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photos: Matej Arnuš and Brout Vidovič

INTERNATIONAL CAMP IN SLOVENIA
“SAFE MOUNTAINS SKILLS” BAVŠICA 2004
~ UIAA YC CAMP ~
Bavšica, JULIAN ALPS
13 – 21 August 2004

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 also proud that in October 2003 also YC UIAA held its meeting here in our centre in Bavšica.

Youth Commission of the Alpine Association of Slovenia (*Mladinska komisija PZS*) organized in Mountaineering education centre Bavšica the FIRST International UIAA YC camp “Safe Mountains Skills” (from 13th to 21st August 2004). 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 Spain (10 + 3), Italy (8), Switzerland (1), Belgium (3) and Slovenia (4) and Slovene team (guides, doctor). Everybody in the group was in good physical, so I think and hope everybody really enjoyed this camp very much.



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The list of tours and activities:

Friday, 13. 8. 2004:

The first day was meant to be for gathering the participants, social evening, games, knowing each other... and for the last arrangements according the camp (as paying the fee). Most of participants arrived during lunch and dinner time, so in afternoon we hiked a little in Bavšica valley – to get to know the place where we stayed for the whole great almost nine days. 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 prepared for the activities of the next day and of course just after that we had a great time in social evening (a lot of different games...)

Saturday, 14. 8. 2004:

Last two participants from Spain arrived in the middle of the night, at 2.00 a.m. (because problems with their language). Second day we hiked to boulder rocks to learn and get to know with technical things and knowledge (abseiling and abseil technique, making different kind of knots, roping up, nailing, traversing by fixed and wire rope with self-belay system...). After the lunch we were crossing the little river (stream) and mountain torrent, and though heavy clouds there were no rain.

In the evening we first prepared everything for next day tour. And then of course some games were followed.

Sunday, 15. 8. 2004

In Sunday participants could choose between easy tour to PLANINA (mountain) GOLOBAR (1250 m) and more difficult (also longer) tour to PLEŠIVEC (2184 m). To Plešivec we started just from our home (Mountaineering education centre Bavšica), through mountain BALA and BREŽIČI to the top. Descent was by the same way. Group, which choose the shorter tour, did the tour from KAL KORITNICA to mountain GOLOBAR – and there we decided not to hike to top JAVORŠČEK (1557 m), but just to enjoy the beautiful time on mountain. Javoršček will wait us for next time, when we will be around here. Day was really perfect for mountaineering, hiking.

Before dinner we did some volleyball 'training', but after dinner we spent some nice time in games.

Monday, 16. 8. 2004

For the most interested and prepared participants was organized ascent to the highest peak of Slovenia, TRIGLAV (2864 m). The easier trip was organized as the photo tour through the valley of the stream Možnica.

Bad weather forecast for Wednesday (at first we planed the tour to Triglav for that day) and the fixed arrangement for rafting in Tuesday, 'force' us – the Triglav group – to get up really early in the morning. We successfully climbed the Triglav in one day (22 participants): we started from the valley Zadnjica, by mule-track we reached the hut *Tržaška koča na Doliču* (2151 m) and from there by high demanding secured path to the top. For descent we took the same route. The tour was nice and without any bigger problems (only one participant didn't climbed Triglav - because blisters he waited for us at the hut on Dolič)

In the evening some games and deep sleeping....☺



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Tuesday, 17. 8. 2004

In that day we also took care for the ECOLOGICAL sense of the camp. We all together cleaned the house and surroundings and in the afternoon we did great RAFTING in the river Soča (nice rapids...)

After the dinner we had of course great social evening.

Wednesday, 18. 8. 2004

For that day we decided to climb in CLIMBING AREA in surroundings, KAL-KORITNICA. Some of participants climbed, some of them just scratched, some took nice photos and slides, the others shouted for the team... Everybody enjoyed...

In the afternoon we visited INFO CENTRE OF TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK – to see 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 a rest after lunch played some just funny social games...

In the evening we had really nice Italian dinner. Elisabetta from Italy had to go home (obligations), so we said goodbye and promised to meet again soon. After that we had social evening (some games etc.).

Thursday, 19. 8. 2004

That day was just perfect for hiking and mountaineering. There were planned two tours (longer, shorter). The most interested participants in hiking longer and higher conquer JEREBICA (2125 m). The 'tourist expedition' did trip to the UPPER FORTRESS OF FORT HERMANN (above fortress Kluže), did sightseeing of fortress Kluže and swimming in cold (*brrrrrr*) stream of Koritnica.

In the late afternoon we played (now already) traditional volleyball match between the participants team and leaders team.

In the evening we had 'international evening', in which was represented groups from different countries – with songs, dance, games... We had nice social evening together.

In the afternoon visited us also Jure Cencelj, the president of MK PZS; and Zdenka Mihelič, the representative of MK PZS in UIAA YC and coordinator with them.

Friday, 20. 8. 2004

Rainy morning.... So the tour to SVINJAK (1653 m) we had to cancel. But later we decided to do some SIGHTSEEING: remnants from the 1. World war around Bovec and for the most courageous there was SWIMMING in Čezsoča.

After the lunch we packed our things and the preparation of final evening together also began...

Our last evening together was full of emotions. Everybody got certificate of participating in our camp Safe mountains skills (*Tečaj gorništvá – šola varne hoje*). We uncovered also all secret friends (each one had one secret friend) – that was a nice the whole week social game. And for course we had then a great international party.



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Saturday, 21. 8. 2004

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

As we waved with our hands to last participants (Spanish team from Murcia), 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, 26 September 2004

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





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