I FEEL SLOVENIA

ASSOCIATION OF HISTORICAL CITIES OF SLOVENIA

CITIES OF CULTURE

MY WAY OF EXPERIENCING CITY VIBE.

#ifeelsLOVEnia
#myway



www.slovenia.info
www.slovenia-historic-towns.com



Discover the diversity of the most beautiful Slovenian towns

Ptuj - the oldest town in Slovenia

Towns included in the Association of Historic Towns of Slovenia surprise with the heritage of different historical eras. The old towns are a cultural monument worth visiting. The life of historic towns is intertwined with legendary stories that evoke the imagination, in each town in a different way.

Discover the diversity of cultural heritage, gastronomy and everyday urban pulse from Alpine to Thermal Pannonian Slovenia, from Mediterranean and Karst to Central Slovenia.

The old Slovenian towns and cities, proud of their special qualities, are linked together in the Association of Historical Cities of Slovenia.

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CHOOSE YOUR OWN PROGRAMME!

NOW IS THE TIME TO EXPLORE SLOVENIA. MY WAY.

Everything is nearby in the only European country where the Alps, the Mediterranean, the Karst and the Pannonian Plain meet. It is only about a two-hour drive from the capital and Central Slovenia to even the most remote corners of Slovenia. But the rich diversity you can experience within such small distances is truly amazing.

Alpine Slovenia in Triglav National Park, the UNESCO Julian Alps Biosphere Reserve, the Karawanken/Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark, and several other protected areas safeguard the precious nature that inspires culture throughout the country. Explore it in Alpine towns and the picturesque countryside, among the highest mountains and the wildest waters. Don't miss the opportunity for outdoor activities.

In **Mediterranean & Karst Slovenia,** coastal cities combine with the green countryside of Slovenian Istria and the picturesque landscape of the Karst, which gave its name to all the karst phenomena in the world. Here you can see some of the marvels of the world, such as the northernmost saltpans in the Adriatic, the most visited karst cave in Europe, the largest cave castle in the world, and the deepest underground canyon in Europe in the Škocjan Caves, which are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. UNESCO's list also includes knowledge of drystone techniques, which you can observe as you wander around this unique landscape.

Thermal Pannonian Slovenia is a feel-good paradise. It includes most of the famous Slovenian natural health resorts featuring thermal mineral waters, which have proven beneficial effects. Taste some hearty food at hospitable farms in the countryside and the rolling vineyards and visit castles with inspiring stories as you make your way between the various towns. Among the world-renowned treasures are the carnival customs and the door-to-door rounds of the Kurenti in Ptuj, which are part of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Ljubljana & Central Slovenia, the area that beats to the rhythm of the capital, is full of inspiring urban culture and art and boasts both green landscapes and UNESCO sites. The protected UNESCO sites include the prehistoric pile-dwelling culture on the outskirts of the capital, the mercury mining and lacemaking heritage in Idrija, the unique street performances of passion plays in Škofja Loka, and even ancient forests of European importance only an hour's drive from the capital.

The best way to experience the diversity of Slovenia, which was the first country in the world to be declared a Global Green Destination, is through one of the boutique **Slovenia Unique Experiences** and tasting dishes inspired by nature. Visit **Michelin star chefs.** Wherever you are, try some typical dishes from the **European Region of Gastronomy 2021.** Where to start? The country's historical towns are excellent starting points for exploring green Slovenia.





RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL STANDARDS GREEN&SAFE.

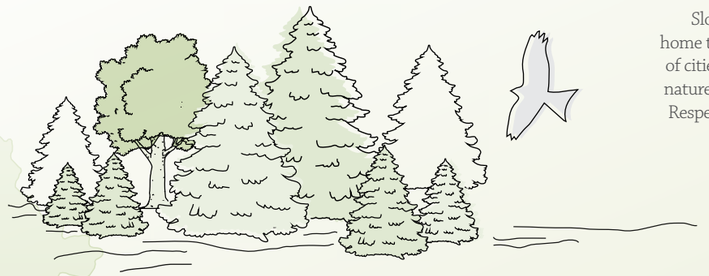
Slovenia has long been known as a sustainable destination for unique boutique experiences. According to the Global Peace Index, it is one of the safest countries in the world. Slovenian tourism service providers comply with responsible travel standards GREEN&SAFE, including all hygienic measures issued by the National Institute of Public Health. Slovenia is also one of the first countries in the world to receive the Safe Travels Stamp from the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC). Comply with these standards yourselves! Follow the recommendations provided at your destination, and stay safe and healthy.

EXPLORE GREEN SLOVENIA IN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY WAYS.

SLOVENIA GREEN

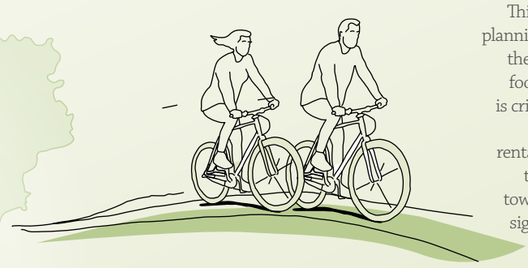
Slovenia is known far and wide as a country of sustainable tourism. Anywhere they go, guests can rely on green choices, certified under the innovative and internationally-renowned Green Scheme of Slovenian Tourism. Visit towns at green destinations bearing the Slovenia Green label; choose green accommodation, travel agencies, parks, attractions and, most recently, gastronomic destinations.

RESPECT NATURE WHEN EXPLORING CULTURE.



Slovenia, which is one of the world's most biodiverse countries, is home to rare animal and plant species, even in the immediate vicinity of cities. Almost 40 per cent of Slovenia's territory is designated as nature protection areas. One fifth of the Slovenian coast is protected. Respect nature. Follow the marked trails. Do not take anything from your natural surroundings and do not leave anything behind.

CHOOSE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY MEANS OF TRANSPORT.



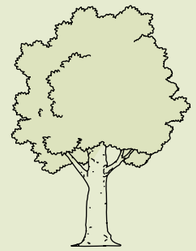
Think of your carbon footprint when planning a trip around Slovenia. Explore the towns and their surroundings on foot or by bicycle. The entire country is criss-crossed with hiking and bicycle trails. Many towns have a bicycle rental system in place. Consider public transport when travelling between towns. The easiest way to reach many sights is from the town's bus or train station. Check the timetable.

WHILE TRAVELLING AROUND SLOVENIA ENJOY THE CLEAN DRINKING WATER.

Slovenia is a land rich in various types of water, particularly clean drinking water. It is one of the first countries in the world whose Constitution provides the right to clean drinking water. Many towns have drinking fountains. When going on an outdoor activity, pour water in a reusable, environmentally friendly bottle.

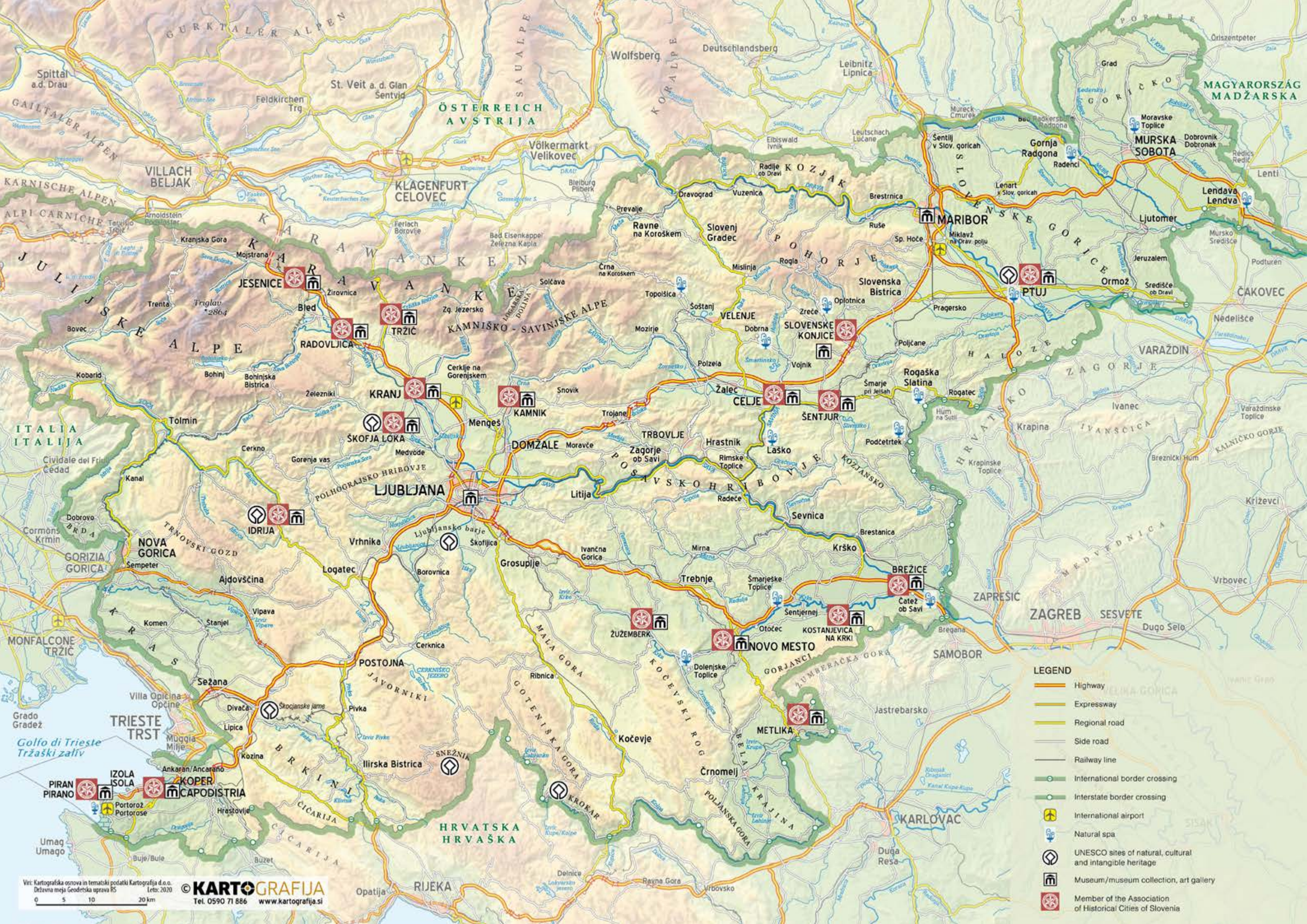


GET TO KNOW THE GREEN HINTERLANDS WHEN VISITING A CITY.



Cities at the cultural crossroads of nations are fascinating treasuries of cultural influences and archaeological finds of European importance from all eras. Their historical old towns, which are usually closed to traffic, seem like open-air exhibits due to the intertwined architectural styles. They also offer boutique accommodation. Another characteristic of Slovenian cities is their connection with nature and the countryside, where traditional customs and celebrations are still observed. Seek out displays and workshops on typical local customs and craft skills.

- population of **2,094 million**
- **20.273 km2** surface area
- **10.000 km2** forest surface area, making Slovenia the 3rd most forested country in Europe
- **46,6 km** of coastline
- **2864 m** the highest peak, Mt. Triglav
- 2004 accession to the **European Union**
- 2007 member of the **Schengen area**
- **Central European time zone** GMT + 1
- currency **euro €**
- **Slovenian** the official language (also Hungarian and Italian in ethnically mixed territories)


GURKTALER ALPEN
Spittal a.d. Drau
GAILTALER ALPEN
KARNISCHE ALPEN
ALPI CARNICHE
VILLACH BELJAK
Feldkirchen Trg
St. Veit a. d. Glan Šentvid
ÖSTERREICH AVSTRIJA
Wolfsberg
SAUALPE
KORALPE
Deutschlandsberg
Leibnitz Lipnica
Völkermarkt Velikovec
KLAGENFURT CELOVEC
Bleiburg Pliberk
Arnoldstein Podkloster
Kranjska Gora
Mojstrana
JULIJSKE ALPE
JESENICE
Žirovnica
Bled
Trenta
Triglav 2864
Bovec
RADOVLJICA
TRŽIČ
KARAWANKEN
KARAVANKE
Zg. Jezersko
Solčava
Črna na Koroškem
Prevalje
Ravne na Koroškem
Bad Eisenkappel Železna Kapla
Ferlach Borovlje
KAMNIŠKO - SAVINJSKE ALPE
LOGARSKA DOLINA
Topolšica
Šoštanj
VELENJE
Mozirje
Dravograd
Vuzenica
Radlje ob Dravi
Slovenj Gradec
POHORJE
Mislinja
Rogla
Ruše
Brestrnica
MARIBOR
Sp. Hoče
Miklavž na Drav. polju
Slovenska Bistrica
Oplotnica
Zreče
SLOVENSKE KONJICE
Dobrna
Vojnik
Pragersko
Poljčane
Polzela
Žalec
CELJE
ŠENTJUR
Rogaška Slatina
Rogatec
Šmarje pri Jelšah
Podčetrtek
Hum na Sutli
Laško
Hrastnik
TRBOVLJE
Rimske Toplice
Zagorje ob Savi
Litija
Radeče
Sevnica
Brestanica
Krško
Kostanjevica na Krki
Šentjernej
Otočec
NOVO MESTO
Dolenjske Toplice
ŽUŽEMBERK
BREŽICE
Čatež ob Savi
Trebnje
Šmarješke Toplice
Ivančna Gorica
Mirna
Grosuplje
Škofljica
Ljubljansko barje
Borovnica
Vrhnika
Logatec
LJUBLJANA
Ljubljanica
POSAVSKO HRIBOVJE
KOŽJANSKO
Moravče
DOMŽALE
Trojane
Snovik
KAMNIK
Cerklje na Gorenjskem
Menges
KRANJ
Železniki
Bohinjska Bistrica
Bohinj
Kobarid
Tolmin
ŠKOFJA LOKA
Cerkno
Gorenja vas
Medvode
POLHOGRAJSKO HRIBOVJE
IDRIJA
Kanal
Cividale del Friuli Čedad
ITALIA ITALIJA
Dobrovo
Cormons Krmin
NOVA GORICA
Šempeter
GORIZIA GORICA
TRNOVSKI GOZD
Ajdovščina
Vipava
Komen
Štanjel
MONFALCONE TRŽIČ
TRIESTE TRST
Grado Gradež
Golfo di Trieste Tržaški zaliv
Muggia Milje
Villa Opicina Opčine
Sežana
Divača
Škocjanske jame
Lipica
Kozina
Ankaran/Ancarano
IZOLA ISOLA
KOPER CAPODISTRIA
PIRAN PIRANO
Portorož Portorose
Hrastovlje
Umag Umago
Buje/Buie
Buzet
ČIČARIJA
BRKINI
POSTOJNA
JAVORNIKI
Cerknica
CERKNIŠKO JEZERO
Pivka
Ilirska Bistrica
SNEŽNIK
Ribnica
MALA GORA
GOTENIŠKA GORA
Kočevje
KOČEVSKI ROG
KROKAR
METLIKA
BELA KRAJINA
Črnomelj
POLJANSKA GORA
Jastrebarsko
KARLOVAC
Duga Resa
HRVATSKA HRVAŠKA
Opatija
RIJEKA
Delnice
Ravna Gora
Vrbovsko
GORJANCI
ŽUMBERAČKA GORA
SAMOBOR
ZAGREB
SESVETE
Dugo Selo
ZAPREŠIĆ
Bregana
Vrbovec
Križevci
Ivanec
Varaždinske Toplice
VARAŽDIN
ČAKOVEC
Nedelišće
Podturen
Mursko Središče
Lendava Lendva
Lenti
MURSKA SOBOTA
Moravske Toplice
Dobrovnik Dobronak
Gornja Radgona
Radenci
Šentilj v Slov. goricah
Lenart v Slov. goricah
Ljutomer
Ormož
Jeruzalem
Središče ob Dravi
PTUJ
Ptujska Gora
Mureck Cmurek
Bad Radkersburg Radgona
Grad
Oriszentpeter
MAGYARORSZÁG MADŽARSKA
SLOVENSKE GORICE
HALOZE
ZAGORJE
HRVAŠKO ZAGORJE
IVANŠČICA
KALNIČKO GORJE
Križevci
Krapina
Krapinske Toplice
Breznički Hum
MEDVEDNICA
Hrvatska Kostajnica
SISAK
KARLOVAC
LEGEND
Highway
Expressway
Regional road
Side road
Railway line
International border crossing
Interstate border crossing
International airport
Natural spa
UNESCO sites of natural, cultural and intangible heritage
Museum/museum collection, art gallery
Member of the Association of Historical Cities of Slovenia
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BREŽICE

AT THE CONFLUENCE OF RIVERS SAVA AND KRKA

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The town centre of Brežice, a town that was first mentioned in 1249 and boasts fascinating architectural features, is the scene of various events. The mighty town castle, which now houses the Posavje Museum Brežice, is the place where you can to get to know the pulse of the Posavje hills and plains, and the town streets tell the stories of artisans and merchants. The orientation towards progress is reflected in the water tower, built in 1914, which supplied the town with water, and the first power plant built next to it. Near the town is the confluence of the Sava and Krka rivers; from here, it is not far to the well-known thermal centres and spas.

SLOVENIA GREEN

Hop on a Bržkolo bicycle. Brežice is a proud holder of the Slovenia Green Destination label. With is bike-sharing system, called Bržkolo, a town bus service and electric vehicle charging stations, Brežice focuses on green mobility. The town also devotes a lot of attention to offering a wide variety of local products.


Confluence of Rivers Sava and Krka

INSPIRED BY THE KNIGHT'S HALL

The Knight's Hall at the Brežice Castle, with its numerous frescoes, is a first-class Baroque gallery with rich mythological content. In the beginning of the 18th century, Karel Frančišek Remb, at the time a young Slovene painter, painted it with motifs of Ovid's Metamorphoses, and elements of air, water, fire and earth.


Repnice


Summer in the Town


Water Tower

BREŽICE'S SPECIAL FEATURES

Encounters with the past and various special features of the area near the two rivers await as you walk around Brežice. The following are some must-see sights:

The Town Hall, whose design testifies to the different activities taking place inside of it. Today, it houses a Tourist Information Centre, a shop with goods produced by local craftsmen and farmers, as well as a wine store.

The Brežice Water Tower is one of the town's most prominent sights, built back in 1914.

The Parish Church of St. Lawrence, located in the town centre, boasts Baroque architecture, rich neoclassical frescoes, and a modernly painted presbytery.

The Old Pharmacy – one of Brežice's best-preserved houses with a Renaissance facade from 1641 and 1695.

The National House was the cultural and political centre of the local people during the time of national fights in the early 20th century.

The German House built in the Northern Renaissance style by the town's German population for their own purposes at the beginning of the 20th century.

The confluence of rivers Sava and Krka with a bridge made of reinforced concrete, spanning 524 metres, was one of the longest in Austria-Hungary when it was built in 1906.

EXPLORE THE CASTLE HERITAGE

In the town with an imposing castle, which was built on the ruins of the first castle building from the 12th century, you can learn about the town's rich past exploring the defensive wall, the museum, the granary and interesting town buildings.

The Brežice Castle is a mighty two-storey Renaissance castle from the 16th century with exceptional Baroque interior. It houses the **Posavje Museum Brežice**, established in 1949, which presents the heritage of the Posavje region from prehistoric times up until today. The museum tours include a visit to the Knight's Hall, the painted staircase, and the chapel.

The castle granary is a magnificent building from the 18th century and one of the best preserved castle granaries in Slovenia.

The town wall served as a substitute for a medieval defensive wall in the 16th century. Parts of the tower and the wall are still preserved and visible.

Gasa is a street with clustered houses built onto the town wall. A walk along the street offers a nice view of the famous Brežice Water Tower.


The Knight's Hall

EXCURSIONS

Water fun and local cuisine
Discover repnice! Back in the day, caves dug into quartz sand were used to store turnips, today, however, they are used for wine tastings.
Take care of your wellness. Visit the Terme Čatež or Terme Paradiso thermal spas with all sorts of water attractions.
For a different type of view, visit Jovsi, a natural monument and a Natura 2000 area. From its observation tower, you can observe the life of rare and endangered animals. At the top of St. Vid's hill above Čatež ob Savi, you can enjoy a wonderful view of Brežice and ring a bell for good luck in the Church of St. Vid. At the Na Jasi agritourism farm, you see over 250 different animals.
Cycle on the well-maintained cycling trails to explore the hidden corners of nature.
Bon appétit! Jure Tomič, a Michelin-awarded chef, will fascinate you with the finest cuisine in **Osteria Debeluh.** And if you feel like a sweet treat, visit **Yogurtlandia** for a wide selection of frozen yogurt flavours.

EVENTS

A town well-known for early music and events for visitors of all tastes! For announcements of things happening in Brežice follow www.discoverbrezice.com.
The Seviqc Brežice Festival is synonymous with early music. With its 30-year-long tradition, it is one of the most important cultural events in Slovenia;
New Year's Gala Concert in the Knight's Hall, a pre-New Year's Eve concert of classical music in one of Europe's most beautiful halls;
Brežice, My Town is the biggest Posavje region festival, which takes place in the old town of Brežice. Over 7 days, it features various concerts, street performances, "Street Kitchen" (various kinds of street food), etc.;
Brežice, My Holiday Town features all sorts of events for all generations as the Christmas lights shine brightly;
Summer in the Town and Castle – a wide variety of concerts throughout the summer;



CELJE *THE TOWN OF PRINCES AND COUNTS*

INSTITUTION FOR CULTURAL EVENTS AND TOURISM CELEIA CELJE

Tourist Information Centre Celje
Glavni trg 17, 3000 Celje
T: +386 (0)3 428 79 36
tic.celje@celje.si
www.celje.si, www.visitcelje.eu

Romantic streets in the old city centre, green hideaways for discreet conversations in the city park, imposing architecture showing the diversity of the city's history, the colourfulness of the present day and their links revealed by the museums, galleries and theatre – all this awaits right in the city centre. A diversity of experiences in a small area is what gives Celje, the city of princes, its special charm. In Celje everything is just a few steps away.

SLOVENIA GREEN

Celje – proud to be one of Slovenian Green Destinations! Where we live and create the green concept – active, green & healthy city!


Themed activities at the Old Castle Celje

SECRETS OF CELJE'S OLD CASTLE

The Old Castle (Stari Grad) of Celje is supposed to have been connected to the city and surroundings via four tunnels. The first, which led past the walls, was supposedly high enough to ride through, without the horseman having to duck at any point. The second tunnel led to a tower that was part of the city walls, and the third led right to the centre of the city, while the fourth, the biggest of all, supposedly ran under the hill by the Savinja River on which the castle once stood.


The Celje Hall


The Roman road


Take a walk to the Tree house in the City Forest.

IMPOSING CITY OF PRINCES

Rich in heritage, Celje invites you to take a stroll down its streets and to discover the sights. Do not miss:

The Old Castle Celje – with guided experiences of recreated castle tales of love, jealousy, marriages, chivalry and wars;

Princes` Court – a luxurious city residence of the House of Celje dating from the 15th century, once surrounded by walls and moats, now with an archaeological basement under the mansion displaying the remains of Roman Celeia;

The Water Tower – a remnant of the city walls which the people of Celje started building after it won town rights;

The Chapel of the Sorrowful Mother of God – with its Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows – a late 14th century chapel featuring a Gothic stone Pietà;

Church of the Assumption – with its family vault of the Celje princes;

People `s Savings and Loans Bank – one of the finest city buildings, constructed to the design of the famous architect Jože Plečnik;

National Hall – built at the end of the 19th century as a cultural and political gathering place for Slovenians in Celje;

Celje Hall – built as a centre for the Celje Germans as a counterweight to the Slovenian Narodni Dom.

UNIQUE MUSEUMS

This city of princely history painstakingly preserves its valuables, and is creating new experiences for future generations. Visit:

The Regional Museum – in the Stara Grofija (Old Counts' Mansion), with its famous Celje ceiling, the most outstanding Slovenian painting from the period between the Renaissance and the Baroque, showcasing development from prehistory to the beginning of the 20th century;

The Museum of Recent History – which presents the cultural heritage of the region from the beginning of the 20th century to the present day;

Herman's Den Children's Museum – the only children's museum in Slovenia, operating in part of the Celje Museum of Recent History.

Skylight photographic studio of Josip Pelikan – a 19th century studio, is among the best preserved in Europe;

Likovni Salon Celje Gallery – the work of individual Slovenian and foreign artists;

Celje Gallery of Contemporary Art – an exhibition of studies by individual artists whose work over a long period has contributed significantly to the development of Slovenian fine art;

Račka Gallery of Erotic Art – the only Slovenian gallery of the erotic, intended for art dealing in one way or another with erotic themes.


Fairy-tale Celje

EXCURSIONS

THROUGH TIME – TO WELL BEING!

Experience the medieval traditions with programmes such as the Povitezitev (election of knights), the Knights' day at the Old Castle Celje, or the Medieval Feast with its special cuisine. You can even rent out the castle, and your day can be spiced up with fire eaters and courses in swordfighting and chivalric pursuits. There are ample reasons to extend your stay in the city into a holiday, both in the city and its surroundings:

Celjska koča – a hotel offering wellness services at 650 m elevation – can be your starting point for recreation in nature;

Thermal spas – Celje is surrounded by spas and wellness centres such as Thermana Laško, Terme Dobrna, Terme Zreče, Terme Olimia, Rimske Terme and the Rogaška Slatina health centre. They are all close to Celje.

Tourist farms – around Celje there are more than 30 hospitable tourist farms. Including close to Šmartinsko lake (Šmartinsko jezero), one of the biggest lakes in Slovenia.

EVENTS

CITY EXPERIENCES

Check out events at www.celje.si. Come and see the traditional seasonal events.

Summer in Celje – the city of princes – from June to August there are hundreds of musical, stage, dance, art and film events.

Medieval event on the Old Castle Celje – portrayals of the medieval way of life; last Friday and Saturday in August.

Countryside in the city – in June and October there are presentations of organic, tourist and other farms and their products.

Celje – The city of fairy tales – December in the holiday-decorated city is irresistible with its fairy-tale land and children's heroes, concerts, the Christmas and New Year fair and more.



IDRIJA *UNESCO HERITAGE PEARL*

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www.visit-idrija.si



Mercury under the Earth's surface, lace from the lacemakers pads, žlikrofi (ravioli) from local kitchens – Idrija is a city of exceptional cultural heritage. The oldest mining town in Slovenia is famed for having the second biggest mercury mine in the world, and centuries ago it lured explorers and travellers from all over Europe and left on the town unique monuments to the technological heritage tied to the water resources and other special features of the area.

SLOVENIA GREEN
IDRIJA – UNESCO heritage

Nowadays the entire old town centre is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Geologically one of the most peculiar parts of Slovenia, the Idrija Geopark, which is a part of the UNESCO network, invites visitors by offering active experiences. Because of its environmental responsibility to the environment Idrija was named both the Alpine Town of the Year and a European Destination of Excellence and it was also awarded the Slovenia Green label.


The mysterious 'Wild Lake'

PAIL OF MERCURY

In Idrija you will hear the tale of the pail-maker who dunked his pails in the water, but then could not lift them out. Indeed they had supposedly filled up with such a density of the liquid metal that even a piece of iron was floating in it like a cork. He gathered up the mercury, which then lured increasing numbers of people to the otherwise empty basin in the land. In the place where the pail-maker caught his mercury stands the Church of the Holy Trinity.


Anthony's shaft

MARKED BY MINING

You can get better acquainted with this town of mercury, which tells its story in the museum at the Gewerkenegg Castle, the former administrative building of the Idrija mine from the 16th century, this town of lace, where lacemaking skills are cultivated in the Lacemaking School, by visiting its special features:

Divje jezero (Wild Lake) – the first Slovenian museum in nature, with the shortest Slovenian surface river and exceptional flora and fauna in the surroundings;
Kamšt – the pit water pump with its largest preserved wooden drive wheel in Europe;
Klavže – special watercourse barriers for floating timber, also called the Slovenian pyramids;
The Frančiška shaft – the oldest preserved structure of the Idrija mine, opened up back in 1792, with its exhibition of mining machines and equipment;
Anthony's shaft – a pit gallery arranged for visitors in the oldest part of the mine, with an entrance excavation dating back to 1500;
Church of the Holy Trinity – originally a wooden chapel on the site of the legendary first extraction of mercury, it has been authentically restored;
Miner's house – this residential building from the 18th century is an example of the dwellings typical of the Idrija mining community.


Idrija žlikrofi

VIEWS THROUGH THE CENTURIES

Discover the 500 years of mining and lacemaking history and the precious millennia of nature.
Idrija Municipal Museum– Gewerkenegg Castle houses a permanent exhibition on the 500-year history of mercury mining and the town, a geological collection with several thousand specimens of rock, fossils, ores and minerals and a collection of Idrija lacemaking.

Check out the town in other ways, too!
Visit, taste and experience:

Idrija žlikrofi – at various catering establishments in Idrija;
Idrija Urban Beehive – built in 1925, it represents a brilliant example of architectural heritage. In the beehive, surrounded by honey-bearing plants, there are two rooms, one for bee-keeping and one for socialising.
The War Museum – for everyone interested in the history of war in the previous century.


National lacemaking competition – the Idrija Lace Festival

EXCURSIONS

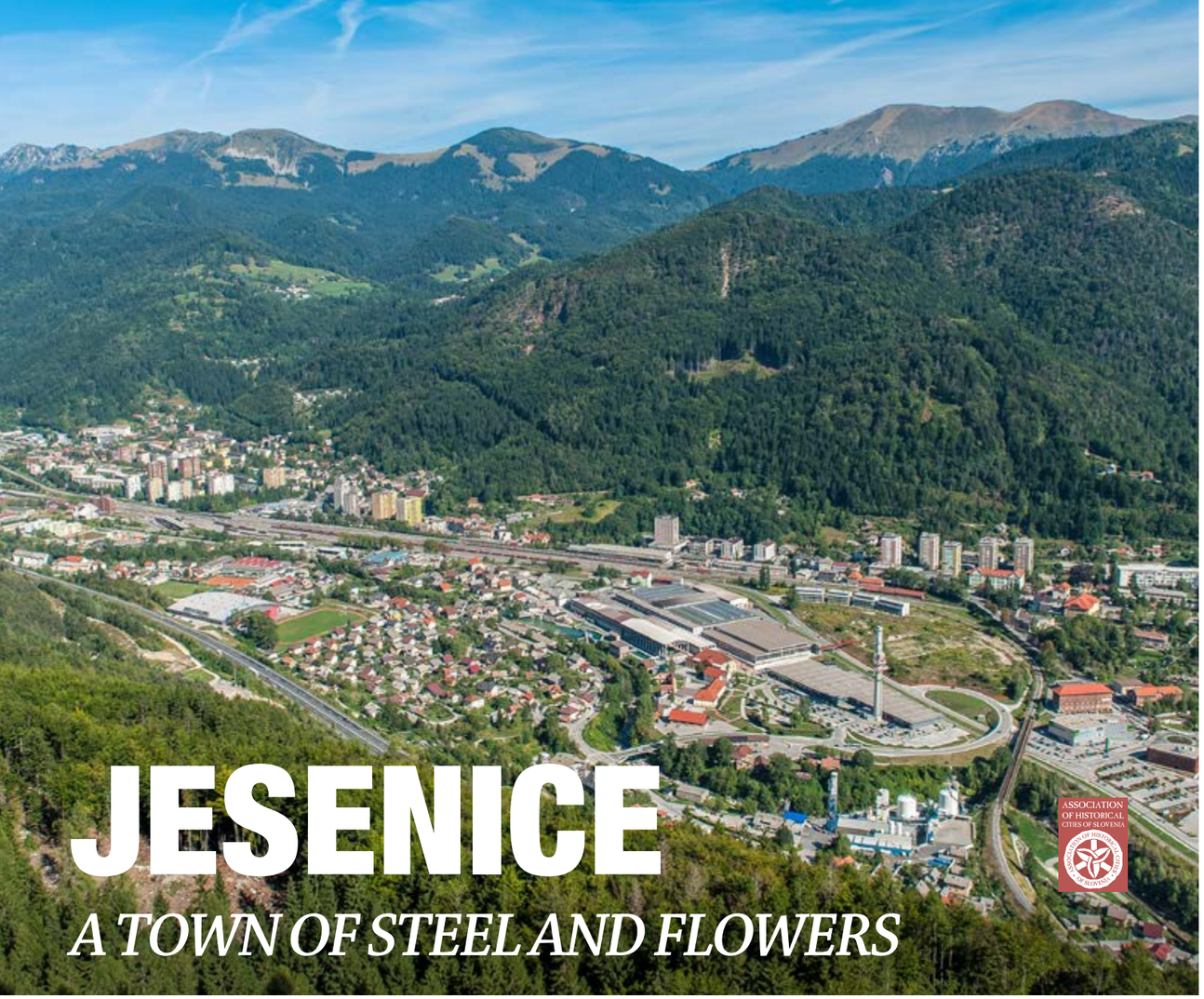
EXPERIENCE GEOPARK IDRIJA

After descending the 116 steps into the Anthony's shaft gallery and its special mining experience, after touring the collections at Gewerkenegg Castle, which has won the prize for the best European museum of the technical and industrial heritage, after tasting Idrija žlikrofi, you can wander off to the Zgornja Idrijca Landscape Park and the Idrija surroundings.
The interpretive science trail of Rake – a trail along the Rake canal – by water which for centuries has driven the kamšt and its 13.6 m drive wheel, leads to the Zgornja Idrijca Landscape Park with its rare plant species, which have drawn world famous botanists here, and then to the lake Divje Jezero.
The heritage of the Second World War – at Vojsko there are the Partisan printing press Tiskarna Slovenija and its collections, the Partisan cemetery Vojščica and the sign for the Pavla hospital.
Klavže – visit the klavže barriers, the so called Slovenian pyramids, water barriers in the valleys of the Idrijca, Belca and Kanomljica rivers.
The Črni Vrh and Ledine plateaus – unwind in nature, with opportunities for cycling and hiking.

EVENTS

FROM TRADITION TO ALTERNATIVE

Check out the events in Idrija at www.visit-idrija.si
Events over the year not to be missed:
Idrija Lace Festival – third weekend in June entire town is given over to lacemaking;
The Pust carnival – Graparski KRAVNEVAL – on Shrove Tuesday and the Saturday the square of Mestni Trg is taken over by costumed characters;
Assumption day - „Prfarski štrukljevc" day – on 15 August the pilgrims and other visitors gather at the chapel of the Virgin on the Rock; this is followed by feasting on local pies;
EGN Week (European Geoparks Network Week) in Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark in May – guided hiking trips on themed trails, heritage reminiscence;
The Čipkarija Festival – the 10-day festival enlivens the town in August with professional/expert events and music;
The Idrijski žlikrofi festival in August.



JESENICE
A TOWN OF STEEL AND FLOWERS

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Come and experience Stara Sava, where a small area has maintained the essential elements of a foundry settlement: mansion, church, ironworker's dwelling, blast furnace and ancillary plants, water canals and a mill. The architectural heritage is linked together in a logical unit intended for museums, culture and tourism. The square is becoming a new space for social venues. A place where friends meet. A place where time simply stops.

SLOVENIA GREEN

Most of the pleasant smelling white flowers with a red-lined sun in the middle, grow in the meadows between the villages of Plavški Rovt, Prihodi, Planina pod Golico and Javorniški Rovt.


The Old Mining Trail

THE OLD MINING TRAIL

A walk along the old mining route takes us into the past and shows us parts of the everyday lives of the people who excavated and transported iron ore in this area. While walking along this historic route, can you imagine meeting an ironwalker who is trapped in time and looking for his manager to ask him about new ore deposits? Or a miner who was busy working in the mine and is now upset because he missed his lunch. Where are his fellow sufferers?


A glimpse of the Cultural Rainbow


Preparation barely coffe in the constructed worker's flat in Stara Sava


Steel bells at Stara Sava

TOWN SIGHTS

Stara Sava Treasure - The people of Jesenice used to say that there was treasure buried behind the Hrenovica mansion. Once, the blast furnace workers agreed to go digging for »šac« as they called it. They found a box of iron. Some searched on, while others realised that iron meant as much as gold to them because it provided for their livelihood.

Stara Sava Museum area - The iron industry is connected with the first mention of Jesenice in the Ortenburg Mining Order dating from 1381 and the rapid development of certain parts of the town, Stara Sava in particular, where a foundry operated from the 16th to the 19th century. Today, its essential elements make up a museum area.

The Ruard mansion from the 16th century was the central building of the foundry workers. Nowadays, it is the location of the Upper Sava Museum and the iron and steel industry collection.

The Assumption of the Virgin Mary and Roch's church was built in 1606 by brothers Julius and Orfeus Bucelleni. It is distinguished by a large Baroque marble altar.

The workers' barracks built in the Late Baroque style represent one of the oldest preserved multi-storey workers' dwellings here. The barracks host a permanent ethnographic collection on the residential culture of the workers' families, and the memorial plaque to the first professionally trained Slovenian nurse Angela Boškin.

The Kolpern was once used to store charcoal. The renovated building has a conference and banqueting hall for various events. The blast furnace, locally called PLAVŽ, is a plant for smelting iron ore. The puddling furnace, known locally as the PUDLOVKA, is a plant for processing pig iron into steel. The water canal, locally referred to as RAKE, is an artificial canal for channelling the water which powers the turbines in the iron industry.

A town sensitive to the subtle world of art - The KOS MANSION from 1521 serves as a space for occasional art and museum exhibitions. It holds a permanent exhibition on the terror by the occupier and on the National Liberation War in Jesenice. It also displays a palaeontological collection amassed by Jože Bedič.

WHERE THE PAST MEETS THE PRESENT

Stara Sava is a place of intergenerational gatherings, where a variety of events are held: The Learning Parade, Summer at Stara Sava, FeSTEELval, the blessing of candles and Easter dishes at the Church of St Mary. The museum offers workshops for all age groups – the most popular include Iron-making games, making a worker's cup of coffee, drawing with charcoal, making candles in the shape of a blast furnace, sundial, and miner's lamp. In the courtyard of the former Koren House, you can play the bells and try your luck in The Horseshoe of Fortune.


Stara Sava Museum area

EXCURSIONS

The old mining trail takes you back to the past and introduces you to fragments from the everyday lives of the people who mined for ore in the Sava caves and carried it to the valley all the way to the foundry at **Stara Sava**. On your walk you may even meet the master of the foundry, Viktor Ruard, the mining manager Heinrich or miner Tona.

Golica is one of the most notable and greenest mountains in the Karavanks. A trip in May can be a particularly rewarding experience, as the surrounding plains are covered in snow-white daffodils.

The scenic **Mežakla trail** offers wonderful views of the Karavanks and the valley, stone lady above Poljane, Mežakla snow cave or a walk under the natural bridge.

The **Vintgar Gorge** is a magnificent and wild gorge of the perilously torrential Radovna river. There are several waterfalls, falling over 13 metres deep in some places. The most magnificent of them all is Šum waterfall.

EVENTS

Joseph's fair is a traditional fair in Jesenice, where every year in March craftsmen, local arts and crafts artists, merchants of fruit, vegetables and seedlings introduce themselves.

Daffodil Holiday and Daffodil Queen in Planina pod Golico – in May, when the daffodils bloom, the Tourist Society of Golica organises several entertaining events. The events are best known for the selection of »Daffodil Queen«.

The Cultural Rainbow of Jesenice – in June, there is a two-day festival representing societies of various nationalities with their cuisine, music and folklore performances.

Summer at Stara Sava – in July and August, the square at Stara Sava offers several cultural entertainment events inviting visitors from near and far.

Čufar Days at the theatre in Jesenice – Čufar Days is a traditional festival that takes place each year in November, bringing together amateur theatre groups to compete.



KAMNIK *A TOWN EMBRACED BY THE ALPS*

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A colourful palette of flavours, familiarity, relaxation, nature, history and adventure – this is what the town of Kamnik, lying in the bosom of the Kamnik Alps, has to offer visitors. As early as the Middle Ages, it was a flourishing trading town, and its striking architectural and religious heritage still evoke memories of the time when Kamnik was the capital of Carniola. The Kamniška Bistrica river breathed life into the stone, which provided solidity, security and shelter to the town over the centuries. And even nowadays the Bistrica still connects nature with the town, and the mountains with the old town centre. People like living in Kamnik, while visitors like to return to the foot of the mountains.

SLOVENIA GREEN

SLOVENIA GREEN DESTINATION

Kamnik boasts a gold Slovenia Green Destination designation awarded in 2019. The designation symbolises the efforts invested in a comprehensive green destination and it opens up the potential for creating innovative and competitive green products.


Velika Planina

KAMNIŠKA VERONIKA FROM LITTLE CASTLE

Long ago, three brothers became priests. The townsfolk wanted to build them a church with three chapels, but they lacked money. They begged the rich Countess Veronika for help. Enraged, the miserly countess said she would rather turn into a snake than contribute gold for the building. She did indeed turn into a monster – half woman and half snake. She is still awaiting redemption together with her treasure in the ruins of Mali Grad (Small Castle).


The Franciscan monastery


The Budnar Museum House


Mali Grad

CASTLE IMAGES

The town beneath the ruins of two castle complexes invites you to explore it. Come and see:
Mali grad – the high point of the town with a two-storey Romanesque chapel and crypt that is unique in Slovenia. The castle complex and chapel date back to the 11th century;
Stari Grad (Old Castle) – the ruins of the castle on Bergant mountain, from which there is a wonderful view of the town and surroundings;
The Franciscan Monastery and the Chapel of the Holy Sepulchre – rebuilt a number of times since its beginnings in the 15th century; it houses a library with incunabulas and Dalmatin's Slovenian translation of the Bible and Pentateuch; there is also a Chapel of the Holy Sepulchre, designed by the famous architect Jože Plečnik;
Šutna – a picturesque street with a medieval terrace of houses; the area is restricted to pedestrians and is marked with memorial tablets to important Kamnik residents;
Sveti Miklavž nad Tuhinjem – on the hill called Gora stands the Gothic Chapel of St. Nicholas with its free-standing bell tower and anti-Turkish defensive wall and tower. Nearby it is worth visiting the parsonage with its open-fire kitchen and tiny rooms.
The birth house of Rudolf Maister – the first independent museum dedicated to the life and work of the Slovenian patriot, general, cultural worker, poet and bibliophile Rudolf Maister–Vojanov;
Lectar House – the equipment for the living room of the house, where the company Svečarna Stele (Stele Candles) is currently situated, was designed by the Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik, who also left several suggestions behind for decorating candles, after which they now produce the so-called Plečnik candles.

HERITAGE ON DISPLAY

A special attitude to the past can be seen in the unique municipal museums and galleries:
Kamnik Intermunicipal Museum – Zaprice Castle offers permanent and temporary exhibitions emphasising the rich cultural heritage of Kamnik;
Miha Maleš Gallery – the works of the Kamnik painter and artist Miha Maleš in the vaulted rooms of a town house;
Sadnikar Museum – the first private museum collection in Slovenia, with numerous objects ranging from medieval weapons to old porcelain, from secular and Church items to Persian rugs;
Budnar Museum House – a unique living museum in the village of Zgornje Palovče above Kamnik, arranged in one of the oldest homes in the area. With its open-fire "black kitchen", tiny rustic dwelling room and other features, it preserves the former way of life in the village.


National Costume Day

EXCURSIONS

RELAXING IN NATURE

Kamnik is the starting point for excursions around the Kamnik-Savinja Alps and the Kamniška Bistrica valley with many natural and cultural features.
Velika planina – you can set off to the heart of the green world of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps by cable car or on foot; the plateau is one of the rare preserved herdsmens' settlements in Europe.
Terme Snovik – relaxation in a world of thermal pleasures is offered by the highest-lying spa in Slovenia.
Tunjice Healing Grove – Kamnik's wells of energy and well-being are set in organised energy centres.
Zgornje Palovče – a village where you can breathe in the aroma of fresh baked bread from a "black kitchen".
Volčji Potok Arboretum – a stroll through the green park with its thousands of plant species is especially attractive when the innumerable tulips are blooming.

EVENTS

CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL

Check out events in the town at www.visitkamnik.com/en/events.
These deserve special attention:
Veronika's Festival – a May festival for children with various workshops, performances and games taking place around the many venues in the town throughout the day.
Kamfest – a „festival with a view" in Kamnik offering nine exciting festival days every summer and almost 100 events for all ages.
Veronika's race – on the second Saturday in October, the streets of the old town centre change into a running track.
Days of National Costumes and Clothing Heritage – every second weekend in September Kamnik traditionally holds these clothing heritage days.
Magical Kamnik – in the final month of the year, Kamnik glows with festive lights, the Glavni trg square invites visitors with numerous events and the entertainment of the children is taken care of with a large indoor ice rink.



KOPER *THE CITY OF THE SUN* CAPODISTRIA

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This Mediterranean city, bounded by the sea and hills, displays its rich, thousand-year history at every step. A walk through the old city centre is a walk through the past filled with sunshine. The mysterious Koper countryside in the land of Refošk wine offers a unique range of food and wine. Its numerous traditional events offer the true pleasures of Istria. The rays of the present offer new experiences in this city by the sea.

SLOVENIA GREEN

When you are in Koper, visit the nature reserve of Škocjanski Zatok, the biggest brackish wetland in Slovenia. Here you can discover rare and endangered plant and animal species. Please respect the area's biodiversity! In addition to more than 220 species of birds, you can also observe Camargue horses and the Podolian cattle here. You can get to the reserve on foot or by bicycle.


Škocjanski Zatok Nature Reserve

PRAETORIAN PALACE AND THE LION'S MOUTH

The might of Koper is symbolised by the Praetorian Palace, and tales of the past are concealed in the little peculiarities of the city. One of these is the Lion's Mouth, at one end of Čevljarska Street close to the Praetorian Palace. The "Bocca del Leone", as it was called in Venetian times, was designed for anonymous tip-offs about tobacco and salt smugglers, as well as for bribing gentlemen of the municipal authority.


Vittore Carpaccio


Tito Square


Da Ponte Fountain

FEATURES OF KOPER SQUARES

As you stroll from square to square, open your eyes to the fabulous architecture!
Titov trg (Tito Square) and the Praetorian Palace – the most priceless architectural monument in the city is this palace, which was also the city hall during the period of the Venetian Republic; close by are the Loža (Loggia), once a debating venue for burghers (today a café), the Cathedral of the Assumption in its Gothic and renaissance style,
The city tower – a special viewing point – and the Foresteria and Armeria.
Prešernov trg (Prešern Square) and the Da Ponte well – close to the Baroque well dating from 1666 is the Muda Gate, the former city gate, for many centuries the only land entrance to the city, and the ruins of the city wall. Just a step away, in Župančič Street, the courtyard of the Carli Palace is dominated by the Gothic bucket well, which is one of the first dated and preserved wells in Slovenia.
Carpacciov trg (Carpaccio Square) and Carpaccio House – a Gothic building from the 14th century – was the residence of the painters Vittore and his son Benedetto Carpaccio; close by is the Taverna, the former Venetian salt warehouse, today a space for events.

SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE PAST

What inspired all the art in little galleries across the city? Perhaps the ancient stories, which you can sense in the museums:
Koper Regional Museum – in the Belgramoni Palace – since 1911 the Tacco Museum has showcased precious archaeological, artistic and historical items and a collection of museum objects up to the 19th century;
The ethnological collection at the Regional Museum – the collection in the Venetian Gothic house from the 14th century shows the material and spiritual culture of Slovenian Istria, Brkini, Čičarija and the upper Karst since the 17th century.
Unique Istrian Gastronomy –The sun shining through the tastes of istrian dishes. The rich Istrian soil and the Mediterranean climate provide a good home for sunny types of grapes, full fruit and vegetable flavours, excellent olive oil and other delicious dishes taking the name of these places all over the world.
Enjoy the uniqueness of the Istrian gastronomic treasures our inns in the heart of Koper have to offer. Treat yourself to a cup of coffee, delicious cake and pastries accompanied by a stunning sea views.


Sweet Istria

EXCURSIONS

WANDERING TO THE SUNSET

Koper is a jumping off point for exploring Istria. Your day can begin in the morning over a coffee in the city to accompany some local hroštole pastry, and can end with a dinner in the light of the full moon over the sea. Along the way, you can see:
The Karst Edge – a picturesque area of natural features, where the typical Karst landscape merges into the Flysch of Istria;
The Rock Shelters (Spodmoli) – a natural feature, also called the "Ears of Istria", three large overhangs on a 28-metre high cliff;
The Osp Wall – a rock face in the village of Osp, a favourite location for climbers;
Church of the Holy Trinity in Hrastovlje – with its famous frescoes of a danse macabre dating from the 15th century;
Socerb Castle – the ruins of the castle on a clifftop looking out to the Bay of Koper house a restaurant.

EVENTS

THE DIFFERENT WORLD OF ISTRIA

The city offers abundant opportunitie for getting to know the traditional features of Istria. Follow the announcements at www.visitkoper.si and don't miss events such as:
Istrian Carnival – the February Shrovetide procession in sight of the sea.
Sweet Istria – on the third weekend in September, the stalls are irresistible with their traditional Istrian, Slovenian and other sweet treats.
Slovenian Istria days of Agriculture – this October event offers tasting of Istrian and Primorska wines, olive oil and other natural products.
Fantazima – At the end of the year, the magical December atmosphere takes over Koper and its surrounding villages.
Koper in the palm of your hand – traditional presentation of local communities, tourist associations, their gastronomy, products and traditions in Koper in May.



KOSTANJEVICA NA KRKI

THE SMALLEST TOWN FOR THE GREATEST EXPERIENCES

TIC KOSTANJEVICA NA KRKI
Lamut's Art Salon - Božidar Jakac Art Museum

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Where the lowland Krakovo Forest slowly ascends the hilly green Gorjanci, lies Kostanjevica na Krki, the smallest and one of the oldest Slovenian towns and also the only Slovenian island town. It would be difficult to find someone who could not find anything for him or herself looking down on the lazy Krka river, taking a walk through the old town centre, viewing the art collections or studying the natural and cultural heritage.

SLOVENIA GREEN

The largest lowland forest in Slovenia spreads out on the floodplain of the lower reaches of the Krka river. The pristine forest signifies a high-quality habitat and a refuge for many plant and animal species. The most attention-grabbing are the English oak, the hidden nests of black storks and the only nest of the lesser spotted eagle in Slovenia. Along the edge of the reserve runs the designated Ressel path.

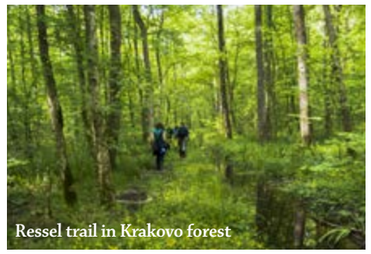

The moor frog (Rana arvalis)

THE LEGEND OF SAINT AGNES

Once upon a time, a big flood demolished Saint Agnes church on the Kostanjevica Island. She had no option but to leave. She only left behind the prints of her tiny feet on a rock, which still sticks out of the shallows of the Krka river at Gorice. After years of searching, pilgrims found her in the Posavje hills, on Kum. The residents of the town promised her that they would visit her every seven years, as befits a legend, to bring her new clothes and candles, so that she would not be in the dark.


Božidar Jakac Art Museum


The Kostanjevica cave


Ressel trail in Krakovo forest

SIGHTS OF THE ISLAND TOWN

Church of Saint Nicholas – The town centre of Kostanjevica na Krki lies on a river island. The island can be accessed by way of wooden bridges. The south bridge leads into town past the Church of Saint Nicholas, which was first mentioned in 1581. The church was painted by a painter named Jože Gorjup.

Parish church of Saint Jacob – The parish church of Saint Jacob is the oldest remaining building in the town. It was first mentioned in documents in 1220, and in 1249 it was conferred by Duke Bernard von Spanheim together with the parish to the monastery that was in charge of it until it was disbanded in 1785. Through the centuries the church has undergone several reconstructions and restorations.

The Ministerial manor of the Spanheims – At Oražnova ulica stands a former ministerial manor from the late 15th century. Since 1958, the east wing has been arranged as a gallery for temporary exhibitions – Lamut's Art Salon. On the square in front of the manor stands a fountain, created by the academic sculptor Dušan Tršar.

The Oražen House – The birth house of Dr. Ivan Oražen stands on the south side of the enlarged Mali Plac (Little Market). In front of the house, there is his bust created by a sculptor Boris Kobe. Dr. Ivan Oražen, patron of the medical faculty and the first doyen of the Yugoslav Sokol Society, was born in this building on the 8th of February 1869.

The Pietist Bridge – Kostanjevica na Krki is characterised by wooden bridges made from oaks from the nearby Krakovo Forest which take visitors to the island. There are the southern and the northern bridges, and there is also the curious Pietist Bridge that brings pedestrians to the town centre on the west side of the island. It was made according to the ideas of architect Jože Plečnik who befriended a local pharmacist named Emilija Fon.


Šelmarija Carnival

CULTURAL SITES

Božidar Jakac Art Museum – In 1974, one of the greatest Slovenian museums, the Božidar Jakac Art Museum, came to life in the renovated rooms of the former monastery. Art collections, the core of which is represented by the works of the Slovenian Expressionists, and temporary exhibitions revive this exceptional cultural monument and its surroundings. The Gorjup Gallery, Lamut's Art Salon and the Forma Viva International Symposium of Sculptors fall under its auspices.

Gorjup Gallery – Since 1956, a permanent exhibition of renowned Slovenian and Croatian artists has been displayed in the premises of the Jože Gorjup Primary School in Kostanjevica.

Lamut's Art Salon – Since 1958, the art museum has been hosting exhibitions of contemporary Slovenian and foreign artists in the Spanheim ministerial manor.

The Gallery of academic painter Jože Marinč – Jože Marinč is an academic painter who lives and works at Dobe in Kostanjevica na Krki.


Božidar Jakac Art Museum

EXCURSIONS

Kostanjevica Cave is located at the foot of the Gorjanci Hills, which are characterised by rolling Karst terrain consisting of cretaceous limestone. Here, rain water, underground watercourses and tectonic shifts have created wonderful calcareous sinter creations with fairy-tale shapes for thousands of years.

Trail of Čestitke Fairies runs through the heart of the Gorjanci Hills; it is marked with signposts, where you can also read the story about the fairies. The trail is suitable for all ages.

Uskok Trail is a themed trail about the „USKOKS" and their impact on the cultural heritage of the area, which partly also includes the municipality of Kostanjevica. This easy to moderately difficult trail is 7 km long and it is marked and suitable for hikers of all ages.

Boating and stand up paddle boarding – water sports enthusiasts can rent boats and stand up paddle boards which offer a possibility of experiencing the town from a different perspective.

EVENTS

Šelmarija Carnival or Shrovetide – Šelmarija is a Shrovetide event, typical of Kostanjevica na Krki. All typical Shrovetide characters, the so called Šelmars, are members of the Prforcenhaus gang, and a metal head sculpture, the so-called Šelma, is the symbol of the Shrovetide carnival.

Kostanjevica Night or Venetian Night – Every year on the third Saturday in July Kostanjevica Night is held. This ethno-tourist event is characterised by decorated boats floating down the Krka river after sundown. A raft with Šelmars and a band playing leads the parade.

Children's Ex Tempore painting festival – The event is an exhibition of young artists from Slovenian primary schools. Every year in late April, they create artworks according to a specific theme. Usually, they spend the whole day in Kostanjevica and their works are put on display at various locations in the town.

Forma Viva – Since 1961, Kostanjevica na Krki has held the Forma Viva International Symposium of Sculptors, which is considered the oldest still active sculpture symposium in the world. The one-month symposium that takes place every second year is attended by sculptors from all over the world. The Sculpture Park containing more than 100 sculptures made from oak, embellishes the neighbourhood of the Božidar Jakac Art Museum and the town itself.



KRANJ
THE CULTURAL HEART OF SLOVENIA

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Kranj has 6000 years of history and a rich cultural life. Within its medieval city walls it is a place brimming with art and architectural design, and its explosions of fresh creativity should not be missed either. The hospitable little shops await you with organic and locally produced food, handicrafts and works of art. The charming historic town invites you to discover its sights. The monument-protected city centre is characterised by a relaxing rhythm of events, great food and hospitality. Here the traditional is lovingly intertwined with the modern.

SLOVENIA GREEN

Kranj is the capital of the Slovenian Alps with a 30-metre deep canyon of the Kokra River in its very centre. The surrounding area is great for hiking and biking in the warm months and the joys on the snow-covered slopes in winter. The centre of the city has a picturesque mountain scenery and green surroundings, and there are countless opportunities for outdoor activities.


Monument of the greatest Slovenian poet France Prešeren

THE CITY OF THE GREAT

France Prešeren, the greatest Slovenian poet, spent the last years of his life in Kranj, and the city became a guardian of his heritage. Leopold Layer was the Baroque painter who painted the Mary Help of Christians in the pilgrimage chapel of Brezje, the most popular pilgrimage site in this region. Other famous Kranj residents include Žiga Zois, a key figure of the Enlightenment and patron of arts, Janez Bleiweiß, a publicist, and Janez Puhar, the inventor of photography on glass.


Old Kranj

DISCOVERING CITY SIGHTS

Rich in heritage, Kranj invites you to take a stroll down its streets and to discover the sights. Do not miss:

City Hall – one of the most important Slovenian Renaissance mansions, with a late Gothic colonnade hall dating back to the 16th century.

The Prešeren Memorial Museum – the house in which the poet France Prešeren resided in the 19th century.

St. Cantianius Church – one of the most beautiful Gothic churches in Slovenia, which proudly stands out in the cityscape.

Castle Khislstein and City walls with defence towers – the old part of the city is surrounded by city walls that once had 8 towers. Nowadays, there are three renovated towers which have replaced their defensive function with opportunities for cultural experiences. The castle houses the exhibition premises of the Gorenjska Museum and a covered open-air theatre.

The Pavšlar House – a luxurious bourgeois house dating back to the 16th century, which today hosts an eminent gallery.


The tunnels under the old town of Kranj

The Layer House – a house once owned by the Layers, the famous Carniolan family of painters, now a true cultural centre.

The tunnels under the old town of Kranj – a city shelter, built during World War 2. Here, you can experience a simulation of an air raid and natural attractions, from dripstones to cave animals.

TELLERS OF CITY STORIES

Enter the museums and galleries in Kranj and listen to the stories they whisper. Do not forget to peek into:

The Gorenjska Museum – its keeps its treasures in the CITY HALL (collection of sculpted works by Lojze Dolinar, an archaeological exhibition The Iron Thread and an ethnological exhibition The Folk Art of the Gorenjska Region), at Castle Khislstein (the Beautiful Gorenjska exhibition), in PREŠEREN'S HOUSE (the life and work of France Prešeren) and the Ossuary.

The Gallery of the Prešeren Award Laureates – an exhibition of the works by the recipients of the highest award for fine arts in Slovenia. The gallery offers the best insight into the contemporary art scene in Slovenia.


Kranfest Festival


The Brdo estate

EXCURSIONS

BY BIKE OR ON FOOT – TO NATURE!

In the surroundings of Kranj, hiking and cycling trails lead to hospitable holiday farms, natural sites, rare birds and bodies of water surrounded by the mountains.

Šmarjetna gora, Jošt and Jamnik – these three easily accessible hills are popular excursion destinations for hikers and cyclists. Jamnik with its breathtaking view is an inspiration for many photographers.

Brdo Estate pri Kranju Estate – the local Renaissance castle is the most important meeting venue, where world leaders meet, and Brdo Park invites you to stroll among the beautiful lakes, parks and gardens or to play a round of golf.

Lake Trboje – home to numerous water birds, offers boating, fishing and recreation in nature.

EVENTS

OLD AND NEW STORIES

Find out which events suit your taste at www.visitkranj.com, but do not miss:

The Prešernov Smenj fair – the colours of the 19th century become alive on this day. It is a fair of crafts, tasting local delicacies, dancing, a music programme, traditional costumes and hairstyles of the era. In typical bourgeois clothing, Prešeren, too, can be seen wandering around the city.

Week of Slovenian Drama – every March since 1970, Kranj hosts the Week of Slovenian Drama. The festival presents the best drama theatre productions of the past year, as well as many roundtable discussions, drama writing workshops, etc.

Kranfest Festival – a mosaic of music, sports, theatre, culinary and entertainment events.

Kranj Jazz Camp – the city is overwhelmed by the sounds of jazz musicians from Slovenia and abroad.

Wine route in the tunnels under the old town of Kranj – a gastronomic event where winemakers from all over Slovenia introduce their wines and the tasting of vintage wines is enriched with local meats, cheeses and spreads. Mid November.

The international fine arts festival Kranj – The biggest art festival in Slovenia that takes place in all the galleries of Kranj and connects more than 100 artists from all over the world.

Cheerful December – fairs and culinary events in Kranj's central square, accompanied by numerous musical treats and events for children. The three good men come to visit: St. Nicholas, Santa Claus and Grandfather Frost. You'll love the decorations and festive lights in the city. December.



LJUBLJANA

A CITY OF CULTURE AND ART

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SLOVENIA GREEN DESTINATION Gold



Ljubljana is situated at a dynamic crossroads of diverse cultures, regions and historical events. It connects in a unique way the prehistory of pile-dwellers with the 2000-year-old Roman Emona, the medieval centre below the castle hill with rich Baroque façades, the Art Nouveau beauties with the creations of architect Jože Plečnik. Every year, Ljubljana hosts over numerous cultural events. The UNESCO City of Literature is distinguished by the harmonious coexistence of tradition and modern pulses – it is a vibrant centre of creativity where culture is practically a way of life.

SLOVENIA GREEN

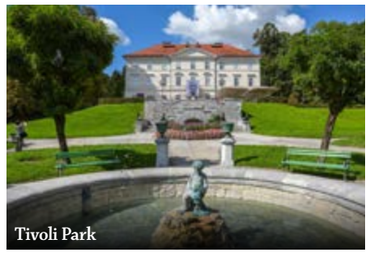
The European Commission awarded Ljubljana the prestigious title of European Green Capital 2016. Ljubljana is a city that prides itself on exceptionally preserved green areas and numerous pleasant green corners, even in the very centre of the city. In the area of Ljubljana there are as many as four landscape parks and the old city centre is closed to motorised traffic. You will see the best of Ljubljana if you explore it on foot or by bicycle, and along the way you can quench your thirst by drinking water from public drinking fountains.


Central Market - market halls by architect Jože Plečnik

PLEČNIK'S LJUBLJANA

Jože Plečnik (1872 – 1957) is one of the most important pioneers of modern architecture in the world. His creative work shaped the image of three long-established cities: Vienna, Prague, and particularly his birthplace Ljubljana where his mark is so prominent and indelible that Plečnik's Ljubljana as a unique city phenomenon is classified among the most original and most important holistic artworks of the 20th century from a global perspective.


The Ljubljana Opera and Ballet


Tivoli Park


Excursions from Ljubljana

FEATURES BY THE BRIDGES

The Ljubljanica River runs right through the city, and the numerous attractive bridges span it lead to features such as:

Ljubljana Castle – offering the finest views of the city;

The Slovenian Philharmonic hall – founded in 1701, it is one of the oldest in the world;

Prešernov trg square – this central square is the gathering place for city residents, and features a monument to the greatest Slovenian poet France Prešeren;

The Cathedral Church of St. Nicholas – with its illusionist painted ceiling and depiction of the history of Slovenia on the main door;

The Central Market – the creation of the famous architect Jože Plečnik, it is the liveliest part of town;

The National and University Library – this most important work of Plečnik in Slovenia houses among others medieval manuscripts, incunabulas and Renaissance works;

The City Hall – the building dating from the 15th century is today the seat of the City authority; in the square in front of it stands the Fountain of the Three Rivers of Carniola, the work of Francesco Robba;

The Botanical Garden – dating back more than 200 years, it has 4,500 botanical species and subspecies;

The Path of Remembrance and Comradeship – the biggest cultural monument in the city, it is a 33 km long footpath laid out along the route of the barbed wire fence that ringed the city during the Second World War;

Tivoli Park – the biggest and finest park in Ljubljana, which stretches right into the city centre.

PRECIOUS OBJECTS IN MUESUMS AND GALLERIES

Slovenia's capital city is an inspiration with its major Slovenian collections of museum exhibits and artistic works. Visit:

The National Museum – with precious items from all over Slovenia, most important of which is a 60.000-year-old Neanderthal whistle;

The National Gallery – this presents the artistic periods in Slovenia from the 13th century to the first quarter of the 20th century, and a European Painters collection;

The Museum of Modern Art – featuring paintings, sculptures and graphic works by Slovenian and foreign artists of the 20th century;

The City Museum – a chronological presentation of Ljubljana's millennia of heritage with precious authentic artefacts, like the world's oldest wooden wheel with an axle;

Plečnik House - authentic furniture and original material from the architect's legacy;

The Ethnographic Museum – with exhibitions of traditional Slovenian culture and the culture of other peoples of the world;

The Museum of Architecture and Design – Museum for architecture and design – the museum exhibits in the field of architecture, urbanism, industrial and graphic design and photography;

The Museum of Recent History – is dedicated to the heritage of recent history from the beginning of the 20th century onward;

The Railway Museum – this museum houses a collection of steam locomotives, wagons and other historical vehicles.



Ljubljana Festival

EXCURSIONS

EXPERIENCES IN THE CENTRAL SLOVENIA REGION

Ljubljana's green surroundings, combining the mountainous world, the unique natural environment of the Ljubljana Marshes, the Karst fields, the caves, rivers and lakes, are ideal for exciting day trips.

Bogenšperk Castle – the picturesque Renaissance Bogenšperk Castle, where the renowned polyhistorian J. V. Valvasor created his masterpiece The Glory of the Duchy of Carniola. Lots of exciting stories hide behind the walls of the castle.

Polhov Gradec – in the Baroque mansion, you can enjoy a tea with Count Blagaj, a member of the Enlightenment and a botanist. You can also see the Museum of Post and Telecommunications.

Vrhnika – at the doorstep of Ljubljana, the birth house of Ivan Cankar, the greatest Slovenian writer, and luxurious cars of the former Yugoslav President Tito.

The Ljubljana Marshes – Ljubljana Marshes is a natural reserve known for its rare flora and fauna and the remains of prehistoric pile culture, entered in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Discover the reserve by taking a stroll along the trail called Koščeva učna pot (Corncrake Learning Trail).

EVENTS

LIVELY EVERY DAY!

Check out the calendar of events at www.visitljubljana.com. Don't miss:

June in Ljubljana – featuring free events in Kongresni trg square.

Jazz Festival – the oldest jazz festival in Europe, every June it hosts top names in world jazz.

Ljubljana Festival – concert, opera and ballet events in July and August that attract more than 80,000 visitors.

November Gourmet – The November Gourmet festival presents Ljubljana's top culinary offer. In addition to the main events, such as Ljubljana Wine Route, Slovenian Wine Festival and the closing event, November Gourmet Finale, several venues around the city host a broad variety of exciting events, workshops and tastings. Select restaurants also offer November Gourmet festival menus.

The Ana Desetnica international street theatre festival – held at various outdoor venues across Ljubljana, showcases contemporary trends in street theatre creativity.

December in Ljubljana – lavish events and a fair, as well as special lighting that makes Ljubljana one of the most beautiful festive cities.



MARIBOR

CITY OF THE WORLD´S OLDEST VINE

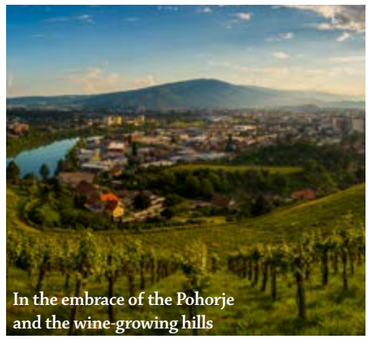
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Slovenia's second biggest city invites you into the embrace of the Pohorje and the wine-growing hills. The lively pulse of the city centre links a rich history with dynamic modernity, and countless possibilities for fun and relaxation with the joie de vivre and hospitality of the Štajerska region. Awaiting you in the old part of the city is the Old Vine, in fact the oldest vine in the world.

SLOVENIA GREEN

The Pohorje mountain range is home to numerous animal and plant species; there are as many as 90 species of birds and 700 species of butterfly, including the largest in Europe. Thematic trails, including around the Pohorje primeval forest, offer a unique insight into nature. Let's protect it! Concern for nature can go hand in hand with the enjoyment of the local cuisine, made without harming the environment, healthy drinking water, pleasant climate and the energy influences of nature. You can find all of this in the wide range of wellness programmes.


In the embrace of the Pohorje and the wine-growing hills

LIVELY CITY

Old legends tell of the love of life in Maribor. One of the nearby vineyard hills, Pekrska gorca, is said to be created after the Devil himself got angry with the debauched locals. He supposedly tore off a large rock at the top of Pohorje to smash the city. When the Mother of God crossed his path, he tossed the rock away and fled. This rock is today known as Pekrska gorca – with its own calvary, church and vineyards.


The Old Vine, World's Oldest Vine


Maribor's Main square


The Maribor Wine Route

HERITAGE OF CENTURIES

The city, first mentioned in 1254, is laced with quaint streets leading from one city square to another.
Glavni Trg square – with its Rotovž City Hall and the tower that is "not in the middle", its baroque church of St. Aloysius and the Plague Monument.
Grajski Trg and Trg Svobode squares – with the Maribor Castle and the Regional Museum, the St. Florian statue protecting against fire, and the unusual National Liberation Monument.
Slomškov Trg square – in front of the cathedral where was once the city cemetery now stands the statue of A. M. Slomšek, and the square marked by famous J. Plečnik is fringed with imposing SNG Maribor theatre, the Post Office and the University.
Židovski Trg square – the Jewish quarter with the synagogue and a tower "threatened" by Five Organic Dangers.
Lent and the Old Vine – the oldest part with its Guinness record holder, medieval heritage, cheerful rafts men and festival atmosphere.
City Park – a favourite promenade with various species of trees, the Rose Hill and fountains, it leads to the popular Three Fishponds area and Aquarium-Terrarium.

SURPRISES FOR THE CURIOUS

An authentic cultural experience of Maribor and its surroundings in museums and galleries:
The Old Vine House – a temple of wine-making tradition and culture with a precious bottle of the black velvet grapes of Modra Kavčina and royal and knights' wine equipment;
Maribor Regional Museum – priceless archaeological, ethnological, cultural, and historical items in the Maribor Castle;
Maribor Art Gallery – one of the central Slovenian museums of modern and contemporary art with more than 3,000 works;
Kibla – a peak of creativity in the fields of multimedia and intermedia art and culture;
Maribor National Liberation Museum – a mansion in the city centre presenting the recent history of northeastern Slovenia;
Maribor Synagogue – one of the most important monuments of the Jewish culture in Slovenia.



The Lent Festival

EXCURSIONS

EXPLORING THE CITY AND ITS GREEN SURROUNDINGS
You can discover Maribor by foot, bicycle or by tourist train, while you can get a truly special view of the city by rafting or stand-up-paddling on the Drava river. You can go with a guide or on your own into the green surroundings of:
Mariborsko Pohorje – with its primeval forest, peat bogs and lakes, streams and waterfalls. In summer it attracts hikers, bikers and extreme sports enthusiasts, while in winter it turns into the biggest ski centre in Slovenia with mountain wellness and the Golden Fox world cup ski competition;
Wine roads – the wine-growing hills are laced with scenic hiking and biking trails as well as roads to wineries and tourist farms, and to the ethnological and natural features;
Botanical gardens – the University Botanical Garden and the Tal 2000 to learn especially about the Pohorje forests, north-eastern Slovenia and the riverside world.

EVENTS

MARIBOR – A CITY OF FESTIVALS
The Golden Fox (FIS Ski World Cup for Women) – an ideal venue, exceptional organisation, top atmosphere.
The Drava Festival – a festival of diverse experiences by, on and in the Drava river.
Lent Festival – an international multicultural festival, the largest in this part of Europe.
Summer Puppet Pier – an international puppet festival for children and families.
The Old Vine Festival – the festival of wine and cuisine in honour of the oldest vine in the world.
Maribor Festival – top concerts of classical music.
Maribor Theatre Festival – the largest Slovenian theatre festival.
St. Martin's Day Celebration – the biggest one-day outdoor wine festival in Slovenia.
The Opera Night – enjoy the most beautiful opera arias in a natural ambient of the Maribor City Park and experience an unforgettable romantic night at the magnificent conclusion of the opera season.
Stellar Beat – a festival of electronic music hosting over 40 DJs from all over the world.
Festive December – St. Nicholas, Christmas and New Year fairs and numerous open-air concerts and parties energies the Leon Štukelj square.
Maribor – European Capital of Culture 2012 – a further confirmation that Maribor is an excellent host of exceptional cultural events!



METLIKA

IT IS BEST TO COME AND SEE

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The Metlika municipality is a land of many faces. Because of its remoteness, it is mysterious, unspoilt and pure, and its dynamic world is filled with magical places offering relaxation and entertainment. As far back as a century ago, it did some groundwork in many areas, despite being geographically remote. Today it can boast cultural traditions, culinary specialities and events that are not to be found even in the most developed and wealthy places.

SLOVENIA GREEN

Where to look for paradise today, if not in the remote and unspoiled regions intertwining tranquillity, diversity and rich natural and cultural heritage? Therefore, welcome to the heart of Bela krajina, where the Gorjanci Hills and the Kolpa river hide the ancient town of Metlika. Allow yourself be touched by its rich history, culture and friendly people.


The Kolpa river

LET TIME STAND STILL

Let yourself be fascinated by the wavy Karst landscape, scattered with villages and fields, forests, vineyards and fern areas. This is where you will find the homes of simple yet spiritually rich and friendly people, who have not forgotten how to stop time. Visit them and they will offer everything they have in abundance; beautiful nature, old traditions, tasty food and drinks and an abundance of boldness a Bela Krajina soul has.


Discover wine region


Rich history


Local gastronomy

WALK AROUND THE REMARKABLE TOWN CENTRE

The oldest part of Metlika lies at the foot of the **Veselica Hill,** on the natural promontory between the valleys of the Obrh and Suhor streams and the dry valley of Bojica. The area was inhabited as early as in prehistoric times.

In the **Mestni trg Square** (Town Square) with its typical medieval shape the most important buildings of the historic part of the town are located, the Church of St. Nicholas, Command Post and Provost's House. There are also the birth houses of sculptor Alojz Gangl and writer Engelbert Gangl, the building of the former Wach pharmacy with a built-in relief of the Holy Trinity, the protector of pharmacists' activities, and the first national reading society in the Dolenjska region. At the exit from the Town Square it narrows and leads to the largest town area.

This is the **Trg svobode Square** (Liberty Square), which is concluded by a castle at its highest point. **Metlika Castle** stands on the highest point of the promontory between Obrh and Bojica, in Liberty Square. It was first mentioned in medieval documents in 1338, but its design is likely much older. Since 1951, it has hosted the Bela krajina Museum. Permanent exhibitions on the first floor include the archaeological, cultural and historical, and ethnological collections and a collection of recent history.

The most recent square in the old town is the **Partizanski trg Square (Partisan Square),** as it stands in an area that was not within the town walls in the Middle Ages. The mightiest building of all is the building of the former primary school, which was built in 1886. In this building, the stage director Osip Šest was born. During the Second World War the building was home to the School for Officers. On the other side of the square there is the house in which the Navratil brothers were born. The older brother, Ivan Navratil, was a recognised linguist and ethnographer, now a Metlika folklore group is named after him, and the younger Anton Navratil was an awakener of national conscience.

TRAVELLERS WOULD OFTEN LIKE TO STAY HERE

Bela krajina Museum – the permanent exhibition of the Bela krajina Museum in Metlika Castle is titled Life in Bela krajina from Prehistoric Times to the Middle of 20th Century.

Slovenian Fire-fighters Museum of Dr. Branko Božič – located in the Slovenian cradle of firefighting, Slovenian Firefighters Museum of Dr. Branko Božič displays a rich collection of historical heritage and extensive firefighting activities from its beginnings to the present day.

Camps by the Kolpa river – the Kolpa is the warmest and cleanest Slovenian river. In the summer, it attracts many swimmers, and it is also attractive for sport fishing and kayaking, rafting and canoeing.

The community vineyard cottage of Drašiči – it is referred to as the "wine bank", a particular way of connecting villagers in the village community. The cottage keeps the wine gathered from the members of the community, which is then made available to the villagers.

Fun elementary school – in a classroom equipped in the style of the 1960s, a strict teacher presents the Bela krajina Region in a humorous and entertaining way.

The Bela krajina House of Delicacies – is a sustainable project representing a growth of the quality and added value of locally-made products, as well as a growth of local self-sufficiency and the bringing of the local food offer closer to the general public. The offer of local delicacies in the Metlika old city core indicates a new direction for its revival, while offering today's local residents and outside visitors a rich range of wines and food in one place.


Bela krajina "steljniki"

EXCURSIONS

HIKING AND CYCLING TRAILS

The cycling and hiking trails meandering through Metlika and its surroundings lead to hidden areas of unspoiled nature.

Tri fare Pilgrimage Centre

The pilgrimage complex in Rosalnice is distinguished by three Gothic churches, which are enclosed by a high churchyard wall.

Bela krajina „steljniki"

Taking a turn from Metlika towards Drašiči, we find ourselves in the middle of large and well-maintained „steljniki", fields of tall ferns once used as bedding for farm animals.

EVENTS

THE LAND OF WHITE BIRCHES – Learn more about the events at www.metlika-turizem.si

Vinska Vigred in Bela krajina

The festival of wines that takes place in May attracts domestic and foreign lovers of top-quality wines and authentic cuisine from Bela krajina.

Portugieser blauer Festival

Every year in October, lovers of wine events return to the festival held in Metlika Castle.

"Pridi zvečer na grad" (Come to the castle tonight) Visiting Metlika Castle on summer evenings, you can encounter music, dance, words, and theatre.



NOVO MESTO *CITY OF SITULAE*

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The most beautiful inland city in Slovenia has been for centuries the centre of administrative, cultural, religious and business life in Dolenjska – and of a unique landscape in the south of the country. Among vineyards in the shelter of the Krka valley, is a city concealing an amazing archaeological heritage. On its hillsides you can visit traditional events, picturesque churches, monasteries, museums and galleries. Everything in the vicinity of Novo mesto, from mighty forests and thermal springs to varied opportunities for outdoor activities make it a great destination.

SLOVENIA GREEN

The regulated shores of the river, along which the city of situlae extends, are the popular recreational points for the locals and tourists, offering numerous possibilities for relaxation and workout, from walking trails along the Krka river to a variety of water activities. Visitors can rent kayaks, canoes, stand up paddle boards and diving and fishing equipment.



Figurally decorated Situla

ANCIENT FIELD TREASURES

Kapitelj field is the largest archaeological site in Central Europe. Originally due to ploughing, and later by a systematic excavation, unique objects from different periods were discovered. Many finds are from the Iron Age, specifically from the Hallstatt period. Special treasures are the situlae - bronze buckets with rich figural decoration. Novo mesto got its name after them - the city of situlae.



Novo mesto



Dolenjska Museum



Stand up Paddling on the Krka river

FROM THE RIVER TO THE HILLS AND BACK

Krka River, which embraces Novo mesto, has for centuries protected citizens, powered the mills, and facilitated various economic activities. Even today, a stroll through the city is marked by the river. From the riverside you can easily reach the following:
The main square - the central area of the medieval town of Novo mesto with arcades and patios.
City Hall - with the coat of arms of Rudolf IV of Habsburg, founder of the city. In front of the building are statues of the poet Dragotin Kette and the novelist Janez Trdina.
Škofija Novo mesto (Bishop's palace complex) - Cathedral Church of St. Nicholas and the famous altarpiece by J. R. Tintoretto, Diocese building with a library, archives, gallery and a collection of religious objects, and the garden, beside which sit the last remnants of the city walls.
Franciscan monastery - rebuilt several times, the monastery building was established in 1472, holds the city's oldest library, and is connected to the Church of St. Lenart.

Novo mesto - Breg - here the city walls used to sit atop a rocky peninsula. Since the eighteenth century the town's characteristic houses have flourished there creating a picturesque panorama for the city.

HERITAGE ON VIEW

Look also behind the walls of the city buildings!
Dolenjski muzej (Dolenjska Museum) - permanent exhibitions of archaeological, ethnological, war and other objects from the city and wider region complement the museum workshops, screenings, and special events.
Jakčev dom (The painter Jakac home) - in addition to the collection of Božidar Jakac, one of the most famous Slovenian painters and graphic artists, there is also a permanent art exhibition of the Dolenjska Museum and Fine art collection. On the ground floor of the house is an annual gallery program.
The IMV Museum Collection - recounts the development of the automotive industry in the city, today a source of world-famous caravans and cars with famous sounding names!



The main square

EXCURSIONS

Forests, Water, Castles - Novo mesto is set amid vast forests, wine-growing hills, spas, and castles. Explore the neighbourhood!
Gorjanci - flat hills with beautiful forests are a surprise for hikers and bikers.
Krka – the green river invites you on walks along the embankments, and for various water adventures such as boating and fishing;
Trška gora - a famous hill full of wine cellars and vineyards, which also boasts majestic lime trees and the pilgrimage route.
Otočec - a romantic castle on an island in the middle of the Krka river offers various sports facilities and a golf course;
Dolenjske Toplice - one of the oldest spas in Europe is today home to a comprehensive wellness service.
Šmarješke Toplice - springs in the middle of forests and meadows promise well-being and better health.

EVENTS

In Novo mesto, various organisations take care of your wellbeing and cultural, sporting, entertainment, social and culinary experiences. Follow them at www.visitnovomesto.si
Summer evenings in Novo mesto: literary, musical, puppetry, theatrical content events and gastronomy events..
Summer Music Festivals: I am music, I am the town (classical music concerts), Jazzinty (jazz concerts and workshops), Rudy Vagabondy (street theatre), Fotopub (photographic exhibitions and workshops), Pop-up wine Festival..
The Situlae Festival in June, celebrates the life and cuisine of the Iron Age. It is dedicated to the extraordinary bronze monuments – situlae that clearly testify to the lives of Hallstatt residents of Novo mesto, who were equal in importance to the outstanding civilisations of the Continental and Mediterranean Europe.
The competition in jumping into the water from the Kandija Bridge takes place on the first Saturday in July. At the same time, there are a number of other sports, cultural and social activities held during the whole weekend.



PIRAN
TARTINI'S TOWN

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This Mediterranean jewel of Slovenia is a truly special place. In this birthplace of the famous violinist Giuseppe Tartini, along the narrow medieval streets, between tightly squeezed houses that gradually rise up the slopes, you can still hear violins and other instruments at concerts and festivals of classical music. Piran is a monument to the diverse architecture of past centuries. The town squares are places of socialising that undulate to the rhythm of the sea.

SLOVENIA GREEN

Take a walk to the town along the sea, experience all the beauty of the Piran by buying an unique experience (www.portoroz.si) and at the same time you will receive an electric bicycle for free for the whole day.


The Venetian House "Benečanka"

BENEČANKA: LET THEM SPEAK

The Benečanka (Venetian) building is mong the finest buildings in Piran. Its façade bears the inscription "Lassa pur dir" – "Let them speak". Legend has it that the building was built by a rich Venetian trader for his Piranese paramour. The inscription was supposedly a response to the townsfolk, who dealt with the lovers spitefully.


Fiesa - Piran Walking Trail


Picturesque Piran


Sečovlje Salina Nature Park

BEHIND SEVEN TOWN GATES

Behind the town walls from the 7th century, from which seven town gates are still preserved, you can see:
Tartini Square – the central town square dating from the 13th century. By filling in the little port inlet a spacious market square was formed, and around it are all the main municipal institutions;
The Municipal Palace – an old Romanesque- Gothic town hall from the end of the 13th century, which was completely renovated in 1879 in the Neoclassical style;
The Benečanka – the oldest preserved building in Tartinijev Trg, from the 15th century, the finest example of Venetian Gothic architecture in Piran;
Tartini's House – the birth house of the composer Giuseppe Tartini (1692-1770), one of the oldest houses in the square, bearing his name;
Trg 1. maja or Stari Trg (Piazza Vecchia) – in the middle of the former main square is a stone water and rain collector, into which fed drains from the roofs of local houses;
Church of St. George – a church from the 12th century, the biggest of the ten churches in Piran.

THE ANCIENT SEA

The treasures of Piran's history are linked to the sea. They infuse the works in the Municipal Gallery, the Herman Pečarič Gallery and the Meduza 2 Gallery. Meanwhile the major treasures are kept in:
The Sergej Mašera Maritime Museum – with its archaeological, maritime, cultural, historical and ethnological collection and saltmaking and fishing sections;
The Museum of Underwater Activities – with presentations of diving from its beginnings to the present day – featuring ancient diving equipment, hand pumps, diving bells and so forth;
The aquarium, with more than 140 marine organisms, offering an insight into the diverse marine life;
Konhilarij – magic world of shells – You can see almost 1 800 different limy shells, snails and fossils from all over the world.
Mediad Pyrhani – the multimedia presentation will take you like in a time machine through 20 centuries, from antiquity to today's Piran.


The view from the town walls

EXCURSIONS

SALT, FOOD AND PAMPERING

Want more? Head off into the surroundings!
The Piran countryside – in the Šavrin Hills are the villages of Sveti Peter, Padna and Nova Vas. They are a delight with their olive groves, from which the virgin olive oil is made for typical Istrian dishes, and with their vineyards, which produce grapes for Refošk (Refosco) and Malvasia.
Portorož Spa – a thermal spa with a century-old tradition, it uses brine, mud and salt from the Piran saltpans, and it offers wonderful massages and pools with sea and thermal mineral water.
Sečovlje Saltpans – a nature park covering a full 650 ha, it is home to more than 270 bird species in and unspoilt environment with numerous special features.
Forma Viva – collection of stone sculptures in open air. It is situated in the park of the Seča pri Portorožu peninsula.
Fiesa – only 20 minutes walk from Piran - a small bay. The town is known for two fresh water lakes which are only few metres from the sea.

EVENTS

THE PULSE OF SUMMER, AND OTHER SEASONS, TOO!

Piran is a town of numerous events which you can check out at www.portoroz.si.
The Saltmakers' Festival – on 24 April, on the Feast of St. George, patron saint of the town, you can witness the traditional departure of the saltmakers to the saltpans.
The fair of antiques, local crafts and nature's gifts – every last Saturday of the month in Tartinijev Trg.
Piran musical evenings – on Thursdays in July and August, top-quality classical music concerts have been staged for more than 30 years.
The Tartini Festival – the concert evenings in August and September are devoted to the music of Giuseppe Tartini.
Ex-tempore Piran – in September the town traditionally welcomes painters from various parts of the world.
Christmas Nativity scene in Piran churches – from 20 December to the beginning of January, eight Piran churches present the creations of eight artists.



PTUJ *OLD TOWN, NEW EXPERIENCES*

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The city by the Drava is a natural meeting point of vineyard-covered hills and the expansive open fields of north-eastern Slovenia. People have lived here without interruption since Roman times. The town charter of 1376 places Ptuj among the oldest towns or cities in the wider region. The protected medieval city centre maintains its stories of the past in churches and monasteries, in vaulted wine cellars and in castle halls. The door-to-door rounds of Kurenti have been entered on UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

SLOVENIA GREEN

The mighty Drava and undulating wine-growing hills create the unique backdrop of the oldest Slovenian town. On Castle Hill centuries of history are intertwined with the noblest plant, the vine. Only a few steps from the city, under the canopy of old trees meanders the clear stream of Studenčnica leading to the mystical Roman Mithras. The extensive Ptuj Lake evokes memories of the sea.



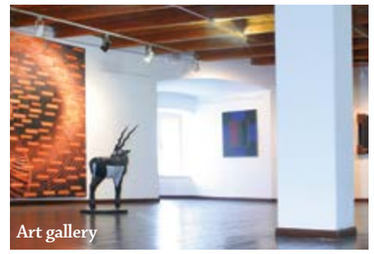
Ptuj City Tower

CLOCK WITHOUT TIME FOR THE LORD OF THE CASTLE

The large clock on the city tower has a dial only on three sides. On the northern side, which looks towards the castle, there is no dial. Stories of the past relate that the burghers took revenge in this way against the miserly count, who did not wish to contribute money for the clock. The story no doubt contains a grain of truth, since the city and the lord of the castle were frequently at each other's throats regarding maintenance of the defensive towers and the staircase from the city to the castle.


Dominican Monastery


Kurents or Korants
(traditional carnival figures)


Art gallery

THOUSANDS OF INSPIRATIONS

Ptuj, thousands of special qualities accumulated in thousands of lives. Walk through its streets with open eyes.

The Minorite Monastery – the first entirely Gothic building in Slovenia, built at the beginning of the 13th century.

The Florian Monument – a monument erected in 1745 in Mestni trg was a supplication from the burghers to St. Florian for his protection from the frequent fires.

The Orpheus Monument – a Roman gravestone of Pohorje marble, almost 5 metres high, was erected in the 2nd century. In the Middle Ages it was used as stocks.

The City Tower – the tower with the unusual clock, first mentioned in 1376, is among the oldest open-air lapidariums. In the 19th century, monuments from Antiquity of Ptuj and its surroundings were built into it.

Church of St. George – the finest and richest architectural monument in Ptuj, dating from the 12th century, has Renaissance and Baroque gravestones from the former cemetery on its exterior walls.

Dominican Monastery – The Dominican Monastery – the monastery complex bears a Gothic and Baroque appearance. In recent years, the renovated premises have been a venue for cultural events, and from April to October they also receive visitors.

HERITAGE COLLECTIONS

Ptuj offers thousands of images of cultural heritage. Visit:

Ptuj Castle – it hosts an Exhibition of Feudal Dwelling Culture, a Collection of Arms, a Collection of Musical Instruments, a Collection of Traditional Carnival Masks, a Collection of Glass Paintings, an Ethnological Collection and the Castle Gallery.

Mihelič Gallery – the tower alongside the Drava river hosts among others the graphic collection of painter France Mihelič. The city also hosts the Art Salon and the Old Prisons exhibition space.

Ptuj City Gallery – the Ptuj City Gallery is a must-see for all contemporary art lovers. Locals often say that Ptuj is the city of noble tradition and rich cultural heritage; however creativity is still very much alive here today, looking for inspiration and reference point in the art of the past.


Roman Games

EXCURSIONS

A FEW STEPS FROM THE CITY

After discovering the special features of the city, you can head off for relaxation in the surrounding area. Visit:

Terme Ptuj – one of the biggest thermal spa parks in central Europe, it also offers accommodation of all types, from bungalows to a hotel;

Ptuj Golf Course – a multiple awardwinning course with a varied terrain and numerous water obstacles;

Ptujska Gora – the hill with a famous Gothic pilgrimage church and an exceptional monument: the Virgin Mary opening her mantle; with its fine views, the hill is a favourite destination of hikers and cyclists;

Ptuj Lake – suitable for water sports and other leisure activities.

EVENTS

FROM ROMAN TO CASTLE GAMES

In this city of millennia you can be a Roman, a lord, a taster, a carnival figure or just a city burgher seeking a real experience. Find events at www.visitptuj.eu and select from:

Kurentovanje – International Carnival (in February) – numerous ethnographic and tourist events with the hallmark ethnographic costumed figure of the kurent or korant;

Slovenian Farm Fare (in May) – presentation of Slovenian rural cuisine.

Ptuj Castle Games (in June) – a sociable presentation of medieval culture.

Arts Stays (in July) – one of the most important festivals of modern art in Slovenia and this part of Europe.

Arsana Festival (in July) –an international music festival bringing together artists of classical, jazz, world, vocal and instrumental music.

Roman Games (in August) – a cultural and entertaining revival of the ancient roots of Ptuj.

The Days of Poetry and Wine Festival (August) – the largest international festival, a poetry festival bringing together the best poets and artists from all over the world and offering the best wines of the Štajerska region.

The Festival of Popular Folk Music (in September) – the oldest festival of local popular music.



RADOVLJICA

CHOCOLATE AND HONEY

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In the Alpine area between Jelovica and the Karavanke range, a town has stood on the river terraces above the confluence of the Sava Bohinjka and Sava Dolinka since the 14th century, and this town boasts unique examples of medieval buildings painted with frescoes. Behind the walls, with their only preserved defensive moat in Slovenia, await the town's sites of interest, the castle park, museums and galleries and the main square, in which events and festivals are held. Radovljica is also the centre of Slovenian beekeeping. Just 7 km from Radovljica is the tourist location of Bled with its picturesque lake, island with a chapel and the castle perched on a mighty clifftop. Radovljica is the centre of Slovenian beekeeping and the venue for the largest chocolate event in Slovenia.

SLOVENIA GREEN

Bees are an important indicator of threats to the natural environment. Slovenia has 180,000 bee colonies, and is the only member of the EU to have protected its native species of bee, the Carniolan grey. In Radovljica you can find out everything about the Carniolan grey in the Beekeeping Museum, and to the buzzing of bees you can visit Breznica, which features a reconstruction of the apiary of Anton Janša, the initiator of modern beekeeping in the 18th century.


Kamen Castle in Draga valley near Begunje

PEGAM AND LAMBERGAR

Legend has it that in the 15th century Pegam and his army rampaged through this countryside. The Emperor called upon the brave Lambergar for help, and he in turn vanquished Pegam. Pegam then turned into a three-headed monster and vanished into the underworld. Their struggle is also a theme on painted beehive panels, which are on display in the Beekeeping Museum. Lambergar is also recalled in the romantic ruins of Kamen Castle in Begunje, close to Radovljica, which belonged to the Lamberg family.


Radovljica is a culinary centre of Gorenjska


Houses in Linhart Square


Beekeeping Museum

BEHIND THE WALLS AND MOAT

The old town centre is itself a collection of architecturally and culturally surprising structures. The outstanding ones include:
Šivec House – a completely preserved burgher house with a medieval ground plan; the house façade with its intricate edging is adorned with frescoes from the 17th century; the house also has a wedding hall;
The Manufaktura Workshop – ombines old and new practices in pottery;
Former medieval defence trench – now partly a tunnel, is the only preserved town moat in Slovenia;
Vidic House – a Renaissance Radovljica mansion from the 17th century with a portal made by a famous stonemason's workshop;
Radovljica Mansion – a Baroque two-storey manor house in the middle of the town, with a renovated Baroque hall on the first floor and Radovljica museum collections;
Church of St. Peter – a 15th century church adorned with towers and the remains of walls that give it the appearance of a defensive encampment; the parsonage next to it is distinguished by an arcade walkway from the 16th century;
The Castle park – the remnant of a Baroque garden with an avenue of beeches;
Gothic Tavern – the space preserved in the rectory with the exhibition of vinorels (paintings with wine);
Viewpoint at the end of the square offers astonishing views of the Sava river and the Julian Alps.

MUSEUMS

There are over 10 museums and galleries in Radovljica area. These are the biggest ones:
Radovljica Municipal Museum – with its collection on the important Slovenian dramatist and national consciousness figure Anton Tomaž Linhart in Radovljica Manor House;
Radovljica Beekeeping Museum – offering a comprehensive presentation of the Slovenian beekeeping tradition, the native Carniolan grey and painted beehive panels;
Kropa Blacksmith's Museum – presenting the development of ironworking from ore to nails, life in the ironworking settlement of Kropa, and a collection of artistic smithing work;
Avsenik Museum in Begunje – with a collection on the world famous popular folk music created by the Avsenik brothers; www.avsenik.com
Gingerbread Museum and Workshop – with live presentations of gingerbread making, an old Slovenian craft linked to beekeeping; www.lectar.com;
Brezje Nativity Museum – a unique collection of over more than 300 different nativity scenes from all over the world.
Pharmacy and Alchemy Museum – tells a tale about pharmacy and alchemy through exceptional objects from all over the world.
Elan Alpine Skiing Museum - an insight into the development of Elan skis with significant milestones in the design of modern skis.


Hiking paths lead to beautiful views

EXCURSIONS

LOCAL PATHS

After touring the old town centre of Radovljica, you can treat yourself to a view of this Alpine area from the air, taking a plane from the sports airfield at Lesce. There are also 11 themed hiking paths in the area to be explored;
Brezje – a Slovenian spiritual centre, and the most visited pilgrimage site with its basilica of Mary Our Help; around here runs the circular Brezje path of peace, which leads to special cultural landscape and natural sites;
Kropa – the cradle of blacksmithing, and its technical heritage of smelting, with the oldest preserved smelting furnace in Europe and other special features have marked it as a monument of national importance for more than 50 years;
Begunje – this village of music, castles and memories of the Second World War can be explored on the Lamberg Trail, which leads to the Katzenstein Manor House, to the remains of the Hudičev Gradič (Devil's Castle) and the ruins of Kamen Castle.

EVENTS

OLD INSPIRATIONS – NEW EXPERIENCES

The Chocolate Festival – the greatest chocolate event in Slovenia takes place annually in April: tasting, chocolate fair, workshops, cookery shows and a lively entertainment programme.
Radovljica Festival – every year in August lovers of old music enjoy the concerts in a beautiful Radovljica Manor.
Summer in Radol'ca – musical, stage and other summer events in the centre of Radovljica.
The Path of Venus – medieval market, street theatre performances, archery tournament and medieval dances transforming Linhartov trg Square into a scene from times long forgotten.
Avsenik Festival in Begunje – an event over several days with typical Slovenian popular folk music.
Taste Radol'ca – for the whole month of November, local restaurants and inns offer authentic local dishes made from carefully chosen ingredients from local producers.
December in Radol'ca – market stands with local products and events for all generations.



SLOVENSKE KONJICE

IN THE EMBRACE OF NOBLE STORIES

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The town with its picturesque old square design lies between Slovenske Konjice Mountain and the wine-growing Škalce hills. It has been a good model of kindness, awarded with numerous awards for tidy and hospitable environment, including two gold medals in the Entente Florale Europe competition Experience Slovenske Konjice and take away a taste of tradition, homeliness and kindness.

SLOVENIA GREEN

Along the way towards the Charterhouse Žiče is a natural growing area of žički grobeljnik, an endemic alyssum flower which thrives in Slovenia only in the quarry at Žiče and in some places around it. It is a rare and endangered plant subspecies. The growing area is a protected natural monument. Don't pick any of the precious plants. Take them with you in the form of a photograph!


Alyssum Montanum (Tomo Jeseničnik)

THE DRAGON OF KONJIŠKA GORA

Konjiška gora is supposedly hollow inside, and at its bottom is a lake guarded by a terrible dragon. Each spring the people of Konjice gave it a gift of a beautiful girl so the town would not be flooded by water from the lake. But when they wanted to give the dragon Marjetica, the lovely daughter of the count, in rode the brave knight George. He fought and vanquished the dragon, and saved the Konjice residents from the dangers of the mysterious mountain.


Old Castle

FROM STREAM TO HERBS AND WINE

Slovenske Konjice is inextricably tied to nature: to the stream in the town, to the vineyards on the hills and to the herbalist tradition. Several features bear witness to this:

Stari Trg – the medieval town square, through which runs the Ribnica stream; the houses in the square are a telling indicator of the more than 870 year history of the square;

Trebnik Mansion – a duet of romantic Renaissance buildings, combining a herbal shop and the house of wellbeing, set in the middle of the town park under the mighty Slovenske Konjice mountain;

Old Castle – the ruins of the residence of the lords of Konjice on Konjiška Gora; it has a renovated defensive tower and part of the walls from the 12th century;

Škalce – a hilly area with vineyards, impressive Zlati grič Wine Cellar, a wine road, unique apartment house and golf course just above the town;

Charterhouse Žiče – a former Carthusian monastery from the 12th century in the picturesque Valley of Saint John, only a stone's throw from the hustle and bustle of the town; four permanent exhibitions; herb gardens; Otakar sparkling wine cellar; herb shop; pottery studio; a backdrop for unique open-air summer concerts and dream weddings;

Gastuž – the oldest still-operating restaurant in the Slovenian territory dating all the way back to 1467, right next to Žiče Charterhouse.


Žiče Charterhouse

SELECTED AND OF THE PEOPLE

Allow yourself to be impressed with the outstanding gallery exhibits and the authenticity of the ethnological collections:

Riemer Town Gallery – it hosts a collection of paintings by famous masters from the early Renaissance to the present day, and some beautiful pieces of antique furniture are also displayed;

The Museum Collection of Military Objects from the Austro-Hungarian Period – a private collection of museum objects, particularly from the period of the First World War, which was renovated at the end of 2016;

Dravinjska Dolina Firefighting Museum – more than 560 exhibits demonstrating the development of organised fire protection below the Pohorje mountains;

Heritage House in Mlače – a rich ethnological collection in the village of Mlače;

Pust House – ethnological collection of old farm tools and a collection of objects from the Second World War at nearby Tolsti Vrh;

Herbalism – in addition to the herbal gardens at the Charterhouse Žiče, you will find an addorable Majnika Herbal Garden in the village Žiče, which is a result of the work of the diligent hands of members of the Temnik family, offering a variety of over 160 different herbs. These are used in their finished products, from which herbal salt and tea blends are particularly worth mentioning;


The Feast of St George


Škalce

Basket weaving – the old tradition of original weaving products is still being preserved at the Kalšek-Podkrajšek farmstead in Žiče. Their farm baskets, small baskets and woven bottles are made of willow; they are listed in the book "Mojstrovine Slovenije" (Masterpieces of Slovenia) and they have obtained the "Izdelek domače obrti" handicraft product certificate for their products.

EXCURSIONS

TO THE HILLS, VALLEYS AND VILLAGES

A walk through the squares of Mestni trg and Stari trg with the Riemer Town Gallery, past the Church of St George, along a small stream all the way to the Trebnik Mansion, and then over the Škalce hills to the Zlati grič wine cellar and then on to the surrounding villages with their many special features. Visit:

Žiče – the village which received a bronze award for tidiness in the European Entente Florale competition and where you can find the preserved tradition of wickerwork, herbalism, artistic blacksmithing and milling.

Mlače – the village where the harmonious songs of the Mlače boys and men often resounds and where in the Heritage House you will find a rich ethnological collection of objects reminding us of our ancestors' lives.

EVENTS

TOWN OF ETHNO-EVENTS

The town pulses with preserved tradition. Come and experience:

Jurjevanje – a traditional event held at the end of April, reviving the story of the knight St. George who saved the town from the dragon of Konjiška gora;

Charterhouse Žiče summer musical evenings – in the summer Charterhouse Žiče offers superb evening music events under the celestial vault.

Konjice marathon – the „marathon with soul" takes place on the last Sunday in September.

Martinovanje – the traditional November celebration of young wine for the Feast of St Martin.



ŠENTJUR

A TOWN OF MUSIC AND THE SOUTHERN RAILWAY

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This town, embraced by forests, gentle hills, and ponds, is famous for the music of the Ipavec family. The sound of their music may have even been enriched by the clickety-clack of trains, which began passing the town as early as 1846. The towns and villages at the foot of Rifnik Hill, which has been continuously settled since the end of the New Stone Age and where one of the largest Late Antiquity settlements in the area of today's Slovenia was located, invite you to visit and experience the beautiful sights in their surrounding areas, the opportunities for adventures in nature, and the hospitality of the locals.

SLOVENIA GREEN

Šentjur is a town of sustainable tourism. As of 2018, it holds the Slovenia Green label. As part of the "From Pohorje Hills to Mt Bohor" destination, it was among the finalists for the 2010 European Destination of Excellence.

Šentjur systematically conserves and promotes bee-keeping. It is a bee-friendly area.


The Ipavec house

FROM SONG TO SONG

"There's no one else in the world who'd rather sing than Slovenians, and I'm not familiar with a more beautiful gift than that of a pleasant song," Anton Martin Slomšek wrote in 1847. Many of his songs became folk classics. The Ipavec family of Šentjur, a family of composers, significantly affected Slovenian music and also gave us the first Slovenian historical opera and ballet. The musical pride of Šentjur continued in the 20th century with the New Swing Quartet.


The Šentjurjevo celebration

FROM THE RAILWAY STATION TO THE UPPER SQUARE

Take the Ipavec Path to the memorial houses, museum collections, and churches that represent the history of Šentjur from Antiquity to today.

The Rifnik museum collection and its treasures shows how life was lived from the New Stone Age to the Middle Ages on the nearby Rifnik Hill. It's well worth hiking up the hill to take in the views and see the archaeological park.

Parochial church of St George, which gave the town its name, dates back to 1340. Additions to the church were built in 1721. There is a wonderful view of the landscape from the fortified wall behind the church.


The Šentjur Southern Railway Museum

The Šentjur Southern Railway Museum and its more than three thousand artefacts represent a unique technical and transport heritage and serves as a reminder of Slovenia's role in connecting Vienna and Venice.

The Ipavec house was the home of the greatest Slovenian family of doctors and composers. In addition to the exhibition, there is also a wedding hall, a wine bar, and a garden with a stone table and Plečnik's well. The Upper Square Gallery is nearby.

The song of the southern railway at the Tourist Information Centre allows you to learn about the musical collection by way of interpretative guidance by individual members of the famous New Swing Quartet.


The Parish Church of St. Martin in Ponikva


Sea Slivniško jezero

EXCURSIONS

HIKES IN THE GENTLE HILLS OF THE KOZJANSKO REGION

Šentjur is located just a short distance from **Celje**, the town of princes, and the spa resorts of **Rogaška Slatina, Terme Olimia, Laško or Zreče** are also only a short drive away. Various natural and cultural sights can be found along the way, such as the small glass-making village of **Žusem**, the photogenic Planina Castle with its story of Veronika of Desenice, the Šmid Ethnological Collection, and the Magic of Tradition Collection of Niko Kuret. The spirit of Slovenia's 'Robin Hood' – the robber Guzaj – and many other tales, accompany us along the way.

Short tours will take you to **Hotunje**, where you will find a memorial room of the cartographer Blaž Kocen, the author of the atlas which served as the basis for all present-day atlases. Another tour takes you to **Ponikva**, the home town of Anton Martin Slomšek, where the largest European habitat of the greater pasque flower can be found. The Slomšek Pilgrimage connects Ponikva with the Žiče Charterhouse and other sights.

Hikers, cyclists, and fishermen can find a true challenge for themselves at **Lake Slivnica**, where more than 110 bird species can be observed.

The Žusem Castle Educational Path attracts lovers of nature who can hike this seven-kilometre route and learn about the special geographical, audio, historical, and other points of interest.

In the unspoilt nature of the Kozjansko region, experiences balanced between ecology and ethnology also await you. Visit the **Kalan Herb Farm** in Kalobje, where the renowned Kalobje manuscripts were made, or the cave with millstones with **geomantic figures**, and the **Ferlež Mill** with its many stories.

EVENTS

WHENEVER YOU WANT!

Šentjur keeps its traditions alive at selected events throughout the year. The following are especially worth visiting:

- **the Šentjurjevo celebration**, an event at the end of April, which lasts for several days and has a fair with local products and produce, where "St George's Sour Soup" is cooked, and where visitors can attend various concerts, sporting events, etc.
- **Šentjur Summer**, which connects cultural events as well as ethnologic and tourist events in the Ipavec Garden and other incredible nearby venues.
- **Ipavec Days**, an event held in the autumn featuring mainly musical performances in honour of the creativity of the Ipavec family of composers.
- **Angel Sunday in Planina** has a parade showing old farming customs, thus keeping them from becoming forgotten.
- **Midsummer Night by Lake Slivnica** is a fun cultural event at which visitors can release wishing candles on the lake and await the arrival of the Merman.



ŠKOFJA LOKA

THE TOWN OF THE PASSION PLAY

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This best preserved medieval town, with its guild traditions and a black man in its crest, has many intriguing stories. Every seven years, the town below Škofja Loka Castle comes alive with a colourful passion procession, a special enactment of Christ's suffering and resurrection using the oldest dramatic text in Slovenian. The mosaic of events and authentic Škofja Loka cuisine bring curious people into the town from near and far. Škofja Loka – proud to be one of Slovenian Green Destinations!

SLOVENIA GREEN

The Škofja Loka Passion Play - from 1721, which is staged in the squares and streets of Škofja Loka at the time of Easter holidays, is the oldest dramatic text in the Slovenian language. With more than 1,000 participants, it is one of the most magnificent passion plays in the world and since 2016 it has been included in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.


The Škofja Loka Passion Play

BLACK MAN IN THE CREST

What is a black man doing in the town crest? Enjoying gratitude! When the lord of the land, Abraham, and his black servant were travelling here, they encountered a huge bear in a dark wood. The African felled the bear with his bow, and his lord said to him: "You saved my life! I shall reward you by ensuring that later generations know what a hero you were." And he had the servant painted into the town's crest.


Mestni trg (Town Square)


Škofja Loka Castle


Art & Craft Centre of Škofja Loka

GLIMPSES OF THE MIDDLE AGES

Wherever you look in Škofja Loka, you can catch sight of medieval beauty. Come and see:
Škofja Loka Castle – the former seat of the local territorial lord, it was renovated after the earthquake in 1511; it houses the Loka Museum collections;
Kašča – the granary, a building intended for storing taxes paid in kind, and built as part of the town walls before the 1511 earthquake; it houses a gallery, restaurant and wine bar;
The Stone or Capuchin Bridge – a bridge more than 600 years old, one of the oldest monuments of bridge building in Europe. On it stands a statue of St. John of Nepomuk with the Škofja Loka crest;
Homan House – a town mansion in the Gothic style with Renaissance elements, it was renovated in the 16th century. Today it houses a delightful confectioner's and coffee shop;
Martin House – built onto the town walls, dating to the 14th century, and fully preserved in thesection next to the house;
Old Town Hall (Rotovž) – dating from the 16th century, the pre-eminent building of Mestni Trg square; it has a Gothic portal, entrance hall and door and Renaissance arcaded courtyard;
Sign of the Virgin – a Baroque sign with statues of St. Roque, St. Anthony and St. Mary, erected by the town in 1751 in thanks for protection from the plague and fire.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

Preserved behind the walls of the imposing medieval buildings are special features of the past and art of the present:
Loka Museum – featuring archaeological, historical, cultural, artistic, ethnological and natural science collections at Škofja Loka Castle; the museum workshops recreate the old guild crafts;
Ivan Grohar Gallery – a space in the centre of town for attractive ambiental and multimedia installations;
France Mihelič Gallery – the medieval Kašča building houses a permanent exhibition of graphics, drawings and paintings by France Mihelič;
Library of the Capuchin Monastery – alongside priceless incunabula and religious books t houses the original manuscript of the oldest preserved dramatic text in Slovenian – the Škofja Loka Passion.
Nace House in Puštal – an ethnographic monument of Slovenia's rural architecture heritage;
Art & Craft Centre DUO Škofja Loka – exhibition of hand-made products, working room and the centre for transfer of such skills to young generation.


Historial Škofja Loka

EXCURSIONS

TO GREEN VIEWS

After strolling around the mystical town, with its impressive medieval houses, hidden nooks and crannies and arcaded courtyards, and seeing the multivisual presentations of the Škofja Loka Passion, then up the scenic path to the castle with its museum workshops, you can continue on to the surrounding area.
Poljanska and Selška dolina valleys – along the Selška Sora and Poljanska Sora streams, which converge at Škofja Loka into the Sora river, there are wonderful flowering meadows, expansive forests and unspoilt nature with numerous natural and cultural features.
Škofja Loka hills – around the hills close to Škofja Loka there are hiking and cycling trails of varying difficulty. You can also visit traditional farms, refresh yourself at one of the hospitable local establishments and observe the skilled work of the women and men who run these establishments.

EVENTS

AWAITING THE PASSION

In 2021, Škofja Loka will once again impress with the Škofja Loka Passion Play. – the PROCESSIO LO COPOLITANA of 1721. This spectacular street event has a special cultural, historical and religious significance.
Events during the Passion – during Lent and Easter, every year Škofja Loka is alive with Passion stories.
The Four Bridges Run – a sports event that turns Škofja Loka into a capital of running, sports and socialising.
Historial Škofja Loka – on the penultimate weekend of June, the town is permeated with the stories of the Middle Ages.
Musical Loka – in June, young musicians play in the streets, squares and entrance halls of the old town centre.
Festival Colorful Loka – events in July and August provide a cultural flavour to the warm evenings.
Festival Loka in the snow – in the last month of the year there is a series of events in the festively decorated town.



TRŽIČ

DRAGON'S TOWN OF THE ENTERPRISING AND THE SKILLED

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Since there was a lot of traffic in this area already in Ancient Roman times, the people of Tržič reinvented themselves to become very enterprising iron-workers, wheelwrights, textile workers, tanners and above all shoemakers. The rich collection in the Museum of Tržič and the famous event Cobblers' Sunday are evidence of this glorious crafting history. Today, Tržič is a pleasant old town, protected as a cultural monument. This is a place worth stopping at and listening to its countless stories

SLOVENIA GREEN

Seeking a quick getaway to greenery, the sound of a burbling brook, the feel of the wind in your hair? Discover a piece of paradise in Tržič, a unique area where the visitor will find peace and quiet and unique experiences far from the bustle of tourists thronging "classic" tourist destinations. Tržič's forests, meadows, mountain pastures, gorges, streams, and endless paths await you.


The Dovžan Gorge

IT ALL BEGAN WITH THE DRAGON

Centuries ago more than half the settlement below Ljubelj consisted of smithies. A blacksmith there had an old rooster that went up to Košuta, where he laid an egg, and from the egg hatched a dragon. The dragon burrowed into the mountain and as he grew into an enormous beast this split the mountain in two. This triggered a rumbling rock avalanche that buried the village below the mountain. To save themselves the villagers ran into the valley. After a time they ran out of breathe and stopped. This is the site of the present-day town of Tržič.


Slovenian skiing museum


Kurnik House, black kitchen


Discover Tržič on two wheels

FROM PREHISTROY TO THE PRESENT DAY

In this town close to the well-known Dovžan Gorge, with stones from the Palaeozoic Age, a view of various periods is provided by the museum collection. Visit:

Tržič Museum - the local museum premises are located in the fascinating ambience of the former dyehouse and tannery. The museum presents the once extremely highly developed crafts that were the bread and butter for many Tržič residents. Listen to songs and testimonies, take in the smell of leather on display, try out a shoemaker's lamp, try on unusual shoes from olden times, touch yarn, feed a dragon ... The past is presented in new exhibitions of leather, shoemaking, sockmaking, textiles, dyeing and in the Slovenian Ski Museum in such a way that you will also have fun while learning.

Kurnik House - when you enter Kurnik House, it feels as though time has stopped: built in the 18th century and having survived the 1811 fire, it is the most completely preserved house in Tržič. It was formerly inhabited by craftsmen, most recently cartwrights, hence there is an exhibition of wheelmaking on the first floor, showing the tradition and manner of making wheels and some other products, including wagons and also noisemakers, a Tržič specialty. The rooms on the ground floor are preserved in the same arrangement as they had at the end of the 19th century. Here you can also try baking a special Tržič bread called "flika" in the ambience of the oldest house in Tržič (advance reservation required).

Tekec Nativity Scene - the original nativity scene was created by the Tržič shoemaker Jožef Ribnikar between 1935 and 1970, who carved the figures from linden wood using a cobbler's knife. In 2000 his son, sculptor Vinko Ribnikar, added to it. Each figure is unique, and especially attractive are double or triple figures carved from a single piece of wood. At the center of the scene is a display of the birth of Jesus. Some figures in the nativity are also movable: shepherds walk, Mary rocks the cradle, a shepherd chops wood, angels circle above the stable, a shepherd draws water, bells ring, and so on.


Cobblers' Sunday

EXCURSIONS

HIKING UNDER THE LONGEST SLOVENIAN MOUNTAIN RANGE

The Tržič area is a mountaineering paradise throughout the year. 150 km of marked paths – and numerous more, of all levels of difficulty – await those who want to test their endurance. There are enough thrills and magnificent views for everyone, be it mountaineers, hikers or free climbers.

Cycling - A true paradise for cyclists, Tržič as a Slovenia Green Destination offers you a wide variety of possible routes and levels of difficulty, from easy recreational rides to those that will soon leave you panting from exertion.

The Dovžan Gorge - The Dovžan Gorge is a natural monument located in the heart of the Karawanks, Slovenia's longest mountain range. Within it lies a unique site of rocks dating from the late Paleozoic Era. The Tržič Bistrica, a mountain river, laid bare a complete sequence of rocks from the younger Paleozoic period, ranging in age from 300 to 260 million years, as it cut a channel through the varied rock layers. They are like the pages of a thick book, recording a fantastic story about unusual living creatures and a changing environment in the distant geological past.

EVENTS

SOMETHING NEW ALMOST EVERY DAY IN TRŽIČ

The mother of all events in this area is Cobblers Sunday, the first Sunday in September. Hundreds of years ago the first Sunday in September was when cobblers' apprentices after a demanding practical examination received their certificate of completion of apprenticeship and became journeymen. And what do you think followed? A fair and festivities for all.

What is not to be missed?

Enjoy the International Minerals, Fossils, and Environment Days – MINFOS. Cheer on the competitors at the international mountain race for oldtimers on Ljubelj. Then there's the St. Gregory's - Vuč u vodo, Gutenberg Days, Experience the Middle Ages and Live nativity scene, the Dance Without Borders on Ljubelj, and dozens of other events, both traditional and one-off.



ŽUŽEMBERK

IN THE HEART OF THE DRY LANDSCAPE

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The central medieval square with the powerful Žužemberk Castle rising on a steep cliff above the Krka river. Its historical role and strategic importance were described as early as 1560 by a monk Johann Faitan in his poem Seisenbergensis TumultusIn the midst of Illyria, rises a town above the deep strait, a sturdy fortress, truculence and resistance to any weapon. A place controlled by the clan of Turjak for years etc.

SLOVENIA GREEN

The Krka river is the most recognisable natural pearl, which has formed a picturesque riverbed. Along the current of the river, a series of natural phenomena intertwine: springs, Karst caves, a river canyon, unique travertine dams, shallow pools, river meanders and plains.


Krka river

MAGIC HAPPENED ON KLEK

In Žužemberk, there is a legend about a witch hunt, which took place in the 17th century. Since ancient times, witches had gathered on Klek and from there they spread their magic throughout Krajina (the local name for Suha krajina). Finally, one of them was caught and brought to the court at Žužemberk. No bad deeds were proven in the trial and she was acquitted. And that is why you can find magic even today...


Žužemberk Castle

ŽUŽEMBERK CASTLE LENDS ITS NAME TO EVERYTHING

The castle is one of the most picturesque and typical medieval fortresses in the territory of the present-day Slovenia. Supposedly, the year 1000 was engraved in the stone gate, which testifies that William I, husband of St. Eme, had it built.

In 1295, the castle became the property of Count Albert II of Gorizia. In 1538, brothers Jurij and Wolf Engelbert Auersperg from Šumberk bought the castle. Its best-known owners were Andreas von Auersperg, a military commander and one of the victors of the epic Battle of Sisak with the Turks in 1593, and Johhan Weikhard of Auersperg, a diplomat, teacher of the emperor, councillor and prime minister.


Mali lipovec

OTHER EXCEPTIONAL MONUMENTS AND SIGHTS NEARBY

Area of the Auersperg iron foundry in Dvor. Iron processing started here in pre-Roman times. The Auersperg iron foundry was the largest industrial plant of the Dolenjska region in the 19th century. In addition to a variety of industrial and construction devices, they also manufactured decorative castings, such as candle holders, decorative plates, coats of arms, furnaces, tombstone crosses, etc. In 1891, the iron foundry stopped operating.
Church of Saint Agnes at Lopata from 13th century which retains its appearance from 1706
Natural sites: caves and hundred-year-old lime tree at Brezova Reber, Černičkova jama cave and the Šolnovo brezno abyss near Prevole, Močile pod Hinjami (small lakes) and the 888m high hill of St. Peter on the border of the Dolenjske Toplice, Kočevje and Žužemberk municipality.


Iron Foundry Museum in Dvor

EXCURSIONS

A GLANCE INTO THE PAST;
Discover the fascinating past at Žužemberk Castle, where you will feel the history, growth, prosperity and ruin. Meet famous Suha krajina locals, and while pausing for a moment by the cemetery cross, you can feel the greatness of the parish church of St. Mohor and Fortunat and the NOB monument with the Ossuary of fallen soldiers from 18 countries.
Visit the monument to the Olympic gold medallist Leon Štukelj by Žužemberk primary school. Feel the freshness of the wonderful Krka river at Loka ob Krki and have something to eat at a nearby restaurant. You can go back to the centre past St. Miklavž, Trške njive and across Tomaž's Bridge of Love.
Iron was cast by masters; When in Dvor, visit the Iron Foundry Museum and Art Gallery and the outstanding castings and the work of the Auersperg iron foundry masters.
Water in Suha krajina; the cemetery in Hrib pri Hinjah offers a magnificent view of the wider and distant surroundings. The real attraction lies at the foot of the hill with Močile, three neat ponds. During the summer, you can even have a swim in one, and have something to eat at the Krnc Guest House.
A cycling trip along the Roman Road from Ivančna Gorica to Dvor is a historical and recreational event tied up in the exceptional natural, cultural and intangible heritage.


Medieval Day at Žužemberk Castle

EVENTS

Market Town Days is:
recreational, tourist, ethnological event. It begins with lighting of a charcoal pile in Srednji Lipovec. Events: a presentation of songs, dances, exhibitions, recreational cycling marathon, market games, young accordionists, vintage cars, barley cooking competition, marketplace and a village festival, a memory hour of the first Hollywood actress from Slovenia, born in Žužemberk
Medieval Day at Žužemberk Castle is the central event known across. The Holy Mass, market, knights, ladies of the castle, medieval dances, old music, knights' duels, archery tournament and recreated events from the rich history of the owners of Žužemberk Castle

TAKE TO THE PAVEMENTS

TO SEE SLOVENIA'S MOST CHARMING TOWNS

Each city is an experience in itself. As you connect more of them, the experiences turn into a big story. Create it on your own or choose one of the programmes offered by the Association of Historic Towns of Slovenia in cooperation with selected agencies. While visiting Slovenia, do not skip the capital city of Slovenia—Ljubljana—with Plečnik's architecture, the castle, the marketplace and other creations of the renowned architect.

WALLED TOWNS
Piran • Škofja Loka • Kranj • Celje • Ptuj

The preserved medieval town walls, which once provided security and survival, today awaken the imagination with countless stories. Enjoy a stroll along the most beautiful highlights of Slovenian history.

Day 1 - Piran

Rising above Piran is a preserved section of the once mighty Renaissance town wall. It offers exceptional views of the sea and the town, which has "grown on salt". **Salt harvesting**, which you can still see in the saltpans of Sečovlje, gave rise to the booming town at the time of the Venetian Republic. This is shown in a multimedia presentation in Mediadom.

Day 2 - Škofja Loka and Kranj

In Škofja Loka, open your eyes to the Gothic and Renaissance features of the walled medieval town at the foot of the hill, and Loka Castle. Today, the castle houses the Loka Museum, which presents the more than 1000 years of history of the town renowned for the **Škofja Loka Passion Play** – a staging of the oldest dramatic text in Slovenian language, classified as an Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO.

In Kranj, let your imagination be stirred by the times when the town was protected by walls with no fewer than eight defence towers. The importance of the town is manifested by **the rich archaeological** findings presented at the Gorenjska Museum in Pungert, where Khisl-


Škofja Loka


Kranj


Piran

stein Castle is also located. With its summer stage, it is the venue for many events throughout the year.

Day 3 - Celje

Celje is the town of the counts of Cilli or Celje, the only noble family on Slovenian soil and one of the most important families in Southeast Europe. Their mighty and fortified castle, today known as the Old Castle, is the venue of a lively festival summer pulse. The Princely Palace in the city centre with the exhibition A Town Beneath Today's Town presents the remains of Roman Celeia, an important ancient city.

Day 4 - Ptuj

Ptuj is the oldest Slovenian town, as evidenced by numerous archaeological finds from Roman times. Ptuj Castle is one of the most important fortifications to defend against the Turks, with the preserved ancient defence system in the castle complex. The castle houses the Ptuj Museum with its rich collections. Make sure to include a visit to the oldest winery in Slovenia in your town tour.


Celje


Ptuj

ON THE PATH OF HANDICRAFTS TRADITIONS

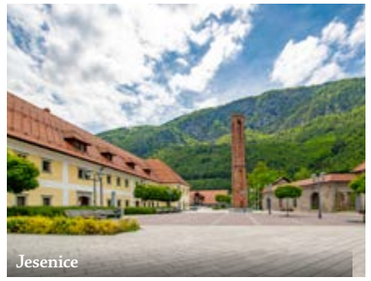
Tržič • Idrija • Jesenice • Radovljica • Kamnik

The towns where artisans of medieval guilds once sold their products at fairs still preserve their masters' traditions, old dishes and music of times past. Vineyards and typical inns with local cuisine often invite visitors to the outskirts.

Day 1 - Jesenice and Tržič

Jesenice offers a view of Stara Sava – **a unique ironmaking area** in Europe, the central square, the remains of a blast furnace, Kasarna workers' flats, Bucelleni-Ruard Manor, the ironmaking Church of St Mary's Assumption and Kolpern – a coal warehouse. Go on a hike after a Jesenice worker's breakfast.


Tržič


Jesenice


Idrija lace


Radovljica

Tržič is a **town of shoemaking stories.** At the end of the 19th century, there was a shoemaking workshop in every other house. This heritage is presented in the Tržič Museum and seen on every step of the way through the town centre, where we follow the shoeprints, as well as on Cobbler's Sunday, one of the most popular events in this part of

Day 2 - Radovljica

Radovljica is a **town of beekeeping** and a multitude of sweet things. Visit the Museum of Apiculture in the centre and the nearby apiary in Breznica. Make a sweet honeybread heart at the lectar workshop, and taste delicacies with the Okusi Radol´ce certificate in excellent inns. On the way to Kamen Castle, stop at Vila Podvin, a Michelin-starred villa offering cutting-edge cuisine.

Day 3 - Idrija

Idrija surprises with its heritage of the second largest **mercury mine** in the world, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Find the cave dwarf in Anthony's Shaft and try miners' bitters geruš. Skilful hands in this town inspire visitors with a demonstration of the making of **Idrija lace** and preparation of **Idrija žlikrofi**, a European-protected culinary specialty.

Day 4 - Kamnik

Kamnik was already a thriving trading town in the Middle Ages, as evidenced by its architectural heritage. Listen to the story of **Veronika of Kamnik** at one of the castles nearby. Do not miss the largest ethnological festival in Slovenia – the Day of National Costumes. Before leaving, try trnič – a local cheese that the **shepherds from Velika planina** gave to their sweethearts.


Kamnik


Novo mesto


Kostanjevica na Krki


Šentjur (Ponikva)

THE MYSTERIOUS POWER OF SILENCE
Novo mesto • Kostanjevica na Krki • Slovenske Konjice • Šentjur

The Slovenian landscape is characterised by numerous churches on hills and in settlements, as well as monasteries of various ecclesiastical orders, which preserve a rich cultural heritage and around which fairy tales and legends are woven. Get to know the sacral heritage of Slovenia.

Day 1 - Novo mesto
For more than 550 years, **Franciscans** have been living in the town, which preserves situlas and other exceptional finds from the Iron Age in the Dolenjski muzej (Dolenjska Museum). The Franciscans came to Novo mesto in the 15th century, soon after it was granted town rights as a young fortified centre. Their heritage is associated with one of t**he oldest libraries** in Slovenia and the church of St Lenart.

Day 2 - Kostanjevica na Krki
Kostanjevica na Krki is the only Slovenian town on an island, to which four wooden bridges lead. In the 13th century, a **Cistercian monastery** was founded here. The monastery complex, extended during the Baroque period, has **one of the largest arcaded courtyards in Europe**. The Božidar Jakac Sculpture and Painting Gallery operates here, and there is an international forma viva next to the monastery

Day 3 - Slovenske Konjice
In the silence of the valley of St John the Baptist in Slovenske Konjice, Žiče Monastery was built in the 12th century. Two centuries later, it was the centre of all Carthusian monasteries. Today, it is a place to escape the hustle and bustle. It features a **herbal pharmacy**, the Otokar cellar with Konjice sparkling wine, and Gastuž – **the oldest inn** in Slovenia.

Day 4 - Šentjur
Šentjur is the **birthplace of Bishop Anton Martin Slomšek**, a notable priest, national awakener, writer and poet. Many lyrics of his poems were put to music and became a folk tune. We can visit his birthplace in Ponikva, or see an event staged in his memory. Ipavec's House, the home of the famous Ipavec musical family, can be found in Šentjur.


Žička Kartuzija

IN VINO VERITAS
Koper • Žužemberk • Metlika • Brežice

Anyone who discovers Slovenia will also discover its wines! The intertwining of climates and different soils enables Slovenia to have a great diversity in its wine offer. Taste them in and around historic towns. A glass of wine goes well with local culinary specialties.

Day 1 - Koper
Complement your visit to Koper, once the second-most important city of the Venetian Republic, with a taste of a noble Istrian drop. Vinakoper, **one of the largest wine cellars in Slovenia**, also boasts one of the largest barrels in Europe. From the **wine fountain** in nearby Marezige there is a beautiful view of Koper, which also impresses visitors with its many events.

Day 2 - Žužemberk and Metlika
Žužemberk is known not only for the mighty castle that rises on a cliff above the Krka or for the former Auersperg ironworks at the nearby Dvor, but also for the **Zweigelt wine from the autochthonous grape variety**. The summer Trški dnevi event offers medieval experiences the Žužemberk way.

The Metlika area has been home to vines for almost a thousand years. In many wine cellars, you can try **metliška črnina and modra frankinja** wines, to which the Metlika spring festival called Vinska vigred is dedicated. Locals like to serve wine with **belokranjska pogača**, an indigenous dish from Bela Krajina, protected at the European level.

Day 3 - Brežice
After visiting the old town of Brežice and the castle with the picturesque Knight's Hall, treat yourself to a walk along the left and right banks of the Sava River and discover the difference between **cviček and bizeljčan – two typical types of wine** of this area. Experience **wine tasting in repnice** – caves dug into quartz sand, which were once used to store turnips.


Žužemberk


Metlika


Brežice



Koper

I FEEL SLOVENIA

MY WAY OF EXPLORING UNESCO SIGHTS.

In Slovenia, curiosity leads me to uncover the heritage of mercury in Idrija, the door-to-door rounds of Kurenti in Ptuj, the Passion Play performance in Škofja Loka, and the pile-dwelling settlements in the Ljubljana Marshes. I admire the uniqueness of bobbin lacemaking, and the skills, knowledge and techniques of dry stone walling. I visit the Škocjan Caves and the ancient beech forests in the Krokar primeval forest and the Snežnik Ždrocle reserve. I roam around biosphere reserves in the Julian Alps, the Karst, the Kozjansko and Obsotelje regions, and the Mura River reserve. I explore the Karavanke Geopark and the Idrija Geopark. I discover the UNESCO World Heritage.

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I FEEL SLOVENIA

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