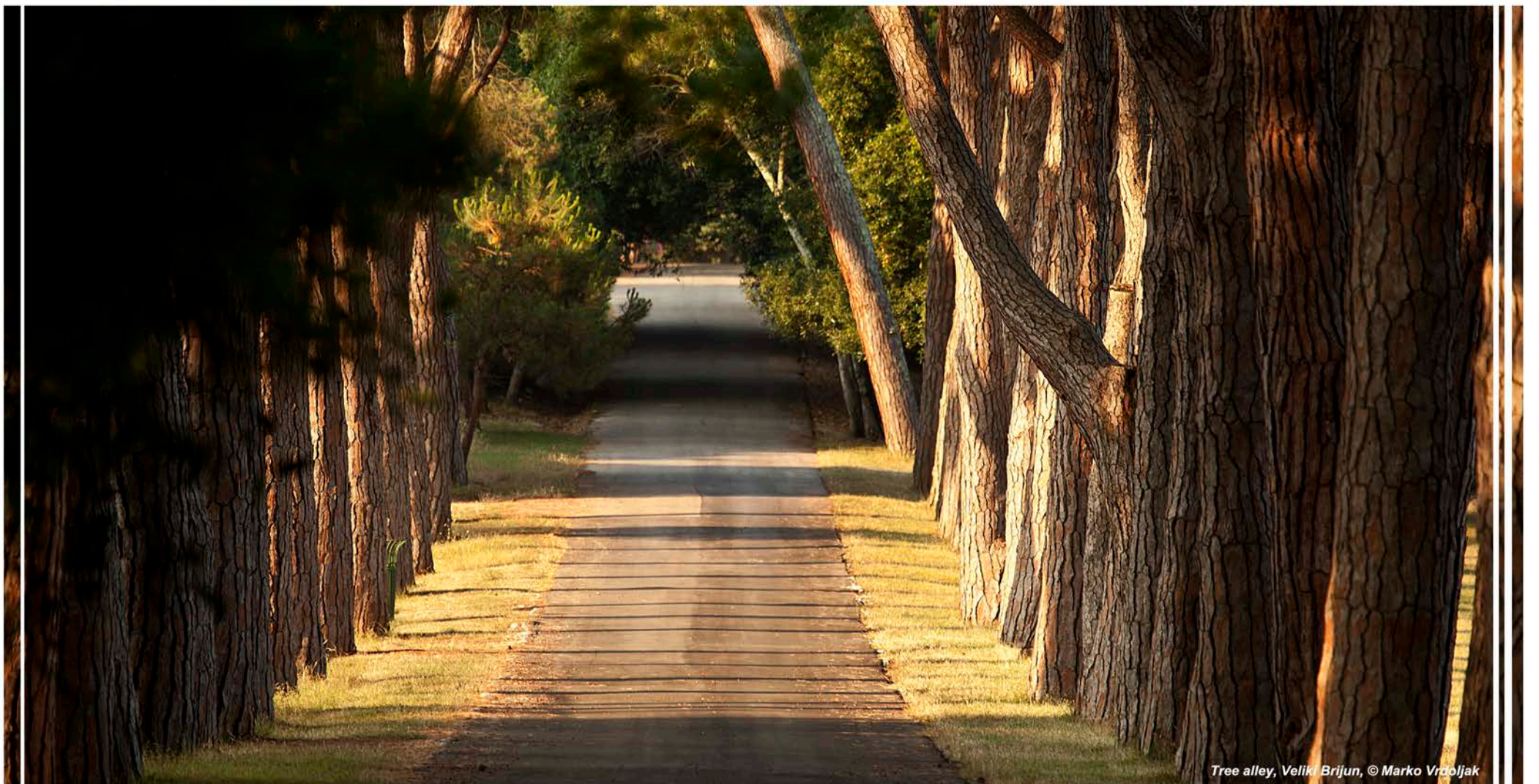




PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP
BRIJUNI
BY MARKO VRDOLJAK



Tree alley, Veliki Brijun, © Marko Vrdoljak

Explore the mysterious world of the spectacular National Park Brijuni (Croatia), under the guidance of a multi-award winning professional photographer and cameraman Marko Vrdoljak, the author of the official film, photomonography and photo archive of this unique archipelago. Discover why a part of world history took place at the Brijuni archipelago and improve your skills regarding taking pictures of nature, wildlife, historical buildings, archaeological sites, landscapes and much more, in a matter of days. This workshop will give you an exclusive insight into the secrets of the Mali Brijun Island and the "Saline" ornithological reserve that are rarely accessible to the public. L. Pavarotti, S. Loren, R. Burton, E. Taylor, A. Jolie, J. B. Tito, F. Castro, England's Queen Elisabeth II, Croatian presidents and hundreds of world statesmen have spent time on the Brijuni Islands. Discover why and join us in learning the secrets of this magnificent combination of unspoiled nature, history, turquoise lagoons, and the heritage of many generations.

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP PROGRAMME - DAY 1

NEW - EXTRA OFFER

7-8 a.m.: Breakfast, Neptun Hotel

8:30 a.m.: Gathering of participants outside Neptun Hotel, tour of the "Secret Paths of Brijuni" (for participants who have booked the package "I WANT MORE OF BRIJUNI") - more details available on p. 14 of the programme

12:30 p.m.: Return to Neptun Hotel, lunch (for participants who have booked full-board service)

NEW - EXTRA OFFER

1:50 p.m.: Gathering of participants outside Neptun Hotel, visit to a Mediterranean orchard and tasting of local products (for participants who have booked the package "I WANT MORE OF BRIJUNI" and participants who have booked this visit as an additional option) - more details available on p. 13 of the programme

3:30 p.m.: Return to Neptun Hotel

NEW - EXTRA OFFER

3:45 p.m.: Participants meet in the main port of Brijuni National Park and go on a sightseeing tour of the Brijuni Archipelago by Brijuni National Park Service speedboat (for participants who have booked the package "I WANT MORE OF BRIJUNI" and participants who have booked this sightseeing tour as an additional option) - more details available on p. 12 of the programme

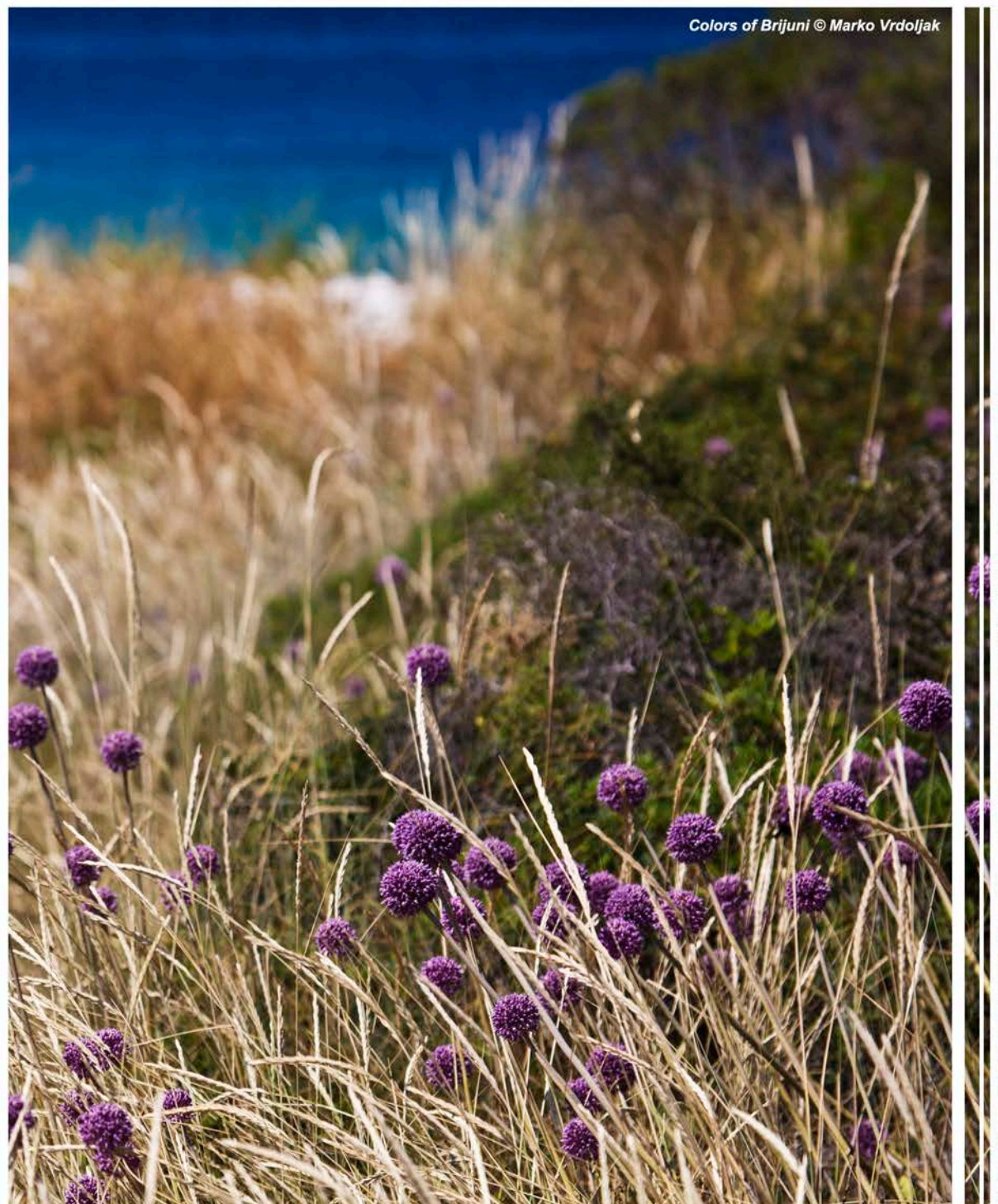
6:00 p.m.: Return to Neptun Hotel

BEGINNING OF THE STANDARD PROGRAM (*participants joining the programme now are welcome on the island at any time on day 1 without surcharge)

7:30 p.m.: Welcome drink and meeting with participants in hotel café

8:00 p.m.: Dinner, Neptun Hotel

9:00 p.m.: Presentation of the workshop programme





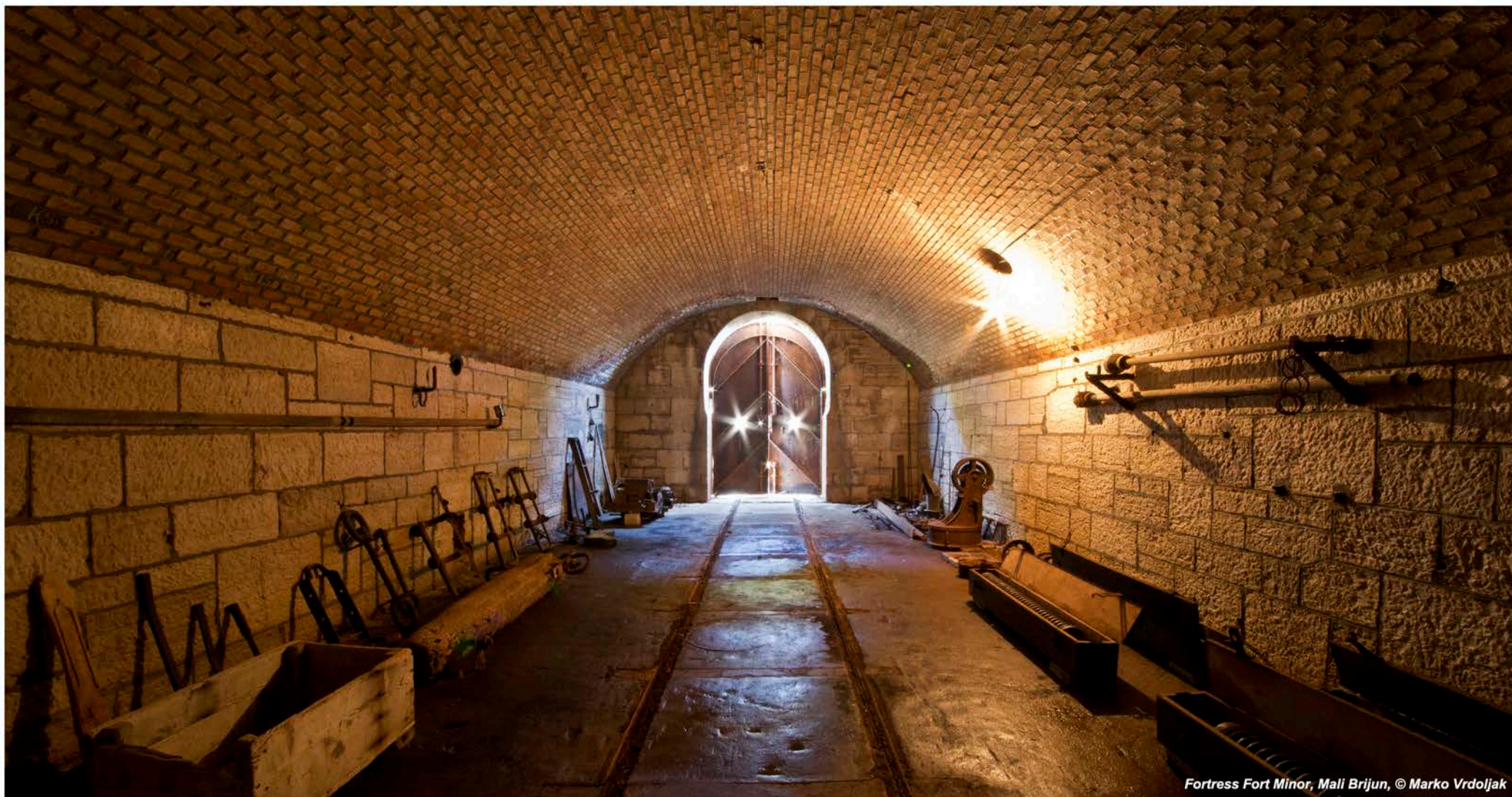
PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP PROGRAMME - DAY 2

7-8 a.m.: Breakfast, Neptun Hotel

8:15 a.m.: Defining workshop tasks, Neptun Hotel

8:30 a.m.: Visiting and sightseeing of the "Boat House", a unique Art Nouveau building

built by the first owner of Brijuni, Paul Kupelwieser, in 1902. Today, the building is a modern educational and interpretive museum about the Brijuni Islands, featuring many photographs and video recordings of the incredible world of Brijuni.



Fortress Fort Minor, Mali Brijun, © Marko Vrdoljak

09:45 a.m.: Completing the equipment and preparing for departure

09:55 a.m.: Meeting with the participants by the boat in the main port

10:00 a.m.: Departure from the port by boat to Mali Brijun Island and ride along Villa Fažanka, Villa Kastel, hotels Jurina and Franina, Guard pier, bay lake, golf courses; the passage between the islands of Veli and Mali Brijuni.

10:20: Arrival on the island of Mali Brijun, looking at maps of the island and exhibits from various plays from Ulysses Theatre, walk to the fortress Fort Minor,

the largest Austro-Hungarian fort on the Adriatic, covering an area of 15,750 m². For participants of this workshop, we will open the fort's door and introduce them to countless halls, abandoned military warehouses and cannons, and the fascinating architecture of this monumental building. The beautiful view of Istria and the Brijuni Islands from the highest point of the fortress, along with numerous moufflons and birds in the area, provide an unforgettable photographic experience.

10:30 a.m.: Taking pictures and tour of the Fort Minor fortress



01:40 p.m.: *Return by boat to Veliki Brijun Island*

02:00 p.m.: *Arrival in the port, free time, lunch, hotel Neptun (for participants who have booked full-board)*

03:30 p.m.: *Meeting with participants outside the hotel Neptun, going on a walk and taking pictures (olive trees, tree alley, quarries, Verige Bay, viewpoint). A leisurely walk of several hours will provide us with the opportunity to see and photograph an old olive tree of an estimated 1,600 years of age, which makes it one of the oldest olives in the Mediterranean. After seeing the olive tree, we will take a walk through a tree alley that offers many photographic challenges at different points of the day, and then we will pass one of the island's many quarries to reach Verige Bay, the location of a very large complex with the remains of Roman villas, temples and trails. This walk and photographing activity of several hours ends with a visit to the newly restored Viewpoint, a unique example of architectural engineering providing a view of the Brijuni scenery.*

8:00 p.m.: *Return to the hotel Neptun*

8:15 p.m.: *Dinner, hotel Neptun*

9:00 p.m.: *Review and comments on the images of participants and discussion on the topic of improving image quality.*



PROGRAMME OF THE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP - DAY 3

07-08 a.m.: Breakfast, hotel Neptun

08:15 a.m.: Meeting with participants outside the hotel Neptun and taking electric vehicles (4 participants per vehicle)

08:30 a.m.: Departure by electric vehicles according to the scheduled route (Castrum, Saline, Peneda, Zelenikovac). After taking the electric vehicles, our first stop is the most complex archaeological site on Brijuni which offers numerous photographing opportunities, and from where you can photograph one of the residential buildings – Villa Brijunka. After the Byzantine Castrum, the participants of this workshop will be let through the gates of a strictly guarded ornithological reserve "Saline", which covers an area of 7 hectares with its three lakes, and serves as a home to many bird species in the wetland area. In complete quiet, we will also approach an islet with a small straw hide designed for watching birds, and take pictures of numerous wetland plants, birds and beetles.

After "Saline" reserve we will go on a ride to the Peneda peninsula. On our way we will stop by the cannon units from the Austro-Hungarian period, surrounded by underground tunnels and warehouses, and after passing the military base, we will stop at an area with a view of the city of Pula and the open sea. The last stop in the morning hours is the Zelenikovac educational trail, a true geological-paleontological and plant treasury, equipped with a series of educational boards with plenty of interesting facts and photographic opportunities.

01:30 p.m.: Return to the hotel Neptun, free time, lunch, hotel Neptun (for participants who have booked full-board)



03:00 p.m.: Meeting with participants outside the hotel Neptun and departure by electric vehicles according to the scheduled route (attraction "Kupelwieserov mir", remains of St. Mary's Basilica, museum exhibition "Tito on Brijuni", natural history collection, Ribnjak Bay, golf courses, Dino Park, safari park). At the beginning of the afternoon tour and photographing, we will see the Kupelwieser family mausoleum, and take a break to photograph the remains of St. Mary's Basilica, and a lot of other captivating details in the area. The next stop will be the museum and the exhibition "Tito on Brijuni", which includes a lot of information and photographs from the Brijuni Island's history, and of all the significant people who have visited Brijuni. We will also take a look at the natural history collection of taxidermied wild animals which used to live on Brijuni, and arrived there as gifts from world statesmen to J. B. Tito. After these two exhibitions, we will sit in our electric vehicles and pass Villa Fažanka, Kaštel and hotels "Jurina" and "Franina" on our way to the beautiful Ribnjak Bay, which, in addition to an archaeological site, also boasts interesting rock formations, and is home to wetland birds. After a tour of the bay we will visit the spacious and carefully landscaped golf courses, which, in combination with many cypress trees and stone pines, as well as deer, squirrels, rabbits, peacocks and seagulls, represent an artistic challenge for countless photographic combinations. On an open meadow among several stone pines and pine trees, we will talk about photography and include personal experiences and emotions into the expression of photography.

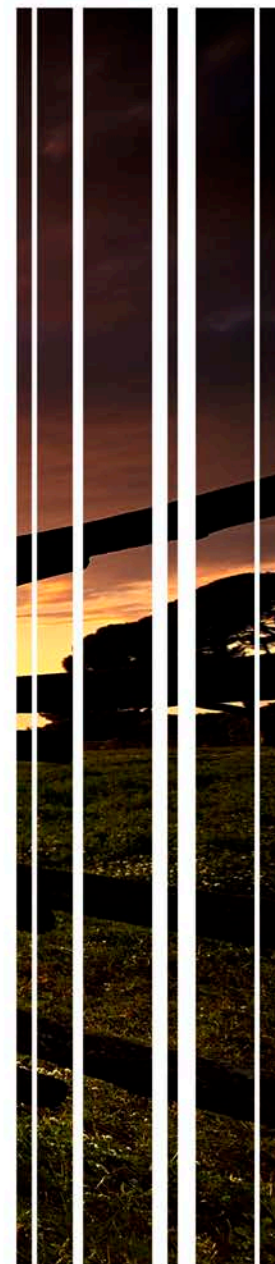


Zebras, safari park, Veliki Brijun, © Marko Vrdoljak

After a break, we will visit a sea strait between the Veli and Mali Brijun Islands, and then enter into the fantastic world of the Brijuni Safari park. First, we will watch and photograph ostriches, zebras, llama and horses which live in large fenced areas.

Then we will shortly leave the safari park to visit a dinosaur replica and see actual dinosaur footprints by the seashore, which also boasts a beautiful view of Vanga and Galija Islands.

Upon our return to the safari park we will continue to photograph various animals such as zebras, Indian bison, Istrian oxen, goats, peacocks, seagulls, sheep, donkeys and horses, as well as the resident elephant Lanka who arrived on the island as a gift from India's prime minister, Indira Gandhi, to J. B. Tito.



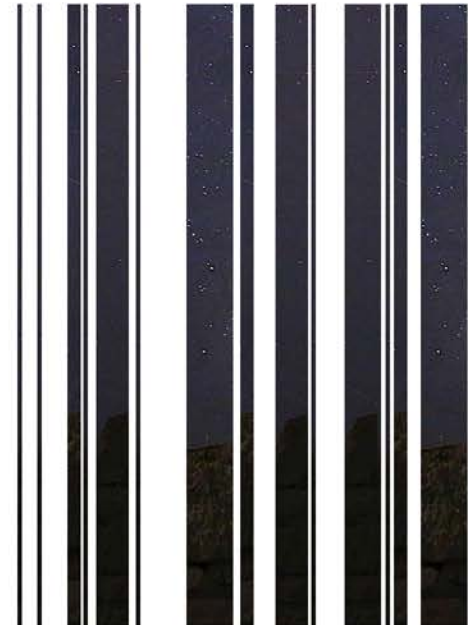
06.45 p.m.: *At the highest point of the safari park, with a beautiful view of the entire park and the surrounding islets, we will wait to see the sunset.*

08:00 p.m.: *Return to the hotel Neptun, returning electric vehicles*

08:15 p.m.: *Dinner, hotel Neptun*

9:00 p.m.: Review and comments on the images of participants and discussion on the topic of improving image quality.

10:30 p.m.: Night photography – depending on the weather and clarity of view of the starry sky, we will walk to a site on Veliki Brijun Island with minimal light pollution, where we will learn to take photographs with long exposures, frame objects in complete darkness, as well as watch the stars' movements in relation to photographed objects.



Verige Bay, Veliki Brijun, © Marko Vrdoljak

St. German Church, detail, Veliki Brijun, © Marko Vrdoljak



PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP PROGRAMME - DAY 4

7-08 a.m.: Breakfast, Neptun Hotel

8:00 a.m.: Participants will meet on the terrace of Neptun Hotel and leave for a walk and picture taking (Mediterranean garden, forest, flower gardens, Koch's monument and quarry, St. German's Church). During this pleasant walk, we will see a Mediterranean garden with over 200 different indigenous and exotic plants. After this abundance of scent and colour, a long walk through the Brijuni forest will lead us past a pheasant farm and the remains of the menagerie from the time of J.B. Tito, followed by a visit to enclosed flower gardens and greenhouses where sprouts of numerous plants are grown and used to decorate Brijuni and its residential villas to this day. After the flower garden, we will walk through another interesting quarry where a monument to R. Koch has been carved into stone. Following our walk, we will enter St German's Church, which is host to an exhibition of copies of frescoes and Glagolitic inscriptions from the Istria and Kvarner region, as well as the original remains of a black and white mosaic from a Roman villa in Verige Bay.

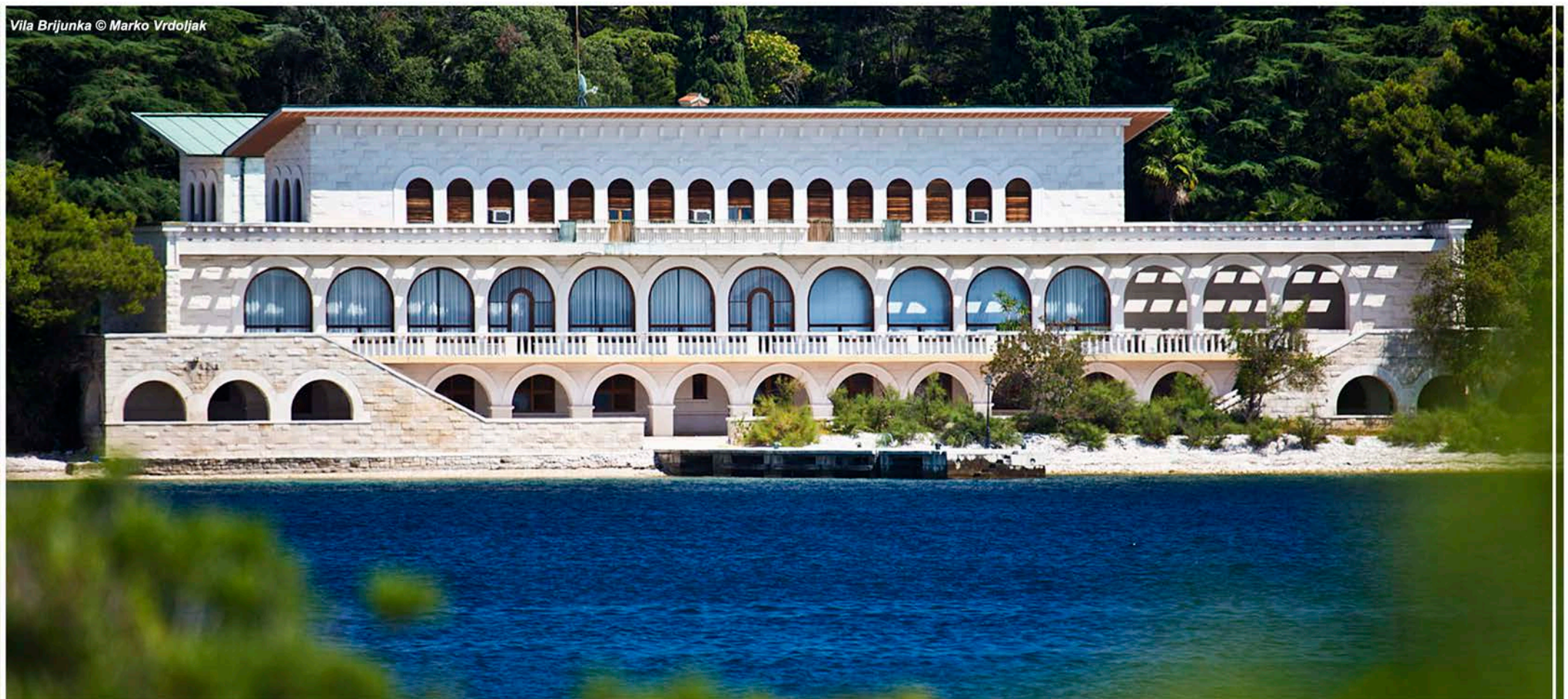
11:50 a.m.: End of the standard Workshop programme

12:00: Return to Neptun Hotel, check-out 12:30 p.m.: Lunch at Neptun Hotel (for participants who have booked full-board service)

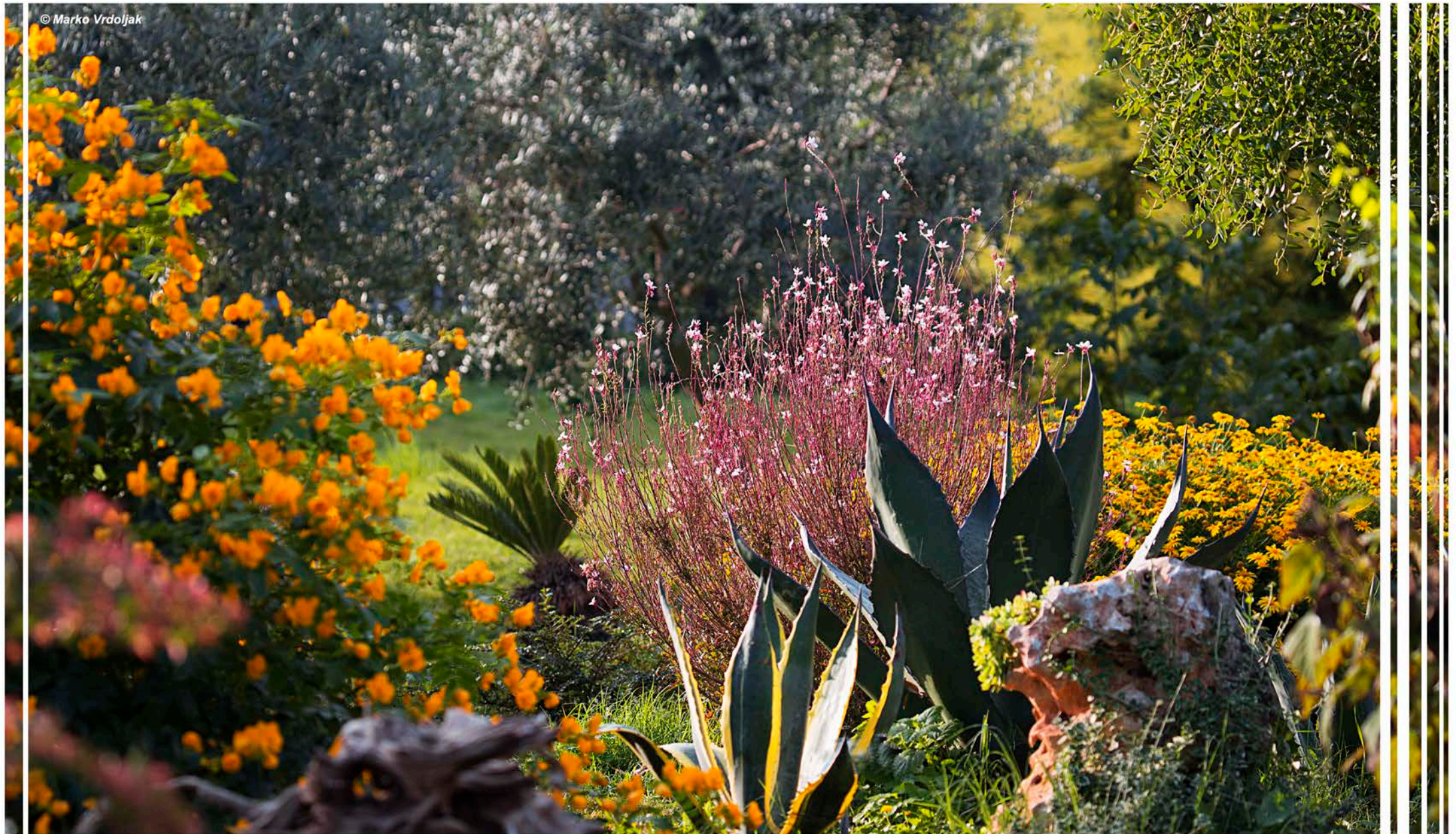
NEW - EXTRA OFFER

2:00 p.m.: Departure for a sightseeing tour of the Brijuni Archipelago by Brijuni National Park Service speedboat (for participants who have booked the package "I WANT MORE OF BRIJUNI" and participants who have booked this sightseeing as an additional option) - more details available on p. 12 of the programme

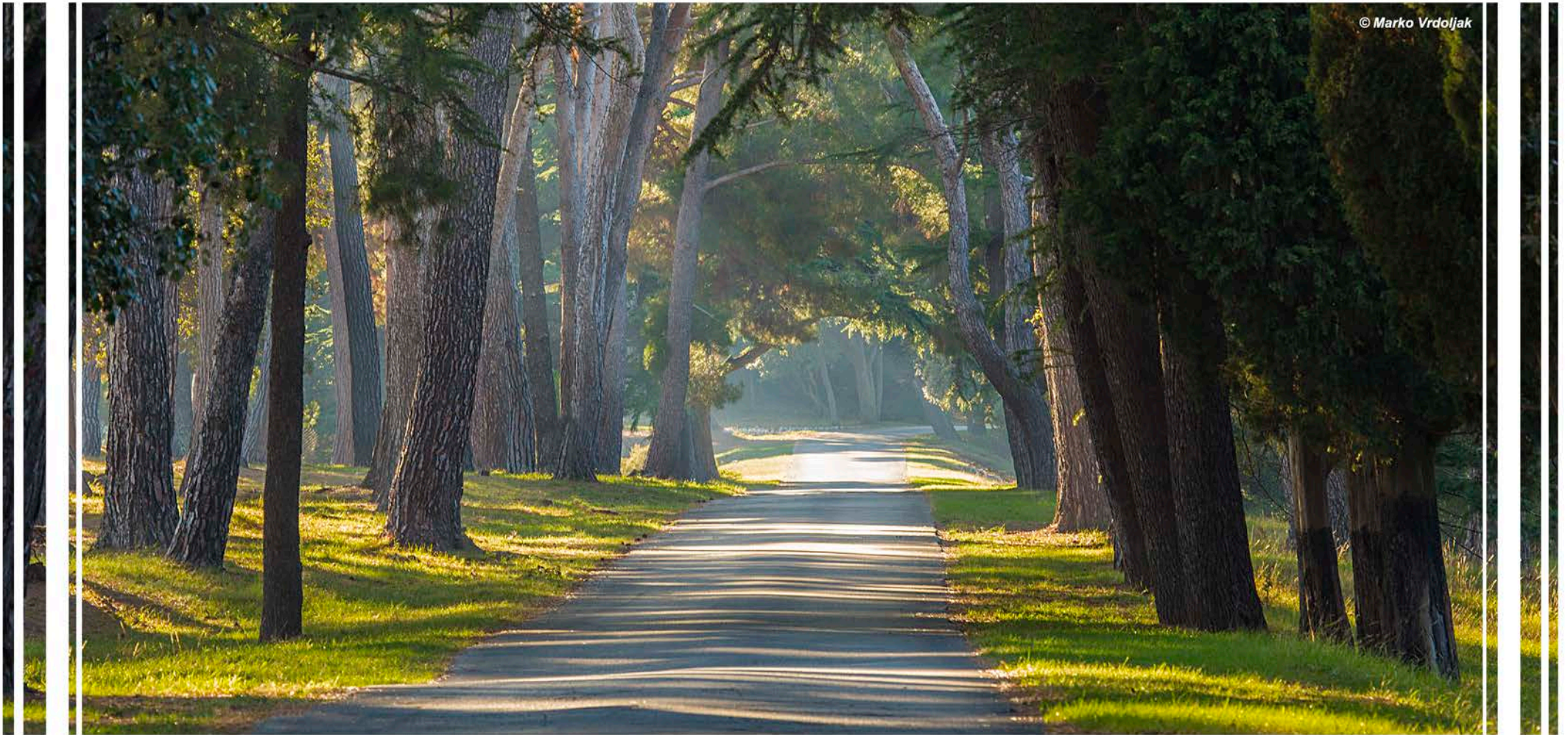
4:00 p.m.: Return to the main port of Brijuni National Park



EXCLUSIVE OFFER NOT INCLUDED IN THE WORKSHOP PROGRAM: Exclusively for participants of the Brijuni Photography Workshop, we have organised an optional sightseeing tour of the entire Brijuni Archipelago by Brijuni National Park Service speedboat guided by Marko Vrdoljak. This approximately 120-minute sightseeing tour of the archipelago includes a boat tour to photograph all 14 islands in the archipelago and a visit to St. Jerolim Island for a duration of approx. 30 minutes. As part of this exclusive trip, we will take a closer look at historically significant Vanga Island, photograph the ruins of a lighthouse on Obljak Island and ruins on the islands of Vrsar and Kozada, and enjoy views of Villa Primorka, Villa Lovorka, Villa Brijunka, Villa Bijela Vila, the beautiful lighthouse on Cape Peneda, and the torpedo factory on Mali Brijun from the sea. We will climb to the highest point of St. Jerolim Island, which offers a view of quarries, the city of Pula, and Veli Brijun Island. Since this is an exclusive offer and is not included in the standard workshop programme, this sightseeing tour will be organised at several time periods before and after the workshop programme. The Brijuni National Park Service speedboat can accommodate a maximum of 9 participants in one tour.



EXCLUSIVE OFFER NOT INCLUDED IN THE WORKSHOP PROGRAM: Exclusively for participants of the Brijuni Photography Workshop, we have organised a visit and 90-minute expert guided tour of a Mediterranean orchard on Brijuni. In addition to taking pictures, participants will be able to learn more about the genetic variability within species, the purpose of preserving traditional varieties, and their value in the preservation of biological diversity. Following our walk in the orchard, we will become acquainted with the experimental production of distillates produced on Brijuni. We will even taste some of them while sampling local dried figs and listening to the interesting stories of the head of the Brijuni Conservation Service.



EXCLUSIVE OFFER NOT INCLUDED IN THE WORKSHOP PROGRAM: Exclusively for participants of the Brijuni Photography Workshop, we have created an interesting tour of the "Secret Paths of Brijuni", offering the opportunity to photograph locations that cannot be included in the standard workshop due to the capacity of the basic programme. This interesting, leisurely walk leads almost exclusively along unmarked forest roads and seldom-used paths, which will allow us to enjoy the full beauty, scents, and sounds of Brijuni's forests, clearings, and pastures. On our way, we will see the Bronze Age Gradina Fort and its preserved ramparts, entrance, and especially interesting necropolis. After this, we will stop to see a large complex consisting of Nymphaea –ancient buildings raised above springs and reservoirs that once supplied water to Roman villas in Verige Bay. One of our sightseeing stops will be an unrenovated, decaying look-out point from the time of the Kupelwieser family, completely hidden in the dense Brijuni forest. We will also stop on a clearing surrounded by maquis and forest to view and photograph the remains of the 6th century Church of St. Peter, followed by a visit to the ruins of an ancient 1st century AD villa on Kolci Hill. After this adventure, which will last several hours, an easy seaside stroll will bring us back to the hotel.

PRICE OF DOUBLE ROOM PACKAGE WITH HALF-BOARD SERVICE, PER PERSON: 330 EUR

THE PRICE INCLUDES:

- A welcome drink
- Three nights with breakfast, 3 dinners, sojourn tax (accommodation organised at Neptun and Karmen Hotels on Veliki Brijun Island, and prices per night including breakfast are at a 10% discount compared to the regular prices of Brijuni National Park exclusively for the participants)
- All activities included in the workshop programme and all scheduled visits (lectures, tours, organisation)
- Use of an electric vehicle (4 participants per vehicle)
- Boat trip to Mali Brijun Island included in the workshop programme
- Permission to photograph all locations listed in the workshop programme
- Entry ticket to Brijuni National Park for the duration of the workshop
- photograph of all the workshop participants
- Boat ticket for the Fažana-Brijuni-Fažana route and an unlimited number of daily transfers for the duration of the workshop. The boat travels according to a scheduled timetable, available at the following link: http://www.np-brijuni.hr/en/boat_transfer

THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Transport of participants to and from Fažana
- Extra costs (drinks at bars, telephone, mini bar, paid TV, additional orders and services of Brijuni National Park not included in the programme)

SURCHARGES:

- Single use: 57 EUR (for participants who want to stay in a double room by themselves for the duration of the workshop)
- Full board: 46 EUR (for participants who want lunch, for which breaks have been incorporated into the programme, incl. three lunches)
- Brijuni secure garage in Fažana: 36 EUR (for participants who want to park their vehicle in a secure garage for the duration of the workshop)

EXCLUSIVE OPTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE WORKSHOP PROGRAMME (items are explained in detail in the workshop programme)

- Sightseeing tour of the Brijuni Archipelago by Brijuni National Park Service speedboat guided by Marko Vrdoljak: 43 EUR per person.
- Expert guided tour of a Mediterranean orchard and tasting of local products: 7 EUR per person
- "I WANT MORE OF BRIJUNI" - Includes an additional overnight stay in a double room with breakfast and dinner, sightseeing of the archipelago by speedboat, a visit to a Mediterranean orchard, and a guided tour of the "Secret Paths of Brijuni" lasting several hours: 103 EUR (single use of the room, full board and secure garage for this additional day must also be booked)

***All prices include VAT**





How to apply for the Brijuni Photography Workshop in two steps:

- 1. Fill out the package booking form available on the workshop website (<http://www.markovrdoljak.com/en/photo-workshop-brijuni/>) for the desired time period and send it to the following e-mail address: info@fivestars.hr**
- 2. Wait for an e-mail booking request confirmation from the organiser and pay for your package using the payment information.**



Rules and Terms of Workshop Participation

General information:

These Terms of Workshop Participation are binding for all participants of the Brijuni Photography Workshop led by Marko Vrdoljak, organised by Five Stars Ltd., to be held in Brijuni National Park (Croatia). During your stay within the borders of Brijuni National Park, you are obligated to adhere to the rules of the National Park and follow the movement of the organised group according to the workshop programme.

Applying and paying for the package for participation in the Brijuni Photography Workshop:

In order to participate in the workshop, you must fill out a package booking form, available on the workshop website. Participation in the workshop becomes valid only after the Workshop Organiser, Five Stars Ltd., confirms your booking request and provides you with the instructions for the payment of the package fee, and receives your payment of the package fee in full. Due to the limited number of workshop participants, the right of participation priority shall be determined according to the order of payment received. Payment of the package fee signifies participants' confirmation that they are familiar with the Rules and Terms of Workshop Participation and assume the obligations stated therein. Payment should be made to the direct transfer account of the Workshop Organiser, Five Stars Ltd., IBAN: HR9423400091110013866 held at Privredna banka Zagreb d.d., Radnička cesta 50, Zagreb, Croatia. The reference number should include the personal identification number of yourself or your company, and the participant's first and last name or company name. Upon payment of the full package fee, the Organiser will e-mail you an R1 invoice. Note: The payer bears all bank fees.



© Marko Vrdoljak

Payment of other costs:

*Other costs (not included in the workshop programme: mini bar, drinks at bars in Brijuni National Park, paid TV...) are paid at the reception of Neptun Hotel***, Brijuni National Park, upon check-out.*

Recommended photography equipment:

Participants are recommended to bring their own camera and additional photography equipment (lenses, chargers, batteries, memory cards, backpack, tripods, filters, laptop) to the workshop, if possible. Participants who do not own photography equipment are free to join the workshop as well and enjoy the sights of Brijuni Islands.

Other recommended equipment:

Participants are recommended to bring casual and layered clothes, as well as adequate footwear for spending time in nature and outdoors. You may want to carry a small amount of water with you during the activities.

Physical fitness:

A basic level of physical fitness is required for long walks in nature and spending time outdoors. The planned routes do not include steep ascents or obstacles that would require an increased level of physical fitness.

Target groups:

The Brijuni Photography Workshop is appropriate for all levels of knowledge and experience in photography, as well as for persons who are not at all familiar with photography but are interested in learning the secrets of Brijuni National Park. Beginners will surely discover a wish to explore the magical world of photography, while experienced photographers will have an opportunity to learn more through many of the workshop's challenges and the ability to photograph difficult-to-access locations. All participants will witness an immense amount of beautiful photographic scenes that have drawn attention this archipelago for centuries, and the programme is designed to make full use of time for photographing, acquiring knowledge on photography, and spending time in nature. The workshop programme is intended for individuals aged 18 or over, but children are also welcome as long as they are accompanied by an adult.

Language of lectures: Croatian, English

Cancellation of participation:

If participants wish to cancel or end their participation, they should do so exclusively in writing to the e-mail address marko@fivestars.hr. The date of written cancellation is the basis for the calculation of cancellation costs, which will be kept by the Organiser, according to the following conditions:

- *For cancellation up to 30 days prior to the start date of the workshop, the Organiser withholds 50% of the paid amount.*
- *For cancellation from 29 to 0 days prior to workshop's beginning, or for absence from the workshop or a participant's cancellation of participation, the Organiser withholds 100% of the paid amount.*

Changes to the programme or cancellation of the workshop by the Organiser:

The Workshop Organiser has the right to make changes to the programme in case of external, extraordinary, or unforeseen circumstances which could not have been prevented, avoided, or removed, such as extreme weather conditions, natural disasters, Acts of God, etc. The Workshop Organiser reserves the right to cancel the workshop in the case of an insufficient number of participants or the occurrence of extraordinary circumstances. The Organiser will inform the participants of such circumstances in the shortest reasonable time by publishing a notice with cancellation details on the workshop's website. Participants must regularly check for information about the workshop on the official workshop website. Should the Organiser cancel the workshop, participants who have paid will receive a refund of the full paid amount.





Pasture, Veliki Brijun, © Marko Vrdoljak

Number of workshop participants: *The number of participants in this workshop is limited in order to enable quality work with participants, as well as for organisational reasons.*

Participation priority: *Due to the limited number of workshop participants, the right of participation priority shall be determined according to the order in which package payment is received.*

Health: *During the application for participation in the workshop, participants are obliged to inform the Organiser via an e-mail message of all health-related facts – possible health issues, habits, etc., which might be an obstacle to their participation in the workshop (type of diet, chronic illnesses, allergies, etc.), for the purpose of adequate medical care in case of emergency. The purchase of a health insurance policy is recommended.*

Travel insurance: *Workshop participants are recommended to purchase travel insurance.*

Participants' accident insurance: *all workshop participants are insured for the duration of their stay and movement within the borders of Brijuni National Park, and their insurance covers the following: participants' accident insurance, liability insurance for action, insurance of passengers in transport on vessels, and insurance of passengers in electric vehicles.*



Contacts and help:

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

For all additional questions, feel free to contact workshop leader Marko Vrdoljak at the following e-mail address: marko@fivestars.hr

QUESTIONS REGARDING ACCOMMODATION, FOOD, AND BRIJUNI NATIONAL PARK SERVICES:

For additional questions regarding accommodation, food, and other Brijuni National Park services, please contact Ms. Flores Marsetić at the following e-mail address: f.marsetic@np-brijuni.hr

QUESTIONS REGARDING PACKAGE PAYMENT AND INVOICING:

For any questions regarding the payment of the workshop package, invoicing, and similar administrative questions, please contact our sales department at: info@fivestars.hr



Ostrich, Veliki Brijun, © Marko Vrdoljak

Custom programme of the photography workshop Brijuni – upon request:
The photography workshop programme of the Brijuni National Park (Croatia) can be adjusted to special needs of companies, organisations, or interested groups of people and individuals, in accordance with their specific wishes and capabilities. The workshop can be organised as a teambuilding event for multiple participants, as well as a personally led workshop for individuals and very small groups. For additional information and offer, please contact the workshop leader Mr. Vrdoljak on the following e-mail address: marko@fivestars.hr

Sponsors of photography workshops Brijuni:

Istria Tourist Board, www.istra.hr



Natura Croatica, www.naturacroatica.com

web.burza.hr



Olympus, www.olympus.hr

www.digitalfoto.com.hr





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Workshop organiser:

COMPANY: *Five Stars Ltd. Tourist Agency*
(Pet zvjezdica d.o.o., Turistička agencija)

CODE: *Tourist Agency Code: HR-AB-01-080418421*

ADDRESS: *L. Štritofa 14/2, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia*

VAT: *18000446469*

IBAN: *HR9423400091110013866*

SWIFT: *PBZGHR2X*

BANK: *Privredna banka Zagreb d.d., Radnička cesta 50,
10000 Zagreb, Croatia*

OWNER: *Marko Vrdoljak*

GSM: *00385 (0)91 208 33 11*

WEB: *www.markovrdoljak.com*

E-MAIL: *marko@fivestars.hr*

Services provider:

COMPANY: *Public Company "Brijuni National Park"*

ADDRESS: *Brionska 10, 52212 Fažana, Croatia*

VAT: *79193158584*

DIRECTOR: *Sandro Dujmović, dipl. ing. biol.*

WEB: *www.np-brijuni.hr*

E-MAIL: *brijuni@np-brijuni.hr*

Marko Vrdoljak was born in 1973 in Zagreb. To date, he has published ten photography monographs: "Zagreb County", "Brijuni National Park" (2010), "Amazing Croatia", "Nerezine", "Risnjak National Park", "Zagreb", "Lošinj Archipelago", "The Size of Modesty", photography monograph on the beauty of the female body "1/250 sec, f16, xx" and "Brijuni National Park" (2016).

In addition to other awards and acknowledgements, Vrdoljak also won the most prestigious professional award in Croatia, "Tošo Dabac" (2013), for his vast contribution to the affirmation of artistic photography and the overall art of photography in Croatia.

His photographic work has also been acknowledged by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, which has signed a contract with the author for the realization of three exhibitions: "Amazing Croatia 1", "Amazing Croatia 2" and "Blue-green Croatia", including a total of 126 photographs of all parts of Croatia, with the aim of showing Croatia's beauty to the world.

Vrdoljak's photograph "Sheep Paradise", taken in Lika, was chosen as the cover photo for the 50th issue of DigitalFoto Magazin, which became the first cover featuring the work of a Croatian photographer. Furthermore, his photographs of the Greek statue of Apoxiomen were included in the official catalogue of the British Museum, "Defining beauty: the body in ancient Greek art".

In addition to his photographic work, Vrdoljak is also an awarded filmmaker, whose film "Pulse of the City – Zagreb", "Brijuni - The Hidden Paradise" and "Color Your Christmas With Zagreb" won multiple awards, as well as the author of official promotional films for the island of Lošinj, Zagreb County, The Island of Rab, Museum of Apoxyomenos, City of Opatija and the full-length film "Seven Days of Creation" about the mysterious life in a Dominican monastery in Dubrovnik.



In addition to complete recording of photography, video and audio material for the Brijuni Museum, Vrdoljak regularly holds photography workshops in the Brijuni National Park. Besides holding lectures at his Atelier in Zagreb, photography clubs in the region, and giving occasional speeches at the Faculty of Science, Graphics School, School of Applied Arts and Design, as well as lectures organised by the Union of Croatian Independent Travel Agents, the Ministry of Tourism and the Croatian Tourist Board, he continuously works on the promotion of the art of photography.

Vrdoljak is also the author of official photo archives of the city of Zagreb, Opatija, Rijeka, Lošinj archipelago, Zagreb County, Risnjak and Brijuni national parks, Museum of Apoxyomenos, Franciscan monastery of the City of Cres and the projects "My Piece of Land", "Zagreb Time Machine" and "EDEN" for Croatian national tourist board.

He has presented his work in hundreds of exhibitions held in Croatia, USA, Canada, Russia, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Iceland, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Ireland, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Belgium, Latvia, Bulgaria, Montenegro...



The power of any idea and what becomes of it derives from the faith of its creator. Similarly, the power of a people and an individual is rooted in self-belief. All great ideas, being part of some greater conception, come from the self-awareness and self-respect of the originators, and from their ability to present the idea and themselves to the world. By respecting and learning from others, these ideas and people set a path to follow, define their own past, and outline a future.

Ideas, as well as people, without self-awareness or a sense of value and purpose, deteriorate over time, vanish, go unnoticed and fail to find their meaning. The world we live in is full of ideas of all kinds, big and small, among which some survive, while others fade into oblivion. And this is how things have always been. The idea of preserving nature's beauty, humanity's primordial feelings and thoughts, is especially worthy and must not be overlooked. The people entrusted with this idea should therefore be particularly aware of the task and burden bestowed upon them.

They say that the world has changed. They say they feel it in the water, soil, and smell it in the air... Most of what we have had is lost... But they also say that beauty is in the eyes of the beholder. I don't know about them, but I still see beauty. I still believe that there is hope, willingness, and a way for us to preserve what we have inherited and create new values for future generations. I do not believe in malice aforethought and I think nobody really believes that is the case here.

I think that everything in this life is predetermined, and our interpretation and impression depends on us. We have to make sure that we see the beauty of tomorrow and enjoy it as happily and intensely as possible. It is our duty to keep our faith in beauty and hope. We must be the ones to create a better tomorrow with our positive energy, our talents, the ones who must keep negative thoughts inside and transform them into warmth, understanding and kindness...