

CYCLE TOURISM ROUTES

The Pag island cycle tourism routes are suitable for all types of bikes; while bike trails are better suited for bikes with wider tires as the surface is either gravel or dirt (very sharp stones are often found on all trails). Cycling is also possible on the promenades with the exception of certain shorter sections where it is necessary to step off the bike (except for excellent cyclists). Routes and trails of the island of Pag are not banned for car traffic, and caution on roadways is strongly advised, especially in the tourist season.

1 Novalja - Lun

The 18-km ride from the roundabout in Novalja to the picturesque village of Lun in the northwestern part of the island will delight anyone who wants to experience the breathtaking views of the sea and the Velebit Mountain at the same time. Along the route you can taste the Paški Sir Cheese as well as homemade wine that locals sell in the hamlets. Lun itself is surrounded by the canopies of centuries-old olive trees, and you can supplement your ride with the route No. 7, riding under olive trees more than 1600 years old. At the height of the tourist season, extra caution is advised because of the increased number of motor vehicles on the island. Along the route there are two promenades: No. 5 (the village Dabovi stani) and No. 4 where you can stop for a rest or swim. On the route you can go down to the villages of Jakišnica or Potočnica to fill up your water supply, have some refreshments in the catering facilities, or take a pleasant swim in the sea.

Lowest point **19 m** | Highest point **121 m** | Height difference **102 m**
Length **18 km (18.10)**

2 Gorica - Povljana - Vlačići

The ride from Gorica (on the state road leading to the town of Pag) to Povljana, the village in the southern part of the island located in a green cove known for local wine and cheese, with a sandy beach that simply calls for a swim, is equally interesting in its continuation to Vlačići. It passes along Velo Blato Bird Reserve with numerous species of birds – a paradise for a photo safari. The route continues to Vlačići, a small village in the valley surrounded by vineyards, with a beautiful beach and medicinal mud, offering a rest in the tranquility without the usual hustle and bustle.

Lowest point **0 m** | Highest point **39 m** | Height difference **39 m**
Length **16 km**

3 Caska - Metajna

The route starts at the edge of Novaljsko Polje and the beginning of Caska, taking you through the villages of Vidalići, Kustići and Zubovčić, ending in Metajna. Caska is located in the Paška Uvala cove, on the site of the former Roman settlement of Cissa, which according to a local legend was sunk in an earthquake in the 4th century. In the 10th century, the Byzantine Emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitus named the entire island Kissa after this ancient Roman settlement. Because of its location and exposure to wind and sea, the

surroundings of the village of Metajna are “carved” into stone in the most unusual stone shapes. Although visited by tourists as early as in 1928, Metajna has not formed as a larger tourist destination; instead, it kept its village charm. Near Metajna you will find Ručica, a beautiful cove with a pebble beach. The ride on the road mostly takes you 20-30 meters above the sea level, enabling views of the Pag Bay.

Lowest point **3 m** | Highest point **75 m** | Height difference **72 m**
Length **12 km (11.7)**

4 Ruta - Košljun Route

From the cove of Košljun, mainly with summer houses dotted in the shade of old pine trees, the route climbs gently up to the state road that takes you to either Pag or Novalja. The connection to the route is also possible along the gravel road of the trail No. 7, which comes from the town of Pag. Combining the trail and the route, you can spend part of your day riding a bit dangerous, but exciting descent into the town of Pag itself.

Lowest point **2 m** | Highest point **153 m** | Height difference **151 m**
Length **6 km (5.8)**

5 Novalja- Stara Novalja, luka

At the very beginning, cycling along the cove of Stara Novalja starts with the Planjka-Trinčel Beach and continues with a mild slope protected from the jugo and bora winds, all the way along the beaches and village. At the beginning of the route, on your right is the Church of St. Mary dating from the fifteenth century, but restored in 1988 as a covenant to protect against abortion. Stara Novalja is a favorite family vacation spot. The trail No. 2 starts at the end of the route. Here you can connect with the trail No. 8 and go back through Novaljsko Polje to Stara Novalja.

Lowest point **0 m** | Highest point **41 m** | Height difference **41 m**
Length **5 km (5.3)**

6 Ruta Polje

This is a route with nearly seven kilometers of paved roads, which cover Novaljsko Polje like a spider web and lead to other routes and trails. Some directions end up in Polje itself and can continue to be a dirt track, a combination of route and trails. Here you can spend some quality time while driving through an oasis of greenery, surrounded by the scent of wild flowers and aromatic herbs, along young vineyards where you can see local people working in the field. In July and August, at the peak of the tourist season, the surroundings of Novalja allow you to “escape” from the heat and bustle with your bike to Novaljsko Polje bathed in the scent of herbs and fruits. There you will find solitude, hearing only the birds chirping.

Lowest point **0 m** | Highest point **41 m** | Height difference **41 m**
Length **7 km**

7 Kolan - Mandre

This route takes you from the village of Kolan to the coastline and beaches to Mandre. Kolan is the only village on the island not located on the coast, which may also be called the major agricultural center of the island. It is surrounded by fertile land where the locals grow mainly vegetables and vines. It is also famous for its cheese producers and tasting facilities. Riding along the route can be combined with the trail No. 4 to enhance the feeling of the green island of Pag. In the village of Mandre there is a harbor with a view of the islets of Škrda and Maun. The entire length of the village is a beach, a favorite spot for both residents of Kolan and tourists. From Mandre you can take the trail No. 10 and visit Šimuni as well.

Lowest point **1 m** | Highest point **115 m** | Height difference **114 m**
Length **4 km (4.30)**

8 Pag-Bošana Route

Dating from the fifteenth century, the town of Pag was built by the Croatian Renaissance mason and sculptor Giorgio da Sebenico. It is one of the rare well-preserved medieval cities. The Collegiate Church of St. Mary, Skrivant Tower, town walls and Duke’s Palace are just some of the town’s valuable cultural and historical monuments. Apart from valuable religious relics and images, the Benedictine Convent preserves the tradition of baškotini, a local type of zwieback you can purchase in the convent’s entrance hall. Besides producing salt (the Pag salt works is as old as the town of Pag itself), the inhabitants also breed sheep and engage in viticulture (the Žutica wine of Pag), farming, fishing, and tourism. We should point out the uniqueness of Paška čipka, famous lacework, which is the trademark of the town of Pag. From the town, the route leads to Bošana and continues on trail No. 1, across Kolan and Gajac all the way to Novalja. On the trail itself (about one kilometer after the route), you will reach the fifteenth meridian, the central axis for CET, Central European Time. We can thus say that the time here is the most accurate time in Croatia. The marking of the fifteenth meridian is located under Sveti Vid, the highest peak of Pag, about 5 km from the town of Pag on track No. 1.

Lowest point **11 m** | Highest point **69 m** | Height difference **58 m**
Length **4 km (3.8)**

9 Šimuni - Kolan

Šimuni is a village situated in a naturally sheltered cove with a marina (50 berths) and a large campsite. Open year round, the camp can certainly provide a perfect base for you and your bike when touring the routes and trails of the island. The entire coastline is dotted with pebble beaches. The route connects the villages of Šimuni and Kolan, but equally so Mandre, and it is possible to continue the drive on trails No. 10 and No 4.

Lowest point **3 m** | Highest point **49 m** | Height difference **46 m**
Length **3 km (3.10)**

CYCLE TOURISM TRAILS

Cycle tourism trails complement the routes of the island, serving as additional attractions for all of you who have an appropriate bicycle (MTB) and a desire to discover the life on the island spiced with some adventure and a lot of cycling.

1 Gajac - Bošana

The trail serves as the link between the towns of Novalja and Pag in order to avoid cycling the main state road, especially in the peak tourist season. The trail also connects the villages of Gajac and Kolan, passing through the fields and along the bird reserve. It can be combined with other routes and trails. Riding from Gajac, your trail leads you along the bird reserve, and after the intersection (connection to trail No. 4) you arrive at the Chapel of St. Jerome. It is surrounded by pine trees where you can use the shade to rest. After crossing the state road, the trail descends towards the Sveti Duh Beach where you can go down to the sea. As the paths to the sea are steep, it is recommended to leave the bike along the route. This part of the trail is known for the Velebit springs of fresh water, and you will often find them on the beaches themselves.

Length: **13 km**

2 Quarry

As a continuation of the route No. 5, the trail leads through two quarries before reaching the main state road Novalja-Žigljen. Driving along gravel road with no possibility of escape in the shade is suitable in spring and autumn, while during the summer requires very good physical condition and, of course, a sufficient amount of water. The first left lane on the trail leads to the beautiful Jadra Beach. It is possible to connect to the trail No. 8, which leads to the Boškinac Hotel.

Length: **8 km**

3 Slana staza

The trail starts from the beach in the town of Pag. In the first part it is a narrow paved road to the Old Town, when it continues on a gravel road along the salterns towards the route No. 2 (Gorica-Povljana). A connection with the route No. 4 (Košljun) is possible on a gravel road over the pass. When riding on the trail from the direction of the town of Pag, pay attention to the river sand dunes on your right. The fossils found in these dunes prove the existence of a river at the time when the island was still part of the mainland.

Length: **7 km**

4 Mandre - Kolan

The trail leading through Kolanjsko field is a connection to the routes No. 7 and No. 9, as well as to the trail No. 1. A ride through the green countryside, dotted with streams and reed, gives a sense of the abundance of life even in the hottest summer. You can fill up your water supplies on the renewed wells. The proximity to the bird reserve, numerous birds and encounters of the local residents lend a special charm to this ride.

Length: **6.5 km**

PROMENADES

1 Vrčić

As a pedestrian communication between the town of Novalja and the campsite itself, this promenade leads to the campsite and is favored by those who want to avoid traffic. Bikes are allowed on most of its sections, but caution is still advised on certain parts (Cape Punta Vrčića and Grbice).

Length: **2.6 km**

2 Novalja

The city promenade is completely cultivated. As it is paralleled by a road to the Punta Gaja Beach, riding along the promenade itself is possible. The beaches along the promenade entice the visitors to stop by and take a swim: on the other hand, many restaurants offer high-quality food and refreshments on shaded terraces or in air-conditioned indoor spaces.

Length: **1.5 km**

3 Šankovi stani - Škuncini stani

Cycling is also possible on this promenade, but caution is advised when going down to the sea because of loose gravel of the road.

Length: **2 km**

4 Novalja - Gajac

This promenade is a favorite shortcut when going from Novalja to the beach in the village of Gajac. It is possible to ride a bike.

Length: **1.5 km**

5 Dabovi stani

This promenade supplements the No.1 route, starting next to the Church of St John. From the village of Dabovi stani you can climb down to the cove for a swim.

Length: **1.5 km**

5 Prutna

If you desire other attractions, this trail enables the ride in an adventurous spirit. After the ascent of the hill, on your right side you will find a branch to the belvedere enabling views of Povljana and part of the island, as well as the open sea. The trail continues through the rocky scenery at the very top of the small Prutna peninsula dotted with power transmission lines. It is possible to see flocks of sheep and their shepherds.

Length: **6 km**

6 Smokvica

The village of Smokvica itself is connected with Vlačići with a paved road and is located on a karst hill. This trail joins the route No. 2 through the karst and rocks, and, apart from occasional shepherds and their sheep, offers no other tourist attractions. Riding the trail requires good shape and skills. It often serves as a pedestrian shortcut from Vlačići to Povljana (the shortest way). It joins the trail No. 5.

Length: **6 km**

7 Lunj Olive Groves

This trail passes through Lun olive groves where you can see some 80,000 olive trees, among them about 1,500 wild olives, the olea oleaster, which are up to 5-8 meters high and about 1200 years old on average. The village is located within the nature reserve, the only nature reserve of its kind in the Adriatic. Riding next to these trees arouses special feelings. The trail ends in the village where you can taste the olives and local products made from them. The trail starts on and returns to the route No.1.

Length: **2.6 km**

8 Boškinac

This trail offers a short ride, but also a rest in the wooded part of the island with stunning views of Novalja field. It starts at the Boškinac Hotel & Winery, and connects to the track No. 2. In the winery you can taste their wines and enjoy the view of the vineyards from which they originate. During the ride you will find a hunting lodge located in a wooded area and, along with a rest, you can listen to some of the hunting stories and adventures of your friendly hosts.

Length: **3 km**

9 Novaljsko polje

This trail is part of the network of the Polje Route No. 6. It offers you to select your own combination for a ride through Polje.

Length: **3 km**

10 Mandre- Šimuni

This trail is a combination of the routes No. 7 and No. 9. It serves as a shortcut for a ride from Mandre to Šimuni.

Length: **2 km**

11 Cape Dubrovnik

This trail is a connection from Povljana (beach and campsite) to the route No. 1.

Length: **2 km**

Your first choice

Novalja

Island of Pag · Croatia

Cycle Tourism Map

Island of Pag



Novalja

Novalja Tourist Board
Trg Briščić 1, 53291 Novalja
tel/fax: +385 (0) 53 661 404

www.visitnovalja.hr
info@visitnovalja.hr

Novalja

CYCLE TOURISM MAP OF ISLAND OF PAG

ISLAND OF PAG

The island of Pag is only the fifth largest island in the Adriatic by its size, but has the most indented coastline. Numerous coves and an unorthodox form of the island were "created" by the bora wind. It blows from the Velebit Mountain across the Velebit Channel, which separates the island from the mainland, and covers it with seawater spray. Therefore, the surface of the island is often compared with that of the moon. The strange beauty of the island's landscape is complemented by numerous sheep grazing the aromatic herbs.

Riding a bicycle to hidden "oases" of lush green in Novaljsko and Kolanjsko Poljes, but also to the olive groves of Lun or salterns of Pag, you will discover the island's primeval soul and its beauty. As many as two nearby bird reserves offer a resting spot for birds on their way south, while tourists are rewarded with that special feeling of life flourishing in the midst of stony landscapes. Riding along the routes and trails of the island, you can turn to one of the many coves.

There you can refresh swimming in the sea or simply lie back and enjoy the sound of the waves. From the southern side, the island is reached by the 340 m-long Pag Bridge. From the north, it is reached by ferry from Prizna on the mainland to Žigljen on the island. The journey takes about fifteen minutes. Cycling enthusiasts "discovered" the island long ago. You will often encounter cycle tourists from different countries sharing their experience or just passing by and greeting you with a smile.

General information

A tourist info center is located in each larger settlement on the island. They can provide you with a map and additional information about the services offered in the area. In case of an accident, please call 112.

Pag Cycle Tourism Marathon

Since 2001, the cycle tourism marathon is held on the island every year in June. The participants from all over Europe and Croatia are both young (the youngest 8 years old so far) and old (the oldest 79 years old so far). Apart from socializing, some fifty kilometers of a pleasant ride through the island ends with symbolic prizes and medals as souvenirs. For more information please visit www.mojbicikl.hr



NOVALJA

The town of Novalja is situated in the northwestern part of the island. Apart from urban characteristics, cycle tourists can also find accommodation, catering and ancillary facilities.

The City Museum of Novalja is a very interesting cultural institution, mostly because in the museum you can find the entrance to the ancient Roman underground aqueduct called Talijanova buža. It was built as early as in the 1st century BC. It is interesting to know that the underground water supply was entirely carved in stone by human hands. It is 1042 m long with an average width of about 60 cm. The museum has other ancient findings to offer as well.

Novalja is a well-known tourist destination and Zrće, a long pebble beach, is located nearby. The beach was nicknamed the Croatian Ibiza because of its discotheques and bars that operate during summer months, attracting young partygoers from around the world. Other cultivated beaches in the vicinity of Novalja are better suited for those who want a more "peaceful" holiday. After all, there are more than enough little coves you can reach with your bike to find complete solitude if it is desired. Its ideal geographical location on important land and sea routes from northern to southern Adriatic allows Novalja to have an excellent traffic connection with the mainland. The ferries from the mainland (Prizna) to the island of Pag (Žigljen) operate around the clock during the summer season. For the rest of the year, several times a day, from very early in the morning until the evening. Also, Novalja has a bus connection with the cities on the mainland, and a high speed catamaran ferry line to the island of Rab and the city of Rijeka. The nearest airport is located about eighty kilometers from Novalja (Zemunik-Zadar Airport).

Dogs without owners

If a dog without an owner runs after you, it will suffice to spray him with the bidon (it is important to carry a bidon filled with water at all times). This will stop the dog, whatever his intentions.

Snakes

The island has several types of nonpoisonous and two poisonous snakes (vipera and common adder). Snakes are not as aggressive as it is usually thought. They attack only in case of direct threat. But you needn't worry. Snakes react to sound, and the sound produced by your bike on a rocky ground will force them to flee, so probably you will not meet any.



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