

I FEEL  
SLOVENIA

# IDRIJA

STORIES OF PAST CENTURIES.

European Destination of Excellence 2011

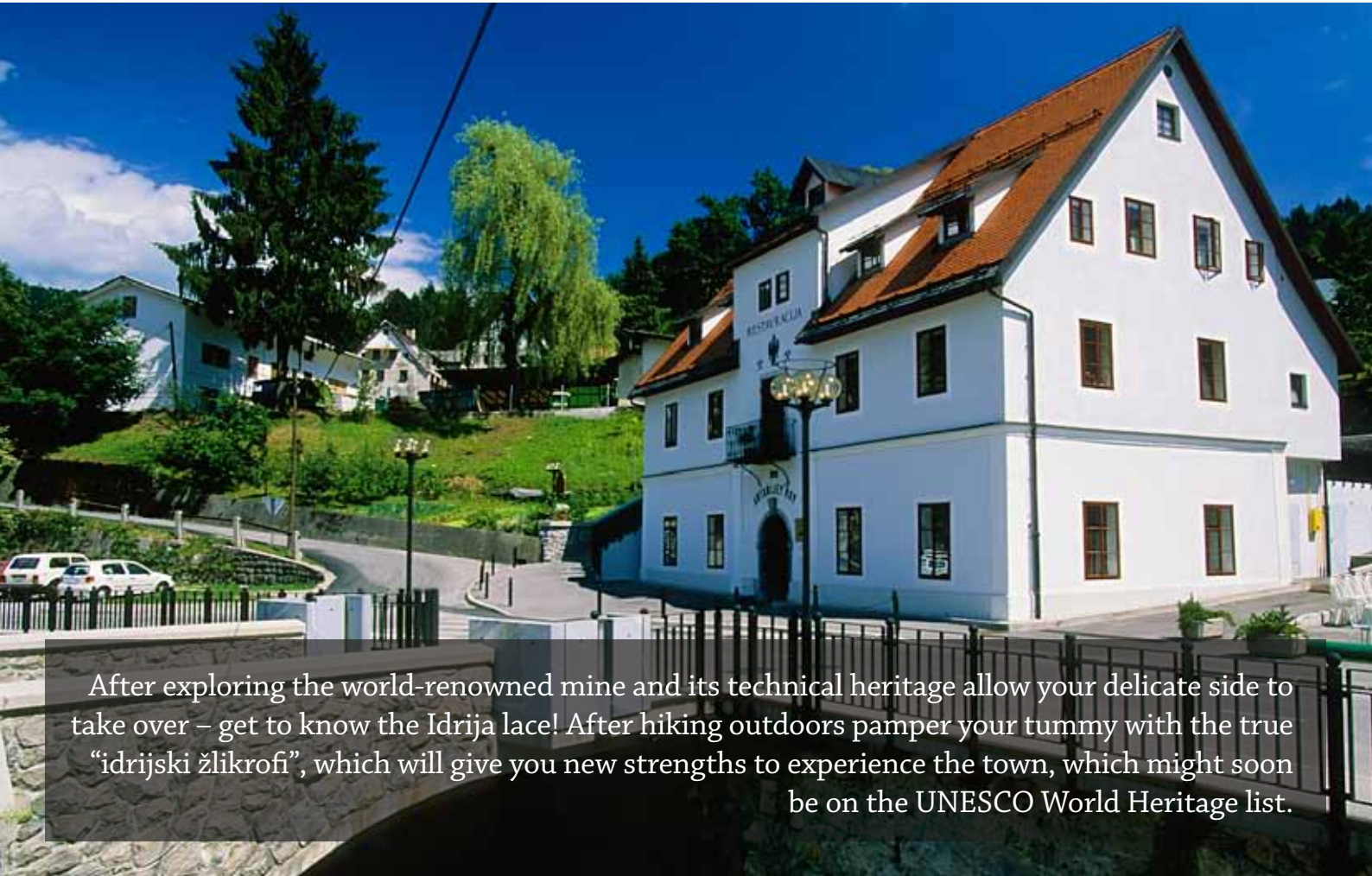


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Mining. Lace-making. Wild waters.  
Action-packed trails. Luxurious flavours.

# IDRIJA. Stories of past centuries.



After exploring the world-renowned mine and its technical heritage allow your delicate side to take over – get to know the Idrija lace! After hiking outdoors pamper your tummy with the true “idrijski žlikrofi”, which will give you new strengths to experience the town, which might soon be on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Where Lace Intertwine with Mercury.

From handicraft mastery  
to fashion spectacle.

If you don't know what a LACE-BOBBIN is, you will know after visiting Idrija! You will never forget what skilful fingers can create from simple threads! By their patterns and other features, IDRIJA LACES are very well known special types of hand-made bobbin laces. In the past the women and girls of Idrija used this skill to increase the humble family budget. As early as the 19th century Idrija laces began to travel far over the Atlantic ocean, while the LACE-MAKING SCHOOL was established in Idrija, which is still active today. Every year Idrija pays homage to this tradition during the IDRIJA LACE FESTIVAL. Next to traditional meetings, trainings, presentations, and fun the festival is also a true fashion event for new lace creations. Open your eyes to delicate wonders. Take them home with you to keep forever!



Idrija lace



Mercury

## Following the Trail of Mercury Heritage.

### From "rake" to shafts, from the castle to the legendary church.

For more than half a millennium, the mercury mine in Idrija was important to the whole world! Even today, along with the mine many points of interest still can stir our attention. You enter the city along the "RAKE" water channel. Next to it there is the "KAMŠT", a big wooden water wheel, which was part of the mine's pumping system. Not far from there, along the "JOŽEFOV JAŠEK" shaft, you will see the preserved old mining locomotives, and at the entrance to the "JAŠEK FRANČIŠKA" shaft you can see the a collection of mining machinery and equipment, such as "Kleyeva črpalka", the biggest preserved steam engine in Europe!

Go below the city into the "ANTONIJEV ROV" shaft, where you might even meet the cave dwarf "Prekmandelc"! You will understand the work and life of the locals in and above those shafts after visiting the Idrija Municipal Museum in the GEWERKENEGG CASTLE, which bear witness to the mining heritage, and exhibits displays of geological peculiarities and Idrija laces. The IDRIJA MINER'S HOUSE from the 18th century offers an insight into the lives of the miners and their families. You're also welcome to visit the oldest Idrija church – THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, which stands on the site where, according to the folk tradition, the first drops of mercury were discovered!



Gewerkenegg Castle



Idrija žlikrofi



Savage lake



Klavže

## Mysterious World of Wild Waters.

### From savage lake to "klavže".

The life of Idrija is inseparably connected with nature and waters. Visit the ZGORNJA IDRIJCA REGIONAL PARK, where you will come across many monuments of the past, enjoy botanical particularities and murmuring streams and rivers. You will be blown away by high river dams for timber floating – "KLAVŽE", also called "the pyramids of Idrija". The mysteriousness of wild nature will tickle your skin at SAVAGE LAKE, the biggest karst spring in Slovenia, in the depths of which hides the olm. FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF IDRIJA'S NATURAL SCIENTISTS you will reach the Scopoli's Memorial Garden with natural treasures, discovered by numerous important European natural scientists and botanists. Idrija is also perfect for exploring rocks and other geological peculiarities. Visit the GEOPARK Idrija!

## Culinary Surprises.

### From miner's modesty to modern-day splendour.

If you have not tasted IDRIJA ŽLIKROFI, you have not experienced in Idrija! "Žlikrofi" is the first Slovenian dish protected by the EU's Traditional Speciality Guaranteed label. Prepared from dough and potato filling it goes well with the "bakalca" sauce made from mutton and vegetables. With a bit of luck you will also enjoy "zeljševka" (roll with herb filling), "ocvirkovca" (bread with cracklings), "smukavc" (cabbage and potato hot top), "štruklji", and other specialties. But if you really want to taste the miner's past, try the ancient local drink – "pelinov geruš", wormwood liqueur.

## Actively Outdoors.

### From relaxation to excitation.

It feels real good to rest in the embrace of intact nature. But if visits and new discoveries alone are not enough for you, then give your body a chance to actively experience Idrija and its surroundings! All year long you can choose between numerous HIKING and CYCLING ROUTES. In winter indulge in SKIING, SLEDDING or CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING. In summer enjoy FISHING, HUNTING or HORSEBACK RIDING. Refresh your senses in the NATURAL BATHS in Bela. All year long, but especially in summer, the city invites you to experience different adventures: in addition to the Lace Festival, you can also visit the "Castle Evenings" and other various ethnological, sports, and other EVENTS.

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## ALPINE CITY OF 2011 AND UNESCO.

Idrija is the holder of the honorary title “The Alpine City of 2011”, which commits the city to sustainable development and perfect symbiosis of technical and cultural heritage with natural environment. The Zgornja Idrijca Regional Park is part of the Natura 2000 European network; the Scopoli’s Memorial Garden in the park nurtures centuries-old famous botanical peculiarities of the region. The mining towns of Idrija, Slovenia and Almadén, Spain, with their mercury heritage, are jointly nominated for entrance onto the UNESCO World Heritage list.

**SLOVENIA  
GREEN**

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The project has been partly financed by EU.



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