

THE ALPINE REGIONS OF YUGOSLAVIA

By A. C. NIVEN

THE alpine regions of Yugoslavia are situated in Slovenia, the most westerly province of the country. The capital of Slovenia, Ljubljana, is easily reached as it lies on the Simplon-Orient-Express line coming from the South (Calais-Paris-Lausanne-Milano-Trieste-Ljubljana, etc.), and the Tauern Express line from the North (Ostend-Brussels-Cologne-Munich-Salzburg-Jesenice-Ljubljana, etc.).

The main range of mountains in Slovenia, forming the core of the Yugoslav Alps, is the range of the *Julian Alps* stretching from the extreme West, between the Yugoslav borders with Austria and Italy, towards the East, as far as the town of Škofja Loka. The Julian Alps can be reached by rail in two ways ; both starting at Ljubljana. From the North the approach can be made from *Mojstrana*, *Krajska Gora* or *Rateče Planica* (all situated on the main line Ljubljana-Jesenice-Tervisio) ; while from the South the way leads from *Bohinj* or *Stara Fužina* which are reached from *Bohinjska Bistrica* on the line Ljubljana-Jesenice-Nova Gorica.

The choice between these two routes depends upon which mountains are chosen for a climb or which places are marked for visit or sport. The main choice for mountaineers is as follows :

From the north :

Triglav (2,863 m.)
Rjavina (2,532 m.)
Prisojnik (2,547 m.)
Razor (2,601 m.)
Špik (2,475 m.)
Jalovec (2,643 m.)
Pihavec (2,414 m.)
etc.

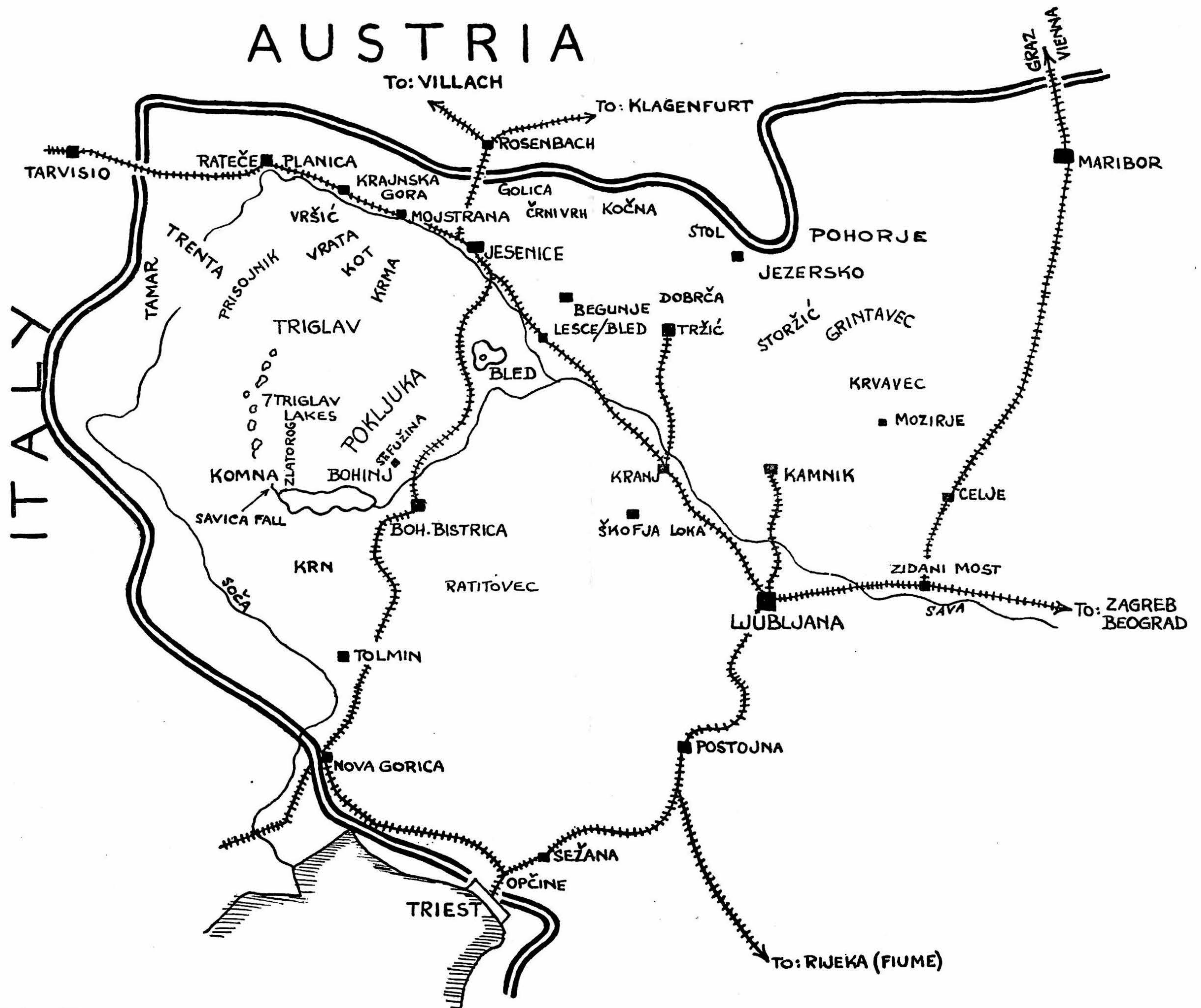
From the south :

Triglav (2,863 m.) via the
Seven Lakes
Kuk (2,086 m.)
Krn (2,245 m.)
Bogatin (2,008 m.)
Kanjavec (2,568 m.)
Hribarice (2,357 m.)
etc.

The places or villages on these two routes are also a matter of preference ; on the northern route are situated *Krajska Gora* and *Planica* both well-known winter sport centres and holiday resorts. *Planica* is internationally famous for its three ski-jumping boards on one of which several world records have been broken. The hotels of these two places are up to date and the huts between them and the various peaks are everything that could be expected.

On the southern route one arrives at places such as *Bled* or *Bohinj* ; *Bled* is an international resort with a famous lake and a number of very modern and large hotels. *Bohinj*, on the sombre lake of the same name, is a popular holiday resort and is famous for its lake and streams abounding with trout.

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Between Bled and Bohinj lies the region 'Pokljuka' which is an ideal winter sport area with slopes for all grades of skiers. From the main hotel, *Dom na Pokljuki*, an attractive ascent of the Triglav can be made (approximately 8 hours).

Of all the peaks in the Julian Alps the most popular with mountaineers is undoubtedly *Triglav*. The ascent of Triglav is either made from the North from Mojstrana via the Valley of the Kot and the Kredarica hut, or from the South, from Bohinj via the Seven Triglav Lakes to the hut Vodnikova Koca. The usual method is to take the ascent from one side and the descent on the other. Climbing Triglav is not particularly difficult or dangerous; iron hooks and stanchions are provided at the most difficult places. For those who prefer difficult rock climbing there is the North Wall of Triglav which is reached from Mojstrana via the Peričnik waterfall in about three hours, beginning from the hut Aljažev Dom. The ascending and descending routes on Triglav, as on all other mountains, are well marked; the huts are comfortable and have sufficient sleeping quarters. They are under the care and supervision of the Slovene Alpine Club (Planinsko Društvo). Guides for tours in the Julian Alps can be hired in Mojstrana, Krajnska Gora or at Bohinj.

The *Savinjske Alps* stretch along one part of the Austrian border with Yugoslavia, North of the town of *Kamnik* which is in direct rail connection with Ljubljana. The Savinjske Alps do not occupy a large area; their main peak is the *Grintavec* (2,558 m.), a fine climbing mountain easily reached from either the Češka Koča hut or the Cojzova Koča. Other peaks worth climbing are:

Storžic (2,134)
Krvavac (1,853 m.)
Kočna (2,539 m.)
Ojstrica (2,349 m.)
Medvedjak (1,566 m.)
etc.

All the huts are well placed and are easily accessible. The entire area of the Savinjske Alps is suitable for winter sport. Mountaineers must be warned of occasional dense fogs in the region of the Grintavec and Koča.

The *Karavanke Alps* form the natural boundary between Yugoslavia and Austria and stretch eastwards until they reach the Savinjske Alps. These densely wooded mountains, rich in wild game, are popular with winter sport enthusiasts as they provide many slopes of varying grades. They are best reached from either *Žesenice* or *Tržič*. Of the many peaks, the following are the most recommendable:

Dobrča (1,634 m.)
Begunjščica (2,603 m.)
Stol (2,236 m.)
Plešivec (1,696 m.)
etc.

NAME OF HUT	ALTITUDE (METRES)	ROOMS	BEDS	DORMITORY (BEDS)	OPEN	BEST APPROACH	RECOMMENDED TOURS	REMARKS
DOM NA POKLJUKI	1250	30	65	44	ALL YEAR	FROM BLED BY BUS: 1 ^h	TRIGLAV (2863 m.) VIA RUDNO POLJE-VELO POLJE: 8 ^h	WINTER SPORT CENTRE
DOM NA KOMNI	1520	24	74	22	" "	FROM BOHINJ (HOTEL ZLATOROG): 3 ^h 30	KUK (2086 m.): 2 ^h 30 KRN (2245 m.): 7 ^h	
KOČA POD BOGATINOM	1513	13	40	20	28-6-31-10	15 MINUTES FROM DOMNA KOMNI	BOGATIN (2008 m.): 2 ^h 30 KANJAVEC (2568 m.): 6 ^h	WINTER SEASON: DEC.- MAY
KOČA PRI TRIGLAVSKIH JEZERI	1683	9	24	20	JUNE-SEPT.	FROM DOM 'SAVICA': 4 ^h	TRIGLAV (2863 m.): 1 ^h 30 HRIBARICE (2357 m.): 3 ^h	OCCASIONALLY OPEN IN WINTER: GOOD SKIING
VODNIKOVA KOČA	1805	0	0	12	28-6-30-9	FROM STARA FUŽINA (BOHINJ): 5 ^h " KOČA PRI TRIGL. JEZERI: 4 ^h	KREDARICA (2350 m.): 2 ^h 30 TOŠC (2275 m.): 2 ^h KANJAVEC (2568 m.): 3 ^h	
DOM PLANIKA: TRIGLAV	2408	9	21	23	25-6-25-9	FROM BOHINJ VIA VODNIKOVA KOČA: 7 ^h	KANJAVEC (2568 m.): 3 ^h	
KREDARICA: TRIGLAV	2515	8	18	70	JUNE-SEPT.	FROM MOJSTRANA VIA VALLEY OF KOT: 7 ^h	TRIGLAV GLACIER (2484 m.): 4 ^h BOHINJ: 6 ^h	GOOD SKIING AREA
STANIČEVA KOČA	2332	10	25	20	25-6-30-9	FROM MOJSTRANA VIA VALLEY OF KOT: 6 ^h	RJAVINA (2532 m.): 2 ^h	" " "
TRŽAŠKA KOČA	2151	10	40	20	SUMMER	FROM TRENTA VIA KOMAR: 4 ^h	TRIGLAV (2863 m.): 2 ^h 30	
ALJAŽEV DOM	1015	10	90	30	MAY-OCT.	FROM MOJSTRANA VIA PERIČNIK FALL: 3 ^h	RAZOR (2601 m.): 7 ^h ŠKRLATICA (2738 m.): 7 ^h	
KOČA NA GOZDU	1226	6	14	18	SUMMER	FROM KRAJNSKA GORA ON MOTOR ROAD: 2 ^h	PRISOJNIK (2547 m.): 4 ^h SPIK (2475 m.): 5 ^h	
ERJAVČEVA KOČA	1515	6	12	40	"	FROM KRAJNSKA GORA VIA VRŠIČ: 3 ^h	RAZOR (2601 m.): 6 ^h	GOOD SKIING AREA
TIČARJEV DOM	1650	4	14	30	"	FROM KRAJNSKA GORA: 3 ^h 30	JALOVEC (2643 m.): 6 ^h	" " "
KOČA V PLANICI (TAMAR)	1108	0	0	40	ALL YEAR	FROM RATEČE/PLANICA: 1 ^h 30	JALOVEC (2643 m.): 6 ^h VRŠIČ (3 ^h)	" " "
DOM V PLANICI	964	30	57	22	" "	20 MINUTES FROM RATEČE/PLANICA		WINTER SPORT CENTRE
KOČA ZLATOROG	622	3	24	0	SUMMER	FROM KRAJNSKA GORA VIA VRŠIČ: 5 ^h	PIHAVEC (2414 m.): 6 ^h	
KOČA V KRNICI	1218	4	10	10	1-3-15-9	FROM KRAJNSKA GORA: 1 ^h $\frac{1}{2}$	ŠPIK (2472 m.): 5 ^h	GOOD SKIING AREA
MIHOV DOM	1150	1	2	30	ALL YEAR	FROM KOČA NA KRNICI: 1 ^h	ŠPIK (2472 m.): 5 ^h PRISOJNIK (2547 m.): 4 ^h	" " "
DOM 'SAVICA'	805	0	0	0	" "	FROM BOHINJ: 1 ^h	SOURCE OF THE SAVICA: 20 min.	
KOČA POD STORŽIČEM	1150	0	0	8	JUNE-OCT.	TRŽIČ-SLAP-LOM-SLAPARSKA VAS: 2 ^h	STORŽIČ (2134 m.): 3 ^h	GOOD SKIING AREA
DOM NA KRVAVCU	1700	5	11	20	SUMMER	FROM KAMNIK: 5 ^h	KRVAVEC (1853 m.): $\frac{1}{2}$ ^h	" " "
KOČA NA MALI PLANINI	1447	0	0	14	"	FROM KAMNIK VIA STAHOVICE- SV.PRIMOŽ: 4 ^h	VELIKA PLANINA (1666 m.): 3 ^h	" " "
COJZOVA KOČA	1791	3	20	24	JUNE-OCT.	FROM KAMN. BISTRICA DOM: 3 ^h	GRINTAVEC (2558 m.): 3 ^h 30 KOČNA (2539 m.): 3 ^h 30	
KOCBEKOV DOM	1808	4	15	60	15-6-15-9	FROM KAMNIK VIA PRAG: 8 ^h	OJSTRICA (2349 m.): 1 ^h 30	
FRIŠAUFOV DOM	1378	7	20	26		FROM LOGARSKA DOLINA: 3 ^h 30	SKUTA (2532 m.): 4 ^h	GOOD SKIING AREA
MOZIRSKA KOČA	1344	5	19	80	SUMMER	FROM MOZIRJE VIA ŠMIHEL: 3 ^h	MEDVEDJAK (1566 m.): 1 ^h BOSKOVEC (1591 m.): 1 ^h	" " "
ČEŠKA KOČA	1543	2	11	7	28-6-25-9	FROM JEZERSKO VIA ŠTULARJEVO: 2 ^h	GRINTAVEC (2558 m.): 3 ^h 30	
KOSTANJEČEVA KOČA	1520	0	0	26	JUNE-OCT.	FROM TRŽIČ VIA BISTRICA: 3 ^h	DOBRČE (1634 m.): 20 min.	GOOD SKIING AREA
ROBLEKOV DOM	1757	5	18	20		FROM LESCE/BLED VIA BEGUNJE: 1 ^h	BEGUNJŠCICA (20631 m.): 1 ^h	" " "
KOČA NA ČRNEM VRHU	1156	6	32	38	SUMMER	FROM JESENICE VIA SV.KRIŽ: 2 ^h	STOL (2236 m.)	
DOM NA PLEŠIVCU	1696	3	15	0	1-5-1-10	FROM MEŽICE: 3 ^h 45	PLEŠIVEC (1696 m.)	GOOD SKIING AREA
ZAVETIŠTE V JAVORU	1156	4	6	20	MAY-OCT.	FROM MEŽICE: 3 ^h	SMREKOVEC (1569 m.): 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^h	" " "
DOM NA KOFCAH	1505	0	0	25	MAY-OCT.	BY VAR. ROUTES FROM TRŽIČ	KLADVO (2095 m.)	
KOČA POD KLADVOM	1650	0	0	10	SUMMER	FROM TRŽIČ VIA KOFCE: 4 ^h		
MARIBORSKA KOČA	1080	5	48	0	SUMMER	FROM MARIBOR VIA POŠTELO: 3 ^h 30	ŠUMIKA FALL: 3 ^h	GOOD SKIING AREA
TINETOV DOM	1250	6	8	20	"	FROM MARIBOR VIA SV.BOLFENK: 4 ^h	VELIKI VRH (1347 m.): 3 ^h	" " "
RIBNIŠKA KOČA	1530	15	40	20	"	FROM RIBNICE: 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^h	ČRNI VRH (1543 m.): 45 min.	" " "
KOČA PRI TRE KRALJIH	1200	0	0	12	"	FROM SLOVENSKA BISTRICA: 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^h	VELIKI VRH (1347 m.): $\frac{1}{2}$ ^h	
POČITNIŠKI DOM	950	15	30	12	"	FROM RUŠA VIA FALI: 2 ^h	ŠUMIKA FALL: $\frac{3}{4}$ ^h	

The highland region in the North of Slovenia, West of *Maribor* and North-East of Ljubljana, is known as *Pohorje*. This area is best reached from Maribor, on the line Ljubljana-Zidani Most-Maribor-Graz, from where there are a number of bus routes leading to the various centres in this area. The Pohorje is not a mountaineer's country, but what it lacks in towering peaks, it makes up in ideal skiing slopes and hills which made this region one of the most popular winter sport areas in Yugoslavia. The highest mountains are the *Veliki Vrh* (1,347 m.) and the *Črni Vrh* (1,543 m.). The huts are small but comfortable.

Additional notes pertaining to the Table listing huts :

I believe that this is the first time that a complete list of the most important Yugoslav mountain huts has been compiled. The recommended tours from each hut as set out in my list are but one or two of the climbs which can be undertaken from the hut mentioned. I have only given those which, in my opinion, are the most interesting.

Special attention must be drawn to two huts in the Karavanke Alps : *Dom pod Kladvom* and *Dom na Kofcah*. When visiting either of these two huts no tour or excursion should be undertaken without previously asking the authorities. Both huts are in a 'defence area.'

Fog : as in other alpine regions, fog may descend upon any of the mountains. There are only two real foggy areas in the regions I have mentioned : one such area is in the region of the Karavanke Alps (*Koča na Kofcah*) ; the other one in the region of the Savinjske Alps (*Češka Koča*).

Under the column 'Open' the dates are those of the times when the hut is provided with food, etc. This does not necessarily mean that the hut is locked at other times, but visitors are advised to ask first before going to the hut.

Finally, I would like to thank the Slovene Alpine Club for putting material at my disposal, especially the handbook *Priročnik za Planince* by Dr. A. Brilej, from which most data have been drawn.