

How to Behave Around Wildlife



I FEEL
SLOVENIA

zptm
ZAVOD ZA PODJETNIŠTVO,
TURIZEM IN MLADINO BREŽICE

Brežice SLOVENIA
Time for me.

Jovsi Natural park

Jovsi Natural Park is one of the most beautiful landscape scenes in Slovenia. Its character has been shaped by centuries of harmony between nature and humans.

Jovsi Nature Park, hidden in the embrace of the Sotla River between the Kapela Hills, is a true haven for those who appreciate genuine contact with nature and respectful exploration of natural corners. This picturesque wetland, renowned for its exceptional biodiversity, provides a sanctuary for many rare bird species, including the black stork and the corncrake. Nature-friendly travelers can stroll along well-maintained trails, surrounded by diverse vegetation, listening to birdsong and experiencing the tranquility of a place where nature still breathes freely.



Middle Spotted Woodpecker

Hidden among the treetops of mature oak and willow forests lives the Middle Spotted Woodpecker – a somewhat shy yet skilled carpenter of the natural world.

It is recognizable by its bright red crown, distinctive black streaks along its belly, and pinkish under-tail coverts. Although not as loud as its larger relatives, its quiet presence is a sign of a healthy and rich forest ecosystem.

The Middle Spotted Woodpecker chooses an old tree with decaying wood as its home – often a dry branch or a stub, where it carefully carves out a nesting cavity.



Corncrake

When summer evenings fall silent, a steady “crex-crex” echoes from the meadows of Jovsi Natural Park – it’s the corncrake, a mysterious and threatened bird that is rarely seen, but often heard.

This small bird is closely tied to the mosaic of traditional cultural landscapes – it depends on tall, uncut meadows full of life. Jovsi is one of the last refuges in Slovenia where such an environment still offers a safe haven for nesting.

Hidden among the tall grass, the corncrake relies on well-preserved natural balance and late mowing, which allows it to raise its young in peace.



Kozjansko regional park

Kozjansko Regional Park is located in the area of the municipalities of Bistrica ob Sotli, Kozje, Podčetrtek, Brežice, and Krško.

Kozjansko Regional Park is a place where nature blooms in full color – not only in the meadows and orchards, but also in the feathers of one of Europe's most beautiful birds: the European bee-eater.

This vibrant bird, adorned in turquoise, yellow, and chestnut tones, fills the summer skies above Kozjansko with its melodic calls and graceful flight.

The bee-eater nests in sandy riverbanks and dry grassy slopes – precisely the kind of diverse, mosaic-like landscape that characterizes Kozjansko Park.

Its presence is a sign of a well-preserved natural environment, where humans and nature still coexist in harmony.



European Bee-eater



When the summer sky above the dry meadows and slopes of Kozjansko Regional Park heats up, the European bee-eater arrives – a bird whose vivid turquoise, chestnut, and golden-yellow plumage brings a touch of the tropics to the Slovenian landscape.

The bee-eater is not just a beauty – it's a skilled aerial hunter, catching bees, bumblebees, and other insects in flight.

It nests in sandy banks, where groups of birds dig long tunnels, giving their habitat a unique character.

With its varied terrain, natural embankments, and open dry slopes, Kozjansko offers ideal nesting conditions for this remarkable bird.

European Bee-eater Nesting Site

A nesting site of the European Bee-eater is located in Župjek, in the Bizeljsko area.

At a suitable distance from the nesting wall, a closed observation hide has been installed, with an informational panel placed just in front of it. A binocular is recommended for birdwatching.

To ensure undisturbed nesting, a few basic rules apply:

- Visitors must not disturb the bee-eaters or approach the nesting walls.
- Photography is only allowed from designated observation hides.
- Access to the photo hide is permitted only with prior arrangement through the Kozjansko Park ranger service (Toni Preskar, +386 41 381 560).
- For photographers, time restrictions apply – access is allowed only before 6:00 a.m., and departure must be no later than 9:00 a.m.

**Nature is not ours – we're just guests.
Let's behave appropriately.**



Observe, don't disturb

- Stay quiet and give animals space.

Do not feed the animals



- Feeding them alters their natural behavior, causes health problems, and can lead to conflicts with humans.



Leave no trace

Leave no trash behind.

Stay on marked paths

Keep to designated paths to protect nature.



Follow the instructions of guides and signs.



- Information is there for a reason – for your safety and the protection of nature.

If you notice injured animals, signs of disease, or any violations, report them to the appropriate authorities or your guide.