

During the tour of the Fairy-Tale Forest in the company of Aurora and Juraj Zrinski, our storytellers, you have to be careful: do not mention the tragic events that interrupted Aurora's carefree upbringing.

As a little girl, she was very curious and would often sneak out of her bed in order to secretly watch evening cultural gatherings organised by her mother. The prophetic book titled "Sybill", which her mother Katarina had had made, made her the most curious. Using the book, Aurora found her way to the "Fairy-Tale Forest" and fit in very soon owing to the magic of her divine name.

Perhaps you will also encounter Juraj Zrinski in the "Fairy-Tale Forest". Patiently wait through his lengthy introduction because, after all, you are talking to a person who used to be a Croatian Viceroy (ban) four centuries ago. Juraj's name is connected with unusual beliefs and customs, particularly with Pozoj and the ancient god Jaril. Like Aurora Veronika, he is also an ideal guide because the "Fairy-Tale Forest" reminds him of his passion when, under the watchful eye of Jaril, he waited for Pozoj to awaken and offer him a chance for more heroics.



Besides, tread carefully, as it would be unusual if at least one dragon, i.e. Pozoj, did not hide in our "Fairy-Tale Forest".

Pozojs or dragons are famous for being able to hide well in order to fall into a deep, long sleep. Perhaps you are standing or walking on his enormous back or tail in this very moment. If you become completely still and close your eyes, perhaps you will sense the soil and trees growing around the dragon rising imperceptibly with each his slow and deep breath in the "Fairy-Tale Forest".

Apart from them, in the Forest you will also encounter a fairy, gnome, the Devil's Apprentice, magical tree of life, Jaril and Lada, even Baba Roga...

Through the story of the gnomes, fairies, elves, giants and dragons (Pozoj), gathered around your hearths, we will guide you to get to know Međimurje and the Fairy-Tale Forest, the gastronomic land of fairy tales. Come to enjoy traditional dishes of Međimurje and drink top-quality wines where distant past flows into the living present.

With the međimurska gibanica and trepa cakes, in the shade of the Fairy-Tale Forest in Upper Međimurje, or on the banks of the Mura or the Drava in Lower Međimurje, we tell stories of how Međimurje came to be, about castles and manor houses, about the history of the Old Town and the celebrated days of the Zrinski family.

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Fairy-Tale FOREST

THEMATIC PARK

- educational trails
- augmented reality
- interactive workshops

Turex Programme Croatia-Hungary

Fairy-Tale Forest, mystical Međimurje

5 days

Embark on an exploration and a fanciful stroll through the Fairy-Tale Forest full of mystical creatures that Juraj and Aurora Zrinski, but also Marica and Captain Tenkes in Hungary, will tell you about.

„The "Fairy-Tale Forest" is not only a tourist attraction, but rather an experience for all senses. It would be best to explore it with Aurora Veronika Zrinski or Juraj Zrinski because they know the inhabitants of the "Fairy-Tale Forest" and are happy to acquaint everyone with it. In Hungary, new storytellers await you – Marica and Captain Tenkes, who will guide you through the myths and legends of the Hungarian cultural heritage.



The travel package can last from one to 5-7 days

APPROXIMATE ITINERARY FOR A MULTI-DAY PACKAGE:

Day 1: Čakovec

Day 2: Međimurje – Wine Road

Day 3: Mursko Središće

Day 4: Čakovec

Day 5: Lower Međimurje

Day 6: Pécs

Day 7: Harkány – Tenkes csárda



Igor Nobilo
author of the photo

Međimurje is the northernmost geographic region of Croatia which is, as the name says, situated between the rivers Mura and Drava. It is an area that abounds with a valuable cultural and historical heritage, but most of all unmatched natural beauty, which is why it is called “the Flower Garden of Croatia”.

If you go along the Villány-Siklós wine road, you can visit unique places where you will have an opportunity to taste the best-quality wines in the country. The sub-Mediterranean climate increases the sugar content in the grapes during the hot summer days. Wine made from these varieties enchant wine enthusiasts with its red colour as well as the rich and full bouquet.

“A rose from my heart”

After a rainy night, in an early spring morning, shake off from the green blades of grass a few stray drops of dew onto your palms and let the warm sun rays caress them. Then bring your palm closer to your mouth and take a careful sip of the water.

Wait for a few moments.

Recall any folk story or song from Međimurje. Sing it as quietly as gently as you can, as if forest fairies were listening to you, and close your eyes. Lo!

You will feel all the serenity and breadth of the forest and of your own soul...

- Lidija Bajuk -



Activities and workshops in the Fairy-Tale Forest:

- 1. My Friend from the Fairy-Tale Forest**
ethnologic workshop about mythological creatures of Međimurje
- 2. Fairy-Tale Workshop**
fairy-tale and storytelling and writing workshop
- 3. Digital Fairy-Tale**
learning programming and making fairy tale characters come to life
- 4. Playful Forest**
create your own classroom game - a creative workshop for higher elementary school grades
- 5. Comic Book Fairy Tale**
turn the Fairy-Tale Forest into a short comic
- 6. Making Houses for Useful Animals and Insects**
learning how to create habitats for useful insects, birds, bats and hedgehogs
- 7. See the Life of the Large Blue**
raising awareness of the workshop participants for the sensitivity and complexity of the life cycle of the protected large blue butterfly (genus *Maculinea*)
- 8. How Trees Grow**
educational workshop involving the planting of trees and flowers
- 9. My First Herbarium**
educational workshop on botany
- 10. Scientific Workshops in the Forest**
astronomy workshops about star constellations and observation of celestial bodies through a telescope, treasure hunt workshop on geography and orientation in nature.

Workshop registration fees: at request
The fees are calculated on the basis of the number of applicants and the materials necessary for the workshops.



The package can be realised throughout the whole year from groups of **8-40 persons**.

Accommodation is available in suites of various categories at the Sveti Martin Spa, while you have the option of your own transport or transport organised by us (minibus or bus).

Professional guides are available in Croatian, Slovenian, German, English, Hungarian and Italian.