

Chapels of Medvednica

Initially, churches and chapels were clustered on the lower slopes of Medvednica near villages and settlements. The first chapel to be erected high upon the mountain was the chapel of St. Philip and St. James at Medvedgrad. After the original structure collapsed in the late 16th century, a wooden chapel was built on Veliki Plazur and dedicated to St. Barbara. Today, the neo-Gothic St. Jacob's Chapel stands in its place.

Along one of the pilgrimage routes from Zagreb to Marija Bistrica, the Chapel of Mary of the Snows was built in the 19th century. Later, in 1932, the Chapel of Our Lady of Sljeme, Queen of Croats, was erected near Sljeme, the highest peak of Medvednica.

The youngest chapel on Medvednica was built in 2000, situated in a serene clearing just below the Lipa mountain hut.

St. Jacob's Chapel

At the summit of Veliki Plazur, miners from the nearby Zrinski mine originally constructed a wooden chapel dedicated to St. Barbara, their patron saint. In 1847, Baron Franjo Kulmer erected a new chapel dedicated to St. Jacob on that same site. Finally, in 1904, Matija Miletić, the parish priest of Šestine, built the present-day chapel upon the foundations of these earlier structures.

For many years, the chapel suffered from neglect and vandalism until 1932, when it was leased by the innkeeper Mirko Petanjek. He hired a caretaker (and bellringer) to look after it and ring the bell three times a day. Thanks to Petanjek, and following the designs of architect Juraj Denzler, the chapel was restored, refurbished, and consecrated in 1935.



St. Jacob's Chapel
1900 / MGZ

Chapel of Our Lady of Sljeme, Queen of Croats

The chapel of Our Lady of Sljeme, Queen of Croats, was built in 1932 to commemorate two major historical milestones: the 1,000th anniversary of the Croatian Kingdom and the 1,300th anniversary of the Croats' conversion to Christianity. This small architectural masterpiece by Juraj Denzler serves as a profound reflection of Croatian art, culture, and history.

The chapel's design evokes the early Croatian churches of Dalmatia, while its interior is meticulously adorned with traditional early Croatian motifs. These details inspired renowned artists such as Vanja Radauš, Radoj Hudoklin, Josip Turkalj, Gabriel Stupica, and Marta Plazzeriano, all of whom contributed valuable works that can still be admired within the chapel today.



Chapel of Our Lady of Sljeme, Queen of Croats
1932 / MGZ

Chapel of Mary of the Snows

The Chapel of Mary of the Snows was built in 1929 through the initiative of Ignacije Ročić, the parish priest of Čučerje, and funded by residents. The interior was decorated by the academic painter Ivan Tomljanović with scenes depicting the Čučerje region, while a painting of Mary of the Snows by Lovro Sirnik was placed upon the altar. In 2008, a wooden porch was added to the front of the chapel.

Chapel of the Croatian Martyrs

The chapel was built in honour of the Croatian martyrs who fell or were killed for their country throughout history. Constructed between 1994 and 2000 based on the designs of architect Želimir Dujmović, the chapel was brought to life through the dedication and hard work of parishioners and members of the "Lipa" mountaineering club, led by their president, Josip Rukavina.



Chapel of Mary of the Snows
Milena Bušić, 2025



Chapel of the Croatian Martyrs
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