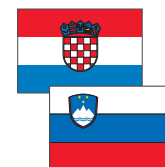




December 2021 Federations Focus

International Naturist Federation Newsletter

History of naturism in Slovenia and Croatia



A brief overview of the development of naturism in Croatia and Slovenia, prepared for the INF International Naturist Congress in Slovenia, Banovci on 7 October 2021.

At the very beginning I would like to mention that historically the beginnings of naturism in the former Yugoslavia did not take place in Croatia, but first in Slovenia. There are numerous testimonies about this, and I will quote them in some further statements.

I would like to emphasise that this small chronicle of naturism development in ex-Yugoslavia, and today Slovenia and Croatia, is not a historically based story, but tells the story from my point of view and with arguments that I have collected and published over 50 years. Any additions and new knowledge are always welcome. In half an hour at my disposal, I have created and divided my script into thirty years. I will only mention, in my opinion, strategic years that determined the future of naturism as a lifestyle, either positively or negatively in ex-Yugoslavia and today Slovenia and Croatia.

In 1855 The development of naturism, considered as a movement in ex-Yugoslavia, according to the previous research, we can attribute the first steps to Dr. Arnold RIKLI, who founded an air and sun bathe in BLEĐ (then Weldes) in 1885. At that time, Dr. Arnold Rikli was still known as the „sun doctor“. The basis of Dr. Rikli's cure was healing through water temperature between 10°C-20°C. The cure was based on water, sun and air baths.

In 1924 the first book on naturist practice in Yugoslavia was published in Ljubljana under the name „Sun-bath“. The book was published by the author Ivo Zor in the publishing house „The Teacher's Printing House“ as a detailed work on hygiene and naturist practice.

In 1927 an article by Ernesto Guido Gorischegg appeared in *Fiuma Italica* (No. 7) about the first naturist areas in Innsbruck, Lugano and the island of Rab.

In 1933 Under the influence of Black Friday of 3 March 1933, Hitler's government banned naturism and dissolved all clubs and naturist associations in Germany. Naturism was banned and the ban lasted until 1945. Due to this ban, the island of Rab was the most visited naturist and tourist destination until 1940. and even more visited than Opatija and Dubrovnik as well-known tourist centres.

In 1934 Rab is associated with the name of Dr Richard Ehrmann from Vienna, the first chairman of the INF. He opened a naturist holiday oasis on Paradise beach on the island of Rab. Later he was the godfather of the opening of the naturist centres Koversada in 1961 and Valalta (1969) and many others.

In 1936 the English monarch Edward VIII bathed naked on the island of Rab Paradise Bay and the name Paradise Bay was changed to English Bay.

In 1949 Peter Joschy, then president of the naturist association „WFFKK“ Vienna, founded the first naturist colony and leased 50 bed units in private accommodation on the island of Rab.

In 1953 Ludwig Goetz, president of the BNV from Nuremberg, travels with the first naturist groups from Germany and camps near Opatija, Ika and Lovran.

In 1955 we already have the first so-called „wild“ naturist beaches on the islands of Pag, Orjule, Mali, Lošinj and in 1956 also in Rovinj - Lim Fjord Valalta and Vrsar Koversada.

In 1960 R. Halbig from Munich initiated the opening of the first naturist campsite in Croatia (then Yugoslavia) „Koversada“. Thus, thanks to Halbig, Vrsar was launched in naturism.

Between **1961** and **1971**, 35 campsites were founded in the former Yugoslavia, especially in Croatia and Montenegro, from Savudrija to Ulcinj, with a capacity of 30,000 people and over 7 million overnight stays.

In 1972 the INF organised the International Congress for the first time in a socialist state. In the same year, on my initiative, the Naturist Association was founded in Yugoslavia and the first president was Regjep Tofani from Ljubljana, Slovenia. In the same year, the second association was founded in Solaris under the name Naturist Organisation Yugoslavia (President Vladimir Novak, journalist).

After that, **in 1977**, due to the new law on associations, other sections of the ex YU FKK FEDERATION were founded:

- Naturist Association „Gorenjska“ Kranj
President Vladimir Lah
- Naturist Association „Zur Natur“ Ljubljana
President Miklavž Knez
- Naturist Association „Die Küste“ - Koper
President Nina Potočnik
- Naturist Association „Venera“ - Celje
President Stane Smrečnik

In 1978
Naturist Association of Croatia“ -
President Vladimir Novak
Naturist Association of Serbia -
President L. Čolaković.

In 1982 the first naturist bath in the interior of ex-Yugoslavia was opened in Maribor on the „Island near Maribor“ and a club was also opened in Slovenia „Naturist Club Island near Maribor“.

In 1983 one day in late autumn, at 12 o'clock at night, Giueseppe Giradelli, president of the naturist association „Anita“ Milano from Italy, called me after a long phone ringing and all excited like someone who has made his old life's dream come true:
„Ce lo fata, Ce lo fata „ I did it, I did it.

Already in the following year, **1984**, a nudist camp called Pizzo Grecco was established in the area of Capo Rizzuto. And here I would like to give a comparison as an example of how naturism is unfortunately no longer as well understood in Croatia as it is in Italy, where they started later and continued to develop in the spirit of naturism.

The naturists - Italians and foreigners - will bring to Italian naturism „as a dowry“ 1 million 6 thousand attendances and a turnover of 54 million 240 thousand euros says a recent STUDY by the JFC INSTITUTE of Massimo Ferruzzi from Faenza. A figure that may seem considerable, but which in reality is far from the real potential of a market segment that could generate 4 million 10,000 presences and a turnover - always potential - of 216 million 252 thousand. In other words, a potential three times as much!

What would ancient Latin say: Sapienti sat or: to a wise man enough?

IMPORTANCE OF NATURISM FOR HR.

Nudism importance for the country's economy:

In the last 70 years, through Croatia have travelled: 50 million naturists (OR TO COMPARE THE WHOLE POPULATION OF POLAND THROUGH CROATIAN NATURIST CENTRES) FROM THE WHOLE WORLD 8 days average stay, 400 million overnight stays and 15 billion euros or 100 billion Croatian Kuna income (turn over).

What is ONE-year budget of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

WHO ARE THE NATURISTS		1982		2019	
		FKK	TXT	FKK	TXT
NATIONAL STRUKTURES	Germany	60.00	39.00	55.00	33.00
	Slownia	15.00	9.00	6.00	7.45
DIFFERENCES WITHIN 40 YEARS IN %?	Austria	9.00	13.00	15.00	9.70
	The Netherlands	4.00	5.50	6.00	9.60
	France	2.00	4.10	2.00	1.20
	Italy	2.00	9.20	4.00	7.50
	Others	8.00	21.20	12.00	33.50
Total		100.00 %		100.00 %	

The national structure of naturists shows a decrease in Slovenian visitors and an increase in Austrian ones, while the percentage of German naturists has remained almost the same. We have only 3 percent local Croatian naturists, which is negligible in relation to the habits and number of people in Croatia who travel (44%).

In summary, Croatia is particularly dependent on German-speaking countries for naturism.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE NATURIST CENTRES OF CROATIA 2021 in relation to 1987 and comparisons after 60 years:

1. time dynamics of building:
from 1960 Koversada (beginning 1934 Rab).
2. the number of so-called „textile tourist centres“ with nudist beaches: (1980: 34 today 18)
3. the number of so-called „wild nudist beaches“: today more than 100 (1980: 40)
4. number of nudist camps: 10 (1980: 32)
5. number of naturist hotels and resorts 3 (1987 11)
6. area of naturist camps in m² 7,220,000 (1980: 9,220,000)
7. number of places in naturist camps 20,720 (1980: 52,100)
8. number of overnight stays in naturist camps 2,584,000 (1980: 3.6 million)
9. number of beds in naturist resorts and hotels 4,584 (1980: 8,368)
10. number of overnight stays in naturist resorts and hotels 1,750,000 (1980: 6,930,340)

So, a selective tourism segment that does not age and a lifestyle that still has its supporters. This is also proven by the INF initiative but also LSK „Let's save Koversada“ from Graz Austria, which fights for the island of Koversada as a naturist synonym and legend of Croatian naturism.

What would old Latin say: Sapienti sat or: enough for a wise man?

THE FUTURE OF NATURISM IN CROATIA

Naturist camps in Croatia that did not strictly control the clothing ban have lost their selective importance. Naturists do not want to mix with textile tourists and therefore a naturist camp cannot be a hermaphrodite. This has forced many naturists to move to naturist destinations in neighbouring countries - and they still do. And thanks to the internet, finding holistic naturist havens is not a problem.

An important factor is how will the INF family or the worldwide naturist community behave? Will your children respect naturism regardless of age? If these factors still mean anything, the INF family should include a large number of people who practise naturism but are not actually members of the INF. So, make it easier and more accessible to join your INF family!

This should not mean sacrificing your naturist principles in comparison to textile circumstances, but rather interpreting the naturist ideology of integral nudity for young and casual naturists to get used to the naturist movement. This might cause them to lose their world brand for a while, but they would gain a much larger membership and an army of like-minded people. Only you can keep the naturist tradition alive on a global scale if you generously waive the strict procedural rules of admission.

The aim of the INF is to promote the development of naturism and to advise on the construction and opening of new centres. Naturism is defined by clothing and the main motto should be that a person without clothing erases all social differences and especially personal freedom and tolerance.

This should also be the INF's guiding principle and model for the future. --- Thank you!

Jerko Sladoljev

Focus February

Deadline to remit articles:
20th January 2022

Release of Focus latest:
05th February 2022

INF - FNI General Secretary

Mail: naturism@inf-fni.org

Tel.: +43 (0)7221/ 72 480
Fax.: +43 (0)7221/ 72 358

SAY HELLO



Naturists talk

What do i want for christmas



Nacho Torre Marín



In some occasions, the greater majority, they have no access at all and no provisions were ever made regarding accessibility. The same excuse is always used: the landscape does not allow us to do so, it is too hilly, the footpaths are not suitable.... well, sorry, if you open a resort you need to fulfil the needs of anyone interested in attending.

The festivities, Santa Klaus and The Three Wise Kings are approaching fast. Everywhere we can see all the decorations being lit up and the shops (some more than others due to the transport crisis around) are full of items and produce ready to be consumed.

People are starting to share the same question: What do you want for Christmas? Well, if you asked me that question I would say: **ACCESSIBILITY**. Complete and real accessibility for those with functional diversity who need the use of wheelchairs or other equipment to lead an independent life.

As a Naturist for the last forty years (23 of those a 24/7 wheelchair user) I find it difficult to understand how in 2021 and being 63 y/o, I have to fight for a right granted by Law (in Spain Ley 8/1995).

Because our Naturist philosophy of life has been, in most cases relegated to far away hidden beaches and locations, quite difficult to reach, people with some kind of mobility problem have been denied the possibility of sharing with others the wonders of the most equitarian and sustainable way of life. The beaches with wheelchair accessibility are not really accessible, the boardwalks never reach the water and there is no way to get to the sea or even to turn round.

Then, Naturist resorts started to appear. Great, I thought! But, unfortunately, even though the Law obliges any public place to have a percentage of accessible accommodation and facilities to move independently, that rule seldom materialises.

Other times, I have encountered that I can access the resort, to the grounds, but not participate in any other ways because there are no adapted toilets and there are steps to get inside the different buildings.

Then, we have those who have accessibility but was never really tested properly, what I call a Law washed place. They did the necessary works but never thought for an independent user but for accompanied ones. Places where the one meter radio has never been measured, where the toilet holding bars have no lifting support so the user cannot really sit on the toilet without someone holding the bar up to transfer, narrow doors, high, unreachable cupboards, wardrobes where the rails are so high you cannot hang anything (thank goodness I don't carry clothes apart from a couple of tunics, just in case) ramps with impossible and illegal slopes, swimming pools without lifts or chairs so if you want to swim you need the help of the lifeguards to get in and out of the pool, sun loungers are all low and difficult to transfer to from a wheelchair. I am attaching a picture of mine at home, elevated with a frame to the high of the chair for a smooth transfer as a possibility to copy by others...

And finally, there are just a few (I only know one), where things have been planned following the rules of accessibility to perfection and where one can be independent without having to ask for help and participate in the activities interested in.

I will keep the fight, contacting and testing resorts and hopefully, eventually, there will be some results and everybody will be able to live independently, naked or not.

Is Naturism on the Rise in a Post-COVID-World?

Throughout the Western world, the practice of living naked appears to be gaining traction among a newer, younger audience.

Josh Sims

Only the truly courageous attempt “the running man.” Among all the dance moves busted in Julien Claude-Penegry’s “Beautiful Skin” club night in Paris, those that cause maximum jiggle are probably best avoided. That’s because everyone is naked — except for shoes.

“We just wanted to prove that an event like this was possible in a city and not just on some naturist resort, to show that it can feel normal, and even lead the way for other naked events,” says naturist campaigner Claude-Penegry, who, following the opening of Paris’s first naturist park in 2017, is re-launching his club night as a bi-monthly event from September. “The people who come, and they come in their hundreds, typically say they have a completely different experience to anything they’ve done before. They’re free to be themselves entirely.”

This is not an idea lost on many others as well. Naturism — the practice of going without clothes, typically with others similarly unclothed — is on the up. Recent years have seen the flourishing of naked comedy nights, naked dining events and, across 70 cities in 20 countries, naked bike rides, as much a campaign action in favour of naturism as it is the road to saddle soreness. This summer sees the launch of NKD, the first naked music festival, in the U.K., further indicative of how younger people are getting interested and regarding naturism as the natural bedfellow to environmentalism.

May, for those who missed it, marked World Naked Gardening Day.

There’s even, some reckon, been a COVID bounce: membership of organizing body British Naturism has reportedly seen membership increased by some 20% over the pandemic period, despite events and travel being curtailed. Why? Because perhaps nothing better encapsulates a sense of personal freedom than getting naked.

“Attitudes are changing,” suggests Laurent Luft, Europe Assessor of the International Naturist Federation, which will host 38 national organizations at its world congress this October in chilly Slovenia (“not everyone will be going naked then,” he notes). “Five years ago, anyone who asked me about naturism assumed it was all something kinky,” says Luft. “These days naturists are seen as just another section of society. We’re doing more to raise our profile, not to hide ourselves.”

Nakedness has been regarded as normal before. In some times and places, stripping off was unexceptional: in Ancient Greece, men exercised naked; in late 19th-century Germany, the home of the naturist movement, full exposure to sunlight and air was re-framed as an entirely healthy thing to do — it’s why many of us will spend the coming weeks sitting almost naked (or fully naked) on beaches, after all.

But in general, modern society has opposed the notion of public nudity. Recall how the first naturists, Adam and Eve, hid their shame after the fall. It has been mis-characterized as not just unconventional but as essentially, questionably sexual; as unclean; as a cause of deviancy; as illicit, as offensive, as a nuisance — albeit one deemed worthy of fines and in some instances imprisonment. Self-described “prisoner of conscience” Stephen Gough has now spent, all told, a decade in Scottish prisons for choosing not to wear clothes. Not even to his court appearances.

The sensitivity to public nudity is confounding. Generally, it’s illegal across the U.S. Social media companies censor images of indigenous people if they’re not wearing enough. Hollywood ties itself in knots. This resistance to public nakedness is passed down through generations: children are encouraged to cover up as soon as they’re on the brink of puber-

Events

05.12.2021
World Naturist Day

Southern Hemisphere

25.02. - 27.02.2022
EuNat Meeting

Belgrad, Serbia

Registration form will soon be available
in our open EuNat Download.

Information from NOS Serbia: <https://www.eunat.org/>



ty. No wonder, then, that being naked in public is for many the stuff of literal nightmares. Or why taking one's clothes off in front of the clothed has so often been chosen as an effective form of protest.

None of which stands up to scrutiny, reckons Bouke de Vries, political philosopher at Umea University, Sweden, and the author of *The Right to be Publicly Naked: A Defence of Nudism*. "I think the most plausible argument against it is the suggestion that it's not hygienic — but nudism rarely poses any real health hazard. I mean, just sit on a towel," says de Vries, who reckons the right to go about naked should be protected as part of an individual's freedom of expression, an idea the European Court of Human Rights rejected in 2014. "We're mostly brought up with the idea that people who are publicly naked [outside a naturist area] are perverted in some way, or out to shock, and that still shapes perception. The truth is that society actually struggles to find good arguments against naturism."

So why are we hesitant to strip off? Luft doesn't think it's just prudery. Rather, he puts it down to self-consciousness. Just as the case against naturism appears to be collapsing, advertising and, latterly, social media have made us all incredibly anxious about how our bodies measure up to some ideal standard. Girls suffer from anorexia, boys from the Adonis Complex, men and women alike live with complicated relationships to food, exercise and their less than perfectly Photoshopped parts.

Indeed, Luft argues that, if only it were embraced, naturism could be the antidote to this media-driven obsession with our appearance; a 2017 study by psychologist Keon West of the University of London found that going naked leads to an increase in life satisfaction, body image and self-esteem. In fact, everyone getting naked has a levelling effect, he says. Sure, that the people around you are naked takes a while to get used to — inherent to our humanity the-

re's an initial sexual frisson, an inevitable momentary sizing up. But the real lesson in nakedness is that you can no longer maintain the fiction of your image, self and public, once denuded of your pricey threads. You're laid bare.

"You quickly move beyond the superficialities, because there you are, open in front of each other, having honest conversations," he says. "There are all shapes and sizes in naturism, and absolutely no judgments. There just aren't that many Greek gods. It becomes much more about your personality."

This, of course, has been said before, in Heinrich Pudor's ground-breaking 1894 tract *Naked People – A Triumph Shout of the Future*, through to the wonderfully titled *Sunbathing Review* of 1933, with its article "The Unpleasantness of Clothes." The hippies knew how to get their kit off, too. And yet here we still are, done up to the neck.

"For some, nakedness will remain taboo. But I think we really are seeing the start of a movement towards reviving naturism, especially through its introduction to younger people,"

says Claude-Penegry.

"There's a life philosophy at play here, or an ecological mindset maybe. And I think the collective aspect of naturism feels right for post-COVID times. But, you know, it's just ordinary to be naked. Clothes, all clothes, are just accessories."

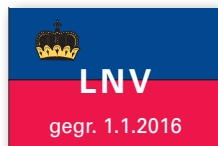
LE BETULLE Villaggio Naturista

Near the Alps, at 25 km from the center of Turin, 20 minutes from the airport Caselle. Caravans, plots for Recreation Vehicles and tents, completely equipped bungalows, caravans with chalet. Pool, solarium, jacuzzi and sauna. Clubhouse restaurant, petanque, mini-tennis, table tennis, Volleyball. Mountain bike circuits and trails in Park Mandria

Sights: Venaria Royal Palace and Park, St. Michele Abbey, Rivoli Castle, Mole Antonelliana, Egyptian Museum, Piazza S. Carlo, Basilica of Superga.

Via Lanzo 33 - 10040 La Cassa (TO) - Italy
Tel/Fax +39.011.984.29.62
Tel +39.011.984.28.19
Mail: info@lebetulle.org

www.lebetulle.org



Liechtensteinischer
Naturisten Verein



UNI . Unione
Naturisti Italiani