

Getting to Bolara 60 from Pula Airport

Most towns and villages in this part of the world have alternative Italian and Slovenian/Croatian names, and you'll see both on road signs, so we give both below. Hope it's not too confusing.

Brief version

Driving from Pula airport takes about an hour. It's really easy, with some very scenic parts. You can find Bolara 60 on Google Maps and it'll direct you. The basic summary is this:

- Get onto the motorway heading north and follow it towards Umag, Koper and Trieste.
- Leave at the exit for Novigrad/Cittanova, and turn left towards Buzet.
- Drive along the Mirna valley, turn left at the first roundabout towards Buje, then very shortly after that turn right to Grožnjan and right again to Bolara.

Most of the route is on the motorway (the only motorway in Istria, called the "Istarski Ypsilon" as it's Y-shaped). You have to take a ticket when you get on, and pay a toll when you get off; you can use a credit/debit card or kuna cash (but not Euro cash).

Detailed version

The instructions below give more detail. They look complicated, but we promise they're not really.

- 1.** As you come out of the airport, turn left following the green A9 motorway sign to Rijeka and Koper.
- 2.** Keep going for a mile or so, following the motorway signs. At one point you go over a roundabout, taking the second exit (still following a motorway sign), but otherwise it's just straight ahead.
- 3.** Take the right turn with the green motorway sign to Rijeka/Fiume. The sign is annoyingly placed just before a very small right turn onto a gravel road; it's not that one, of course, nor the

small road just after that; it's the big lane with a proper overhead fully green motorway sign, shortly afterwards. Follow Rijeka/Fiume and Umag/Umago.

4. Merge onto the motorway; after a minute or two you need to stop to go through the toll booth, taking a ticket.

5. Keep going for about 40 minutes. About half-way, the motorway forks: stick on the A9 to Umag/Umago and Trst/Trieste (not the A8 to Zagreb, Rijeka and Pazin). Shortly after that you have to slow down as the motorway narrows to one lane, to go over a bridge; you get a nice view over the Limska Draga (Lim Fjord) and you see the ruined castle of Dvigrad down on your right.

6. This happens again for a second bridge further north over the Mirna valley; this time you'll see the Adriatic to your left, and the hills where Bolara is hidden inland to your right. After this bridge you leave the motorway, at the exit for Buzet and Novigrad/Cittanova. (Buzet doesn't get an Italian name on its sign, because it's not very bilingual; although some people do call it Pinguente).

7. After the toll booth, turn left at the T-junction towards Buzet and Nova Vas/Villanova. Carry on past Nova Vas, down into the Mirna Valley, and carry on along the flat valley, with fields either side, into the hills.

8. After about 10km along the valley road you come to a roundabout; turn left to Buje/Buie.

9. You'll immediately pass the (now re-opened after 10 years closed!) taverna Ponte Porton on your right, and a few hundred yards after that a right turn marked Grožnjan/Grisignana, with a "no buses/caravans" sign. Take this, then immediately turn right at the sign to Bolara, staying on an asphalt road (not the gravel road going straight on).

10. Follow this road for about a mile, and you come to our neighbours' farm (please go slowly! there are often cats, dogs, kids etc around); Bolara 60 is immediately after the farm on your right. Park here on the right, under the bamboo shelter. If this parking area is full continue another 20 yards or so straight along the road (which immediately becomes a gravel road), and park in the space on the right hand side of the road. Best not to drive down our steep gravel drive to the house, because your hire car probably won't get back up.

