

THE SLOVENIATM EXPERIENCES

2019/2020



www.the-slovenia.com



Ljubljana Castle, photo: www.slovenia.info, James Relf Dyer, Beautiful Destinations

Ljubljana & Central Slovenia

Slovenia's central region earns its name in many more ways than simple geography. The nation's lively capital Ljubljana dominates the area, and acts as Slovenia's political, educational, economic and cultural centre in the process. Much like Rome, all roads lead here, and the city is the nervecentre of Slovenian life and development. It is by no means the largest capital city in Europe (in fact, it's actually one of its smallest), but it crams more than enough into its elegant streets to keep even the most avid traveller enraptured, while the surrounding countryside also offers much to see, do and experience. Under the new regional division developed by the Slovenian Tourist Board, the central region stretches all the way from Kamnik and the foothills of the Alps in the north, to Cerklno and Idrija in the west, and everything due south of Ljubljana to the border with Croatia, and even a bit further east to the Bela Krajina region.



Izola, photo: www.slovenia.info, Matic Klanšek Velej, Sportida d.o.o.

Mediterranean & Karst Slovenia

Despite the incredibly short geographic distance - you can go from lounging on your couch in Ljubljana to dipping your toes in the sea in under an hour even if you drive (near) the speed limit - inclimate, culture, cuisine and appearance Slovenia's Mediterranean region is a world away from the rest of the country. While the country only has some 47 km of Adriatic coastline, Slovenes have truly made the most of it, and meter for meter you won't find more to see, do, taste and experience anywhere in the world. Picture perfect Venetian towns and modern beach resorts compete for the attention of visitors, and the sea breeze all but guarantees sunny days throughout the year, even as the rest of the country is covered in clouds and/or fog. Away from the water, the land primarily consists of a large Karst plateau, and the fertile wine growing districts Goriška Brda, Vipava Valley, Kras and Slovenska Istra producing some of Europe's best wine, which has increasingly become recognized internationally.



Bled, Photo: www.slovenia.info, Franci Ferjan

Alpine Slovenia

The northernmost region in Slovenia is also arguably its most cherished and adored, with alpine mountains covering the vast majority of it, providing the sort of scenery one comes to expect from such a magnificent range. The air is fresh and tinged with romance, with gorgeous valley after gorgeous valley just waiting to impress each and every prospective visitor. Among the region's many sights, Slovenia's most famous lakes, Bled and Bohinj, are found here, as well as its only national park and highest point, the mighty Mt Triglav. When it comes to outdoor activities there are countless opportunities to ski, hike cycle, kayak and much more. Starting from the Italian border in the far west and mesmerizing emerald waters of the Soča river, the region is actually comprised of several different mountain ranges, namely, the Julian Alps, Karavanke and Western Kamnik Savinje Alps, with the Pohorje mountains stretching to Slovenia's second city of Maribor in the east.



Jeruzalem, Photo: www.slovenia.info, Luka Ploj

Thermal Pannonian Slovenia

Ljubljana may be the present-day capital of Slovenia, but the nation's historical soul can be found in the towns and countryside of the east, where the Counts of Celje once competed with the House of Habsburg for regional supremacy, where Slovenia's second largest city Maribor was one of the major industrial centers of Yugoslavia, where Spa tourism first developed in the 19th century in Laško, where the noblemen of Zalec learned to cultivate some of the world's most prized hops. From the foothills of the Alps and Pohorje mountains in the north to Kozjansko Regional Park and the Posavje region along the Sava River in the south to Prekmurje (arguably the country's friendliest and most unique region) in the far northeast Slovenia's Pannonian region has a rich history, vibrant present and bright future. Outside of the ever-popular thermal spas, many of the fascinating sights are still well off the proverbial beaten path, making the region great for those looking to discover new things.



Marvel at wine cellars 10 million years in the making

Bizeljsko, www.discoverbrezice.com

One of Slovenia's most awe-inspiring attractions are the repnice wine cellars of the Bizeljsko area, which were only 'discovered' some two decades ago after over ten million years in the making. The foundation for these geological anomalies laid, quite literally, during the Miocene Epoch, when the Pannonian Sea began to retreat, leaving thick layers of flint stone that was subsequently dug in by locals.



Climb the 99 steps to the island-bound Church of the Assumption in Bled

Bled, www.blejskiotok.si

The most iconic feature of the most iconic attraction in the country, the image of the church on the island attracts countless curious visitors to Bled, and Slovenia, every year. Whilst the location alone is reason enough to visit, the church itself is full of history and legend. The Wishing bell and the story is a curious mix of fact and fiction, and ringing it is a must-do when on the island.



Live the legend of the Counts of Celje at their former castle

Celje, www.celeja.info

Arguably the grandest castle in all of Slovenia, Celje Castle's sprawling grounds, eventful history, sweeping views over the city and surrounding countryside, and the generally imposing appearance of its partially restored fortress walls and towers are truly unique amongst its domestic rivals. Today the castle is the most visited tourist site in Celje and also popular with locals, especially at the weekends.



Circumnavigate Europe's largest intermittent lake in Cerknica

Cerknica, www.notranjski-park.si

Now you see it, now you don't! Well perhaps not that quickly but regardless Europe's largest periodic body of water, Lake Cerknica is truly, a magical natural phenomenon. The lake is usually at its largest in spring, whilst when dry it becomes a green meadow where cattle graze amongst sinkholes. When the lake freezes over in the winter it becomes a venue for cross country skiing and ice skating.



Underground kayaking

Mežica, www.podzemljepece.com

Visitors can now enjoy the peaceful and pristine water and explore the underground labyrinth, submerged tunnels and excavation sites. The knap (guide) will talk about daily lives and work of miners in the heart of Mount Peca as well as precious ores and minerals, wonderful creations of Mother Nature.



Ljubljana Castle for You - a Private Castle Experience

Ljubljana, www.ljubljanskigrad.si

The private castle experience is for everyone who, in addition to diverse experiences, wants something more, something exclusively for you – a personal approach and a personal experience. The assistant will guide you through the history of the Ljubljana Castle right up to the present day and reveal its hidden corners to you.



Tuck into some Layer Cake in the capital of Prekmurje

Murska Sobota, www.visitpomurje.eu

Perhaps the densest dessert ever concocted by man, gibanica or more specifically Prekmurska Gibanica - is also one of the tastiest. Consisting of layer after layer of poppy seeds, walnuts, apples and cottage cheese fillings separated by flaky dough, the cake has been served on special occasions in the Prekmurje region of Slovenia for centuries, and has long had the status of a national speciality.



Listen to church bells ring while sipping a coffee on Tartini Square

Piran, www.portoroz.si

Piran is to the Adriatic what Slovenia as a whole is to Europe: tiny, friendly and overwhelmingly picturesque. Simply put, it's almost impossible not to fall in love with. Despite its modest size, Piran is awash in superlatives, boasting the country's finest square, Tartinijev Trg, and one of the most dramatically situated churches anywhere in Europe, St George Cathedral and its spectacular bell tower.



Step onto a submarine at the Park of Military History in Pivka

Pivka, www.parkvojaskezgodovine.si

Pivka's Park of Military History is a museum and tourist centre with various exhibits and diverse collections that offers its visitors a unique insight into national, as well as world history. Attractions included tank-artillery collection from World War Two, the period of the American military aid to former Yugoslavia in the 1950s, the Cold War and the Slovenian liberation war in 1991.



The Story of a Soldier from the Isonzo Front

Kobarid, www.kobariski-muzej.si

Exclusive guidance "A soldier's story from the Soča (Isonzo) front", including visits to the Kobarid Museum, Kolovrat outdoor museum, and the museum of cheese-making with shepherd's snack at Planika Dairy. The guide guides visitors through the museum and heritage of the former battlefields where more than ten nations fought during the Great War. The message of the narration is what war is and why we must not fight ever again.



Witness the Dance of Death in the Church of the Holy Trinity

Hrastovlje, www.koper.si

The village of Hrastovlje is known for its 13th century Church of the Holy Trinity, whose entire interior is covered in frescoes by the 15th century Slovene artist Janez of Castua, including the eerily enchanting Dance of Death, or Danse Macabre. Most of the equally impressive other works take their themes from the Old Testament, and some include inscriptions in Glagolitic, the oldest known Slavic alphabet.



Discover the delicate art of lacemaking in Idrija

Idrija, www.idrijskacipka.si

The oldest document that mentions Idrija's lacemaking is from the very end of the 17th century, but the tradition almost certainly dates back much further. Of the many exhibitions and galleries located in and around Idrija's old town, the best place to view the history of the tradition and the see exquisite examples of finished lace products is the multi-room exhibition at the City Museum.



Dine at the restaurant of the world's best female chef in Kobarid

Kobarid, www.hisafranko.com

One of the best restaurants in the country, many diners make the trip to Slovenia just to eat here. Run by a husband and wife team, Ana Ros, hailed as the best female chef in the world, is in charge of the kitchen, while Valter Kramar's knowledge of Slovenian wines and cheeses is unrivalled. Set in a rustic villa outside the town of Kobarid, meal here are in high demand, with reservations mandatory.



Be on the lookout for bears in the forests near Kočevje

Kočevje, www.notranjski-park.si

Kočevje is one of the most preserved natural parts of Slovenia, with 90% of the landscape covered by forests. For those wishing to explore this pristine natural environment, much of the area is marked with trails, which lead through nature preserves, virgin forests, Karst caves, viewing points and a hidden animal world - the latter most notably including the largest population of Slovenia's famous brown bear.



Lisjak, Vintage Gourmet Tour

Koper, www.portoroz.si

The Vintage Gourmet Tour is an educational journey following the trail of old indigenous olive tree sorts, which grow at the most beautiful scenic-view locations around the Slovenian coast and the Istrian countryside. The tour guides are all members of the Lisjak family, who are also oil producers and tell the story of olive oil.



Channel your inner polar bear on a new year's day swim in the Adriatic

Portoroz, www.portoroz.si

The poetically named Portoroz, or Port of Roses, is the undisputed king of Slovenia's coastal tourism trade. Although it lacks a Venetian old town, its numerous hotels, restaurants, conference centres, spas and casinos make it a popular destination, and an excellent base for day trips further afield. On New Year's Day, it hosts Slovenia's biggest 'Polar Bear' swim if you'd like to start 2020 with splash.



Spot baby dragons in Postojna Cave

Postojna, www.postojnska-jama.eu

The largest cave in the Karst region and Slovenia's most famous tourist attraction, words on a page can hardly do justice to the majesty of Postojna Cave. So far, more than 20km of galleries have been found, of which 5km are open to the public. The site's most famous resident is the Olm, aka Proteus aka Human Fish - a bizarre little salamander-like creature that resembles a baby dragon.



Scare away winter with Kurentns in Ptuj

Ptuj, www.visitptuj.eu

Seeing large hairy sheep monsters standing up-right and dancing around might sound strange, but don't worry, you're not having a nightmare. These folkloric figures are Kurent and they're meant to look terrifying in order to ward off winter and evil spirits. Taking its name from the Kurent, Kurentovanje is a carnival like no other, attracting more than 100,000 visitors to the town of Ptuj each spring.



Listen to the waterfalls humming away in the green Logar valley

Logarska Valley, www.logarska-dolina.si

In the Logar Valley you can admire pristine green nature at every step. Take the Trail through the Logar Valley, a natural historic and ethnographic trail leading through the fascinating nooks and crannies amidst the unspoilt nature of the landscape park. You'll have the opportunity to discover extraordinary, rare and even endangered flower species. The valley is known also for its many waterfalls, the most notable among which is the 90-metre Rinka Falls.



Soak in the mineral-rich thermal waters of Rogaska Slatina

Rogaška Slatina, www.rogaska-turizam.com

A few kilometres from the Croatian border, Rogaska Slatina is nestled in a valley at the confluence of two small rivers, sources of water that along with many others in the immediate area literally spring up everywhere and have together contributed towards making this fabulous little spa town one of the most popular destinations in the region for visitors seeking restive cures of every conceivable kind.



Survive a WWII Allied bombing run in the tunnels under Kranj

Kranj, www.visitkranj.com

One of the most unique attractions in the Slovene Alps is the WWII-era tunnel complex that runs for 1.3km under the heart of Kranj's old town and was built to serve as a bomb shelter. Following the war the tunnels were largely forgotten about and fell into a state of disuse. Extensive restoration works finally completed and the tunnels opened to the public in 2008, and now host various cultural events.

Photo: www.slovenia.info, Jošt Gantar



Crisscross the cliffs of the awesome subterranean canyon under Škocjan

Škocjan, <https://www.park-skocjanske-jame.si>

Quite simply put, Slovenia's Škocjan Caves are one of the most astounding natural attractions on the planet, but you don't have to take our word for it as there's a significant amount of official documentation support. One of only three locations in Slovenia to be recognised as a UNESCO world heritage site, Škocjan is also one of only three caves in the world to hold this distinction.

Photo: www.slovenia.info, Borut Lobjež, Javni zavod Park Škocjanske jame



Carve the fresh powder at Kranjska Gora

Kranjska Gora, www.kranjska-gora.si

Considered the premier ski resort in Slovenia, Kranjska Gora is a favourite haunt for well-to-do locals and foreigners alike. You won't find the most challenging runs, but it's excellent for beginners and intermediate skiers. If you need more speed to get the adrenaline pumping, a World Cup slope in nearby Podkoren is sure to do the trick, while there are some beautiful trails for cross country skiers.

Photo: www.slovenia.info, Jošt Gantar



Watch trains traverse one of the world's longest stone bridges in Solkan

Solkan, www.novagorica-turizem.com

A feat of civil engineering, Solkan bridge near Nova Gorica remains the second largest stone bridge in the world, and the longest for trains. The current structure, 220m long with an 85m arch bridge over the emerald waters of the Soca river, is actually a reconstruction completed in 1927. The original was built around 1905 by the Austrians, who also destroyed it barely a decade later during the First World War.

Photo: www.slovenia.info, Mirko Bjužič



Behold Habsburg horses at the Lipica Stud farm

Lipica, www.lipica.org

Lipica Stud Farm has flourished since its conception over 400 years ago. Set amongst beautiful natural surroundings, it's not only home to more than 350 Lipizzaner horses, but also rich in history. Founded by the Habsburg Archduke Charles II in 1580, it's one of the most prominent attractions in Slovenia. Training sessions are open to visitors and part of a busy schedule of equestrian events throughout the year.

Photo: www.slovenia.info, Dean Dubokavič



Don't get blown away while wine tasting in the Vipava Valley

Vipava, www.vipavskadolina.si

While the valley stretches only some 20 km from the imposing Mt Nanos to the city of Nova Gorica, the Vipava Valley's unique location at the meeting point of several different climate zones gives rise to no less than five distinct micro-regions, and makes it one of Europe's most interesting wine regions. Its most notable feature is the Bora (or Burja in Slovene) wind, which gusts at speeds exceeding 200 km/h.

Photo: www.slovenia.info, Marjan Mačevnik



Capture dragons with your selfie stick in Ljubljana

Ljubljana, www.visitljubljana.com

Legend has it that Ljubljana's ubiquitous dragon is none other than the one immortalised in Greek mythology by Jason and his crew of roguish Argonauts. But it's the dragon who's had the last laugh at least in Ljubljana, where he adorns everything from magnets and bridges to cookies and bottles of craft beer, not to mention the city's flag. Selfie opportunities abound, as can be attested by Instagram.

Photo: www.slovenia.info, Ales Fevžer



Learn about the real life Rocket Man in Vitanje

Vitanje, noordungcenter.si

Rub your eyes as much as you like, the futuristic silver and glass object you see on the outskirts of Vitanje is not an illusion or a figment of your imagination, it's the Cultural Centre for European Space Technology (or KSEVT to use its Slovene acronym). The centre owes its existence to Herman Potočnik Noordung, one of the most influential minds behind the development of space technology in the early 20th century.

Photo: www.slovenia.info, Tomaž Maček



Learn about the world's oldest wheel at the Ljubljana City Museum

Ljubljana, www.mgml.si

Ljubljana's City Museum is a magnificent institution run by a team of historians who know how to show people a good time. Featuring a wide range of exhibits showcasing the history of Ljubljana in all its colours, both good and bad. One of its most prized possessions is the world's oldest wooden wheel and axle, which were pulled from the UNESCO protected Barje wetlands just south of the city.

Photo: www.mgml.si, © Matevž Paternoster / MGML



Explore the gorgeous Tolmin Gorges

Just a stone throw away from Tolmin, at the confluence of Tolminka and Zadlaščica, both streams have carved deep gorges into the rocks. A tourist path, which enables a view of the gorges both from the top and from the bottom, runs by the crystal clear turquoise water. The gorges are the lowest point of Triglav National Park and one of the most popular tourist spots in the region. Try finding Bear's Head and The Devil's Bridge set 60 metres high above the Tolminka River and the thermal spring in the cave under.

Photo: www.slovenia.info, Michael Matti




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The Railway Museum started to emerge in the 1960s and has gradually developed into a small but well laid-out and comprehensive museum. The central building is a rotunda and presents some of the collection of steam engines and other museum vehicles. A permanent exhibition of other key sciences needed for a railway to operate is located in the nearby ancillary building of the rotunda.



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In it's sixth season the Land of Ice is coming to the very heart of the capital, to Kongresni trg in Ljubljana. In an inclosed space of 150 square meters, cooled down to - 5°C, you will be able to see sculptures made out of 60 tons of ice. The Land of Ice 2019/2020 is based off of a book Dragons on the way by Niko Kupper. The well-known author of children's books takes us on a journey across Slovenia through the story about the Klagenfurt dragon that magically comes to life. Of course, part of the story takes place in Ljubljana, a city that has lived under the sign of the dragon for centuries.



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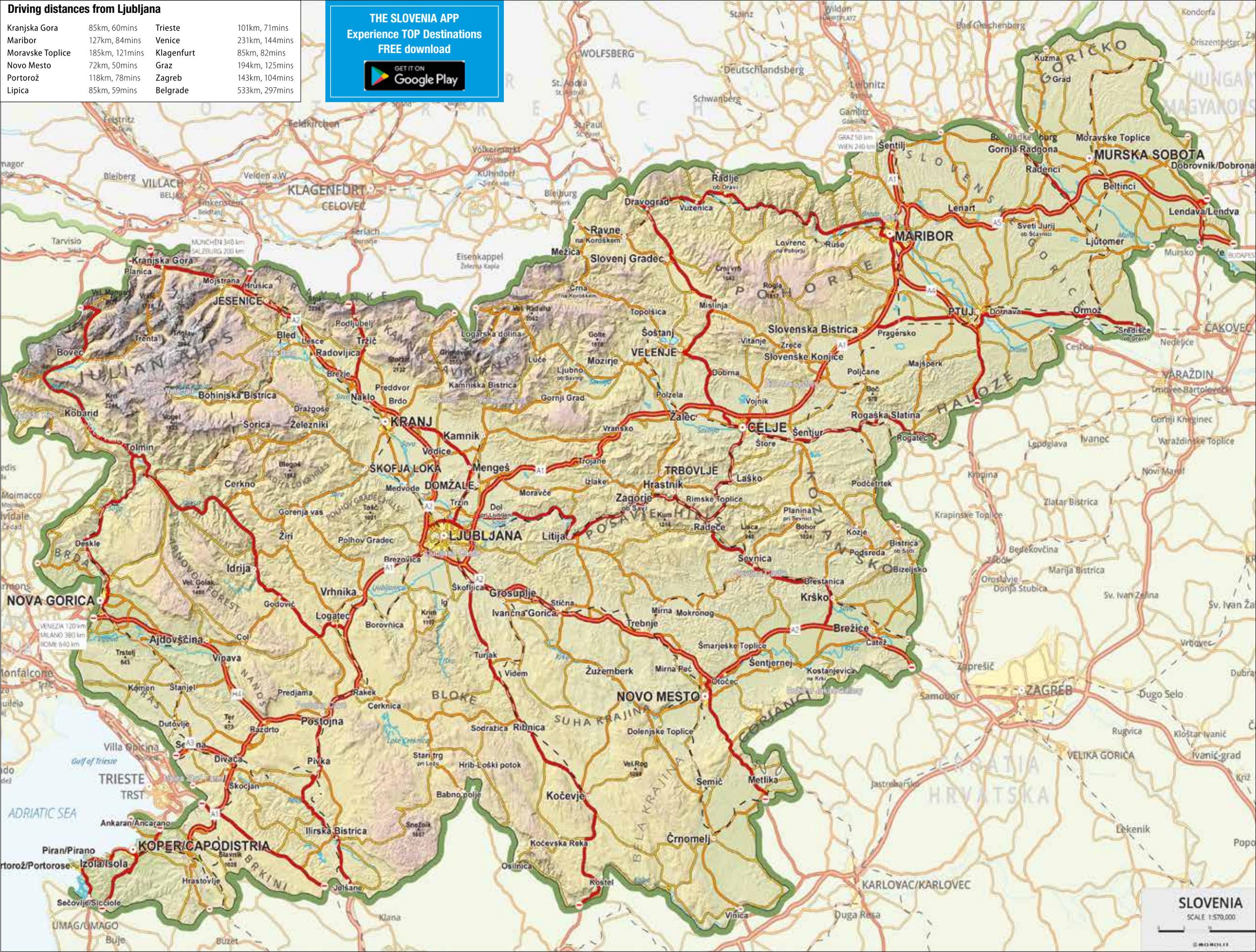
Escape Castle



Driving distances from Ljubljana			
Kranjska Gora	85km, 60mins	Trieste	101km, 71mins
Maribor	127km, 84mins	Venice	231km, 144mins
Moravske Toplice	185km, 121mins	Klagenfurt	85km, 82mins
Novo Mesto	72km, 50mins	Graz	194km, 125mins
Portorož	118km, 78mins	Zagreb	143km, 104mins
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From May till Sep every Sun at 11.00. Jul till Aug: Tuesday, Thu and Sat at 10.30.

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Photo: Tomo Jeseničnik

FORMA VIVA, RAVNE NA KOROŠKEM

Ravne na Koroškem extends throughout the wonderful landscape on the north of Slovenia near the Austrian border. The town centre is densely populated, surrounded by hills, mostly covered with woods. In this geographically vivid area there are many natural and cultural sights, telling stories about life around the Meža river and mountain of Uršlja gora. The slopes in the municipality are becoming a very popular site for farm stays, cycling and agro tourism. Ravne also offers an excellent sports infrastructure, as well as an important cultural and technical heritage. The Forma Viva steel sculptures are the most outstanding sights of the town Ravne na Koroškem. They were created during 9 international sculpture symposiums, taking place between 1964 and 2014. 34 exceptional works of art, made of iron and steel, were created by artists from 15 countries. The Forma Viva Ravne outdoor exhibition is open all year round. Visit www.ravne.si for further information.



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Vrba 37 a, 4248 Lesce
+386 1 200 99 01
Mar – Nov 7:00 – 23:00
info@royalbled.com, www.royalbled.com
[instagram.com/royalbledgolf/](https://www.instagram.com/royalbledgolf/), [facebook.com/royalbledgolf/](https://www.facebook.com/royalbledgolf/)



Since 1937 Royal Bled presents Slovenian golf at its very best. The facility comprises the world renowned 18-hole King's Course and the 9-hole Lake's Course. Located 30 min from Ljubljana capital and together with world class practice facilities, superb restaurant, boutique accommodation, overlooked by the highest of the Slovenian Alps with the wonderful countryside embracing it, Royal Bled provides the ultimate golfing and gourmet experience in the wider area.



IDRIJA MERCURY MINE

Kosovelova 3, Arkova 50, 5280 Idrija
 Tel. +386 537 71 142, +386 31 810 194
 infohg@cudhg-idrija.si, www.cudhg-idrija.si
 www.facebook.com/RudnikZivegaSrebraldrinja
 Opening Hours: All year - round in all weathers

We invite you to visit the second largest mercury mine in the world, whose mercury heritage is inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. The journey begins in Anthony's Main Road where, accompanied by experienced guides, you will experience more than 500 years of mining in Idrija. Your adventure will continue in the Hg Smelting plant, where you will learn about smelting furnaces and see the only liquid metal on Earth that marked the development of Idrija and changed the world.



TECHNICAL MUSEUM OF SLOVENIA

Bistra 6, 1353 Borovnica, +386 1 750 66 70, info@tms.si, www.tms.si
 March–May and September–December
 Tue–Fri: 8.00–17.00; Sat, Sun and holidays: 9.00–19.00
 June–August
 Tue–Sun and holidays: 9.00–19.00; Last entrance 1 hour before closing time.
 Closed: 1. 1., 1. 11., 25. 12., January–February

In the idyllic environment of a former monastery, only 20 km from Ljubljana in the seaward direction, you will absolutely be captivated by Tito's automobiles, an extensive collection of bicycles, printing and sewing machines, a veneer sawmill, a traction engine, a blacksmith's workshop, a bear that became the world champion in 1973, an exhibition on more than hundred years of motoring in the territory of Slovenia – and a great deal more worth visiting and exploring.



The Križna Jama (Cave)

The cave is its world-renowned water karst cave, whose specific are numerous underground lakes, different animal species, location of a cave bear archaeological remains and natural preservation.

Visit With Boat Ride on First Lake

The natural light disappears after a few hundred meters and visitors continue to explore the cave with hand lamps. In the first part it's huge halls, after that you came to the part, where it's bones of cave bears. The path continues through the passage which drains off water from the first lake. The visit is followed by a 10-minute boat ride on the first lake. After the boat ride you return in the same way back. Don't forget to bring warm clothes: trousers, a pullover, a long-sleeved shirt and warm socks (in the cave it's only 8 degrees C). Before entering, visitors receive rubber boots and a portable, rechargeable flashlight.



Tours

Every day:
 April - June – at 15 PM
 (Saturdays and Sundays also at 11 AM)
 July – at 11 AM, 1, 3 and 5 PM,
 August – at 9 and 11 AM, 1, 3 and 5 PM
 September – at 11 AM, 1 and 3 PM
 Saturdays and Sundays:
 March and October – at 3 PM,
 This part of the cave can be seen all year, every day by previous arrangement. Other longer tours by previous arrangement.



Bloška Polica 7
 SI-1384 Grahovo
 Phone: +386 41 632 153
 E-mail: kriзна_jama@yahoo.com
 Web: www.kriзна-jama.si



Bela krajina

THE LAND WITH HEART



TASTES OF BELA KRAJINA

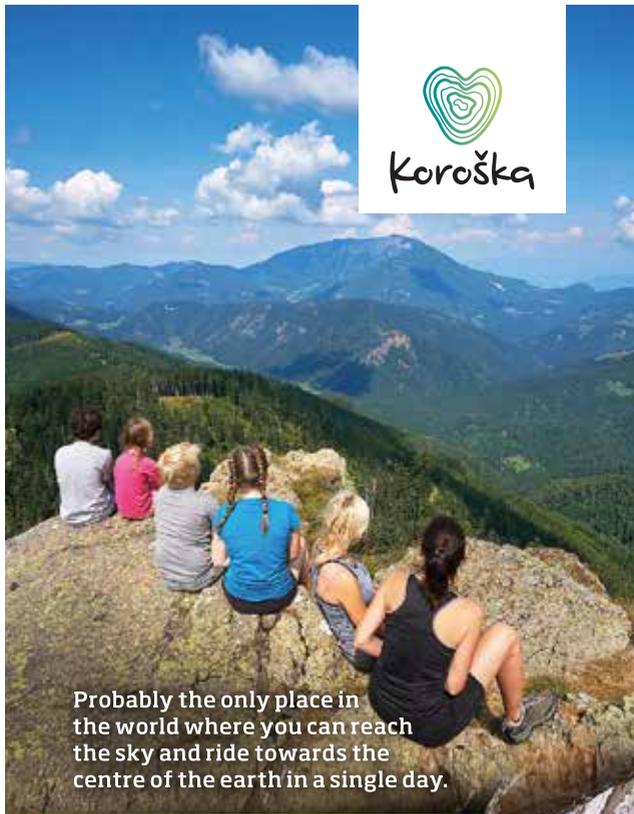
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Hotel Bela krajina
Gostišče Kapušin
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