

VLASIC MOUNTAIN IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: SUSTAINABLE LIFE

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ABSTRACT

Vlasic Mountain is a physically huge space, with an area of about 500 km², which can be presented through different aspects: geographical, geopolitical, socio-economic and socio-cultural-anthropological. In this paper, Vlasic will be treated as a system, that is, as an architecturally defined area (ADS) through the elaboration of its four basic elements: environment (natural and social environment), man, borders and perspectives. The simultaneous display of these elements will establish their mutual cause-and-effect relationship and nothing will be left out that is important for forming an image of this space. Considering its geographical position and geomorphology, the mountain Vlasic is one of the most important areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina, since it appears in the role of 'catcher' of water (rain and snow) as one of the basic assumptions of life (plants, animals and people) in this area and as the origin from where many watercourses and more or less generous sources of water will be generated. The hot water of the Lasva, Ugar, Bila and Ilomska rivers and several smaller watercourses are generated there. If the plateau of the Vlasic Mountain could be imagined without its current settlements and roads (without everything that is the work of man), therefore, as a 'natural pattern', the researcher cannot escape the impression that it is a 'perfect substrate for life'. In this sense, every inhabited place is a small system with all the necessary natural resources to generate life: water, flat and gently sloping fertile land for growing vegetables, cereals, meadows and spacious pastures around the village and on the wide plateau of the Vlasic Mountain.

KEYWORDS: Vlasic Mountain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Synergy of natural environment, social environment and man

1. INTRUDUCTION

Vlasic Mountain is a physically huge area (about 30 km x 15-20 km, surface area of about 500 km²) that can be presented through different aspects: geographical, geopolitical, socio-economic and socio-cultural-anthropological. Following the theory of space (and Architecturally defined space) developed by the Author in 1987 ^[1], the Vlasic Mountain will be treated in this book as a system, that is, as an architecturally defined space (ADS) through the elaboration of its four basic elements: environment (natural and social environment), man, boundaries and perspectives. The simultaneous presentation of these elements will establish their mutual cause-and-effect relationship and nothing will be left out that is important for forming an image of this space. The Vlasic Mountain, with regard to its geographical position and geomorphology, is one of the most important areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina, since it appears in the role of 'catcher' of water (rain and snow) as one of the basic assumptions of life (plants, animals and people) in this area and as the source from which many watercourses and more or less abundant water sources will be generated. The hot water of the Lasva, Ugar, Bila and Ilomska rivers and several smaller watercourses are generated there. If the plateau of the Vlasic Mountain could be imagined without its current settlements and roads (without everything that is the work of man), therefore, as a 'natural pattern', the researcher cannot escape the impression that it is a 'perfect substrate for life'. In this sense, every inhabited place is a small system with all the necessary natural resources for generating life: water, flat and gently sloping fertile land for growing vegetables, cereals, meadows and spacious pastures around the village and on the wide plateau of the Vlasic Mountain. All settlements are interconnected by communications. Once they were caravan tracks, once narrow paths, and today they are paved roads. Each village is a system in itself, with certain specifics arising partly from the natural environment, partly from the social environment, and partly from the ethnogenesis of man. The Vlasic Mountain plateau, with its natural and

social environment as a common denominator, binds all the villages and their people into a unique natural-anthropomorphic entity^[2] (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Aerial view of the Vlasic Mountain

Source: <https://www.dinarskogorje.com/vlascaroni263.html>, Accessed: October 17, 2024.

In this paper, the author deals with the topic of 'sustainability'. In this sense, he visited the entire area of Bosnia and Herzegovina and collected rich material, which he incorporated for the most part into his books and scientific works^[1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28]. In this sense, the Author visited the entire area of Bosnia and Herzegovina and collected rich material. Bosnia and Herzegovina is an extremely complex area in terms of the natural and social environment and its population. The three most numerous ethnic groups (Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats) live here, and thanks to its rich history, numerous people of different origins: Jews, Germans, Poles, Czechs, Italians, Hungarians... The composition of the population changed over time, but they remained material and spiritual traces of their life in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The complexity of Bosnia and Herzegovina is also visible in its architecture. Hence, for elaborating on the theme of sustainability, the most suitable scientific methodology^[1] was used, which is covered in his book: Hadrovic, A. (2007). *Defining Architectural Space on the Model of the Oriental Style CityHouse in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia*, Booksurge, LLC, North Charleston, SC, USA.

1. Environment

By 'environment' we mean every possibility in the space in which man can realize his existence^[1].

1.1. Natural environment

By 'natural environment' we mean all those features that nature gave, and on which man (mostly) did not exert his influence: geographical location, geomorphology, watercourses and reservoirs, plant and animal life, available soil, climate^[1]. Vlasic Mountain is located in the very center of Bosnia and Herzegovina^[29] (Figures 2,3). Its highest peak is Paljenik (Opaljenik, 1933 meters above sea level)^[30]. As the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently divided into cantons, Vlasic is located in the Central Bosnia Canton. The Vlasic plateau is 1300 meters above sea level, with geographic coordinates 44°14'N. and 17°40'E. The area of the Vlašić mountain is 500 km², of which 7,264 hectares are under forests, and 2,777 hectares are pastures. Vlasic has a dominant position in relation to the other medium-high mountains of Central Bosnia, which descend in terraces towards gentle Posavina. From Devecani to the north it continues and gradually rises to the highest peak of Paljenik (1933 meters above sea level), which is separated from the slightly lower Vlaska Gromila (1919 meters above sea level) by wide valleys. This Gromila occupies the entire eastern side of the mountain. It drops sharply to the east and southeast into the 600-700 m high valley of the Bila river, where many villages and hamlets are located along the valleys and narrow slopes. Kozica (1752 meters above sea level) is connected to Vlaska Gromila to the north^[31]. Considering that it is located in the very center of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vlasic (Babanovac) is a very important intersection of traffic routes and the center of both winter and summer tourism. The position of the Vlasic mountain is such that it is equally far from the sea as it is from large continental cities. One very important route, regional road R-413, Travnik - Skender Vakuf - Banjaluka, leads through the Vlasic.



Figure 2. Geographical position of the Vlasic Mountain

Source: <https://vlasic-online.com/geografski-polozaj-planine-vlasic/>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.



Figure 3. Vlasic Mountain (aerial view)

Source: https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipOqro0OtexW-yETbuEXwCgA08sFAYN3Ji8Guc_6=h720
 Accessed: November 9, 2024.

Vlasic is mainly built of limestones and Mesozoic dolomites, especially from the Lower and Upper Cretaceous^[32] (Figures 4,5). At the southern foot of the mountain there are numerous siparis ('tocila'), bare ridges, vast plateaus, steep sections and karst springs (Figure 6). Vlasic is located between the line Zenica - Travnik (in the southeast) and Kotor-Varos - Skender Vakuf (in the northwest). It rises steeply (Devecanske stijene, Paklarske stijene) in the area of Travnik above the Lasva river valley, which is also its southern border. Towards the north, it slopes more gently and extends to Vucje planina and the source of the river Vrbanja. Its eastern border is the Bila (Bijela) river, a tributary of the Lasva, while towards the west it descends into the Vitovlja plateau. The main feature of the relief of Vlasic is the Vlastic plateau 1000-1500 meters above sea level (average altitude about 1300 m), while the highest peaks exceed 1900 meters - of which Paljenik (Opaljenik) is the highest peak of Vlasic with 1933 meters above sea level. The plateau begins at the top of Ljuta greda (1740 meters above sea level). From Vlaska Gromila and Paljenik, spacious and lush pastures spread to the north: Mujezinovci, Preslica, Ljuljevac, Krmkov Do, Jezero and the main one, Smiljevica. They are closed on the northern side by Ljuta Greda (1740 meters above sea level). The Ljute Greda massif descends to the west to the Ugra valley, to the east to the Bila valley, and to the north to the Vrbanja spring. The slopes of this massif are overgrown with spruce forest. In the Vrtač area there are characteristic karst valleys, so the whole area resembles a real karst region. The area of Kazan, the surroundings of Pavlo and some parts of the Paljenica massif are similar in this respect. Vlasic Mountain has living, spring waters on all sides. Two strong tributaries of Vrbas spring from below it: Ugar and Vrbanja. There are many springs on the mountain itself, the most famous of which are: Devecani, Orman, Kraljica, Santic and Preocka. The first two springs are located in the meadows, and the last three in the pastures. In the west, there is the well-known Haratmbasa spring, which dries up, while the other springs always have water. Behind Ljuta Greda, in the middle of the omorikora forest, there is a very hot spring called Pašinac. It is one of the strongest springs on Vlasic with the most icy water.



Figure 4. The relief of the Vlasic Mountain

Source: <https://www.dinarskogorje.com/vlascaroni263.html>, Accessed: October 12, 2024.

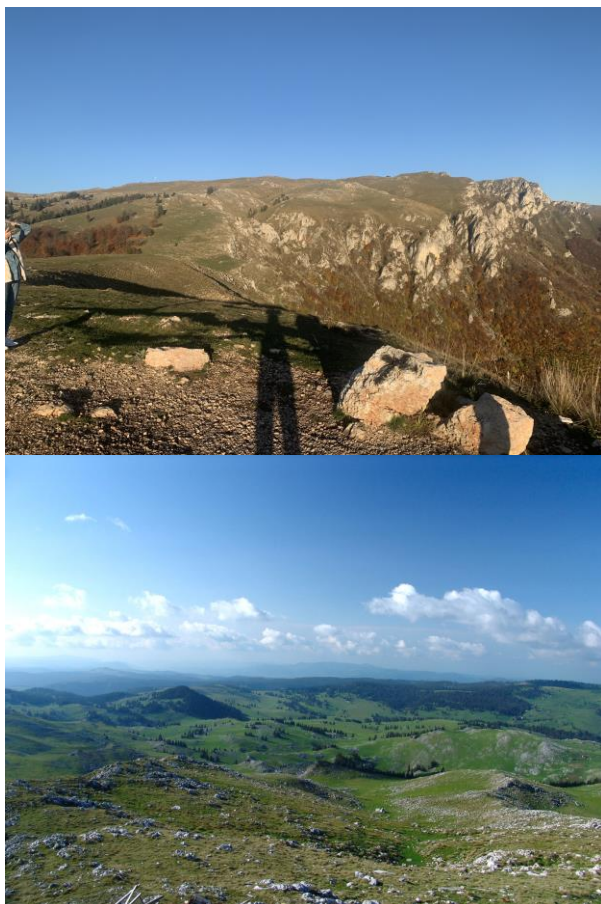


Figure 5. Left: Devecani's rocks on Vlasic. Right: Landscape around the top of Paljenik (Opaljenik)

Source: Author (October 22, 2024)

Source: <https://www.dinarskogorje.com/vlascaroni263.html>, Accessed: October 12, 2024.

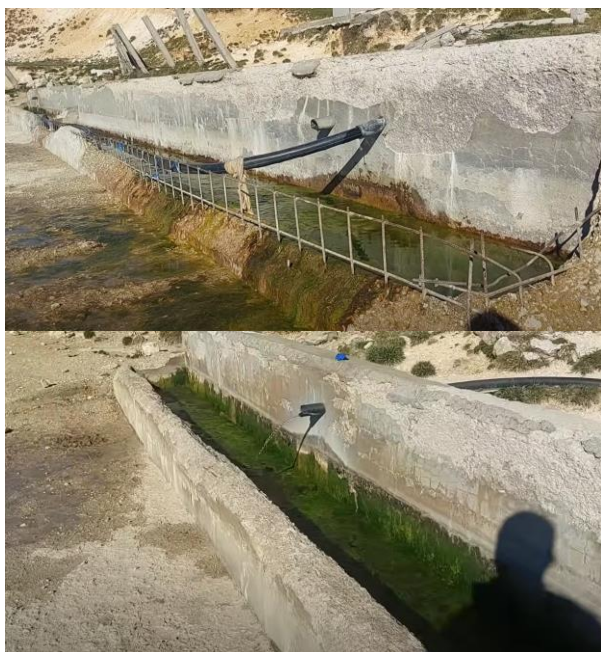


Figure 6. Water source and watering place for livestock in Devecani

Source <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CxQjvxxk4g&t=1588s>, Accessed: November 11, 2024.

A large part of the Vlasic plateau is under forest, pastures and meadows. The population of Vlasic used to be entirely engaged in animal husbandry, and today more and more in tourism (Figure 7). Numerous flocks of sheep graze in the meadows of Vlasic from early spring to late autumn. The area of the plateau is also the center of production of the famous 'Vlasic/Travnik cheese', a first-class sheep's cheese, one of the best cheeses of its kind. In addition to 'Vlasic cheese', the area is also known for its shepherd dog - Tornjak, which follows and guards the flocks of sheep on pasture. Of the permanent settlements, many climb very high, such as Koricani (1281 meters above sea level), Imljani (1113 meters above sea level), for example.



Figure 7. Forests and pastures on the Vlasic Mountain

Source: <https://putnikofer.hr/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/planina-vlasic-proplanak.jpg>, Accessed: October 10, 2024.

On Babanovac (1260 meters above sea level) there is a well-known winter sports center with 5 ski lifts, 15 km of cross-country skiing trails and 4 ski jumps that were famous for the international 'Pokal Vlasic' European Cup which was held 13 times on the 90-meter ski jump where competitors from 10 European countries, Japan and USA, the status of the Reserve Acclimatization Sports Center of the XIV Olympic Games, and the prestigious award 'Silver Flake'. The ski jumping competition 'Pokal Vlasic' has been held on this mountain since 1976, and it can be said that it was on Vlasic that the development of ski jumping in Bosnia and Herzegovina began. Jumps on Vlasic took place thirteen times until 1990, points were awarded for the European Cup, and all the best competitors of that time performed (Figure 8).





Figure 8. „Pokal Vlasic“ European Cup

Source: <https://www.womeninadria.ba/skijalista-u-bosni-i-hercegovini/>, Accessed: October 20, 2024.

Source: <https://www.vlasiclive.com/pokal-vlasic-cijela-je-bivsa-drzava-dolazila-ovdje/>, Accessed: October 20, 2024.

The Lasva river has its source on the southern and southeastern slopes of the Vlasic Mountain, where its water is drained by the main tributary Bila, then on the southern slope of the Galica mountain, on the eastern slope of the Radalj mountain and on the northeastern slope of the Komar mountain, where the Komarscica stream collects its water. In addition to the mentioned, more significant tributaries on the territory of the Central Bosnian Canton, on the right side of the valley there are also Grlovnica, Kruscica and Kozica. On the left side of the valley, a large number of mostly shorter but more water-bearing streams flow in. Due to its important geographical

position, the Lasva valley has always been a frequent road, which naturally connects the valley of the Bosna river in the east with the valley of the Vrbas river in the west. Traces of settlements in the area of Travnik go back to the distant past, when the Celts, Illyrians and Romans washed gold from Lasva river. With the Illyrians, as an autochthonous population, and with the Romans who conquered the Balkan areas at the beginning of our era, the Lašvan region enters the historical period and under the centuries-long influence of the ancient Roman civilization. The Ugar river is the right tributary of the Vrbas. It springs on the slopes of Vlastic, at about 1,550 meters above sea level (locality of Prelivoda). Three more rivers rise in this watershed: Ilomska, Vrbanja and Bila. Ugar flows into the Vrbas about twenty kilometers downstream from Jajce (Figure 9).



Figure 9. Left: Lasva river. Right: Ugar river

Source: <https://www.vitez.info/poziv-na-javnu-raspravu-povodom-izgradnje-nove-mhe-na-rijeci-lasva-u-vitezu/>, Accessed: October 10, 2024.

Source: <https://www.vlasiclive.com/rijeka-ugar-i-legenda-o-kamenoj-zeni/>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.

The Bila river is the largest, water-richest, left tributary of Lasva, into which it flows next to the settlements of Bila (Stara Bila) and Nova Bila. It is about 35 km long; springs on Vlastic, in the wider area of Prelivoda - at the confluence with Vrbanja, Ilomska and Ugar, at about 1320 meters above sea level. Bila, in fact, originates from several constituent streams between Vucje planina (1378 meters above sea level) and Vijenc (1375 meters above sea level), (). The Ilomska river originates in Vlastic, in an area called Prelivode. It flows between the slopes of Zeznica Greda (1477 meters above sea level) and Javorka (1499 meters above sea level), (Figure 10).



Figure 10. Left: Bila river. Right: Ilomska river

Source: <https://www.usrvitez.ba/o-nama/ribolovna-zona/item/533-rijeka-bila>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.

Source: <https://www.dinarskogorje.com/vlascaroni263.html>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.

The Ilomska waterfall is located on the Ilom stream, which descends down the slopes of the Vlašić mountain. This stream has its source at the top of the mountain and creates beautiful cascades and cascades of water as it descends down the rocky cliffs. The height of the waterfall can vary depending on weather conditions, but it can reach an impressive several tens of meters (Figure 11).



Figure 11. Ilomska waterfall

Source: <https://jahorina.net/vodopad-ilomska-je-skriveni-dragulj-na-planini-vlasic/>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.

Vlasic Mountain has a mountain climate ^[33]. The average summer temperature is 14.2 °C. On the other hand, the average winter temperature is 1 °C. Snow falls every year and stays for up to five months with an average height of 1.5 - 2.1 m, with a small number of stormy days. As for the precipitation during the summer, in principle it is unevenly distributed throughout the summer. It can happen that rainy days last up to two weeks without stopping, but that's why the days without rain stretch even longer (Figures 12,13,14).

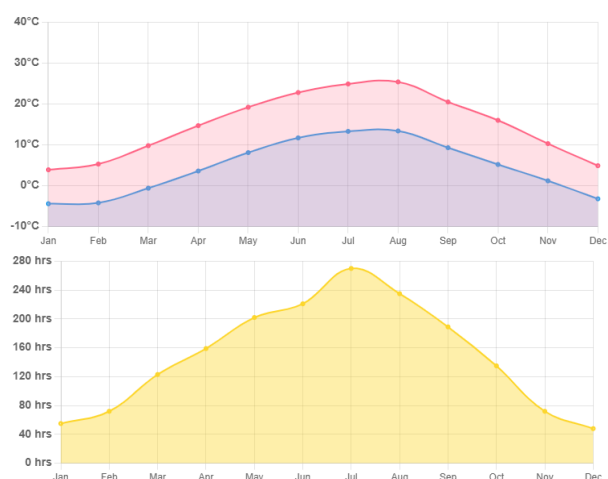


Figure 12. Left: Average day and night temperature. Right: Monthly hours of sunshine

Source: <https://weather-and-climate.com/average-monthly-Rainfall-Temperature-Sunshine,vlasic-ba,Bosnia-Herzegovina>

Accessed: October 8, 2024.

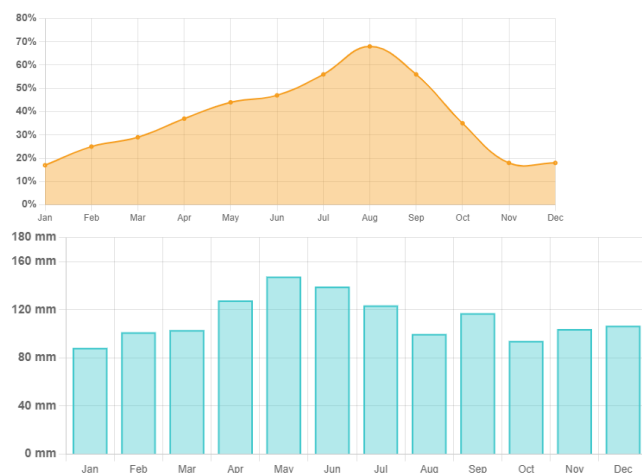


Figure 13. Left: Daily percentage of sunshine. Right: Monthly precipitation

Source: <https://weather-and-climate.com/average-monthly-Rainfall-Temperature-Sunshine,vlasic-ba,Bosnia-Herzegovina>

Accessed: October 8, 2024.

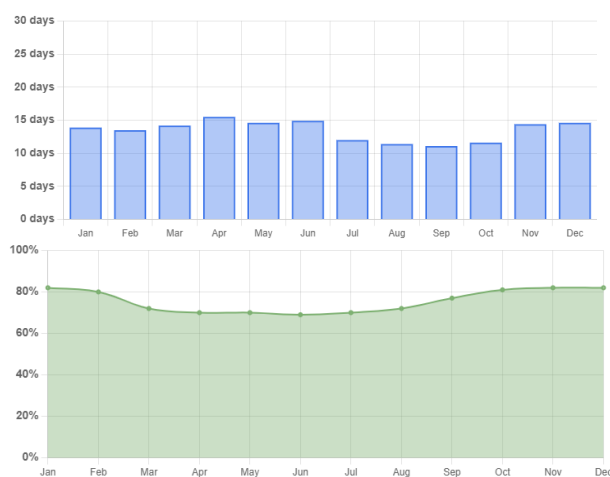


Figure 14. Left: Monthly rainy days. Right: Average air humidity

Source: <https://weather-and-climate.com/average-monthly-Rainfall-Temperature-Sunshine,vlasic-ba,Bosnia-Herzegovina>

Accessed: October 8, 2024.

The geographical position, the breakdown of the relief, as well as the geological past give the flora of the Vlasic region a special and distinctive feature. There, two large flora areas meet and intersect: Euro-Siberian and Irano-Turanian elements, and thus the flora of Vlasic is characterized by the diversity and colorfulness of flora elements. According to the catalogs of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian herbarium of the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo^[34], it was established that to this day there are many endemic species on Vlasic as well as highly endangered species of plants in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A special characteristic of the flora of Vlasic is its age, i.e. the existence of very old, relict species, which, due to particularly favorable circumstances, have been preserved there from the earliest times of the diluvial glaciations until the present day. The vegetation of the Vlasic Mountain, with regard to geographical, geological, climatic and historical circumstances and conditions, shows considerable horizontal and vertical breakdown (Figure 15). There is quite a variety of flora on the Vlašić plateau. Spruce is the most widespread in the tall forest. As low shrubs and bushes grow: hazel, skunk (*Rhamnus*), Vlasic rose (*Rosa brandisii* Keller), blackberry (*Rubus hirsutum* and *R. hypoglossum*), wild grape (*Ribes alpinum*), juniper (*Juniperus communis*), heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), pines (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), holly (*salix caprea*). This shrub begins in the lower parts of the mountain, but also climbs up to the high altitude pastures and meadows. In the grazing area, rabbit's whisker grass (*Nardus stricta*) dominates, which is not the best sign of the condition of these pastures. The mustache always appears where there is too much exploitation of pastures and where good tame grasses are lost. But on Vlasic, a good part of the pastures is also various fescue (*Festuca*), cornflowers, star (*Lotus*) and wild clovers. In addition, various wild plants grow that fill the sod and provide good pasture as well as hay in the meadows. Enician - an endemic plant, used in pharmacy and

cosmetics. A very rare species. There are several types of gentian depending on the height at which it grows. On the Vlasic Mountain, due to impossible control and protection, this endemic species is increasingly difficult to find in the very center of Babanovac, where it used to be. Now Encijan can be found on the Galica plateau or on Devecani. It is popularly known as a plant from which a very healthy drink is made, which cleans the blood, so it is also called *lincura* heartworm. Many alpine flowers grow in the meadows, for example: sedges, sunworts (green-kada), salep, tricolor violets, carnations, goldenrods, hellebores, stoneworts, mountain flowers (jablan), toadstools, rhubarb (*Gentiana lutea*), marigolds (*Kantanrion*). and many-variegated glavocika, low roses (*Rosa brandisia*). The fauna of Vlasic is also diverse. It consists of numerous insects, especially grasshoppers. Sometimes there are so many of these that they cover almost all the grass. Of the birds, the rock partridges, alpine crows, kestrels, eagles and little larks stand out. Roe deer live in wooded areas, and bears also live in Kozic forests and dens. There are many wolves and they cause a lot of damage. From late autumn until May, the Vlasic pastures are deserted, with rare exceptions. At the beginning of May, when most of the snow is removed, Vlasic comes alive. Numerous flocks of sheep go out to graze. In addition to sheep, a lot of cattle and some horses are driven to Vlasic. There are over 10,000 sheep alone ^[35].





Figure 15. Plant and animal life on the Vlasic Mountain (information panels on the Vlasic Mountain)
Source: Author (October 22, 2024)

Vlasic Mountain is not only known as a 'winter destination'. Vlasic is also a highly sought-after destination in other seasons thanks to a series of natural attractions - the Ugar river and the 15-meter-high Ugric waterfall, the beautiful Galica glade, the famous mountain lodge „Jusuf Pecenkovic“ at an altitude of 1,763 meters above sea level, which is located in the area called Devecani. It got its name from the nine water sources there. The Paklar rocks, the steep cliffs, are especially noteworthy, and from the top of Vlasic, if the weather is nice, you can also see Biokovo. Vlasic Mountain is known for its dog called 'Tornjak'. This breed lives in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which existed there a thousand years ago. Chroniclers registered this dog ten centuries ago under the name *Kanis montanus* – mountain dog, and since ancient times our local population has called it 'Tornjak'. Tornjak was registered as an autochthonous breed on May 9, 1981 under the name „Bosnian-Herzegovinian Shepherd Dog – Tornjak“^[36] (Figure 16).



Figure 16. Dog Tornjak

Source: <https://www.zoocity.hr/blog/post/tornjak>, Accessed: October 10, 2024.

The tradition of sheep farming has been preserved on the Vlasic Mountain for centuries; the most famous product of this livestock branch is Vlasic cheese, which can be bought directly from the shepherd. The assumption is that the technique of making cheese in brine was brought to these regions by herders-nomads from the east who were called Vlachs. That's where the name Vlasic came from. This tradition was later taken over by herders from the surrounding mountains, and so Vlasic cheese is now produced throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina and the wider region. Villagers from Vlasic brought it to Travnik and sold it there, which is why they also call it Travnik cheese. However, Vlasic cheese is also made from cow's milk for those who find the aroma of sheep's milk too strong. Cheese is traditionally cut into slices and packed in wooden baskets (Figures 17, 19).



Figure 17. Pastures on Vlasic

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ob8L4HQPzLI&t=869s>, Accessed: October 10, 2024.

'Dubska ovca' ('Dub's sheep'), also known as 'Travnicka or Vlasicka pramenka', in the region it is also called Bosnian pramenka, which is the largest and most widespread strain in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It has been bred for centuries in poor feeding and housing conditions. It is a very resistant sheep, happy, knows how to eat (Figure 18).



Figure 18. 'Dubska ovca' ('Dub's sheep'), also known as 'Travnicka or Vlasicka pramenka',
 Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fGaFxYOiR4>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.
 Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ob8L4HQPzLI&t=869s>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.



Figure 19. Sheep's (Vlasic's/Travnik's) cheese
 Source: <https://www.agroklub.ba/stocarstvo/gdje-je-stao-smail-nastavio-hazir-vlasicka-pramenka-i-sir-nadaleko-poznati/82524/>
 Accessed: October 8, 2024.
 Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ob8L4HQPzLI&t=869s>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.

1.2. Social environment

By 'social environment' we mean everything that man has created and that separates him from the world of other living beings ^[1]. It includes both physical structures (various material, more or less ordered products of their activities) and the immaterial world that we know with the intellect (science, philosophy, religion, law, morality) through an ordered system of abstract symbols (letters, signs) ^[1]. The history of the Vlasic Mountain is accompanied by traces of human presence that go back thousands of years. Archaeological remains have been

found on these slopes, testifying to the life of people since the Neolithic era. The oldest known graves in the Balkans are barrows (tumulus), created between 1800 and 200 BC. Most of them are from the Bronze Age, when Illyrian culture flourished in the Balkans. Gromila is a type of burial mound - a tumulus, made of a pile of stones, usually circular in shape, under which the remains of one or more people are buried. Since the Illyrians believed in the afterlife, they buried their dead with their personal belongings. The Vlaska Gromila on the Vlasic Mountain (geographic coordinates: 44°17'22.22"N, 17°40'02.02"E, altitude 1905 m) testifies to the age of life on the Vlasic Mountain (Figure 20).

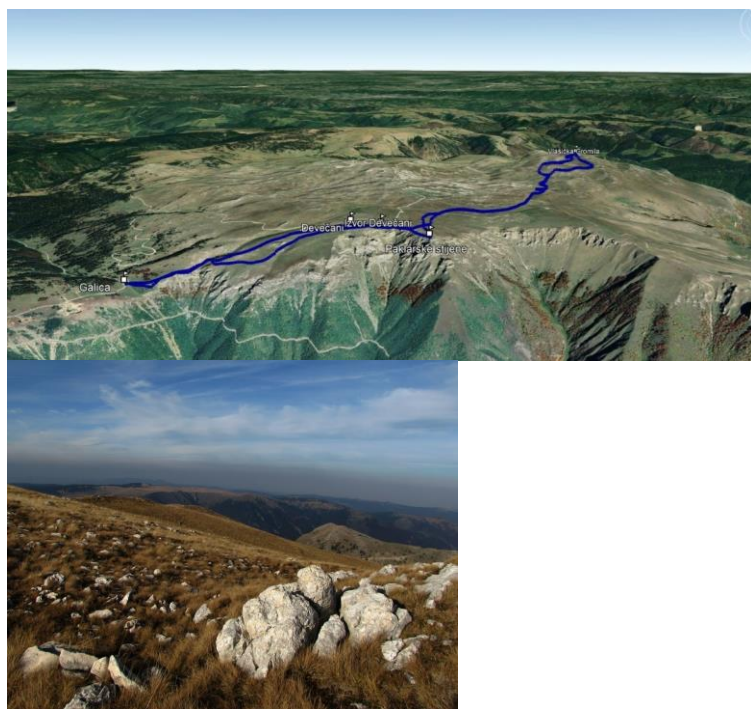


Figure 20. Vlaska Gromila in Galica (Vlasic Mountain)

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=4546165035474293&set=a.4546086025482194>, Accessed: October 13, 2024.

Source: <https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipMLjbz0A4C6Or-LSHdVW6QAxT96XZJv0KxDcALg=h720>
Accessed: October 13, 2024.

Later, in Roman times, Vlasic was part of important trade routes that connected different parts of the Balkans. The Roman road *ad Bathinium flumen*, 158 Roman miles long, was built in 20 AD, connecting Salona with the area around the Bathinus river. Four directions of this road are possible: 1. Salona - Livno - Kupresko polje - Sipovo - Jajce - Turbe - Travnik - Zenica - Zepce, 2. Salona - Livno - Kupresko polje - Bugojno - Mosunjsko Polje - Zenica - Zepce, 3. Salona - Trilj - Duvno - Kupres - Bugojno - Mosunjsko Polje - Zenica - Zepce, 4. Salona - Trilj - Duvno - Varvara - Gornji Vakuf - Mosunjsko Polje - Zenica - Zepce^[36]. During the Middle Ages, the Vlasic mountain area was an important stronghold of the Bosnian rulers and a strategic position in defense against the Ottoman conquests. The surrounding villages, such as Babanovac, Gornji and Donji Malin, and others, also have a rich history that goes back to the distant past. These villages were once vital centers of trade, livestock and craft activities, whose traditions are still cherished among the local population today. Visitors to Vlasic have the opportunity to get to know authentic rural life and traditional customs of picturesque villages. There are different legends about the origin of the name Vlasic^[37]. In Vlasic, there is still a version that the Mother of the Sun and the Moon sent seven brothers to bring happiness and beauty from a distant world. Six returned happily, but the seventh was lost forever. Finally, the moon finds him on the beautiful mountain he has turned into. According to another variant, six brothers courted the same beauty and then quarreled angrily. They asked the Mother of the Moon and the Sun to judge. She decides that the beauty will be everyone's sister, and her seventh child. Legend has it that the Seven Vlasic constellation was formed then, which (on clear nights, from spring to autumn) can be seen crystal clear from the Vlasic Mountain. Among the local population, the acceptable belief that the mountain is named after the shepherd-nomads Vlachs has also been passed down for centuries. They lived and raised their flocks there since the fall of the Roman Empire and remained until the end of the 19th century. Marko Vego and his like-minded people assume that the nomadic Vlachs are, in fact, Romanized descendants of the ancient Romans and ancient Illyrian tribes^[38]. They brought the recipe for making Vlašić

cheese from one of their travels, around 1000 AD. Originally, fresh sheep's milk was used, but in recent times it has also been mixed with cow's milk. In both cases, the maturation phase lasts about three months. Today, Vlastic cheese is produced only on controlled pastures, and by reconstructing the recipe, it gets its original, traditional quality. The villages at the foot of the Vlastic Mountain are: Dub (inhabited by Bosniaks, with about 1,000 inhabitants), Krpeljici (629 inhabitants, inhabited mainly by Bosniaks and a smaller percentage of Croats), Visnjevo (576 inhabitants, inhabited mainly by Bosniaks and a smaller percentage of Serbs and Croats), Gluha Bukovica (inhabited by Bosniaks, with about 878 inhabitants), Orahovo (inhabited by Bosniaks, with about 328 inhabitants), Suhi Dol (inhabited by Bosniaks, with about 482 inhabitants), Poljanice (inhabited by Bosniaks, with about 250 inhabitants), Guca Gora (511 inhabitants, inhabited mainly by Croats and a smaller percentage by Bosniaks and Serbs), Maline (1,095 inhabitants, inhabited mainly by Bosniaks and a smaller percentage of Croats and Serbs), Han Bila (655 inhabitants, inhabited mainly by Bosniaks and a smaller percentage of Croats), Pode (1076 inhabitants, inhabited mainly by Bosniaks and a smaller percentage of Croats), Jezerci (194 inhabitants, inhabited by Bosniaks), Mudrike (550 inhabitants, inhabited mainly by Bosniaks and a smaller percentage of Serbs), Sisava (179 inhabitants, inhabited mainly by Serbs and a smaller percentage of Bosniaks and Croats), Vitovlje (958 inhabitants, inhabited mainly by Bosniaks and a smaller percentage of Serbs), Radonjici (128 inhabitants, inhabited by Croats), Podkraj (507 inhabitants, inhabited mainly by Croats and a smaller percentage of Bosniaks), Paklarevo (972 inhabitants, inhabited mainly by Croats and a smaller percentage of Serbs). Most of the villages on the Vlastic mountain (Mudrike, Maglici, Golici and Halilovici) and at its foot (Dub, Krpeljici, Visnjevo, Gluha Bukovica, Orahovo, Suhi Dol, Mehurići, Maline, Han Bila, Pode, Jezerci, Vitovlje) are inhabited by Bosniaks whose religion islam. There is only one mosque on the Vlastic Mountain plateau itself, the mosque in the village of Mudrike, which belongs to the Mudrike congregation (geographical coordinates: 44°18'57.03"N, 17°31'33.51"E, altitude 995 m). This congregation also includes the villages: Maglici, Golici and Halilovici. 'Dzemat', located on the slopes of the Vlastic Mountain, 25 km from Travnik, has 120 households. The first mosque was built in 1976. This mosque was destroyed in the 1992-1995 war. The new mosque was built in 2003 (Figure 21).



Figure 21. The mosque in the Mudrike village on the Vlastic Mountain

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlgrbrKHueg>, Accessed: October 20, 2024.

2. MAN

Space acquires meaning only if it stands in some relation to man. This relationship ranges from the relations of the already known dimensions of space, through those that can be sensed, to those that are currently beyond the reach of human imagination. In other words, man is a being on the way, a being who continuously learns, a being of open possibilities. The term 'man' is a huge question, the essence of which he himself tries to decipher within his own limits, within the limits of the Earth and the limits of the Universe ^[1]. Together with the rest of the living world, it participates in the process of circulation of matter and energy in nature, sharing the same fate with it, being born and dying against its will. Endowed with reason, will and feelings, he is the only one in the living world who can discover the given laws of the organization of nature. Vlaska gromila in Galica (on the Vlastic Mountain) testifies to the age of life on this mountain. Since the Illyrians believed in the afterlife, they buried their dead with their personal belongings, as we know from the researched burial mounds in other areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Glasinac, for example. The Vlaska gromila in Galica, as well as the wider area of the Vlastic Mountain plateau, have not been thoroughly explored so far. However, it is certain that continuous life took place there, from prehistory to the present day, thanks to the great potential of the natural resources of this mountain. The way of life of people on the Vlastic Mountain changed over time, according to its secondary

features (construction and equipment of huts/huts, means of transport, new facilities, for example), but one constant remained - the use of the natural resources of this mountain. In addition to the work of maintaining a 'bare life', the inhabitants of the Vlasic Mountain also had a life full of leisure, in socializing with each other and individually. Sometimes it was a conversation while doing 'housework' (spinning wool, knitting clothes, weaving rugs, for example), sometimes it was a game in the open area of the pasture (throwing an ax, throwing a stone from the shoulder), and sometimes playing the flute and doubles (Figures 22-35).







Figure 22. Vlasic Mountain / winter 1954. Short black and white documentary film

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/biljanska.org/videos/vla%C5%A1i%C4%87-planina-zima-1954-godinekratki-crno-bijeli-dokumentarni-film-iz-daleke-19/1481397102263091/>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.

Katun is a word of Vlach-Albanian origin, and it refers to a shepherd's temporary summer shelter on the mountain. Katuns are modest shelters, built from handy materials, usually as dry stone walls covered with branches and grass, and very small - just big enough to shelter your head from blizzards and storms (Figures 23-35). Today, it has become fashionable to offer them to tourists for a stay in the mountains, they are of course much more comfortable - so apart from the name, they have nothing in common with the original katuns.



Figure 23. Katun on the Vlasic Mountain, built in the 1980s

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtv8Z7762bs>, Accessed: October 9, 2024.



Figure 24. Interior decoration of a katun on Vlasic

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zb5U2FkZG_k&t=753s, Accessed: October 9, 2024.

In recent times, the life of people on the Vlasic Mountain looks like a 'summer vacation of a modern man on the mountain', but in addition to performing the basic tasks for which they are there (herding cattle, making cheese, growing vegetables), which provides the main means of living which, in their full , contemporary content takes place in the primary settlements at the foot of the Vlasic Mountain (Figure 25-35).



Figure 25. Husband and wife in katun on Vlasic

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ob8L4HQPzLI&t=869s>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.

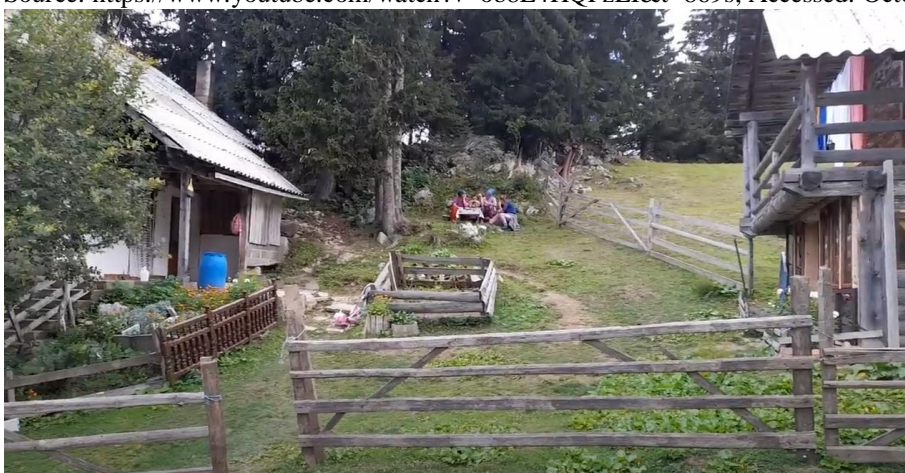




Figure 26. A family in katun on Vlasica

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiSCrLyONTU>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.





Figure 27. One new katun on Vlasic

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOBae9zKooU&t=1061s>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.

Transportation of the necessary equipment from the primary villages at the foot of the Vlasic Mountain and the pastures on its plateau was traditionally carried out by donkeys - patient, hardy and somewhat demanding animals (Figure 28).



Figure 28. The donkey is the main means of transportation in Vlasica

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ylUxhSOB4k>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LkCY8CvLh4>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.



Figure 29. Washing sheep's wool in the Kozica river on the Vlasica Mountain

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFD4aimG_LM, Accessed: October 16, 2024.



Figure 30. Meeting of women-neighbors in the Visnjevo village near Travnik

Source: <https://travnik.ba/travnik-danas-zbor-gradana-u-mz-visnjevo/>, Accessed: October 16, 2024.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfK2-wyFeCc>, Accessed: October 16, 2024.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6oNyPffF5o>, Accessed: October 16, 2024.



Figure 31. Traditional weaving from sheep's wool in the Visnjevo village near Travnik (Osmanovic family)
Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=bTFIAOpQW0M>, Accessed: October 16, 2024.
Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFtdAhwGFE>, Accessed: October 16, 2024.



Figure 32. Handmade woolen products from the Visnjevo village: sale at the market in Turbe near Travnik

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjfKlZJQD1I>, Accessed: October 16, 2024.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOpE75Ywu0s>, Accessed: October 16, 2024.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axHMuIeQjz0>, Accessed: October 16, 2024.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tee2TWkCd6o>, Accessed: October 16, 2024.



Figure 33. The Dub village near Travnik (geographic coordinates: 44°16'55.10"N, 17°42'49.10"E, altitude 814 m)

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=177490168133866&set=a.177490171467199>, Accessed: October 16, 2024.



Figure 34. Preparation of the flock of sheep in the Dub village before going to the Vlasic Mountain

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nB0Jkh6HhiY>, Accessed: October 16, 2024.



Figure 35. A family from the Dub village in Katun on the Vlasic Mountain

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjSF5bwcfVY>, Accessed: October 16, 2024.

Several well-known people were born in the podvlasic villages of who performed (most of them still perform) important duties in the Islamic Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina (and beyond): Prof. Dr. Enes Karic, born on May 16, 1958 in the village of Visnjevo near Travnik, theologian and writer, professor at the Faculty of Islamic Sciences of the University of Sarajevo; Prof. Dr. Nedžad Grabus, born in 1968 in the village of Krpeljici near Travnik, theologian, professor at the Faculty of Islamic Sciences of the University of Sarajevo. From September 15, 2021. holds the post of mufti of Sarajevo; famous imams and muderisi were born in the congregation of Kljaci near Travnik: Sulejman-ef. Alibegovic (1910 - 1988), famous caddy, dr. Zuhdija Adilovic (born 1962), dean of the Faculty of Islamic Pedagogy in Zenica, dr. Ahmed-ef. Adilovic (born 1964), mufti of Travnik.

3. BOUNDARIES

'Boundaries' are those places in the environment where the situations encountered are controlled according to very specific human needs. Conditions are all those discovered and undiscovered phenomena in space that have a stimulating or degrading effect on humans. Borders, therefore, have the task of enabling the selection of influences. In the architectural sense, they enclose, but also include a person in the conditions of a certain environment ^[1]. This paper deals with life on the Vlasic mountain in a self-sustainable way. In processing 'boundaries', attention will be focused primarily on mountain huts (katuns). Given that the life of the people on the Vlasic Mountain is essentially connected with their life in their native villages at the foot of this mountain, the theme of 'border' includes the elaboration of the life of the people in these villages, and beyond, in the town of Travnik and its surroundings. 'Katun' is a word of Vlach-Albanian origin, and it refers to a shepherd's temporary summer shelter on the mountain. These are modest shelters, built from available materials, most often as stone and wooden dry walls covered with shingles. On the mountains in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we meet different katuns (Figures 36-48), both in terms of their size, architecture, construction and materialization, as well as in terms of the level of interior equipment. Although these are, as a rule, temporary dwellings for staying in the summer period (from May to October, as a rule), in some katuns you can also stay during the winter period. Today, the term 'katun' has been extended to buildings for housing and domestic economy, made as modern residential buildings and facilities intended for tourists.





Figure 36. Newer katun (owner Juso Hodzic from the Mehurici village) on Vlasic
Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ob8L4HQPzLI>, Accessed: October 10, 2024.



Figure 37. Traditional hut/katun on Vlasic
Source: <https://www.dinarskogorje.com/vlascaroni263.html>, Accessed: October 12, 2024.
Source: <https://bogumili.hr/travnik-vlasic-i-dolina-stecaka>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.
Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPZ3OkqRocc>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.



Figure 38. Newer katun on Vlasica

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DcIsbonw8pk>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ob8L4HQPzLI&t=869s>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.



Figure 39. Old and new katuns on Vlasica

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DcIsbonw8pk>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ylUxhSOB4k>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiSCrLyONTU>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LkCY8CvLh4>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiSCrLyONTU>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.

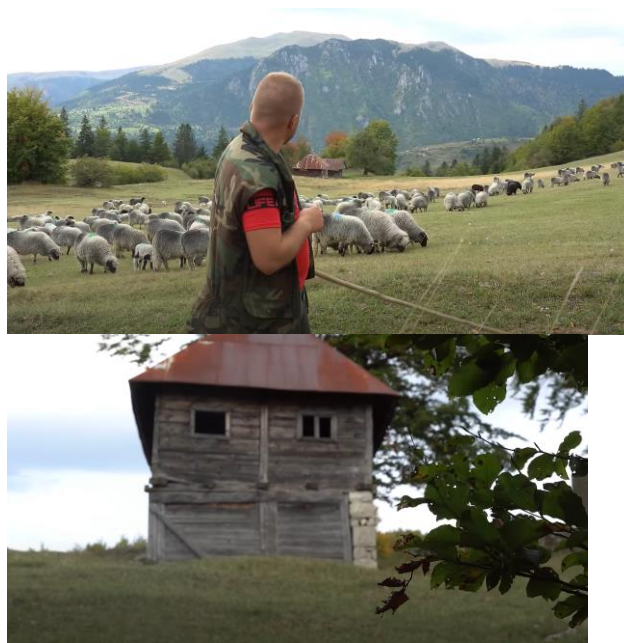


Figure 40. Old katun on Vlasic

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LkCY8CvLh4>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.





Figure 41. Katun (owner Vahid Rubanovic) on Vlasic (Galica)

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyBjBewPWZw>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.





Figure 42. Katun (owners Saban and Medina Fusko from the Dub village) on Vlasic in winter
Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uX3Ify2Paz8&t=1125s>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.







Figure 43. One katun on Vlasica

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knYiKWx1X5o&t=619s>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.



Figure 44. Katun on Vlasic

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdLyfx6zkes>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.



Figure 45. Katun on the Vlasic Mountain (owner Redzo Hodzic from the Mehurici village)

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdLyfx6zkes>, Accessed: October 16, 2024.



Figure 46. One katun on Vlasic

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7Vdwm6MnNE>, Accessed: October 15, 2024.



Figure 47. One katun on Vlasic

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tm0Ehfk9Jm8>, Accessed: October 11, 2024.

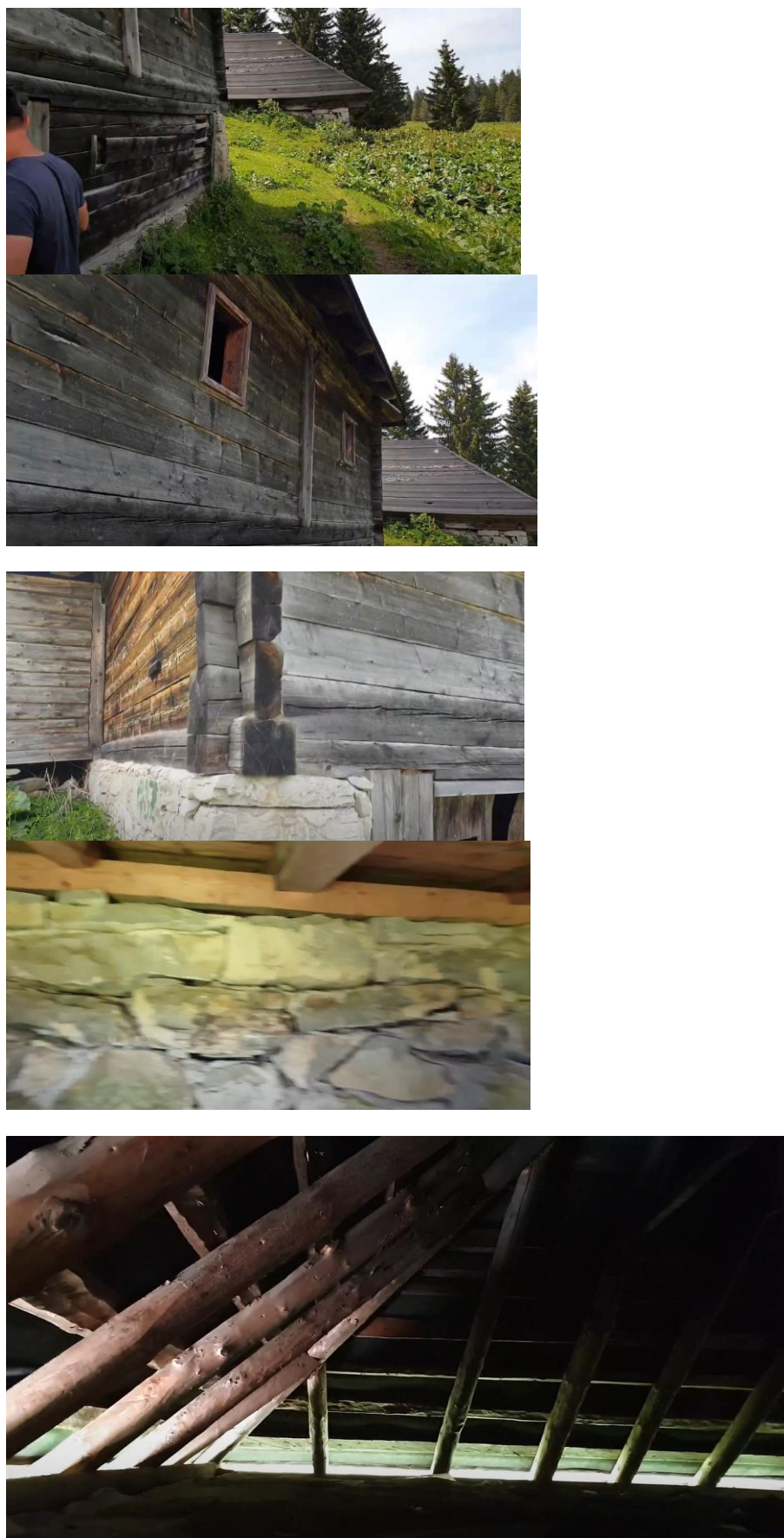


Figure 48. Traditional construction and materialization of katun in Vlasica
Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPZ3OkqRocc>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.

4. CONCLUSION (PERSPECTIVES)

By the term 'Perspectives' in the framework of the theory of architecturally defined space (ADS), we mean „that dynamic relationship that connects now - future, existing - possible, achieved – desired“^[1]. The emergence of a settlement (hamlet, village) or architectural-engineering structure is never accidental, but is the result of synergy between the natural and social environment-man^[1]. The emergence of a settlement (hamlet, village) or an architectural-technical object is never accidental, but the result of the synergy of the natural and social environment - man. Due to its favorable geographical location (in the central part of Bosnia and Herzegovina), good transportation connections with larger cities (Travnik, Zenica, Sarajevo, Skender Vakuf/Knezevo, Banjaluka), natural resources (forests, pastures, rivers), the mountain Vlasic was, from prehistory to today, a good place for people to live. In addition to traditional shepherd's huts (katuns) and the production of sheep's and cow's cheese, the Vlasic Mountain is continuously enriched with new contents in accordance with social changes. Vlasic is one of the most visited touristic destinations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the surrounding countries. The Vlasic plateau is 1,300 meters above sea level, and is known for the tradition of making 'Vlasic cheese', as well as more recent tourism at Babanovac (1,260 meters above sea level), where a new Bosnian winter tourism center has been established over time, which is also visited by foreign guests. Vlašić is a suitable area for beekeeping, and rural tourism is also developing. During the summer months on the Vlasic mountain, SRC Babanovac offers visitors the following facilities: organized hiking tours through gentle mountain landscapes, where you can come across some endemic plant and animal species; excursions, hiking, walks in the most beautiful parts of Vlasic, such as the beautiful river Ugar and its source, Kraljica (one of the most beautiful parts of Vlasic), Devecani (a mountain lodge), and the top of Vlasic itself - Opaljenik, at an altitude of 1943 m, where there is an RTV relay; a visit to katuns where, according to centuries-old tradition, the widely known 'Vlasic cheese' and other local products are produced; a much richer non-boarding offer is during the winter months, when on the Vlasic Mountain, more precisely in hotels, motels, boarding houses and private accommodation. Then SRC Babanovac offers the following non-boarding offers: snow safari - possibility of renting a snow mobile (snow scooter); night skiing (18:30 - 21:30h); nightlife – Vlasic is widely known among young people as a winter center that offers great nightlife; every weekend, various famous singers and groups from the area of the former Yugoslavia are guests in the discotheques of Vlasic. The increasing number of tourists from various parts of the world every year shows that a stay on the Vlasic Mountain is an event that requires a desire to repeat it. In the last three years, Vlasic has been and remains the largest construction site in Bosnia and Herzegovina. People invested private capital and recognized that Vlasic was becoming an important tourist destination. In addition to a large number of cottages, new hotels have been built, which meet European hotel standards (Figures 49-60).



Figure 49. View from Galica (Vlasic) to the Lasva valley and the surrounding area
Source: Author (October 22, 2024)







Figure 50. A typical katun on Vlasica, today

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLM_md7GsZY&t=85s, Accessed: October 9, 2024.



Figure 51. A typical katun on Vlasic, today

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kncN6O7Pob8>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.



Figure 52. A newer katun on Vlasic

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zb5U2FkZG_k&t=753s, Accessed: October 8, 2024.



Figure 53. Old and new katuns on the Vlasic Mountain
Source: Author (October 22, 2024.)





Figure 54. Contemporary estate-katun on Vlasic

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpwQWCqKf3s&t=107s>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.



Figure 55. Katun on the wide expanse of Vlasic

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cjx2CtbphCg>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.



Figure 56. A typical katun on Vlasica

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wL_VCOhV6XE&t=99s, Accessed: October 8, 2024.





Figure 57. New katun on Vlasic (owner Zvonko Lovrenovic)

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeXhrV2HI74>, Accessed: October 9, 2024.

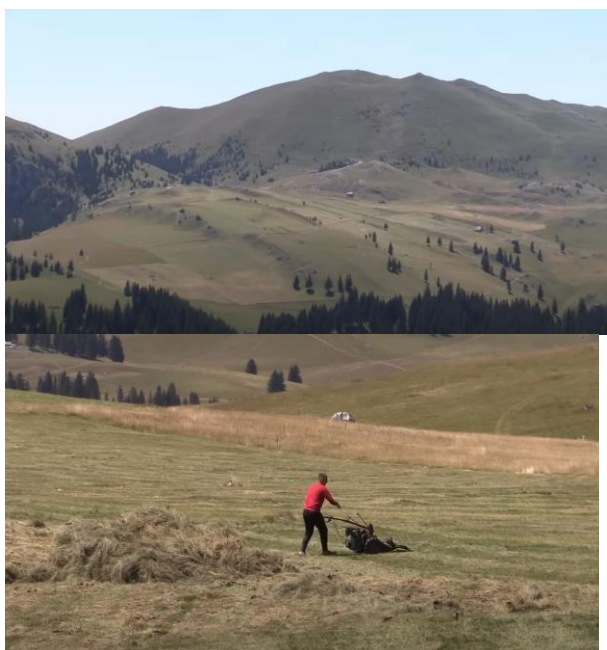




Figure 58. Contemporary hay gathering on Vlasica

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5AQQCj5AVY>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.





Figure 59. Contemporary estate „Salak“ on Vlasic

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MR4PHuA7v_w, Accessed: October 8, 2024.



Figure 60. Small shops selling products and souvenirs from Vlasic (Mudrike village)

Source: Author (October 22, 2024)

When the news arrived from Athens in 1978 that Sarajevo would be the host of the 14th Winter Olympic Games (WIN '84), it made all the inhabitants of our country happy, including this region of Travnica. Vlasic was then planned as an acclimatization center and reserve arena in case of lack of snow on Igman, Bjelasnica and Jahorina. On this occasion and in that period, the ski resort on Vlasic experienced its first real development. In that period, four ski lifts were installed on the Vlasic Mountain, namely: „Ugar“ with a capacity of 800 skiers/h, „Markovac“ with a capacity of 1,300 skiers/h, „Babanovac“ with a capacity of 2,100 skiers/h, „Visovi“ with a capacity of 900 skiers/h. Today, the situation on Vlasic is a little different. The ski lifts „Ugar“ and „Visovi“ are no longer in operation, and the ski resort has three ski lifts, namely „Babanovac I“, „Babanovac II“ and „Markovac“. The ski resort stretches for about 15 km, and the main part is covered by ski lifts „Babanovac I and II“ (1260=1450 m above sea level), one of which is the 'anchor' lift and the other is the 'dish'. In addition to the mentioned ski lifts, there is one large and wide trail, which is illuminated along its entire length for night skiing. Vlasic is the first ski center in B&H to offer night skiing to its skiers. The „Markovac“ ski lift (1,345-1,525 m) continues on this track, whose lift is also an 'anchor' and which leads to the highest point of the ski area, Markovac (Figures 61,62).

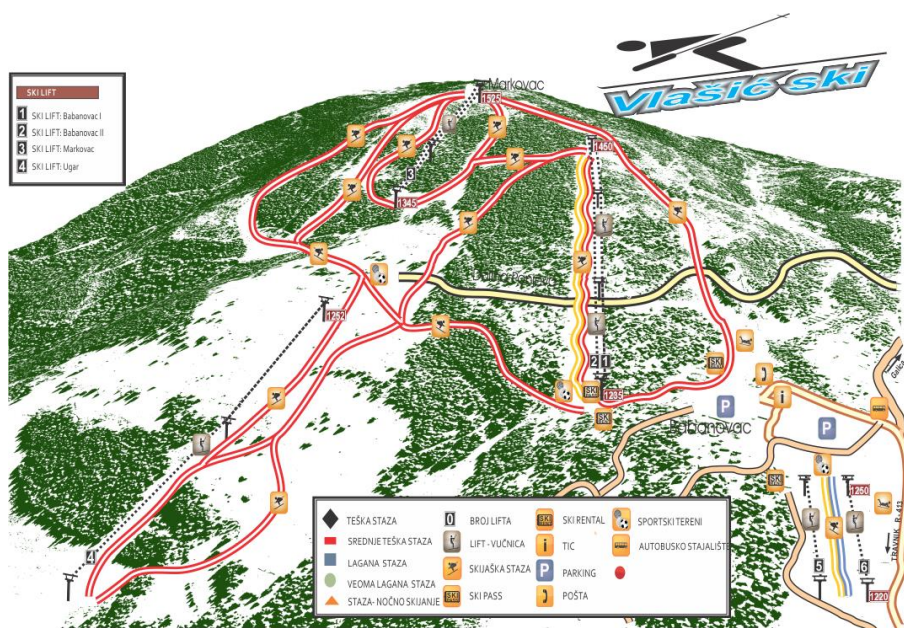


Figure 61. Ski resorts on Vlasice

Source: https://www.ozon.ba/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/mapa_ski_staza_2.png, Accessed: October 9, 2024.

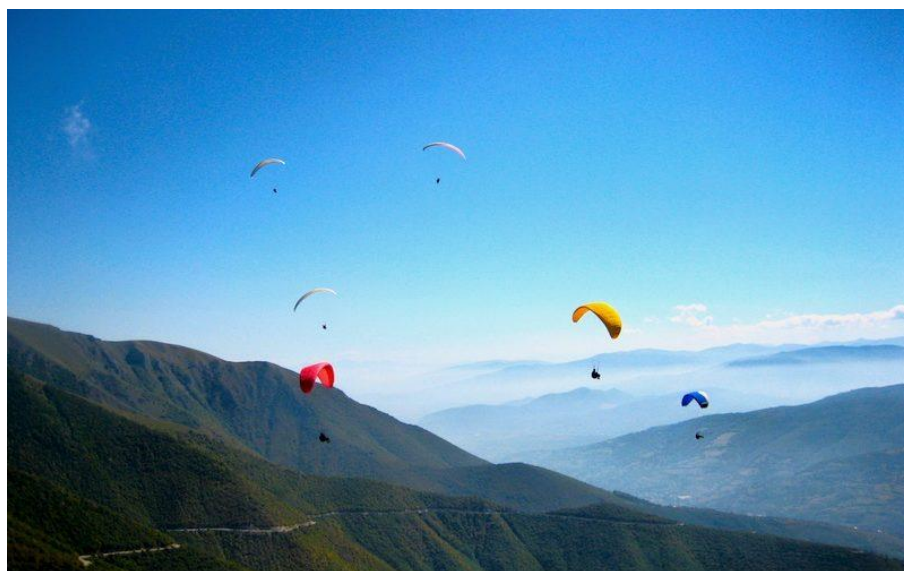


Figure 62. Paragliding on Vlasice

Source: <https://travnik.ba/planina-vlasice-kod-travnika/>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.

The tourist resort 'Oaza mira' ('Oasis of peace') Vlasice consists of a hotel and 13 cottages. The hotel has 10 hotel rooms, a reception, a restaurant and a coffee bar. Each of the cottages has a living room (sofa that can be extended), a fully equipped kitchen, 3 bedrooms (2+2+4) comfortable for 8 people, underfloor heating and a pellet fireplace, 2 bathrooms, a fountain, parking and Wi-Fi internet. The 'Oaza mira' tourist resort in Vlasice is located 2 km from the center of Babanovac and 25 km from Travnik (Figure 63).



Figure 63. Tourist resort 'Oaza mira' ('Oasis of peace') on Vlasic

Source: <https://olx.ba/artikal/35193113/turisticko-naselje-oaza-mira-vlasic/>, Accessed: October 8, 2024.

In the Mudrike village on the plateau of Vlasic Mountain, just three kilometers from the Babanovac Ski Center, the tourist resort 'Lotos 1' was opened in 2018, with 10 facilities on an area of 20,000 m² (Figure 64). This is a tourist resort whose construction began in March 2017. These are 10 luxuriously furnished villas. This will be an open-type tourist resort, as there will also be playgrounds for children and all guests will be able to enjoy this part of Vlasic.



Figure 64. Tourist resort „Lotos 1“ on Vlasic

Source: <https://zenicainfo.ba/2018/05/09/saudijci-otvorili-luksuzno-naselje-i-grade-elitni-hotel-na-vlasicu/>, Accessed: October 9, 2024.

Source: <https://vlasic-villa-mudrike.hotel-mix.de/#lg=11756914&slide=922239694>, Accessed: October 9, 2024.

In the central pillar of Devecanske stijene (Devecani's rocks), there is a sports climbing area, started in 1991 and continued immediately after the opening of the area in 1997 (Figures 65-67).

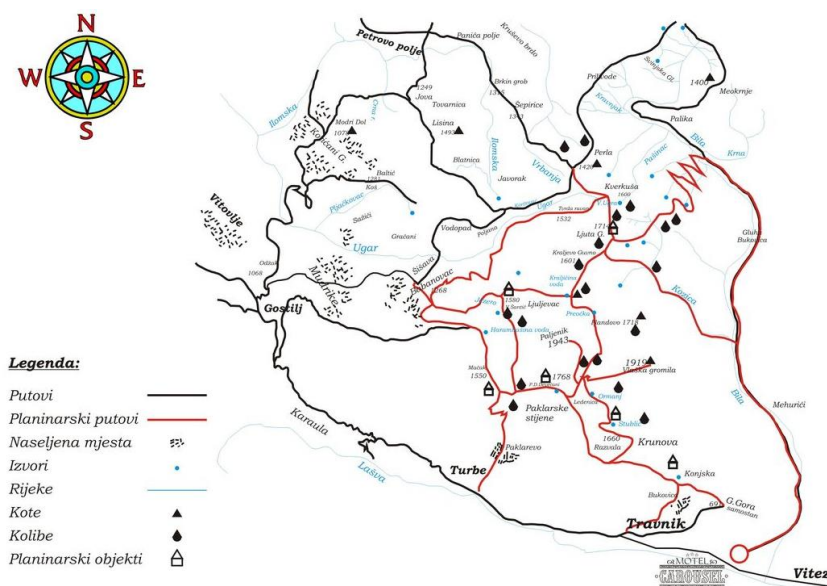


Figure 65. Mountaineering and hiking on the Vlasica Mountain

Source: <https://www.dinarskogorje.com/vlascaroni263.html>, Accessed: October 12, 2024.



Figure 66. Author on Galica (view of the Devecani's rocks and towards the top of the Vlasica Mountain)

Source: Hajrija Selimovic (October 22, 2024)

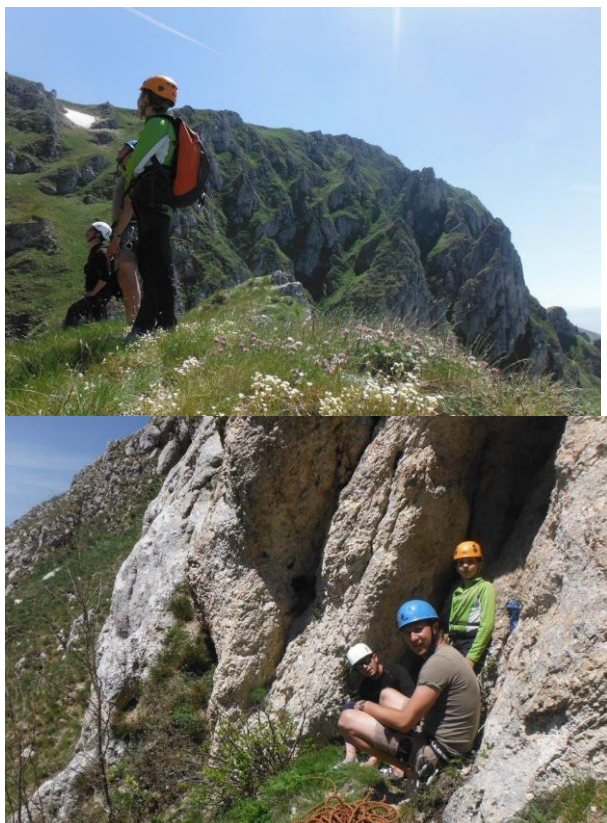


Figure 67. Devecani's rocks on the Vlasic Mountain

Source: <https://www.dinarskogorje.com/vlascaroni263.html>, Accessed: October 12, 2024.

Vlasic is a mountain that offers extraordinary opportunities for 'mountain biking'. Young people come there from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina (Travnik, Sarajevo, Visoko, Zenica, Tesanj, Vitez, Donji Vakuf...) and enjoy cycling on the wide expanse of the Vlasic Mountain. Vlasic is a mountain with two faces. The first is in Babanovac, a ski center studded with hotels, restaurants and cottages. The second, more beautiful face of Vlasic is the one along the old road from Kalibunar, through Galica to Devecani and beyond - from the top of Paljenik across meadows and plateaus all the way to Ljuta greda. Vlasic is sometimes harsh, with snow, wind and fog, sometimes mild and gentle, available for visits by true nature lovers and those who know how to enjoy the view, the smell of grass and the sun that never burns too hard. At the service of visitors to the Vlasic Mountain (in addition to the many facilities on Babanovac) are mountain lodges and traditional shepherds' huts. Mountain lodge „Jusuf Pečenković“ Devecani (managed by PD „Vlasic“ Travnik) is a favorite stop for visitors to the Vlasic Mountain (Figures 68,69).

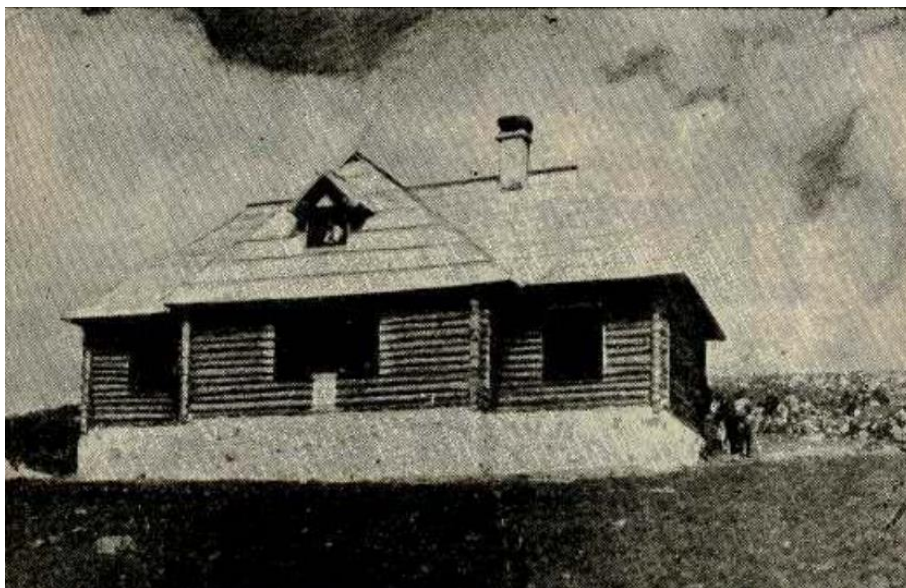


Figure 68. Mountain house of the Association of Mountaineers of Bosnia and Herzegovina „Vlasic“ above the Devecani springs at the beginning of the 20th century

Source: Popovic, Jovo (1935). Through the mountains of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mountaineering societies in Sarajevo, Islamic stock printing house in Sarajevo, Sarajevo, p. 181.



Figure 69. Mountain lodge „Jusuf Pecenkovic“ Devecani, today

Source: <https://www.tourismbih.com/vlasic-a-mountain-that-has-a-soul/>, Accessed: October 12, 2024.

Source: <https://trail.viadinarica.com/bs/hut/planinarski-dom-jusuf-pecenkovic-devecani/16852796/>, Accessed: October 17, 2024.

From the highest peak of the Vlasic Mountain (Paljenik, 1943 meters high) on clear days, the view reaches the Sava river (Figure 70).



Figure 70. Mountain biking on the Vlasic Mountain

Source: <https://www.mtb.ba/vlasic-ljuta-greda/>, Accessed: October 12, 2024.

Mountain lodge „Erik Brandis“ is located on Vlasic, Galica plateau, at 1509 meters above sea level and currently has accommodation capacity for 30 people (Figures 71,72).



Figure 71. Mountain lodge „Erik Brandis“ is located on Vlasic, Galica plateau

Source: Author (October 22, 2024)



Figure 72. Mountain lodge „Galica“

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOUuNOC8u3BI>, Accessed: October 17, 2024.

In the Vitovlje village on the Vlasic Mountain, there is a private company that builds prefabricated wooden houses. A wealth of resources, quality forests, a creative entrepreneurial initiative based on a long tradition and a wide range of needs generated by the life of people on the Vlasic Mountain, this business frames a business that combines expediency and artistic creativity. The business of making wooden prefabricated houses is 'ecologically clean in nature'; this has no 'waste' since 'production waste' (wood sawdust) is used to produce pellets (Figure 73).







Figure 73. Construction of prefabricated wooden houses in the Vitovlje village on the Vlasic Mountain
Source: Author (October 22, 2024)

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRvO-7OXw5g>, Accessed: 17.10.2024.

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