

IZOLA
ISOLA

PATHS AROUND IZOLA

I FEEL
SLOVENIA

THE VALLEY OF STRUNJAN CIRCULAR PATH P4

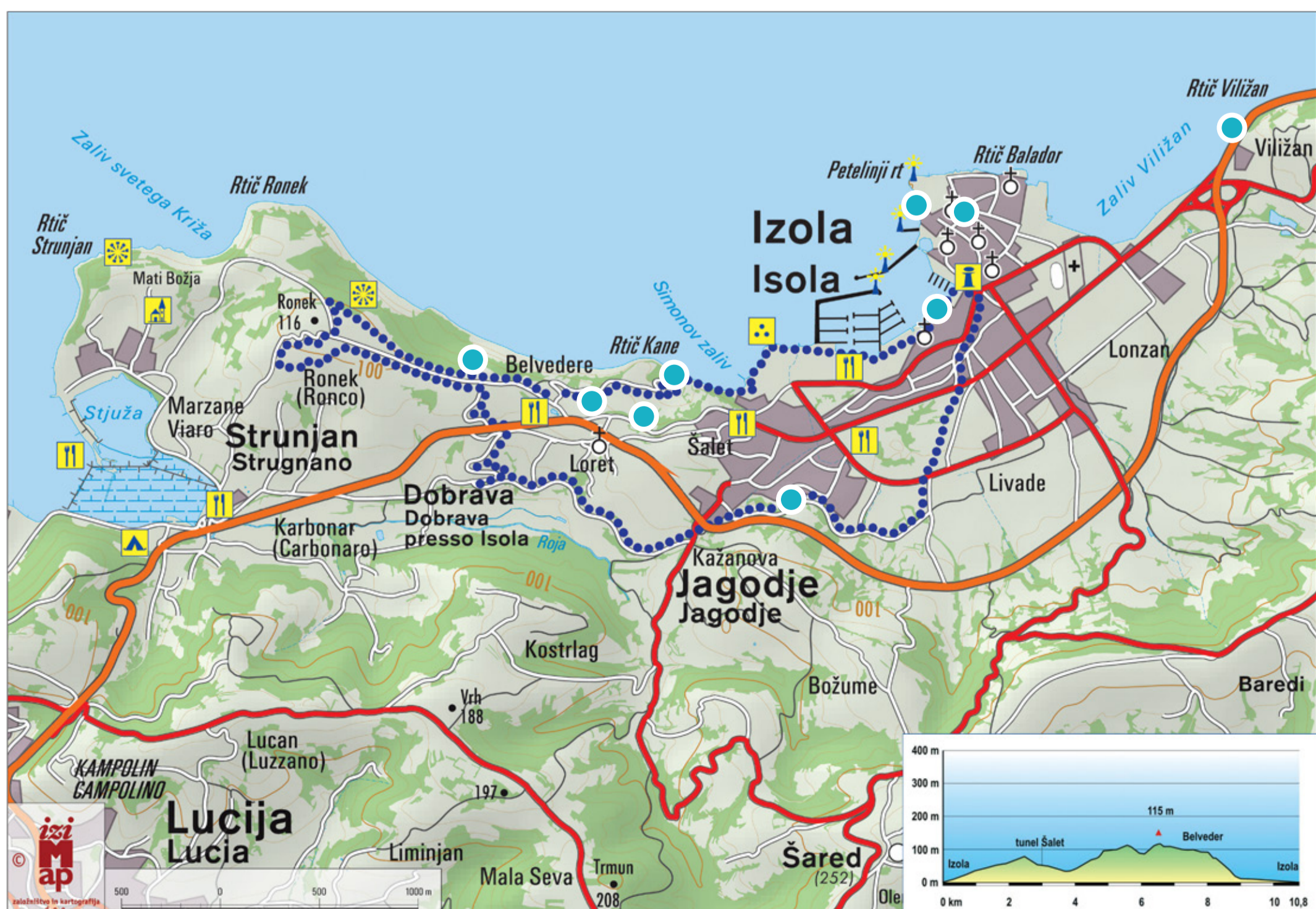
From the Tourist Information Centre in Izola, or from the car park in the vicinity, walk in the direction of the roundabout at the square called Trg Republike and turn right into a tree-lined street called Drevored 1. maja. Go straight on along the street called Leninova ulica to the road called Prešernova cesta, lined with pine trees. Carefully cross the busy road and walk in the same direction, past the building site of the University of Primorska Campus on the right and the Livade elementary school on the left. Cross the road called Južna cesta and turn right to the recreational path bearing the sign D8. It runs along the track of the disused railway that connected Trieste in Italy and Poreč in Croatia. Slowly ascend to the tunnel called Šalet, and walk through it, thus approaching the valley of Strunjan. On exiting the tunnel suddenly a wonderful view opens of the salt pans in Strunjan and the church of Piran in the distance. Walk up the steep path to the junction and turn right in an uphill direction. Walk along the asphalt road towards the houses in the settlement called Dobrava. Approach the easily-visible motorway, lined with tall pine trees. The asphalt road turns right, but do not follow it. Leave the asphalt road, walk straight on, carefully pass through a low passage originally meant for excess water, and turn left onto a country lane. On approaching the first house, turn right and continue walking along the asphalt road in the direction of the road along the panoramic ridge. Turn left and continue walking in a Westerly direction. There are marvellous views of the Bay of Koper and the Gulf of Trieste. Walk along past a vast area of olive groves on the left-side until you reach their end, and in front of the vineyard surrounded by a metal wire fence with a huge entrance gate, turn left and go downhill. At the junction with the dead-end road sign, turn right and walk along the macadam road towards a shed in the field. In the olive grove located behind the shed there is the famous olive tree of the town's mayors, marked by the small plaque. The path continues along the macadam road in the direction of a private house and the asphalt road. At the

chapel with a huge cactus plant nearby, turn right and go uphill. After three almost rectangular bends, the path reaches the top of the hill called Ronek. Pass by the deserted farmhouse located in front of a long line of tall cypress trees. At the olive grove turn left, and go North. Take the battered country lane passing across a vast meadow and going in a small forest. Here the path joins the road coming from Strunjan. Turn sharply to the right and slowly ascend to the top of the ridge, where wonderful views of Izola, Koper and Trieste open. A steep rock-face called 'Kraški rob' can be seen together with the summits of the hills called Kokoši and Slavnik. In the distance the summits of the Julian and Carnic Alps loom above the sky-line. At the ruins of a field shed, the path turns into an asphalt road. Turn left and go along the road running in the direction of the Belvedere hotel resort. At the signpost reading »Plaža« (the beach) located on the vine to your left turn right and descend between the hotels. The path leads to a panoramic road running to the car park immediately by the sea. Walk down the stairs by the spring of water surrounded by a low wall to the beach. Turn right and walk along the well-maintained cobbled path beneath the steep cliffs. Walk straight on, past the two springs of water, on the path leading to the beach and the hotels located in St. Simon's Bay, called 'Simonov zaliv' in Slovene. Continue walking to the left, by the sea, past two huge water-slides and to the remains of the Old Roman Villa. The walking path leads to the marine in Izola where luxurious boats and yachts are moored. Walk across a small metal bridge, past the old 'šker', where there used to be a small shipyard in the past, and past the Secondary School of Catering and Tourism. The path continues by the old port, in Slovene called 'mandrač', and leads to the car park by the Lonka Market Place. You are now in the vicinity of your starting point and the TIC. Although tired, we hope you will still be under the spell of the wonderful vistas offered by this great panoramic path.

STARTING POINT	TIC (Tourist Information Centre) in Izola, the car park at the market place called Lonka.
ITINERARY	Izola-Jagodje-Parenzana-Ronek-Belvedere-Simonov zaliv (St. Simon's Bay)-Izola
LENGTH	The path is 10.8 kilometres long.
ALTITUDE	The path starts 1 metre above the sea level, the highest point is 115m above sea level, the ascent is 243m long.
DIFFICULTY LEVEL	Technically the path is fairly easy. The total walking time is around 3 hours, if walking on roads, country lanes, and paths. Sports gear or light-weight mountaineering boots are recommended. The path may be walked in all seasons except in extreme heat or on days when the strong North- Easterly wind called 'burja' (bora) is blowing. The foundation of the path is solid and can be walked on rainy days, but extra care is recommended.
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PATH	The landscape varies and is extremely picturesque, by the sea and in the immediate hinterland. On clear days there are panoramic views of Izola, Strunjan, and all the way to Piran, the Gulf of Trieste, the Julian and Carnic Alps, and the Dolomites. In the autumn, especially, you can enjoy the wonderful palette of orange, yellow and red hues.
ATTRACTIONS ALONG THE PATHWAY	At St. Simon's Bay there are the remains of an Old Roman Coastal Villa from the beginning of that era, the remains of a port and wave-breakers under the sea's surface, the olive tree of the town's mayors, olive groves, vineyards, the Sharon fruit orchards (in Slovene 'kaki'), water springs, and the high coastal cliffs.
TOURIST FACILITIES	San Simon resort, the Belvedere Hotels, the Delfin Hotel (ZDUS- a hotel for the retired), and the cafes in Jagodje.
INFO	TIC (Tourist Information Centre) Izola, tic.izola@izola.si, www.visitizola.com



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