



**DURMITOR
AND THE TARA CANYON**

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**DURMITOR
AND THE TARA
CANYON**

GUIDE

BEOGRAD

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TO THE READER

Since first visiting Durmitor in 1932, my thoughts have continuously returned and my feet carried me back to this beautiful region, year after year to this very day. I have sometimes walked 450 kilometers, emerging from the depths of the Tara canyon at fabled Pirlitor, in order to see a fascinating sight: the sunflooded peaks of Durmitor springing up from the endless green plateau surrounded by snowfields. If I were a poet, inspired by this sight, I would celebrate this moment in verse to make it indelible. But Durmitor has done this by itself. It has carved out a place within me, not in a corner, but at the very centre of my being. It has become unforgettable and indispensable.

Three years after my first visit, having climbed all the peaks of Durmitor, I visited even the most hidden parts of its karst and glacial sculpture gallery, enriching my memory with other views of the same peaks, saddles, cirques, fissures and lakes. I experienced the pleasure of the complexity of getting to know this unique mountain. At this point I started to wonder why other visitors should not do the same. Why were they satisfied only with climbing the highest peak, sparing only a passing glance for the other beauties? Of many possible answers one thing seemed evident: anything lower than the highest peak was simply not worth the effort. Added to this was the difficulty of walking around a place, hitherto unvisited by tourists, without any topographical maps or lifesaving marking of mountain trails. Then and there I decided that the beauty of Durmitor should be revealed to the world in words, pictures and maps, while by trail-marking we would enable visitors to move freely around these very complex highlands. The latter was done first: by the end of summer 1935, Durmitor was decked out in a chain of red and white signs. Soon after, a mountaineers' guide-book with a map of the ridges and a network of marked routes was published.

Today Durmitor has become a centre for mountain tourism in Yugoslavia, and is visited by an ever increasing number of tourists and mountaineers from abroad. Besides the prospectus they receive, these visitors need a mountain guide-book written in their own language. So here it is: a somewhat abridged edition of the guide to the mountain, in English to start off with, and later on I hope, in other foreign languages. I will be very happy if using this guide-book, you feel that it has not been written as an advertisement but to make you the richer for an experience that you in your turn will pass on to others.

Ivan Do (by Crno Jezero)
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