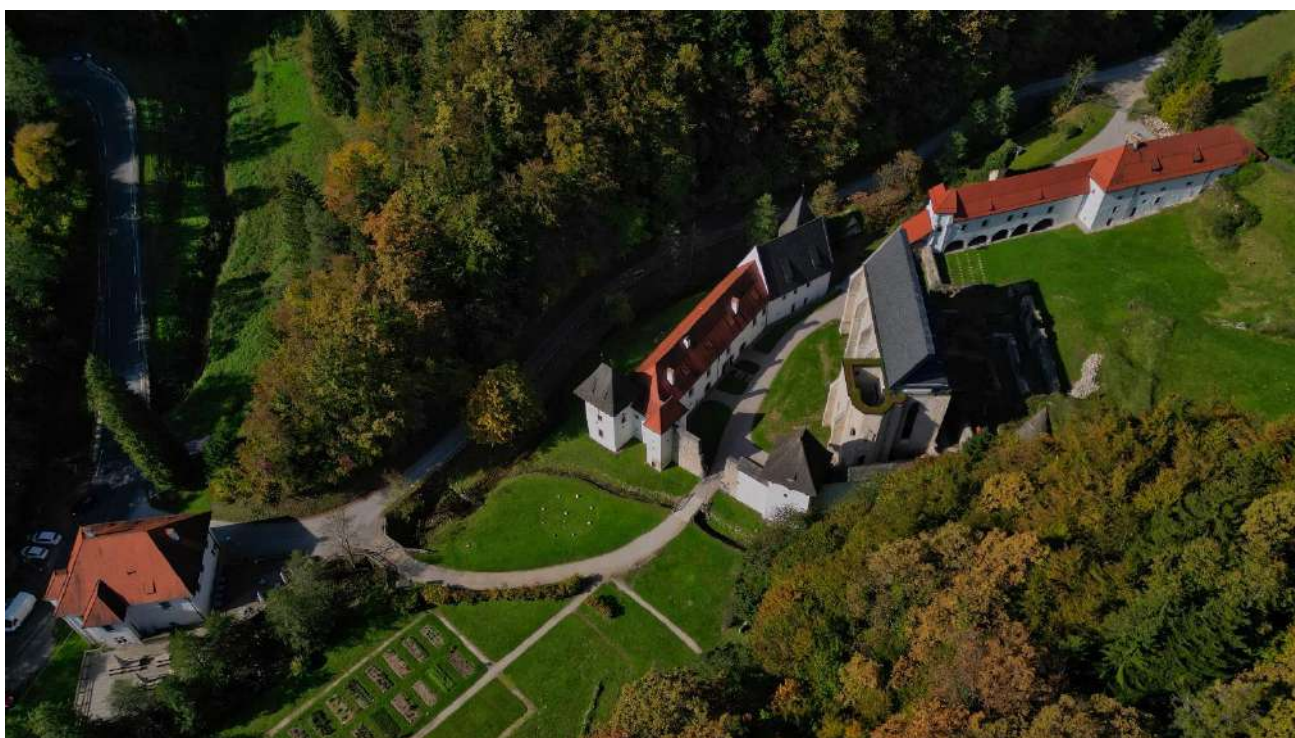


## THE ŽIČE CARTHUSIAN MONASTERY – A SILENT RETREAT

*[Žička kartuzija](#), a quiet beauty in the hidden Valley of St. John the Baptist near [Slovenske Konjice](#), is a place that simply amazes you. The former Carthusian monastery, whose roots date back to the 12th century, is still a place of peace, silence and tranquillity, where even a telephone signal is a rare event. There you can find [authentic Carthusian gardens](#), a quaint [herbal shop, a pottery workshop and a sparkling wine cellar](#), [Gastuž 1467](#) - the oldest inn still operating in Slovenia and an exceptional example of preserving cultural heritage at the Church of St. John the Baptist, which made Žička Kartuzija one of the TOP 100 most sustainable destinations in the world in 2022. In today's terminology, we can say that the Carthusians, as one of the strictest monastic orders, were able to live in harmony with nature and with themselves and that they found ways to earn money for their community which did not harm the environment or society. As early as the 12th century, the monks of the Žiče Carthusian Monastery organised their lives responsibly, with human, environmental and economic well-being in mind and in accordance with today's criteria of sustainable and socially responsible development. That is why the managers of the Žiče Carthusian Monastery strive to reintegrate these values into its everyday life. Žička kartuzija is slowly, but steadily, awakening from a centuries-long slumber ...*



*Žička kartuzija, as seen by the birds (Photo: Aljoša Vornšek, TIC Slovenske Konjice)*



Our green experience is intended for a **small number of visitors**, preferably **12 people and a guide**. This is the exact number of monks who lived here in previous years, along with the Prior (12 + 1). The minimum number of participants is 8. We are preparing an experience for you, together with many other providers who are shaping the pulse of today's Žička kartuzija. Therefore, **a booking is required at least 3 days before your arrival** and the best time to experience the monastery is **from April to the end of September**. It takes time however.

From early morning to late afternoon. Only in this way will you be able to hear the silence and listen to the whispers of the stories that Žička kartuzija has been quietly telling since the 12th century.



**GREEN HINT:** you can also reach the Žiče Carthusian Monastery [on foot, via Konjiška Gora](#) or [by bike](#) – the Carthusians were an extremely silent order, so the Žiče Carthusian Monastery still prefers its guests to arrive without their cars and without any noise.



[8:00 – 9:30] Our green experience begins in the [Carthusian herb garden](#), which is cared for by *Katja and Majda Temnik* from the nearby village of Žiče. The garden offers an ideal environment for technological detoxification – a unique contact with the serenity and vibrant sounds of nature. In the early dawn, before the doors of the Carthusian monastery open, we will spend one hour in a "guided" silence, listening to the gentle rustling of the forest leaves, the murmur of the stream, the buzzing of the bees and bumblebees, and the chirping of the birds. With the help of an eco-paper booklet, you will follow special messages: a hint, an exercise or a thought that will lead you through an authentic direct experience of silence and the pure sounds of nature. The Carthusians spent all their days in silence, without speaking, in quiet contemplation while working in the grounds. It is an attempt to experience harmony with nature through serenity and clear thought (=light) about the wealth that surrounds us, and the awareness that we must make an effort to preserve this wealth of nature and spiritual heritage. To commemorate this special experience, you will receive a **gift of [Majnika Premium Herbal Salt with Light Root](#)**, a homemade apple strudel with herbal tea in [Gastuž](#) and a ticket to see the Žiče Carthusian Monastery.



*The serenity of the Carthusian herb garden (Photo: Foto Nareks – Izidor Kotnik, Rogla – Pohorje Tourist Destination)*

[9:30 – 10:00] Then we will proceed together to discover the special energies of this space and walk along the [Silent Energy Paths of Žička Kartuzija](#). At the beginning of our energy-inducing journey, you will receive a water bottle with a black cover, with an image of the silent energies of Žička kartuzija as a gift. You'll soon find out why. The energy path will lead us directly to the walls of the Žiče Carthusian Monastery and partly to its interior. Along the way, we will see information boards and simple wooden seats, where we will be able to enjoy its pleasant energies in the peace and quiet of the forest, accompanied only by the sound of a gurgling stream. They say that the energies are especially strong in water, which is supposed to have a beneficial effect on our vision. Do you believe in the power of “silent energies”? Then catch them in your bottles ...



*Energy water that has a positive effect on eyesight (Photo: Zupančič Design, Tourist destination Rogla – Pohorje)*

[10:00 – 12:00] As we step out of the energy circle, we will slowly delve into the story of the “white monks”. We will enter the restored [Church of St. John the Baptist](#), listen to the sound of the Gregorian chorale, experience the slow movement of the church roof, and then climb, one by one, to a walkway with a viewing niche above the church presbytery. Very few get to enjoy such views.



*The view from the panoramic corridor above the church presbytery (Photo: Miran Kambič, Municipality of Slovenske Konjice)*

[12:00 - 14:00] After descending from the church roof, we will delve deeper into the [economy of the monastery](#) and, through various providers that today shape the image of the Žiče Carthusian Monastery, learn about the former crafts and skills mastered by the Carthusians. We will visit the [herbalist, Drago Iršič](#) in his herbal shop and have a taste of his homemade herbal spreads and drinks. The kind that cure even those diseases you have yet to suffer! The path will then lead us [past the cemetery chapel](#), where we will see a model of the upper house of Žiče Carthusian Monastery, including the buildings that no longer exist today. From the cemetery chapel, the path will lead us to the [potter, Rok Komel](#), who creates his wares in a small workshop under the Carthusian vaults. He will show us how beautiful earthenware and other clay items are made on a simple wooden spindle. We will also visit **two lapidariums**, where some of the most beautiful stonecutting pieces are exhibited which once adorned the mighty Žiče Carthusian Monastery. Together, we will climb the staircase of the renovated outbuilding and visit the [permanent exhibitions](#), which tell a tale about the wealth of knowledge that resided here with the Carthusians. We will hear what is meant by the "Žiče style", why the Carthusians placed the book in the centre of their world, what their everyday life was like and how the Municipality of Slovenske Konjice, together with its expert services, has been striving to restore this unique monument of European dimensions for more than 40 years.



Harmony of herbal spreads (Photo: Gašper Pintarič, Pohorje Tours)

[14:00 – 16:00] For an introduction to the **gastronomic part** of our green experience, we will have a **glass of sparkling wine** from the Konjice winery, Zlati grič, which matures in peace and quiet in [Otakar's sparkling wine cellar](#). They say that it is its unique peace and serenity which makes the wine so delicious and refreshing.

Our journey will end in the guest house, [in Gastuž, 1467](#). After the abandonment of the lower monastery and thus the hospital in Špitalič, there was a need for new premises where visitors, travellers and foreigners who were not allowed to enter the monastery walls, could be received. The lower part used to include a guesthouse where Carthusian wine was sold, and the floor was intended for overnight stays. There was also a stable for horses or harnessed livestock of travellers. A taxman lived in the building itself, who supervised the transport of tithe grain and wine for the Carthusian monastery and opened the doors that defended the monastery here.

**Gastuž** still offers shelter to travellers, visitors, tourists and other guests who, in addition to visiting the monastery, wish for some refreshments. Since June 2021, the restaurant has been run by locals **Mateja** and **Andrej Smogavc**. At the end of 2022, they upgraded the daily offer of Gastuž, which includes simple local cuisine and a whole range of original drinks, with the [Spargus Restaurant](#), located on the second floor of Gastuž and offers authentic flavours of the highest quality.

This time, we will have a very special refreshment. **Ola potrida**, the famous Spanish stew, was once a favourite dish of the Carthusians, but today it will find a place on our table in its modern form and in an earthenware dish, served with home-baked bread. For dessert, we will also treat ourselves to a **baked apple** with a filling of walnuts, almonds and cream.



**PRICE PER PERSON:** 60€ (with a minimum group of 8 people)



**PRICE INCLUDES:** Guided tour of the garden; PREMIUM herbal salt; Guided walk along the Silent Energy themed path of the Žiče Carthusian Monastery; Guided tour to the viewing platform with a viewpoint niche above the church presbytery accompanied by Gregorian chorales; Demonstration of pottery at the potter's shop; Tasting of three types of homemade bread, Four types of herbal spreads and bread and five types of herbal drinks at the herbalist's shop; A glass of Zlati Grič sparkling wine; A portion of the Carthusian stew "Ole Potride" with homemade bread and baked apple, filled with nuts, almonds and cream; a leaflet on the Žiče Carthusian Monastery, a destination newspaper and other promotional material.



**BOOKING:** TIC Slovenske Konjice, Stari trg 27, 3210 Slovenske Konjice | T: +386 (0)3 759 31 10 | M: +386 (0)51 444 140 | E: info@tickonjice.si | I: tickonjice.si

and

LTO Rogla - Zreče, GIZ TIC ZREČE, Cesta na Roglo 13b, 3214 Zreče | T: +386 (0)3 759 04 70 | E: booking@rogla-zrece.si



*You are invited to a silent retreat. Get to know the Žiče Carthusian Monastery and experience your moment of peace with us.*

