

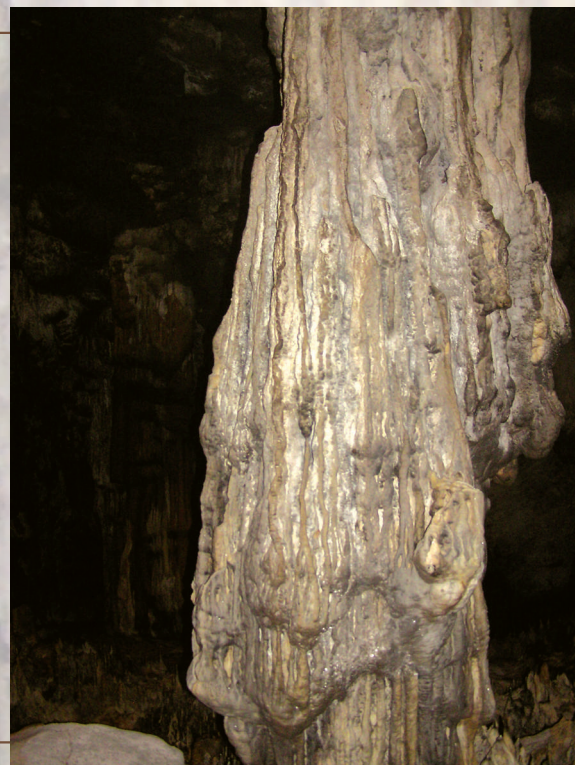




Grapčeva špilja, kolijevka hvarske kulture i civilizacije, najvažniji prapovijesni nalaz iz mladega kamenog doba (5000 - 4000 god. pr. Krista), jedno je od najstarijih nalazišta na Jadranu i Mediteranu. Nalazi se u središnjemu dijelu otoka Hvara (Općina Jelsa), oko 1 km jugozapadno od zaselka Humca, istočno od sela Gromin Dolac.



Grapčeva Cave, a cradle of Hvar's culture and civilization, the most important prehistorical find of the Early Stone Age, dating from between 5000 and 4000 B. C., is one of the oldest sites on the Adriatic and Mediterranean. It is located in the central part of the island of Hvar (Jelsa municipality), about 1 km southwest of the hamlet of Humac, east of the village of Gromin dolac.



U podnožju špilje smjestila se mala uvala Virak, u kojoj se nalazi izvor pitke vode. Podizanjem morske razine taj je izvor danas potopljen i ponaša se kao vrulja, no upravo je poradi tog izvora Grapčeva špilja neprekidno bila korištena od neolitika do brončanoga doba.

At the foot of the cave there is a small bay called Virak, hiding a spring of freshwater. Due to sea level rise the spring was sunk and today it acts like an underwater spring. However, this spring was the reason why Grapčeva Cave was permanently used from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age.



Ulaz u špilju nalazi se na približno 225 m nadmorske visine, na skrovitom i relativno nepristupačnu mjestu. Najprije se ulazi u manju dvoranu veličine oko 13,5 m x 5 m. Na nju se u cjelinu nadovezuje glavna dvorana veličine oko 22 m x 23 m, koja je unatoč mnogim uništavanjima uspjela očuvati svoju prirodnu ljepotu s mnogobrojnim stalagmitima, stalaktitima, stupovima i nišama.



Stalagmites, stalactites and stalagmites adorning the cave remind of silenced pipe organ from past times, creating an impression of silence and echo and providing a magnificent and unforgettable appearance.



The cave entrance is located at about 225 m above the sea level, on a hidden and relatively inaccessible place. The cave consists of two halls: the first and smaller hall (13,5 m x 5 m) extends into the main hall (22 m x 23 m), which, despite numerous devastations, has managed to preserve its natural beauty rich in stalagmites, stalactites, pillars and niches.



The first researches of the cave were conducted by the natural scientist Grgur Bučić in 1870 and 1884. Academician Grga Novak continued the archeological research from 1947 to 1952 in a more detailed and systematic manner. Material collected through researches enabled determination of a new cultural phenomenon in the prehistory on the east Adriatic coast for the first time - the so-called Hvar-Lisičići culture of the Late Neolithic.



Prva istraživanja špilje proveo je prirodoslovac Grgur Bučić 1870. i 1884. godine. Detaljna studiozna arheološka istraživanja obavlja tek akademik Grga Novak i to vrlo sustavno, od 1947. do 1952. godine. Istraživanjima prikupljen materijal omogućio je da se prvi put odredi nova kulturna pojava u prapovijesti na istočnoj jadranskoj obali - hvarsko-lisičićka kultura kasnoga neolitika.



Špilja je vjerojatno služila kao kultno mjesto. Neki smatraju da je mjesto gdje se Odisej borio s Kiklopom Polifemom u Homerovu epu "Odiseja" upravo Grapčeva špilja.

The cave probably served as a cultist place. Some believe that it was Grapčeva Cave where Odysseus fought against the cyclops Polyphemus in Homer's epic poem *Odyssey*.

Sistematskim iskapanjima akademika Grge Novaka u špilji su otkrivena tri kulturna sloja od kojih je najzanimljiviji neolitički sloj, bogat ornamentiranom i obojenom keramikom. Keramika je ukrašena crtežima brodica, iz čega se može zaključiti da je Hvar već tada održavao trgovačke veze s udaljenim krajevima. Najstariji prikaz broda u Europi pronađen je na ulomku jedne keramičke vaze iz Grapčeve špilje. Arheološke iskopine nalaze se u Muzeju hvarske baštine na Hvaru te u Arheološkomu muzeju u Splitu.



Systematic archeological excavations in the cave conducted by the academician Grga Novak resulted in discovery of three cultural layers out of which the most interesting is the Neolithic layer, rich in adorned and colored pottery. Drawings of ships adorn the pottery and therefore it may be concluded that already at that time Hvar maintained trade connections with remote regions. The oldest drawing of a ship is found on a piece of a ceramic vase from Grapčeva Cave. Archeological finds are exhibited in the Hvar Heritage Museum and in the Archaeological Museum, Split.

