



A View of St Mark's Church from the Lotrščak Guard Tower, circa 1962

### THE LOTRŠČAK GUARD TOWER AND THE SOUTHERN PROMENADE

You are now in front of the Lotrščak Guard Tower, one of the best preserved buildings from the Middle Ages. The Guard Tower was built next to the Dverce Small City Gate through which one could only enter on foot and was called kula od Dverca (the Dverce Guard Tower). Its current name comes from the (Latin) campana latrunculorum (Robber's Bell), which was hung in the 17th Century. In the speech of the time the name of the bell was mispronounced to lotrijaša, from which the Lotrščak Guard Tower took its name. The City Gates were closed every evening to the peals of the Lotrščak Bells. The Bells warned those outside the City's wall to return home. Due to the City Magistrate's financial difficulties the Guard Tower was often rented out. During the 18th Century the Southern Gate was demolished, following which the City Magistrate decided to construct Zagreb's first public promenade. This is known as the Southern Promenade (today's Strossmayer Promenade). It is one of the most beautiful and romantic spots in Zagreb which, thanks to its unique panoramas of the City and the planted rows of trees, benches and original street lamps, it still attracts many Zagreb inhabitants. During the 19th Century a fire watch tower was added to the Lotrščak Guard Tower, and since 1927 it has been home to a Grič cannon that has been fired to announce noon in Zagreb since 1877.



Lotrščak Guard Tower and the Strossmayer Promenade, circa 1960

**Take a walk along Dverce Street, i.e. between the Guard Tower and the Dverce Palace, where you will find another sign.**

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