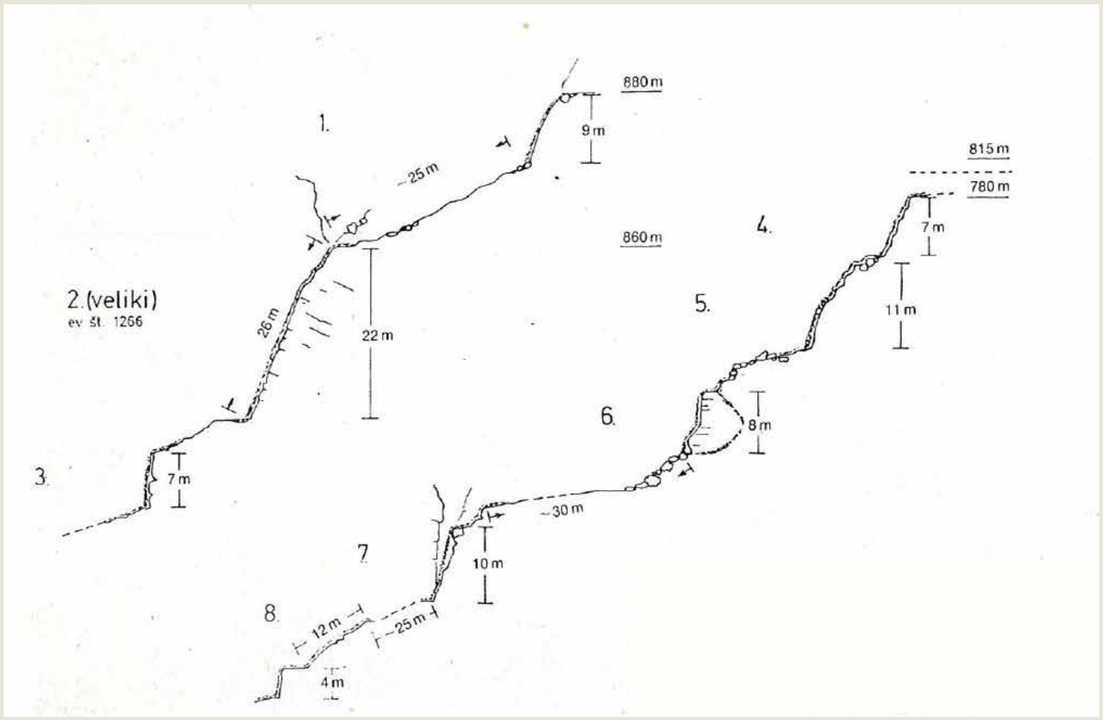
# Soteska Dobršnik

## The Dobršnik Gorge

Potok Dobršnik je svojo strugo zarezal v južna pobočja Hruščanskega vrha (1776 m) v zahodnih Karavankah in teče skoraj natanko od severa proti jugu. Na kratki razdalji premaguje razmeroma veliko višinsko razliko, zato je nastala slikovita soteska s slapovi. Ta naravna znamenitost predstavlja največjo skupino slapov v Karavankah.

Ozko, približno kilometer dolgo grapo v zgornjem delu gradi pretežno srednjetriasni skladovit dolomit, ponekod s plastmi apnenca, nižje pa so tudi spodnjetriasni laporji in lapornat apnenec. Lepo so vidni vodoravni skladi. V dnu soteske so na več mestih podorne skale iz permskih kamnin, ki so nad sotesko. Potok Dobršnik se pri Hrušici izliva v Savo.




V soteski je osem slapov. Višina najvišjega je 22 m.
*(Vir: 100 naravnih znamenitosti Slovenije, P. Skoberne, 1988)*

There are eight waterfalls in the gorge, with the tallest one spanning 22 m.
*(Source: 100 naravnih znamenitosti Slovenije, P. Skoberne, 1988)*

Dobršnik cut its stream into the southern slopes of Hruščanski vrh (1776 m) in the western Karavanke mountains, almost exactly from north to south. Its relatively high drop in a short distance created a picturesque gorge that boasts the largest group of waterfalls in the Karavanke mountains.

In its upper part, the narrow one-kilometre gorge is made of nicely visible horizontal layers of mostly dolomite from the Middle Triassic, sometimes combined with layers of limestone, and in the lower parts also with marl and marly limestone from the same period. In the bottom of the gorge, you can find boulders that have broken from the Permian rocks above it. The Dobršnik stream flows into the Sava River near the village Hrušica.



Zahodna pobočja soteske so prepadna in zelo krušljiva, vzhodna pa strma in poraščena z gozdom. Zgoraj uspeva bukov gozd, spodaj v termofilnih legah tudi črni gaber *(Ostrya carpinifolia)* in mali jesen *(Fraxinus ornus),* ki je na sliki. *(Avtor risbe: dr. Vlado Ravnik)*

The precipitous western slopes of the gorge are very crumbly, while the eastern slopes are also steep but wooded. Beech forest dominates in the upper reaches, and in the warmer lower parts you can also find the hop hornbeam *(Ostrya carpinifolia)* and the flowering ash *(Fraxinus ornus),* which is pictured left. *(Drawing by: Dr Vlado Ravnik)*

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Jesenice
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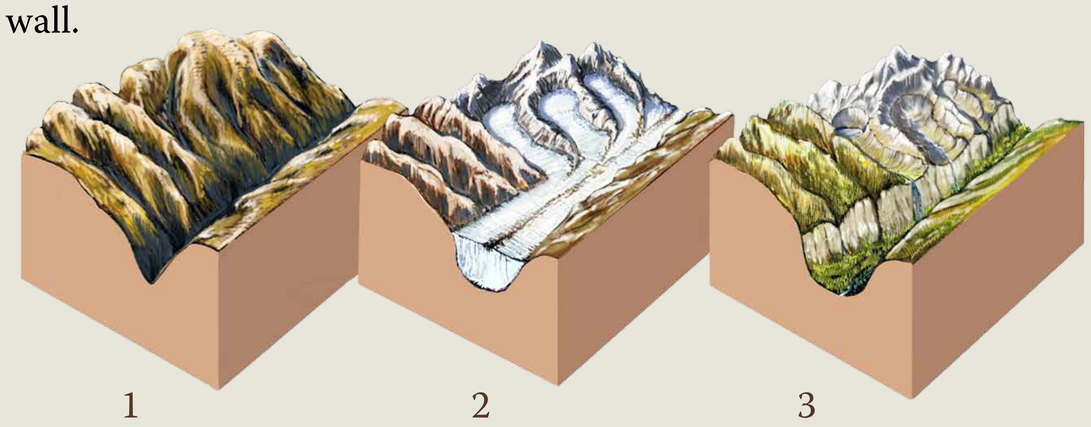
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Soteska Dobršnik nad Hrušico, 1981.
*(Vir: fototeka GMJ)*
The Dobršnik Gorge above Hrušica, 1981.
*(Source: GMJ archive)*

Soteska je nastala približno na zgornji ravni nekdanjega ledenika. Ta je v pobočju pustil strmo stopnjo, ki jo je voda zaradi strmejšega padca razdrla. Spodnje grafike prikazujejo preoblikovanje gorske pokrajine z ledeniško erozijo: površje pred (1), med (2) in po (3) poledenitvi. Na takšen način je nastala Zgornjesavska dolina. Z umikanjem ledenika se je v njen severni rob vrezala soteska Dobršnik.

The gorge is cut from what was roughly the top of a former glacier. The steeply falling water cut into the ledge left behind by the glacier. The sketches below illustrate how glacial erosion changes the landscape, showing the surface (1) before, (2) during and (3) after the ice age. This is how the Upper Sava Valley was created. When the glacier withdrew, the Dobršnik Gorge was cut into its northern wall.



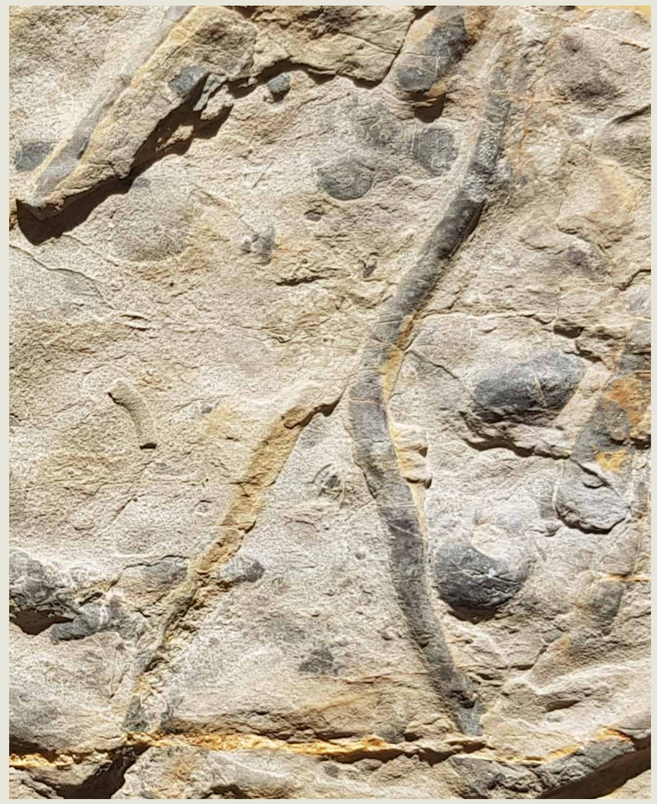

*(Vir: Založba Modrijan izobraževanje, d.o.o., avtor risbe: Gregor Markelj)*
*(Source: Založba Modrijan izobraževanje, d.o.o., sketches by Gregor Markelj)*

V zgornjem delu soteske plasti kamnin vsebujejo veliko fosilnih ostankov. V plasteh temnosivega apnenca se najdejo svetle ploščice morskih lilij ter školjke iz vrste *Costatoria costata.* Na nekaterih kosih kamnine se najde tudi polno polževih hišic značilne vrste *Natiria costata* (spodaj levo). V plasteh mehkejšega laporja so še vidni ostanki rovov davnih anelidov (*Rhizocorallium striatum*) – nestrokovno rečeno črvov, ki so grebli po mehkem lapornatem blatu (spodaj desno). Vse te okamnine nam povedo, da se je material, iz katerega so nastajale plasti kamnin, usedal v morskem okolju oceana Tetida (*Tethys*) pred okoli 240 milijoni let.

In the upper part of the gorge, the rock layers contain many fossils. The dark grey limestone hides light-coloured plates of sea lilies and fossils of bivalve species *Costatoria costata*. Some pieces of rock are full of snail fossils of the characteristic species *Natiria costata* (pictured left below). In the softer marl layers, you can still see traces of tunnels dug by the prehistoric annelids (*Rhizocorallium striatum*)—the predecessors of worms, which would dig through the soft marly mud (pictured right below). All these fossils tell us the material that became the rock layers seen here had settled in the aquatic environment of the Tethys Ocean some 240 million years ago.



*(Vir: zbirka Tomaža Petka, 2021)*
*(Source: private collection of Tomaž Petek, 2021)*



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