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INTERNATIONAL CAMP IN SLOVENIA

“SAFE MOUNTAIN SKILLS” BAVŠICA 2005

~ UIAA YC CAMP ~
Bavšica, JULIAN ALPS
12 – 20 August 2005

REPORT

In nord-west part of Slovenian mountains, in the beautiful valley called Bavšica, is for many years situated our centre of education. There we built also a new house »Planinsko učno središče Bavšica« (Mountaineering education centre Bavšica) and on July of 10th in 1999 we've inaugurated the centre. The entire centre is accommodated to education courses and seminars. The lectures, dining and some other activities are taking place in dining room and in two special rooms. And in bedrooms are all together 40 beds and bunks. The Mountaineering education centre Bavšica is also great starting-point for shorter and longer tours. We are proud that in October 2003 also YC UIAA held its meeting here in our centre in Bavšica, and twice, in 2004 and 2005, also successful International UIAA YC camp “Safe mountain skills”.

Youth Commission of the Alpine Association of Slovenia (*Mladinska komisija PZS*) organized in Mountaineering education centre Bavšica the SECOND International UIAA YC camp “Safe Mountain Skills” (from 12th to 20th August 2005). The main emphasis was on social gathering, meeting new friends, new cultures, and languages, meeting differences in countries of all participants and of course on exchange of mountaineering, climbing knowledge / experiences in summer time and to get some fresh, new knowledge and experiences. Our big family included participants from Austria (3), Italy (11), Switzerland (2), Estonia (2) and Slovenia (6); and Slovene team (guides, doctor). Everybody in the group was in more-or-less good physical condition, so I think and hope everybody really enjoyed this camp very much.

The list of tours and activities:

Friday, 12. 8. 2005:

The first day was meant to be for gathering the participants (at 12.00), social evening, games, knowing each other... and for the last arrangements according the camp (as paying the fee). The first came at 8.00 in the morning, the last ones in the evening at 21.00. During the first day we began to get TO KNOW EACH OTHER (we were altogether 30) and to get to know the place where we stayed for the whole great almost nine days – the MOUNTAINEERING CENTRE BAVŠICA AND THE VALLEY BAVŠICA (hike...). In afternoon we also checked the technical equipment and who didn't have it, we lent it for whole camp time (for free).

After the dinner we were preparing for the activities of the next day (it was meant the tour to Nizki vrh) and of course just after that we had a great time in social evening with a lot of different games, first of all we all were trying to remember all names of participants and leaders.

Saturday, 13. 8. 2005:

Because of bad weather forecast and cloudy morning we got up a little later. After the breakfast we drove by cars to Zgornje Posočje to hike, visit and see natural heritage and cultural



monuments. (It was sunny) Firstly we hiked to the spring of river Soča, but just when we were there, there was no water of spring. Then we hiked the SOČA EDUCATIONAL TRAIL, were join us also the representative of MK PZS in YC UIAA Zdenka Mihelič. On this trail we got a lot of news of flora and fauna of this area and Julian Alps, we got pictures at the statue of JULIUS KUGY the great Italian mountaineer, who was just in loved in Slovenian Julian Alps and wrote about them a lot of books. Then we descended to the stream MLINARICA to see its great riverbed. The hike we finished at the INFO CENTRE OF TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK, where we saw multivision with slideshow and great museum - with history of the Alps, of this park, the people from here, mountaineering, climbing and alpinism in Slovenia, about flora and fauna... and about ecological meaning of the Alps and the nature in general. After the lunch in Mountaineering education centre Bavšica, we were resting, playing volleyball and making/ learning different kind of knots. We also had a full presentation and lecture about EQUIPMENT for mountaineering, climbing and alpinism.

In the evening after dinner we first prepared everything for next day tour (one group to Nizki vrh – longer tour, one group to Javoršček – shorter tour) and then of course some games were followed.

Sunday, 14. 8. 2005

Nizki vrh also today we had to let out because of bad weather around Bavški Grintavec and Bricelj. In two groups we went to JAVORŠČEK (1557 m). The first group ascent to Javoršček over PLANINA (mountain) GOLOBAR (1250 m) and descended over the valley SLATENIK back to the starting point Kal Koritnica. The second group descended the same way as going up and finished the tour with swimming in Soča River.

After the lunch we rested and then we had a lecture about equipment, more detailed. In the evening Mojca Odar, one of the leaders, represented us great slide show projection about Slovenia and Slovenian mountains. Italian group, as representing themselves, prepared that evening excellent dinner

Monday, 15. 8. 2005

Also for this day was weather forecast not good, so we decided to do in the afternoon great RAFTING in the river Soča (nice rapids...). In morning time, till lunch we have theoretical and practical lecture of ORIENTATION AND NAVIGATION. After the lunch we drove to the waterfall Boka. Then Rafting was following, super!! We divided in four groups, four rafts. We had had great time! After that we stopped in town BOVEC for sightseeing and to try so sweets.

We came back directly for dinner. Nice evening with great social time together we ended in big garret place – we found that place is the best for gathering.

Tuesday, 16. 8. 2005

Bad weather forecast again.... We had LECTURES and the hike / sightseeing of FORTRESS KLUŽE, the First World War MUSEUM in Kluže and the riverbeds of Koritnica River. By coming back to the centre we crossed streambed of stream ŠUMNIK – but this time not by foot, but by air – by rope.

Wednesday, 17. 8. 2005

One group ascended the highest peak of the wall Loška Stena, BRICELJK (2346 m). The other groups of participants of Safe mountain skills camp did the pointed peak above the PLANINA (mountain) BUKOVEC – KANJA. The 'Bricelj' group reached the top from PLANINA (mountain) BALA and close to STADOR peak. From the top they descended nearby spring below MOREŽ peak and around the Stador peak back to centre Bavšica. The second group reached the top KANJA over the mountain, pasture BUKOVEC and under the ŠMIKELOVEC peak, for descent they choose the other way down.



After the lunch we did rope technique, knotting. In the evening after dinner we first prepared everything for next day tour and explained the plan. This evening we had a guest – alpinist Mitja GLEŠČIČ. He showed us great slides from his expeditions to Andes and Himalaya.

Thursday, 18. 8. 2005

For this day we had luckily nice weather in the morning and some afternoon time. One group drove to the highest pass in Slovenia-Vršič and from there they ascended the peak MOJSTROVKA (2332 m). They climbed it by high demanding way (protected by pitons and iron wire). For descent they took the easy path, where one part choose rubble slope. Some of them were so enthusiastic about that, and they went back up (by easy path) and did it again. The second group took tourist possibility and did some sightseeing and easy trip to the UPPER FORTRESS OF FORT HERMANN (above fortress Kluže), did sightseeing of fortress Kluže and swimming in cold (*brrrrr*) stream of Koritnica.

After the lunch Borut did the lecture about first aid in mountains and overall. The evening was just great – as usually and each evening: slides from this day (by computer), preparation for the next day and of course social time together.

Friday, 19. 8. 2005

Friday was the day for rope technique and climbing in CLIMBING AREA in surroundings, KAL-KORITNICA. To Kal Koritnica we hiked (2 hours). In climbing area we climbed very different type/ difficulties of routes. Some of participants climbed, some of them just scratched, some took nice photos and slides, the others applauded for the team... Everybody enjoyed...

By coming back to the centre some of participants decided to swim in Koritnica. It was fun, cold... In the afternoon followed preparation for the last evening together. Our last evening together was full of emotions. And for course we had then a great international party by camp fireworks.

Saturday, 20. 8. 2005

After delicious breakfast – cleaning and goodbye... As all good things once end, also this camp was at the end.

Everybody will receive also certificate of participating in our camp Safe mountain skills (*Tečaj gornišтва – šola varne hoje*).

As we waved with our hands to last participants, we realized that this week was really special and we will miss all. But we also were very happy that the camp was successful, full of happy people, new friends and nice time together... And participants also learned some new things or got new experiences. Also we got some new experience – how to a group of young mountaineers from different countries introduce our nice Slovenian mountains, peaks, nature... – and we took care that they would take nice memories back home and that they will come again in Slovenia, our towns and mountains. Welcome!

We also look forward to participate in further projects within the UIAA Youth Commission, and we all hope to see you in Slovenia – in some International camp next year.

Ljubljana, 20 September 2005

Matjaž Hafner,
The leader of the International Camp
“Safe Mountain skills” (UIAA YC and GYS camp)