

A Sea View

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Have you ever gone for a summer walk along the seashore, stopped, looked out at the horizon, and wondered: How far can I actually see? And what if there's something on the far shore—could I see it?

To make this question more concrete, let's travel for a moment to one of Europe's most popular holiday destinations: Croatia, to the shores of the Adriatic Sea near Mount Sveti Jure. Here's what we can read about this mountain¹:

Sveti Jure (Saint George) is the highest peak (1762 m above sea level) of the Biokovo limestone range, which stretches for 36 km along the coast and separates the Makarska Riviera from the inland region known as the Dalmatian Hinterland. It rises above the coast like a massive stone wall. Thanks to its unique geology and natural beauty, part of the area was designated a nature park in 1981 (Biokovo Nature Park, covering 196 square kilometres).

A distinctive feature of the Sveti Jure summit is a television transmitter, which can be seen from much of the surrounding mountainous terrain. On a clear day with good visibility, the view from the top—both toward the sea and inland—is unforgettable. Unfortunately, there are no refreshments available at the summit.

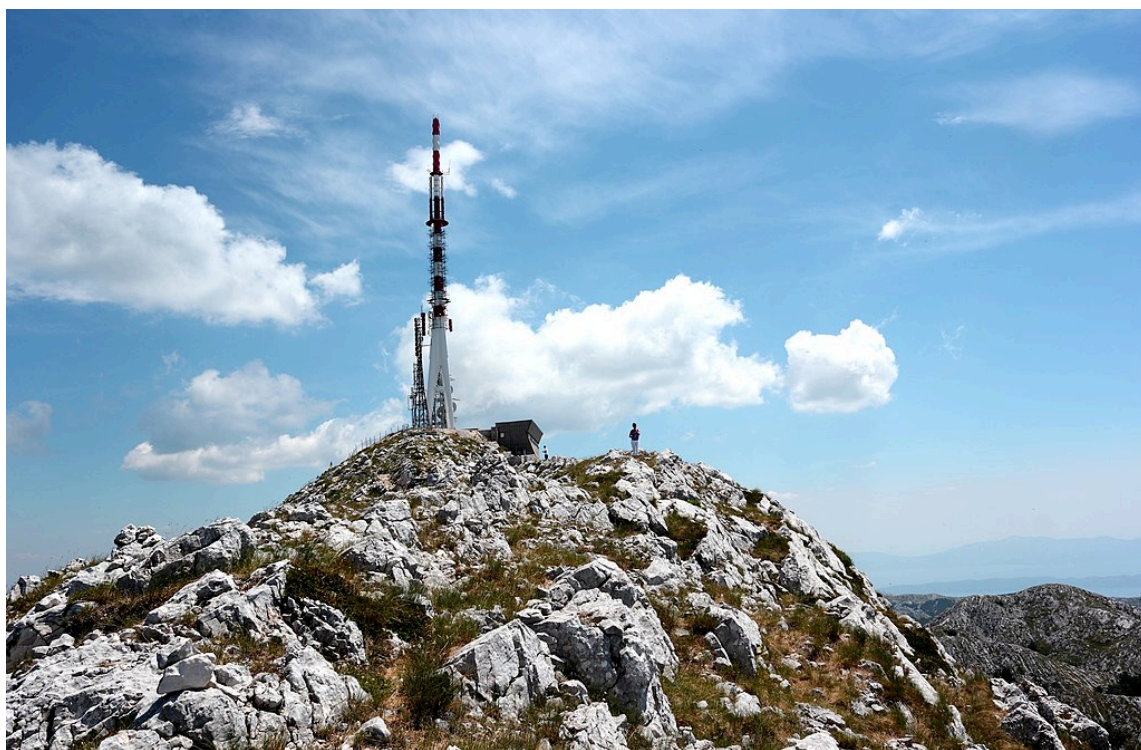


Figure 1: Sveti Jure summit.

¹www.chorvatsko.cz

Exercise 1. If we stand on the summit of Sveti Jure and look out to sea, how far away is the point on the horizon where the sea meets the sky?

Exercise 2. Is it possible to see the summit of Mount Monte Calvo (1056 m above sea level) on the Italian Gargano Peninsula from the summit of Sveti Jure? Monte Calvo is approximately 210 km away from Sveti Jure, and there are no land obstacles between the two locations. The only thing that could block the view is the curvature of the Earth.

Literature and References

Literature

- Chorvatsko.cz. *Sveti Jure* (online). Available at: <https://www.chorvatsko.cz/stdal/svjure.html> (accessed December 12, 2024).

Sources of figures

- Sveti Jure, SKas – Own work, CC SA 4.0, available at: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/70/Th> (accessed December 12, 2024).