessible to the public yet. Fine pieces of large coloured vessels, plates, jugs, and small amphoras were found there. People made fire, left food remains and broken plates in the cave. These traces range from Neolithic to Copper and Bronze Age. In the cave there is a single stalagmite and it is assumed that the cave was the site of mysterious cult rituals held under the torch light. On Pelješac there is an old story which suggests that there is a place on Nakovanj where treasure was buried. It could be revealed only by Ivan, who was Ivan's son, or Marija, who was Marija's daughter, when a cock started crowing at 11 o'clock. But they both fell asleep so they heard neither the clock nor the cock.



24 HOURS ON THE PELJEŠAC RIVIERA

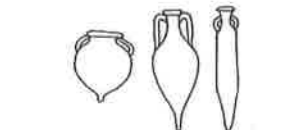
20. QUEEN TEUTA'S GUARDS

On Nakovanj plateau there is an enormous unconquerable rock looking like an anvil, so the nearby settlement is called Nakovanj (which means "anvil"). In ancient times, about 200 B.C., there were guardhouses of the Illyrian queen Teuta here. The long-forgotten Illyrians people lived in the present-day areas of Albania and Dalmatia, and their stronghold was on Pelješac Peninsula. All ships passing through the Pelješac Channel could be seen from this rock. Ships were also noticed by Illyrian pirates, who chased and robbed Roman galleys with their light ships called "lembi". The Roman Senate admonished Queen Teuta repeatedly but in vain. She would answer that piracy was a natural right of her subjects whom she was unable to influence. Such Teuta's statement should be understood in the spirit of the times when piracy was considered a kind of acceptable economic activity. This led to a war in which the Romans defeated Queen Teuta, whose trace was since then lost in the fog of ancient history.



19. DRAWING OF A GALLEY ON THE ROCK

Some people claim that the drawing of a galley on the rock is a nature's play and others say that man's hand drew it. Therefore, it is perhaps best to come by boat to the rock below St. John's Chapel and draw one's own conclusion. There is a well-known traditional custom that seamen who survived a shipwreck left a votive drawing at the place of the accident. Therefore, they might have drawn a ship from the Middle Ages sinking in the sea. The currents are very powerful in this area, so the remains of sunken cargoes from shipwrecks can be found there, at the bottom of the sea. These are mostly clay amphoras which can be found, nowadays, not only in the Pelješac Channel, but also along the whole Adriatic Coast. They were mainly used for transporting wine and oil for bartering with corn, the three being the most important trading goods of that time. Today, amphoras are only a beautiful decoration in modern flats and offices.



18. FAIRIES IN THE BOAT

Near the Trinity Chapel, on the west end of Kućište, there are several small enclosed boat ports. The third port behind the Chapel belonged to the Grčić family, who were shipowners. They kept their boat there. They noticed that in the nights of the full moon the boat vanished and reappeared in the morning. In order to disclose the secret, the owner of the boat hid under the deck and waited for the midnight to come. At that time two fairies appeared, sat down into the boat and rowed to Alexandria to pick up dates there. The owner counted the oar strokes under the deck: it took only twelve oar strokes to reach Alexandria. The next morning he told his neighbours what had happened. They did not believe him. He asked them: "Where do all these dates in the boat come from?". The boat was a "Pelješac guc" - the type which is not made any more.

17. THE STORY ABOUT A FAKE BISHOP

In the eastern part of Kućište, within the "Komodor" Hotel complex, there is an old ruin, in which an attractive restaurant "Stranj" is located. Legend says that treasure was buried outside this ruin. It can be dug out only if noon bells ring simultaneously both on Korčula and at Orebić. Once Korčula was an ancient Greek colony, so the above story agrees with Greek mythology, according to which noon and midnight possess identical magic power. An inhabitant from Viganj awaited the noon bells and started digging outside the ruin. All of a sudden a bishop appeared before him, holding an opened book, and said: "Sign your name here!". The man noticed that the bishop had goat's hoofs on his feet, which meant that he was the Devil, not a bishop. When the man exclaimed "I won't!", the bishop disappeared. The man was seized by high fever and soon died. The story goes that the false bishop occasionally appears on the window of the ruin to scare and drive away restaurant guests.

16. SECRET OBSERVATION POST

In close vicinity of the Monastery of Our Lady of Angels there is a loggia with a marvellous view of the Pelješac Channel. The loggia was built at the location from which a small bay on the island of Korčula can be seen. In those times Korčula was ruled by Venice. The small bay bore the Italian name "Porto Pidocchio", which means the Port of Louse, louse being a tiny insect. However, the bay was big enough to let Venetian galleys be anchored in it. In that period the political relations between the two republics, Dubrovnik and Venice, were very unstable. This loggia was, in fact, a secret observation post, from which the friars supervised Porto Pidocchio very carefully. Whenever Venetian war fleet came to anchor in the little port, one of the friars would get onto his donkey, ride to Dubrovnik on the same day and inform the Senate about it. This information usually caused some foreign policy activity between the two republics.

The birds from the mountain
Flew down to the sea
But one remained
And sung of happy love to me

