ONCE UPON A TIME IN ISTRIA...

The video shows former snapshots from Istria kept in the archives of the Maritime Museum “Sergej Mašera” Piran.

Several paths lead to the past ...

You can find the first one in the silence of an old olive grove

on the sunlit slope of a knoll.

Follow the stone wall,

past the fragrant haystacks,

and turn left at the shed.

Sidestep the oxen by Feran’s olive press in Sveti Peter,

continue past the arch and the washerwoman to Tona’s House.

Have a chat with the proud owner in front of the stoop and feel free to enter.

In the olive press, the bedroom and the kitchen, too. There is a wonderful museum and everything is on view.

Take the path to the valley and onward, all the way to the Saltern cottages.

Learn about age-old skills in the Museum of Salt-Making,

help picking up and loading the salt,

and listen to the rattle of windpumps.

Then strike out across the mirror-like Sečovlje salt pans

all the way to the sea.

Persuade the four tanned salters to lend you a boat,

row across the bay and you will have found it.

The second path leads through Piran, a town set on a headland scented with spindrift.

Push your way through the crammed houses and applaud Giuseppe Tartini on the square.

Listen to the 300-year-old violin in the virtuoso’s birthplace,

then proceed to the pier,

where splendid ships carrying fine passengers land.

There, you will spot some fishermen lowering their nets

and shifting their catch.

When they set off mullet-fishing, jump aboard

and ask them to give you a lift, they will not turn you down.

Disembark by the salt warehouses and top off your trip in the Monfort exhibition space.

The third path is winding and full of wonders.

It begins below St Bernardine’s monastery

and wanders through the boatyards to the rhythm of wooden mallets.

Make your way past the oak planks

and through the frameworks of the ships.

Under the pulleys and rigging, strike up a friendship with the master craftsmen

and snatch a few closely guarded tricks of the trade.

Go on and explore, there are many more paths…

Wherever you may wander, keep looking for St George’s belfry.

Below it, there is a port, and next to it, the Maritime Museum “Sergej Mašera” Piran.

Welcome, come in and immerse yourself in the past!

Author of the text: Jaka Bizjak, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, RO Piran

Collaborators: Snježana Karinja, Natalie Finkšt, Veronika Bjelica

Selection of photos: Snježana Karinja, Bogdana Marinac, Nadja Terčon, Duška Žitko

Photos: Archives of the Maritime Museum “Sergej Mašera” Piran

Music: Istranova, Carnevalada 2; Črtomir Šiškovič, Luca Ferrini, Tartiny's violin

English translation: Andreja Pobega Bizjak

Editing: Natalie Finkšt

November 2020