

THE VEHICLE COLLECTION

The third exhibition in the Pavilion A is a collection of different types of military vehicles; the only thing they have in common is that they were all used by the Yugoslav People's Army. Military vehicles always combined the biggest technical achievements of the time and, therefore, always evoked both interest and awe. Two aircraft are included in the collection, American fighter-bombers Thunderjet and Sabre, which were brought to Yugoslavia as part of the American military aid in the 1950s.

The collection also includes two tanks – the Soviet T-72 and its Yugoslav variant M-84, which presents the greatest success of the Yugoslav military industry.

The Soviet 2S1 "Gvozdika" ("Carnation") self-propelled howitzer is one of the most successful examples of self-propelled artillery from the Cold War period.

The self-propelled anti-aircraft artillery is presented by the Soviet ZSU-57 57 mm and by the Czechoslovak Praga M53/59 30 mm, more commonly known as "Ješterka" ("Lizard").

The BVP M-80A infantry fighting vehicle is still in use in practically all countries of the former Yugoslavia; it is also used by the Slovenian Armed Forces, but on a limited scale.

The vehicles in the collection that most certainly stand out are the Soviet BTM-3 trench-digging machine and the tank simulator on the basis of the T-55, which enables visitors to take a look at the interior of the tank and the workspace of the crew.

PAVILION B

THE EXHIBITION OF PARTISAN TANK UNITS

Pavilion B mostly houses tanks and other armoured vehicles and weapons that originate from the Second World War. The first hall displays the Stuart tanks, both the older M3A1 and the slightly younger M3A3. Both of them are a valuable memory of the First Partisan Tank Brigade, trained and equipped by the Western Allies, which also used, among other vehicles, the British Bren Carrier. Towards the end of the war, the partisans also used the American self-propelled M7 Priest howitzer and the legendary American Harley-Davidson WLA motorcycle. The T-34/85 Soviet tank is the best-known tank of the Eastern Front and the one on display symbolises the Second Tank Brigade, which, unlike the First, was equipped and trained in the Soviet Union.

THE ARMOUR OF FREEDOM

The exhibition entitled "The Armour of Freedom" combines armoured vehicles as well as weapons and artillery that came to Yugoslavia from the United States of America in the 1950s as military aid after the Tito-Stalin dispute, which brought the expulsion of Yugoslavia from the bloc of communist countries bound to the Soviet Union. The exhibition thus combines some of the most valuable Second World War-era armoured vehicles displayed in the Park of Military History, such as the M4A3 Sherman tank, the M36 Jackson self-propelled gun, the M3 Scout Car and the M8 Greyhound armoured vehicles, as well as the post-war American M47 Patton tank, the heaviest tank in the collection of the Park of Military History.



PAVILION C

Pavilion C is dedicated to the artillery, the queen of the battlefield, as it was once called. The collection includes some extremely interesting artillery weapons. In the first hall, we encounter two Bofors 40 mm guns, namely the British and American licensed versions from the Second World War.

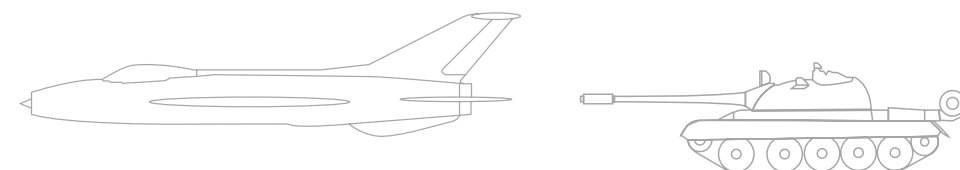
Additionally, anti-aircraft guns are represented by three variants of the Yugoslav M55 20/3 20 mm and the German Flak 30 and Flak 38 guns. Without a doubt, the most famous piece in this category is the legendary German Flak 37 88 mm, one of the best artillery weapons of the Second World War.

The Soviet SU-100 is a valuable example of a tank destroyer, while the heavy artillery is represented by the American 155 mm M1 "Long Tom" howitzer.

Two American gun-towing vehicles are also on display, namely the M5/M5A1 half-track and the M5 HST towing tractor.

The Soviet artillery from the Second World War is represented by the ML-20 152 mm howitzer and the famous ZiS-3 76.2 mm, while the Yugoslav artillery is represented by the M-48B1 76.2 mm mountain gun and the M-63 Plamen 128 mm multiple rocket launcher.

Pavilion C is rounded off with the Yugoslav Soko 522 trainer aircraft, constructed at the SOKO Mostar factory, and a collection of aircraft bombs.



INFORMATION AND BOOKING

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THE PARK OF MILITARY HISTORY

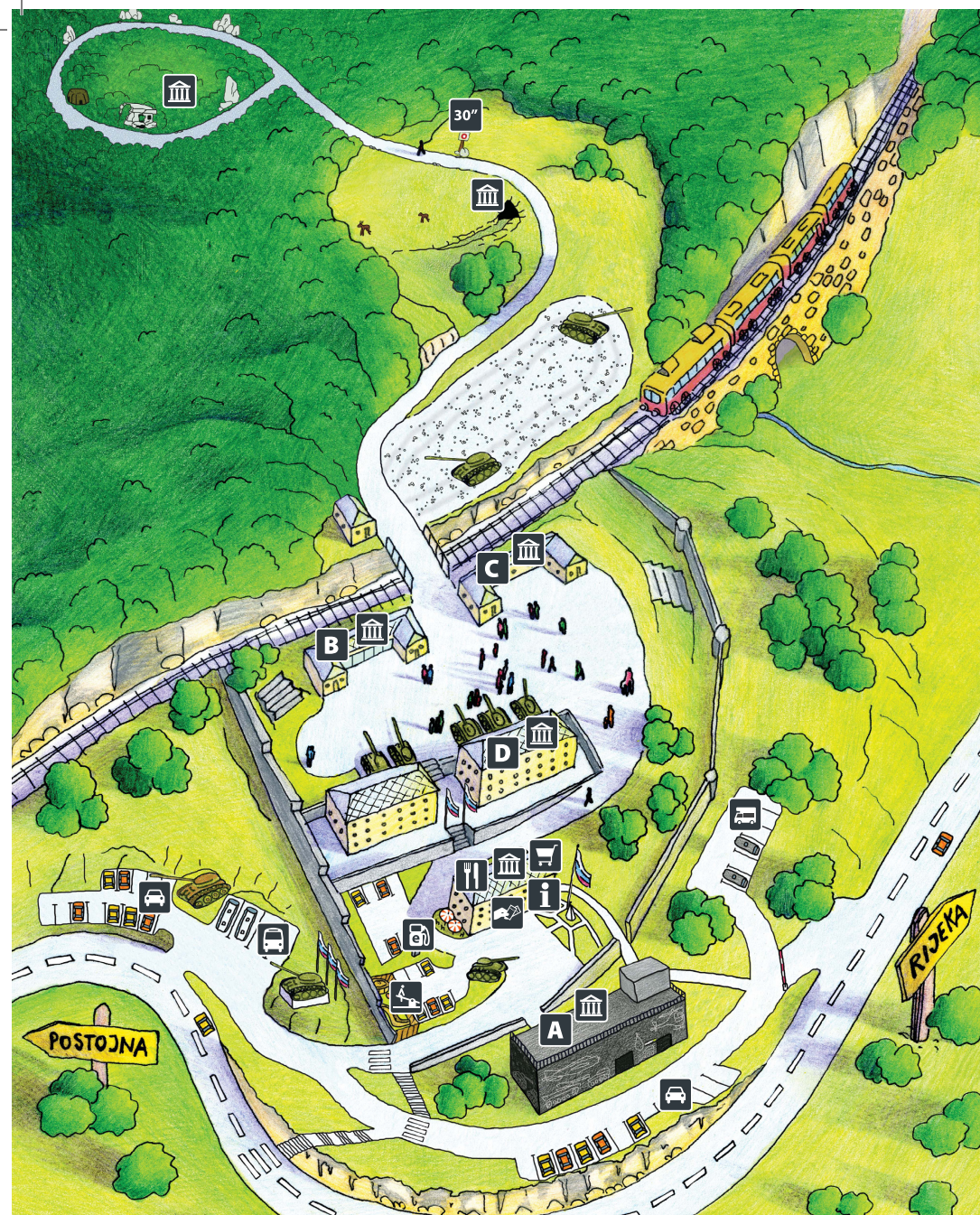
MUSEUM AND TOURIST CENTRE



MUSEUM GUIDE

The Park of Military History is a museum tourist centre located in the old Pivka barracks complex. The barracks were built by the Kingdom of Italy around 1930 in order to defend the Rapallo border, and from 1945 to 1991 they were home to the Yugoslav People's Army. Since 2004, the Park of Military History has been developing within the complex becoming the largest museum complex in the Republic of Slovenia as well as one of the largest military history complexes in this part of Europe.





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| car parking | children's playground | electric vehicle charging station | tickets |
| shop | camper parking | 30' footpath | tourist attraction |
| bus parking | food & drink | tourist office | |

THE KOMANDA BUILDING

- entrance fee
- Tourist Information Centre Pivka
- museum restaurant Kantina Pivka
- museum shop Magazin
- permanent and temporary exhibitions
- administration

PAVILION A

- exhibition on the process of the dissolution of Yugoslavia and the Slovenian independence
- exhibition on the submarine tradition of Yugoslavia and the P-913 Zeta submarine
- collection of armoured vehicles
- aircraft collection

PAVILION B

- armoured vehicles from the Second World War
- occasional exhibitions

PAVILION C

- artillery collection
- aircraft collection

DEPO D

- depots of national museums on display

THE FORT ON THE PRIMOŽ HILL

- the underground fortification system of the Alpine Wall

THE KOMANDA BUILDING

In front of the entrance of the Komanda building stands a monument dedicated to the event that made the Pivka barracks a part of national military history. On 26 June 1991, the so-called “Day Before”, the first tanks of the Yugoslav People's Army took to the road from here and thus started the aggression against the newly independent Republic of Slovenia. Komanda is the former command facility of the barracks; today, the information centre of the Park of Military History, the Tourist Information Centre Pivka, the museum shop and the museum restaurant Kantina are situated on the ground floor.

The staircase walls are decorated with an exhibition of topographic maps of the Slovenian territory in the 20th century, while the upper rooms host the exhibition “Regio Carsica Militaris”, which presents the military history of the wider area of the Postojna Gate, one of the strategically most important passes from Middle to Southern Europe as well as the unique exhibition on the development of archery through history. The permanent exhibitions are rounded off by “To Hell and Back”, which presents the story of the Allied aircraft and airmen that were downed over Slovenian territory during the Second World War and the rescue efforts of the locals and partisans. Komanda also houses temporary and visiting exhibitions.

PLATFORM

LOCOMOTIVE Class 52

The German locomotive class 52 was developed during the Second World War for the needs of the German conquest of Europe. War efforts demanded the development of a robust, powerful and simple locomotive, which could handle the harsh conditions in the field. As its base, the designers chose the then most modern pre-war freight locomotive and simplified its design by removing all but vitally necessary elements. It was planned they would be scrapped after the final German victory. The new ‘war locomotive’ rolled down the tracks for the first time in September 1942. Widespread production started the following year, even in factories on occupied territory. More than 6,200 class 52 locomotives were produced. They operated all over Europe, including the Eastern Front in Russia. After the triumph of the Allies, the locomotives remained in operation and bore throughout Europe the burden of post-war restoration. They were slightly modified in order to make them suitable for everyday civil use. Two freight cars from the Second World War were added to the locomotive creating a whole that represents the German military transport from that era.

PAVILION A

THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

The exhibition entitled “The Road to Independence” presents the process of gaining independence in the Republic of Slovenia with an emphasis on the independence war of 1991.

The exhibition outlines the Second Yugoslavia, also referred to as Socialist or Tito's Yugoslavia, as a federal state, a part of which was also the Socialist Republic of Slovenia, which encompassed the majority of the Slovenian national territory. Apart from Tito, the main bond of the Yugoslav federation was the Yugoslav People's Army (YPA), which had an enormous influence on the development of the state and its regulation. Especially in the 1980s, its primary task – defence against external enemies – changed into defence against internal enemies. The restriction of national development and rough violation of human rights resulted in Slovenians experiencing Yugoslavia as an increasingly unbearable restraint.

With the fall of the Berlin Wall and the democratic changes in Eastern Europe, an unstoppable desire for democracy and greater independence emerged in Slovenia as well, which led to a plebiscite on the independence of the Republic of Slovenia, held on 23 December 1990, after the democratic opposition had won the first free elections in April 1990. As many as 88.5% of all eligible voters were in favour of a sovereign and independent Republic of Slovenia. Six months later, the Slovenian parliament declared independence in compliance with the will of the referendum; however, this was followed by a brutal military intervention of the Yugoslav Army, which was quelled by a strong resistance from the Slovenian armed forces of the Territorial Defence and the Police Force. The defeated Yugoslav Army retreated to the barracks and at the end of October 1991, four months after the beginning of the war, finally left the territory of the Republic of Slovenia, which could then begin to enjoy its sovereignty to the fullest.

The exhibition enables the visitor to relive the war events through direct contact with some important exhibits from that time. The exhibition displaying the advance of a Yugoslav unit thus includes the MiG-21 aircraft, the M-84 tank, and the BVP and BTR armoured vehicles. Two important “relics” of the 1991 war are the Gazelle helicopter with the marking “TO-001 Velenje”, which was the first aircraft to escape from the Yugoslav Military Air Force, and the T-55 tank, which was part of the tank unit that spearheaded the aggression of the Yugoslav Army from the Pivka barracks. The collection of fascinating armoured vehicles also includes a series of BOV vehicles, which were manufactured in the Maribor factory TAM and participated in several battles, the PT-76 tank and the MT-LBu command vehicle. The BOV M-86 symbolically represents the important role of the Police Force (“milica”) as it was used by its Special Unit, while the operational vehicle of the firefighters from Mokronog represents Slovenian firefighters.

THE SUBMARINE SERVICE OF YUGOSLAVIA AND THE P-913 ZETA SUBMARINE

The 19-metre long and 76-tonne P-913 Zeta submarine belongs to the category of the so-called pocket or commando submarines of the Una-class. In the 1980s, the Navy of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) came to the conclusion that larger submarines were not suitable for performing a number of tasks in the specific conditions of the Adriatic Sea; at the same time, they were searching for a more economical way of enlarging the submarine fleet. By 1989, six such submarines were constructed in Split and were named after rivers from each of the SFRY republics. The submarine on display is named after the Montenegrin river Zeta, and at the time of its launching, its godmother was the Montenegrin Municipality of Nikšić. Its basic crew consisted of four members; however, it could also transport up to six submarine commandos. The P-913 submarine is an extraordinary example of military technical heritage. Slovenian experts and the country's industry greatly contributed to its construction as well. Apart from being a technical monument, the P-913 Zeta submarine is also a monument to generations of Slovenian submariners who represented a substantial share of the Yugoslav Navy.

The submarine came to the Park of Military History in 2011 as a gift from the Republic of Montenegro as a result of the great efforts of the members of the Podmorničar Society, consisting of former Slovenian submariners. The life and work of submariners is presented by a special exhibition which surrounds the submarine. With its interesting exhibits, photos, and stories of the submariners, it presents the history of submarine service on the eastern Adriatic coast and gives visitors an inside look into the details of submarine life, unknown to most people. The exhibition was prepared by the »Sergej Mašera« Maritime Museum from Piran.