

Javornik Waterfalls

The Javornik Waterfalls are located at Spodnja Počivala, on the stream of the same name, which flows from Medji dol through the deep gorge, ending at the accumulation lake, where one of Slovenia's first hydroelectric power plants still stands today. The waterfalls are hidden inside a narrow gorge within a spruce forest. Although not that tall, they become mighty at high water and adorn the landscape wonderfully. Across the dolomite barrier, which prevents torrential water from levelling the slope of the streambed, the mighty first waterfall, at least eight metres tall, spans the entire width of the streambed.

From the accumulation lake at Javorniški Rovt, the Javornik Stream begins its path along its deep bed over large and small rock blocks of Dachstein limestone, which are a remnant of Pleistocene moraines. By the time the stream nears the Kladnik homestead, where the road splits towards Pristava and the accumulation lake, it is trapped between impermeable Upper Carboniferous and Permian rocks. There are still many moraine blocks and blocks of quartz conglomerate and Trogkofel limestone in the streambed. It flows over this type of surface to the upper waterfall. Right before the waterfall, on the stream's right-hand slope, there is blue-grey clay, formed in the fault zone from clay slate, sandy slate, and marl rocks. Trogkofel limestone blocks nestle in it on both sides of the streambed. The fault zone extends diagonally over the stream. A pool under the waterfall has also formed in this less resistant rock. Lush moss grows over the wall of the waterfall. Meanwhile tufa continues to be deposited on the wall, securing the otherwise crumbling lower part of the waterfall. The waterfall wall is especially magnificent when the sun illuminates the sparkling water and dark green moss. Below the lower waterfall are several smaller waterfalls that have formed along the firmer layers. However, they pale into insignificance when you set your gaze on the mighty upper waterfalls. Large and small blocks of various rocks are piled up on the streambed, with Javornik Stream rushing between them towards the Sava River. The different resistance of the rocks and the tectonic activity within them are the main reasons why the Javornik Waterfalls formed.

A well-known site of various Upper Carboniferous fossils (shell, trilobite, Bryozoa, and two brachiopods in Upper Carboniferous slate) can be found opposite the waterfall.

This summary is based on the book *Slapovi v Sloveniji* (Waterfalls in Slovenia) by Anton Ramovš.