

RIBNICA

Size of the Ribnica municipality: 154 km²

Population: 9.266

Number of settlements: 64

Altitude: 489 m

Neighbouring municipalities: Sodražica, Kočevje, Velike Lašče, Dobrepolje

Address:

Obeina Ribnica

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Mayor: Alojz Marn

Position

The town of Ribnica is the geographical, historical, cultural, economic, and administrative centre of the municipality. It is situated on the river banks of the partly underground stream Bistrica, in the centre of the Ribniško polje plain, between the ridges of the Mala and Velika gora hills. Towards the south, the valley expands into two large settlements of Prigorica and Dolenja vas with the vast Dolenjevaško polje plain; towards the west, it reaches as far as the town of Sodražica; towards the north it rises to the picturesque village of Slemenja; and towards the southwest, it rises towards the town of Loški Potok.

The climate is continental, with long winters and a lot of snow. More than 60% of the area is covered with woods, mostly coniferous. The woods are richly populated with wildlife.

The partly underground streams in this region are Ribnica, Bistrica and Tržišnica.

Characteristics

Ribnica is one of the oldest towns in Slovenia with a very rich history. The name Ribnica derives from the word 'riba' (=fish), which is depicted in the town's coat-of-arms.

From afar, the traveller is greeted by the high bell towers of the parish church, designed by the famous Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik.

There are few regions in Slovenia which produced so many famous scholars as the Ribnica valley. These include the musician Jakob Petelin Gallus, the patron of Slovenian scholars Luka Knafelj, the linguist Reverend Stanislav Škrabec, Janez Evangelist Krek, etc.

Spiritual comfort is offered not only by the parish church, but also by the Miklova hiša house, which includes the town's library, art gallery, and museum.

A very special place in the town history is held by woodenware making and pottery, the crafts with a rich and long tradition, a special trademark of the Ribnica valley.

The use of various sorts of wood and clay for making of useful and decorative objects and tools has been preserved to the present day.

In the last few decades, a very important role in the development of the Ribnica valley has been held by timber industry.

The Ribnica valley is well known not only for its rich natural and cultural heritage, but also

for its numerous cultural and ethnographic events: Wooden Ware and Pottery Fair, Crafts Festival, Mardi Gras with ethnographic costumes, Summer Festival, Feast of St Nicholas, Live Nativity Scene, Slemena Rural Games, New Year's Concert, etc.

There is a common trademark to all these events in the Ribnica valley: 'Ribn'ean Urban', the traditional inhabitant of the region, with his rich colloquial language and the traditional hawker's basket on his back.