

So who was Dragotin Kette?



◀ Portrait of Dragotin Kette with Angela Smola in the background, by the painter Ivan Vavpotič.

Dragotin Kette (1876–1899) was a young man of exceptional talent. Despite the many challenges he faced in life, he **pursued his goal of becoming a good poet and writer**. He went on to become **one of the key writers of the Slovene Modern movement**. His literary legacy was first published in book form in ***Poezije (Poems)*** in 1900, followed by a second edition in 1907.

His works on love, nature, inner experience and God **continue to speak to us, inviting each of us to discover them in our own way**. Reading them in the tranquillity of nature or at locations connected with the poet's life is a **special experience**.

Did you know that Kette wrote several poems right here in Trnovo (Ilirska Bistrica)? They include *Včeraj sem pozdravil ljubo* (also known as *To vse ljubezen stori*), *Jagned* and *V mlinu*.

Mill girl, come to me,
but blow out the candle,
so no one may see
how I kiss
the beautiful maiden's cheek.
Make noise in the house
so no one hears
our chatter!

Dragotin Kette, In the Mill

More information:

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Credits

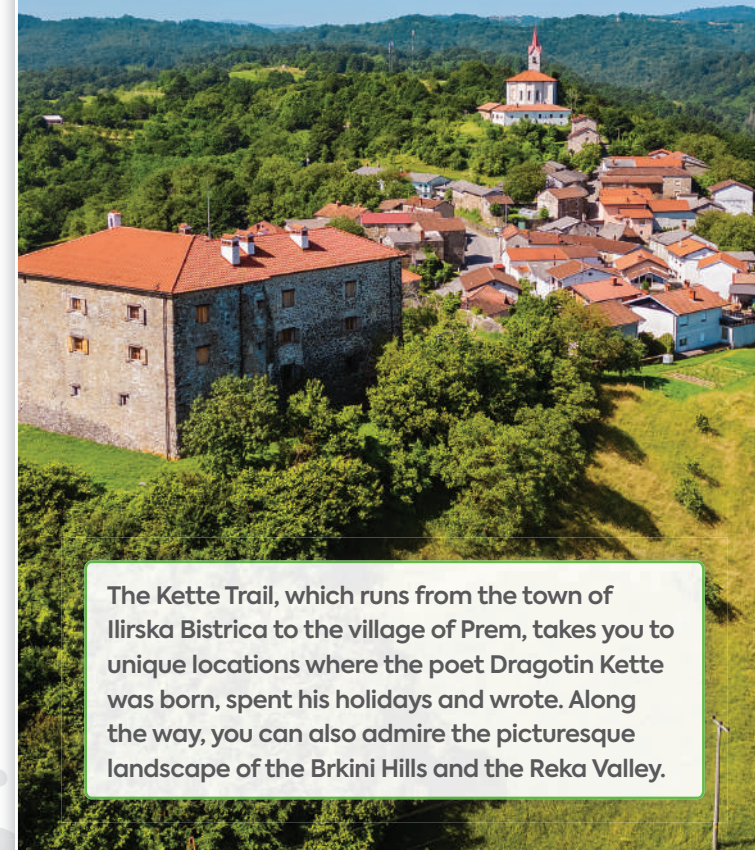
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Discover the Poet's Life
in the Ilirska Bistrica
Area



Kette Trail



The Kette Trail, which runs from the town of Ilirska Bistrica to the village of Prem, takes you to unique locations where the poet Dragotin Kette was born, spent his holidays and wrote. Along the way, you can also admire the picturesque landscape of the Brkini Hills and the Reka Valley.

Practical information for doing the Kette Trail

- **Total length (one way):** 9 km
- **Time needed to complete the trail:** 3–4 hours of moderate walking
- **Surface:** tarmac, gravel
- **Difficulty:** easy, signposted trail

Although the basic route is one-way, you can adapt it to suit your preferences.

Scan the QR code to see the entire route.



You can explore and experience the Kette Trail independently, with a **guidebook in hand**, or **accompanied by a tourist guide**.



Key sights on the Kette Trail

Prem Castle, which may have inspired Dragotin Kette's best-known fairy tale, *Pravljica o šivilji in škarjicah* (The Tale of the Seamstress and the Scissors).

Kette Memorial Room in the former Prem primary school, where the poet was born in 1876. The room also contains a piano that Dragotin most probably played with his father, Filip. "And sometimes we played the piano, myself at the bass, my father at the tenor ...", the young poet recalls in his poem *O smrti očetovi*.



Church of St Helen in Prem, where Dragotin Kette was baptised as Karol Kette.

Novak farm and watermill. The watermill is one of the best-preserved mills in the Reka River basin and provides a wonderful setting for reading Kette's poem *V Mlinu* (In the Mill).



Kettejeva ulica (Kette Street), where the poet's mother, Ana, was born into the Valenčič family, and where Dragotin Kette spent his holidays and wrote.

Convent of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Trnovo.

Dragotin Kette Primary School in Ilirska Bistrica, in front of which stands a **bust of the poet** by Marjan Keršič Belač.



Special experiences and events:

- A Harmony of Sounds and Flavours at Prem Castle
- Spend the night in the Kette room at Farm Stay Ivankotovi, where you can also taste unique Kette-inspired štruklji.
- Organised **Kette Walk** on Slovenian Culture Day (8 February)
- **Kette Family Afternoon** in Prem
- 'Premska srečanja' literary event at Prem Castle

For more information, see visitilirskabistrica.si/en/, where you can also purchase beautiful, unique products inspired by Dragotin Kette. They are also available at the Ilirska Bistrica Tourist Information Centre (TIC) and at Prem Castle.

