

A guide to **UCP** through history



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A guide to **TUČEPI** through history





TUČEPI through history

Tučepi today is a famous destination popular with tourists.

Tučepi is also a very old settlement, with a history almost four millennia long, thanks in particular to its geographical position, as can be noted from the ancient name of the town itself.

Tučepi means – *the village by the spring*. The name is of Illyrian origin. Archaeological layers from a broad span including prehistory, the Roman period, and the Middle

Ages are wedged into the prominent slopes below Biokovo Mountain, extending all the way to the beaches with remains of Illyrian burial mounds, Roman and Late Antique temples and cemeteries, and medieval remains of settlements and churches with graveyards.

Prehistoric sites in Tučepi include the hillfort of Gradina on the slopes of Sutvid Hill, several burial mounds called Gomila in the area of Sutvid and Ravnica, and Gradac not far from the seacoast. The fortresses were the well-hidden and protected oases of herders, but also guarded the peace of the dead. Among them the site of Grad stands out. It is located to the northwest, above the road leading from Srida sela to Podpeč. An imposing view of the open sea and the Tučepi coastline spreads below the elevation. Particularly impressive are the remains of several hundred terraces with olive trees and grape vines below the massif of the steep Biokovo Mountain, bordered and supported by stone walls.

The size and extent of the settlements, and the continuity and manner of existence from the prehistoric age to the present day, are best shown by the numerous Christian churches preserved on the foundations of earlier sacral buildings or in their vicinity. Tučepi has three early Romanesque churches: St. George on the seacoast, St. Vitus on the hill of Sutvid, and St. Martin below the steep Biokovo cliffs, all indicating the continuity of life at these places from their ancient beginnings. Their classification to the typology of single-naved harmonious stone buildings further connects us to the period when the early medieval county encompassing this region was first established and its period of greatest prosperity during the 12th and 13th centuries. Confirmation of the antiquity of the sites would be contained in the churches renovated in the late medieval or Baroque periods, the church of St. Katherine in Gornji Tučepi and the church of Our Lady's Birth in the local cemetery, to the east of the town, directly above





With a little effort and curiosity, take the old preserved trails to the authentic hamlets of Tučepi and reveal the beauty and difficulty of life as it was lived in the past.

the sea coast. In the periods after this, up until the major earthquake of 1962, the center of what was then a traditional agricultural and stock-raising village was dominated by the large parish church of St. Anthony of Padua in Gornji Tučepi. After the earthquake, the inhabitants en masse abandoned the damaged and destroyed stone houses on the slopes of Mount Biokovo. New modern concrete buildings were constructed along the coast, as being more suitable for contemporary tourism. This new lifestyle caused the modern structure of the church of St. Nicholas Tavelić to be built on the Adriatic coastal road near the new center of the settlement. On the slopes of Mount Biokovo, the hill of Sutvid stands out at the borders of Gornji Tučepi and Gornja Podgora. At its peak, on the remains of an Illyrian burial mound (tumulus), traces can be found of the former church of St. Vitus (Croatian *Sv. Vid*). The name of the site and the scarce, yet present, material finds indicate that the Croats who originally settled in this area worshipped the Slavic god Svetovid, and when they were Christianized, they transformed their pagan site of worship into a church, dedicating it to the saint whose name most closely approximated that of their god.

The foundations of the medieval church of St. Martin with the remains of a cemetery are located northwest of Sutvid, on a small plateau below the mountain cliffs. This site is known among the local people as Grebišće. The pottery

fragments found at the site indicate that a structure existed there as early as the Roman period.

In the late medieval period, this area was ruled by the Bosnian royal family, as can be seen from the Kreševo Charter of Juraj Vojsalić from the 12th of August 1434. The village of Tučepi was mentioned here for the first time in written form, in the Croatian language and Bosnian Cyrillic script.

The area was ruled by the Turks from the end of the 15th to the end of the 17th centuries. But even later, during the period of Venetian rule in the 18th century, the local inhabitants lived in constant insecurity because of the closeness of the border with the Ottoman Empire. Remnants of those turbulent times can be seen in the remains of fortresses, called "Turkish towers" by the local people. All three towers are located in Gornji Tučepi.





Three watchtowers have been preserved in Gornji Tučepi from the time of battling the Turks: Bušelić, Šarić and Lalić.



Medieval tombstones depicting shields, swords, half moons, and crosses at the local cemetery.

Šarić's tower is the closest to the mountain cliffs, not far from the site of the church of St. Martin. It is located on an inaccessible protruding outcropping near the Tolić house. The eastern and southern walls of its square form are partially preserved. The tower was built of irregularly carved pieces of stone, reinforced with larger and more regular stone blocks. Remains of defensive walls can be noted by the tower, while above it the outlines can be seen of an abandoned settlement with houses constructed from massive dry-stone blocks, with well-formed hearths and openings, and the remains of floors of polished stone slabs.

Bušelić's tower is located on the route from Srida sela towards the hamlet of Knjezovi – Ostojići. The tower was built by a hero from the Turkish Wars, the *harambaša* (or captain) Grgo Bušelić, in the 17th century. The square tower built of stone blocks is also situated on a prominent outcropping, and is preserved to the height of the second floor.

Lalić's tower is located in Sridi sela and is the best preserved. It is part of a complex of outbuildings and dwellings, representing an excellent example of vernacular architecture.

Also remaining from those insecure times is what is known as the Turkish Caves (*Turske peći*). These are natural hollows in the cliffs where people could take shelter with their stock. The most prominent such complex dominates the cliffs on the northwestern side of Tučepi, above Podpeč.

The church of St. Michael is located below the hamlet of Grubišići in Podpeč. Below its belfry is a rosette – a circular decorative opening carved in the stone – and a coat-of-arms with an inscription in Latin, noting that this small Baroque church was built by the nobleman Mihovil Grubišić.

The church of St. Katherine was built in 1541 and is located above the Šarić house. A marked hiking path leads to the church. A medieval window with stone bars was built into the façade, indicating that an earlier church had existed at this site. A chapel of the same name is also located nearby.



Monument to the fallen soldiers and victims of the Fascist terrors, 1941–1945.



Gornji Tučepi is dominated by the monumental structure of the parish church of St. Anthony of Padua. It was built at the turn of the 20th century in the classicistic style. The interior is painted in marbled patterns. Three Baroque altars add to the lavish harmony of the church interior. They were brought



The vista of Gornji Tučepi is dominated by the impressive structure of the parish Church of St. Anthony of Padua from 1911.



from an earlier church of the same name that was once located several hundred meters further to the northeast. That site is currently marked by the small church of St. Roch, built on the foundations of the bell tower of the earlier church of St. Anthony from 1602, which burnt in a fire in 1891.





An archaeological part testifying to the long history of Tučepi surround the medieval Chapel of St. George from the 14th century, situated between Hotel Neptun and Hotel Tamaris.

The church of St. George from the 14th century, built in 1311, is located quite close to the sea, in the southwestern part of Tučepi, next to the Neptun Hotel. Today it is surrounded by hotels. It is one of the rare completely preserved medieval buildings along the entire Makarska Riviera. It was built on the foundations of the chancel of a demolished Early Christian basilica that had been part of a Roman villa, located by the sea and the beach among olive groves. The site also features a funerary monument from the 1st century with a portrait of the deceased, the earliest such monument found on the Makarska coast. For a long time, it was considered to be the tombstone of the Venetian Doge Pietro I Candiano, who died not far away in a battle with the forces of the Narentine Principality on the 18th of September 887. The church of Our Lady's Birth is located in the southeastern part of Tučepi, on an elevation above the coast. It was built in 1703 on the foundations of an earlier medieval church. In front of its western façade are medieval tombstones with characteristic depictions of a sword, a shield with a rose, and the sun and crescent moon.



The church of St. Nicholas Tavelić was built in 1989, and is the most recent ecclesiastic building, located in the center of the present-day settlement above the Adriatic Coastal Highway. It was designed as a new religious center, with a church, a parish residence, and additional multipurpose areas suitable for pastoral purposes. It was adapted to the terraced terrain, with Mediterranean plantings.



The noble Grubišići family erected the Baroque summer house, today known as Hotel Kaštelet, on the sea shore in the 18th century.



Father Mate Šimić, priest, writer and educator, in addition to his pastoral work, gave his advice and contributions to the establishment of the oil-maker's association in 1911. Today, high quality olive oil is made here, based on a long tradition of olive growing and using cold press technology.



In the shade of the pine trees in front of the church, the citizens of Tučepi erected a monument to their meritorious fellow-citizen Fr. Mate Šimić (1848-1926) in 1999.

The remains of the 18th century summer residences of the noble Kačić, Ivanišević, and Grubišić families can be seen along the coast. Two Kačić mansions and one of the Ivanišević family were built in the area once known as Kraj, now the center of modern Tučepi. The stone fences and decorated southern entrances have been preserved. The year of construction is carved above the entrance to one of the

Kačić estates: 1775. At the other Kačić residence the family coats-of-arms was carved. The southern wall is well preserved at the Baroque entrance to the former Ivanišević summer residence, where in 1911 the Oil Growers Cooperative was opened for the production of high-quality olive oil from the Tučepi area.

The best-preserved summer residence, known today as Hotel *Kaštelet*, is that of the philologist and writer Mon. Klement Grubišić (1725-1773). The building features a balcony with a balustrade above the main entrance to the courtyard, where the year 1766 is carved. The family coat-of-arms is also carved on the southern façade, at first floor height.

The priest Mon. Klement was a descendant of the noble Grubišić family of Tučepi and in 1766 he moved into his newly built summer residence on his lands in Tučepi. Alberto Fortis (1741-1803), the famous Italian naturalist and travel-writer, stayed in this coastal mansion. He compared the beauty and harmonious proportions of this country residence of his host and friend to those that can be found along the Brenta River in Italy. Many domestic and foreign guests visited the learned and hospitable priest in his summer residence, in this manner coming to know Tučepi and spreading their impressions of it around the world.



Hotel Jadran represents a symbol of Tučepi tourism. Since its opening in the early 1950s, it has set high standards for service quality and has greatly contributed to the overall promotion of the town.

Present day Tučepi represents a harmonious mixture of the past and the future. Modern roads and highways, harbors and marinas, hotels, mansions, private apartments, with modern communications in the form of television and the internet... join together with the traditionally built upland Tučepi hamlets, reached by hiking paths and lanes. There are two constants to the history and present existence of Tučepi: One is the beauty and special features of the landscape – the mountains, the coast, and the sea, and the other is the heartfelt hospitality of the local hosts.



The natural beauty of the landscape and the hospitality of the people in fact represent the main reasons for the constant interest of increasing numbers of tourists. The beginnings of tourism can be traced to the construction of the Jadran Hotel in the 1950s. At that time, it was the most modern and attractive hotel in the Adriatic, which hosted famous names from the world of culture and politics. With its popular terrace, the Jadran Hotel was the center of entertainment for the entire Makarska Riviera in the 60s, 70s, and 80s. This hotel, with its high standards of service, set the tone for the entire development of Tučepi as a popular tourist center.







A long maritime and fishing tradition has been captured in the enchanting ambience of the Tučepi harbour.



Tučepi today has over 2000 beds on offer in numerous hotels, six of them with four stars, indicating their high quality of services. At the same time, Tučepi also has 5000 beds available in private accommodation, in rooms and apartments. Numerous restaurants, inns, and taverns offer a rich selection of traditional Dalmatian food and drink.

All who decide to visit Tučepi can enjoy the beautiful 4 km long pebble beach backed by shady pines, with a walkway extending along the

entire beach that is perfect for long walks and bicycle rides. On the western side of the town, by the Neptun Hotel, is the Slatina Sports Center, with tennis courts and a football field, while on the beach itself visitors can enjoy various water sports.



In the centre you can find the diving school, while the Slatina sports centre next to Hotel Neptun offers tennis, football and volleyball.





Concerts, art exhibits and drama presentations in the hamlets under Mount Biokovo are an integral part of the culture and entertainment events "Tučepi Summer Evenings".



Cultural and entertainment programs are an essential part of the tourist offerings in Tučepi. Various cultural events and entertainments take place in the framework of the "Tučepi Summer Evenings". This program traditionally begins with the festival on the 13th of June, the day of St. Anthony, the patron saint of Tučepi.

During the summer in Tučepi, in addition to rest and recreation and enjoying all the town offers, you can also enjoy concerts, drama performances, folklore evenings, and klapa (*a capella* harmony) singing. The variety of the entertainment program is definitely aided by the traditional fishing evenings that are held in the Tučepi harbor. Enjoying the entertainment and competition programs along with sampling seafood delicacies is an unforgettable experience of each fishing night.



In the old part of the town, in the Tučepi villages further up towards the mountain, the centuries of peace are "interrupted" by drama performances that are presented in the framework of the "Culture in the Tučepi Hamlets" program. In the surroundings of the ancient houses, which will take you back to some long-ago age, you can enjoy plays and the traditional foods of this region.



The Škrinjica ethno collection is located near the Church of St. Anthony in Gornji Tučepi-Srida sela. Artefacts from the near and distant past will give you an idea of the culture of living of the people here.



It only takes one hour of driving to reach the highest point of Biokovo Mountain, to the peak of St. George (1762 meters above sea level). Biokovo Mountain is a protected nature park. From this highest peak of the mountain and from other easily accessible elevations an astonishing view extends to the neighboring mountains, the nearby islands, and the entire coastline, with its beaches, hotels, forests, and coves.

If you wish to enjoy the silence and experience the wise weight of the centuries gone past, set off from the coast along marked hiking paths to the nearby upland hamlets, only a 30 to 50 minute walk from the sea. Three marked and maintained walking paths lead from the coast through centuries old olive groves to the former center of the town (Srida sela). The first path leads from the Alga Hotel through the hamlet of Čovići. The second path goes from the harbor through the hamlet of Podstup, while the third runs from the cemetery through the hamlets of Ševelji and Šimići. The ethnological collection just by the church of St. Anthony allows you to become acquainted with traditional folk items from the recent and distant past. The doors of the several centuries old church of St. Anthony with three Baroque altars and organs are open to visitors every day. If you decide to visit further afield, the exceptionally favorable geographic position of Tučepi enables excursions to the nearby islands, and to Split, Dubrovnik, Međugorje, and other destinations in the vicinity.



Dear guests, we hope that this guide will aid you in becoming better acquainted with our town. We believe that you will find among the friendly citizens of Tučepi your hosts and friends, and that Tučepi will become the place where you yearn to return.



Hotel **Tamaris**



Slatina 2

HR-21325 Tučepi

CROATIA

T: +385 (0)21 678 222

F: +385 (0)21 623 415

E: info@hotel-tamaris.hr

www.hotel-tamaris.hr

www.hotel-tamaris.com





Bluesun hotel **Neptun**



Slatina 4
21325 Tučepi
CROATIA

T: ++385 (0)21 605 500

F: +385 (0)21 605 700

E: neptun@bluesunhotels.com

www.bluesunhotels.com



Bluesun hotel **Kaštelet**



Dračevice 35
21325 Tučepi
CROATIA

T: +385 (0)21 601 202

F: +385 (0)21 601 204

E: tucepi@bluesunhotels.com

www.bluesunhotels.com

Bluesun hotel **Alga**



Dračevice 35
21325 Tučepi
CROATIA

T: +385 (0)21 601 202
F: +385 (0)21 601 204

E: alga@bluesunhotels.com

www.bluesunhotels.com



Bluesun hotel **Afrodita**



Dračevice 33
21325 Tučepi
CROATIA

T: +385 (0)21 601 500
F: +385 (0)21 601 507

E: afrodita@bluesunhotels.com

www.bluesunhotels.com





Hotel Villa **Marija**

★★★★

Donji Ratac 24

21325 Tučepi

CROATIA

T: +385 (0)21 695 000

F: +385 (0)21 623 004

E: info@hotelvillamarija.com

www.hotelvillamarija.com



Hotel **Laurentum**

★★★★

Kraj 43

21325 Tučepi

CROATIA

T: +385 (0)21 605 900

F: +385 (0)21 605 902

E: marketing@hotellaurentum.com

www.hotellaurentum.com

I N F O R M A T I O N

Tourist office

Tourist office Tučepi	Donji Ratac, HR-21325 Tučepi, CROATIA	T: ++385 21 623 100 F: ++385 21 678 836 E: tzo-tucep@st.t-com.hr	F: ++385 21 678 837
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Hotels

Alga ****	Dračevice 35	T: ++385 21 601202	F: ++385 21 601204
Afrodita ****	Dračevice 33	T: ++385 21 601505	F: ++385 21 601507
Aparthotel "Tamaris" ****	Slatina 2	T: ++385 21 678 222	F: ++385 21 623 415
Kaštelet ****	Dračevice 35	T: ++385 21 601202	F: ++385 21 601204
Laurentum ****	Kraj 43	T: ++385 21 605900	F: ++385 21 605902
Neptun ***	Slatina 4	T: ++385 21 605 500	F: ++385 21 605 700
Villa Marija ****	Donji Ratac 24	T: ++385 21 695 000	F: ++385 21 623 004

Travel agencies

Astrum	Dračevice 73	T: ++385 21 623 433	F: ++385 21 623 718
Dormana	Kraj 123	T: ++385 21 623600	F: ++385 21678 245
Fun-Tours	Kraj 46	T: ++385 21 623570	F: ++385 21 623696
More	Dračevice 34	T: ++385 21 623 525	F: ++385 21 623525
Ratours	Donji Ratac 24	T: ++385 21 623 200	F: ++385 21 623004
		T: ++385 21 695000	

Post office

Pošta Tučepi	Kraj 45	T: ++385 21 623 302	F: ++385 21 623 414
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Exchange office

Dormana	Kraj 123	T: ++385 21 623 600
Hotel Alga	Dračevice 35	T: ++385 21 601 202
Hotel Neptun	Slatina 4	T: ++385 21 605 500
Hotelsko naselje "Afrodita"	Dračevice 33	T: ++385 21 601 505
Pošta Tučepi	Kraj 45	T: ++385 21 623 302

Restaurant

Gusar	Dračevice 38	T: ++385 21 623 085
Jeny	Gornje Tučepi	T: ++385 21 623 704
Veza	Gornje Tučepi	T: ++385 21 623 224
Marina	Donji Ratac bb	T: ++385 21 623 677
Olive Tree (Villa Andrea)	Kamena 46	T: ++385 21 695 240

Tavern

Barba	Kraj 126	T: ++385 21 623 340
Kamena	Kamena 16	T: ++385 21 623 385
Kok	Kraj 126	T: ++385 91 761 9008
Marina	Donji Ratac 13	T: ++385 21 623 363
Riva	Kraj 55	T: ++385 21 623 174

Wine cellar

Feniks	Gornje Tučepi	T: ++385 21 623 728
Opačak	Gornje Tučepi	T: ++385 21 679 962
Postup	Kraj 56	T: ++385 21 623 531
Ranč	Kamena 64	T: ++385 21 623563
Stari dvor	Kraj 83	

Pizzeria

Gajeta	Kraj 54	T: ++385 21 623 260
La Strada	Kraj 43	T: ++385 21 623 361
Mimoza	Dračevice 35	
Olea	Kraj 118	T: ++385 21 623 512
Vapor	Kraj 74	

Shop

Golub	Donji Ratac 5	T: ++385 21 623 233
Ivana	Dračevice 38	T: ++385 21 623 397
Konzum	Kraj 45	T: ++385 21 679 700
Studenac	Kraj	T: ++385 21 623 647

Hairdresser

Ana	Kraj 72a	
Miranda	Kraj 90	T: ++385 21 623 332
Mirjana	Hotel Alga	T: ++385 21 601 202

Doctor (outpatient department) 112

Ambulanta Tučepi	Kraj 39a	T: ++385 21 623 577
Dom zdravlja Makarska	Stjepana Ivičevića 2	T: ++385 21 612 033

Pharmacy

Ljekarna Tučepi	Donji Ratac	T: ++385 21 623300
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Dentist

Stomatološka ordinacija	Kraj 39a	T: ++385 21 623 344
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Veterinarian

Veterinarska stanica Makarska Trg Tina Ujevića 1 T: ++385 21 690345

Police 112

Policijska stanica Makarska Petra Krešimira IV T: ++385 21 307 738

Fire brigade 112

Vatrogasci Tučepi Kraj T: ++385 21 623 303

Municipality

Općina Tučepi Kraj 39a T: ++385 21 623 585 F: ++385 21 623 568
T: ++385 21 623 595

Parish office

Crkva sv. Nikole Tavelića Pod Gradac 2 T: ++385 21 623 251

Divine service

Crkva sv. Ante Gornje Tučepi 9.00 am on Sundays
Crkva sv. Nikole Tavelića Pod Gradac 2 20.00 (8 pm) daily
10.30 am & 20.00 (8 pm) on Sundays

Ethnographic collection

Etnografska zbirka Gornji Tučepi T: ++385 21 623 379

Sport

The Slatina Sports Centre is found next to Hotel Neptun and offers the following sporting facilities: 1 football field, 5 clay tennis courts, 1 court for handball and basketball, volleyball and beach football, and table tennis. For more information, call tel.: ++385 21 601 202.

Diving center

Ronilački centar Butterfly Kraj 87 T: ++385 21 623 777

Excursions

Local travel agencies organize daily boat excursions to the islands of Brač, Hvar and Korčula and coach excursions to the towns of Dubrovnik and Split, as well as to a pilgrimage site of Međugorje.

The Biokovo Mountain

Mount Biokovo with its peak Sv. Jure (St. George) (1762 m) is a protected area, proclaimed as a nature park. The tourist agencies "Tip Extreme" and "Biokovo active holiday" are specialized for expert guided half-day, full-day and multi-day excursions on Mount Biokovo. In addition to

organising excursions, the agency "Biokovo active holiday" also organises expert guided alpine climbing and speleological tours, and recreational visits to mountain facilities.

Tip extreme

Gornje Tučepi T: ++385 21 623 581 www.tipextreme.hr
F: ++385 21 691 848

Biokovo active holiday Makarska

Kralja P. Krešimira 7b T: ++385 21 679 655 www.biokovo.net
F: ++385 21 679 657

Bus departures

For all directions information available from the travel agencies, or directly from the coach station in Makarska, tel.: ++385 21 612 333.

Airlines

Arrivals at and departures from the Split airport (85km) . For further information and bookings contact the local travel agencies.

Shell museum

Malakološki muzej Makarska Franjevački put 1 T: ++385 21 611 256

Harbour-master

Lučka ispostava Makarska Obala Kralja Tomislava T: ++385 21 611 977

Car repair (garage)

Auto Čović Blato 24 T: ++385 21 623 338
Oklopčić Blato 9 T: ++385 21 623 277

Car wash

Pranje automobila Blato 11

Rent-a-car

Dormana Kraj 123 T: ++385 21 623 600
Funn-Tours Kraj 45 T: ++385 21 623 570
More Dračevica 34 T: ++385 21 623 525
Ratours Donji Ratac 24 T: ++385 21 623 200





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