

# The Vevcanska Lokva



**Starting point:** Vevcani water mill

**Distance:** approx. 4.4 miles

**Length of time:** 5-6 hours

**Difficulty:** moderate

**Elevation:** Vevcani 900m, Golina 1710m, lokva 1962m

**Bring:** lunch, snacks, sunscreen, anything else for a normal hike

(rubber boots useful for crossing streams)

The Vevcanska Lokva is one of a handful of scenic alpine lakes found in the Jablanica mountains to the west of Struga, along with a lake above the town of Podgorci, and two above the town of La-



bunista. These lakes are said to

be glacial, and the word *lokva* is the local word for such mountain lakes, which in English would be called tarns. I did [this hike](#) in the first half of May when the snow and ice melting were just starting to get seriously underway, and it was a spectacular sight to come upon.

The hike starts at the western edge of Vevcani. The bus (from the center of Struga every hour at 20 and 45 minutes past the hour) drops you off in the center of the village, and from there head toward the famous springs. You will pass over a mountain stream shortly before you reach the entrance to the springs, and to the right there will be a sign with some pictures and information about the mountain area you are about to enter. Turn right up this road. To your left is an old water mill, still used by the villagers to grind grain (it's always open and worth a look inside). From this point you will be following the water source which powers this mill. Continue on this road, which will eventually become gravel, out of the village.



You will exit the trees and more closely follow the stream, which you must cross at least once, then cross the mountain road and ascend a hill to enter the forest. From this point the path should be marked and fairly clear. The path follows the stream, crosses the road again, and continues in the forest. The stream will be to your left as you ascend the mountain through the forest. The trail leads to the mountain road, where an arrow will direct you to the left. Walk along the road until it splits in two, upon which you will turn right to continue ascending. Simply follow this mountain road, through a lovely birch forest,

to eventually emerge in an open valley called Golina (which means naked place). There are some tables and benches scattered around here so it is a good place to take a break.

Continue along the road to the small mountain hut, and then follow the trail along the ridge. You will then start a steeper ascent to the ridge which hides the lake. After you have seen and enjoyed the lake, you can hike to one of the nearby peaks, or return to Struga via Gorna Belica (the path is visible through the trees on the right side of the valley as you descend from the lake). Otherwise simply follow the trail the way you came back to Vevcani.

