



Libeliče is a nucleated village on the border with Austria, at the brink of the Libeliče field and under the hill settlement Libeliška Gora. The local community has a population of 600 and includes apart from Libeliče the following hamlets: Gorče, Tribej, Libeliška Gora and a part of Črneška Gora. Up to 1933, Libeliče was an independent municipality, but today it is a part of the Municipality of Dravograd.



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Only a few historic records are preserved about the oldest period of Libeliče. The historians believe the village could date back to the 9th century, the time of the reign of the Frankish king Charlemagne.

Libeliče initially belonged to the mother parish Aquileia-Bleiburg, but the local church of St. Martin separated itself from the parish between 1106 and 1154. In the Middle Ages, the parish of Libeliče included the churches in the settlements Strojna, Kotlje, Potoče, Črneče, Šentjanž near Dravograd with the subsidiary St. Jedert, and the church Mary on the Lake in Prevalje. During this time, an ossuary was built next to the church in Libeliče. The majority of estates in the Koroška region was owned by the church, the monasteries, and the aristocracy. At the beginning of the 19th century, Libeliče was a completely Slovenian village, subordinated to German nobility like the rest of Slovenia.





After the March Revolution of 1848, Slovenians abolished feudalism and so in 1849, Libeliče became a municipality with a wider hinterland (the settlements Črneče, Črneška Gora, Gorče, Gradišče, Libeliče, Puđlah, and Suha with its surroundings).



*A postcard of Libeliče from 1907*

Due to emerging industry, railway construction, increased interest of Austrian officials and the fact that one could be economically more successful by using German, the German-speaking population gradually increased (in 1880 there were only four German-speaking inhabitants, by 1920 already 160).

As the centre of a bigger municipality, the economy of Libeliče grew stronger. Below the village was a large raft harbour and the inns were always crowded with workers, rafters and farmers. They traded with Lavamünd, Bleiburg and places further north, but less with Dravograd. The farmers could easily sell their produce and the artisans had a wide range of clients.

## LIBELIČE 1920–22

This is the time, in which the people of Libeliče made Slovenian history with their extraordinary actions and became a shining example of national awareness, courage and unwavering persistence. The inhabitants of Libeliče, Gorče, Tribej and Libeliška Gora were always considered to be good farmers, but first and foremost patriots. At the plebiscite, they clearly decided to join their motherland, but on October 10, 1920, they were unfortunately



annexed to Austria, because they were part of the voting zone A. That was when their extraordinary actions began to take place.

The people of Libeliče refused to accept the new border or the Austrian authority and started a strong opposition. The exiled thought leaders – the priest Anton Vogrinec and the young teachers Janko Gačnik and Rudolf Mencin – led the villagers in their fight for the annexation of Libeliče to their motherland, the former Yugoslavia. They achieved their goal after two years and the inhabitants of Libeliče are still proud of this unique historical event.





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In the last few years, the villagers of Libeliče started to embrace tourism.

The decision to develop tourism as an additional activity in the village turned out to be the right one, as more and more tourists come to visit us.

**Places to see:** the Carinthian Plebiscite Museum, the ossuary from the 12th century, the old classroom, the old farm tool collection, the black kitchen, the Prajz granary, and the ethnological nature trail "Eagle Owl".

### **THE OLD CLASSROOM**

The old classroom is situated in the rectory. The exhibition contains teaching equipment and various teaching tools from the postwar period.



### **THE OSSUARY**

The very well preserved ossuary by the parish church of St. Martin originates from the 12th century. It is one of the three preserved ossuaries in Slovenia that still contains bones.



## THE CARINTHIAN PLEBISCITE MUSEUM

Through vivid stories, told by the local guides, the visitors can learn more about the events during the plebiscite. The museum exhibits the documents and the propaganda from the time of the plebiscite in Carinthia and Libeliče.



## THE BLACK KITCHEN

This extraordinary example of a black kitchen is situated in the rectory and contains many old kitchen



appliances. It is one of the largest black kitchens in Slovenia.

## THE PRAJZ GRANARY

The around a hundred years old and well-preserved Prajz granary was used for storing grain, which was kept in



special pots, and meat – especially smoked meat. The basement can store over 30 tons of potatoes. External stairs lead to a balcony, also called "gank".



## THE COLLECTION OF OLD FARM TOOLS



The exhibition of traditional farming in the area of Libeliče from the second half of the 18th century up to the seventies.

The farm tool collection is located in the outbuilding of the rectory. It was built for the



80th anniversary of the annexation of Libeliče to the motherland. It contains many (ca. 800) interesting old farm and handicraft tools and machines, which were donated by the locals.

## THE ETHNOLOGICAL NATURE TRAIL EAGLE OWL

The length of the trail is around 1.5 miles and can be walked in about two

hours, including breaks. It is marked with yellow blazes, with twenty-nine information

boards along the

trail. The mascot is the eagle owl, which is present in this area and is a symbol of wisdom. It is also one of the endangered species. You can choose between two different routes – the short and the long one. The short one is about half a mile long and can be walked in 30 minutes.





Published by the Cultural and Educational Society  
Libeliče, February 2013

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## THE PEOPLE OF LIBELIČE...

...are known for their  
traditionalism, loquacity, and  
kindness.

Each visitor that finds his way to  
this village in the Koroška region –  
caught in the midst of the Drava  
River, the state border, and the  
Strojna hill – will feel right at  
home.

Upon leaving this place after a  
short or a long visit, people feel like  
saying goodbye to old friends, who  
they will certainly visit again.



*Valvasor – Eberwein castle*