



I FEEL
SLOVENIA

ISTRIA SLOVENIA

Koper Izola Piran Portorož

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Slovenian Istria

A place where you start to write
the **story** of your own **experience**.



First-hand experience and photographs tell the story of Slovenian Istria better than words. The eye glistens with excitement, the soul yearns to travel. Travelling to this part of the world is possible by road, by rail, by sea and by air. Slovenian Istria is located on the meeting point of the **Karst edge** to the east, the **Adriatic Sea** to the west and the Bay of St. Bartholomew to the north. It borders on two neighbouring countries: Italy and Croatia, and is home to people of different nationalities. The stories of Slovenian Istria stretch a long way back to **the times of the Roman Empire** and further. The remains of the Roman Empire can be found in the hamlets in the hinterland of Koper, Izola and Piran, coastal towns bearing remains of the times long gone. The ancient

atmosphere can be felt in cobbled streets, squares, churches, houses and in the vibrations of everyday life.

Istrian people tell the story of their homeland. They live in harmony with the soil, not always hospitable, yet rewarding hard work. They are fortunate to enjoy a **moderate climate** with mild winters and warm summers, enabling them to grow olive trees, vines and many different kinds of fruit, the basis of Istrian cuisine, not extravagant but a simple and healthy culinary and oenological art of food preparation. **Fishing** used to be an important part of everyday life, now, however, the number of fishermen is decreasing.

Although the territory of Slovenia seems homogenous at first, it is



nevertheless quite various when you look at the picturesque landscape of Šavrinski hills, Bržanija, the Karst edge and 47 kilometres of coastline. They each have special features but they are all part of Slovenia's attractive seaside tourist resorts, famous for their **diversity, unspoilt nature, kind people, rich cultural heritage** and lively creativity, well-developed yet discreet tourist offer. A haven for your heart and soul. A place where you start to write the story of your own experience.





respect local people feel for the past. The most important periods were the times before World War I, the times of Napoleonic and Habsburg rules, the time when the salt pans were reduced in size and **Koper** was no longer an island. Its development was influenced significantly by the establishment of land and sea connections with Trieste and Poreč.

life to its streets and squares all year round, especially in the summer months. Last but not least, the recently established University of Primorska, gives this **city of abundant past, daring present** and optimistic future a special kind of charm.

After World War II, in the times of great political changes, Koper became the economic centre of the region, a meeting point of nautical, seaside and sports tourism. **Various cultural events** give



Koper in the past and today

The history of Koper goes back to the times of the Middle Bronze Age, 1500 years B.C. In the past, Koper was an island, first inhabited in pre-Roman and **Roman times**.

Aegida, Capris, Justinopolis, Insula Capraria, Caput Histriae, Capo D'Istria are the various names of Koper, whose image and name were altered throughout history by different rulers and states. Of all Slovenian coastal towns, Koper underwent the greatest number of changes and progressed a long way from the stony Goat Island to the economic centre of Slovenian

Istria. Its modern image has deep historic roots and it is quite an art to bring together all these influences.

In Roman times, the town was called Capris, in the times of Pope Gregory I it was **Insula Capraria** (the Goat Island), in Byzantine era it was called Justinopolis, the patriarchs of Aquileia named it Caput Histriae. Only in the times of the **Venetian Republic** its name was changed to the Italian language: Capodistria. During the long Venetian rule, Koper underwent the most significant economic and cultural changes, which can still

be felt today. The modern city of Koper is a member of the Slovenian Association of Historic Towns.

Every cobblestone of the city streets speaks of the past. Renovated and restored old buildings speak of the



Aegida, Capris, Justinopolis, Insula Capraria, Caput Histriae, Capo D'Istria, Koper.





Izola in the past and today



Izola is a picturesque mosaic of tradition, history, architectural sights and hospitable people

Two thousand years B. C. members of the Illyrian tribe of Histri were the first known inhabitants of Istria to build fortified settlements in this territory. Their remains can still be found in the village Kaštelir nad Kortami above Izola. Overlooking the neighbouring hills, the village has a wonderful view of the smallest of Istrian towns, the town which used to be an **island**: Izola.

In the Italian language, Izola (isola) means 'an island'. Although in the course of time, the island became a part of the mainland, **its story** is closely linked to the sea. Being a fish-

ing town, it was the home of the first fish-canning factory. Despite its former 'sleeping beauty' status, known as **the home of fishermen** and workers, Izola has developed into a popular tourist resort. It is most appreciated by young families, sportsmen and retired people, who love to return here all year round. The motto of the modern tourist offer in Izola is that something is not good for the tourists if it is not good for its people, resulting in a somewhat more gentle approach to tourism.

Numerous art galleries and pleasant inns can be found when walking along

the streets of the old city core. The town also offers a variety of **cultural events**, many of which depict old traditions and customs of the city and its surrounding villages. This is also the home of the delicious Istrian cuisine and excellent wines.

Izola is a picturesque **mosaic** of tradition, history, architectural sights and hospitable people, a place of harmonious coexistence of different nationalities. People of Izola carry their hometown in their hearts wherever they go.





Piran is a very special, precious city.

Each time one looks at Piran from a distance or from the air, one is overcome by a feeling of surprise.



Piran

in the past and today

Piran is a very special, precious city. It is the best preserved **cultural monument** of Slovenian Istria and the closest neighbour of Portorož, the luxurious city of flowers.

Each time one looks at Piran from a distance or from the air, one is overcome by a feeling of surprise. Loved by the eyes of the people and by the eye of the camera, its image is known all over the world. However, it is also a great pleasure to enjoy all the things that cannot be seen from afar. When you visit Piran, you should take a closer look at its **architecture**, influenced by the Venetian Republic, which left its mark on most Istrian towns.

Throughout time, Piran maintained the clustered medieval structure narrow winding streets, houses huddled close together, rising in cascades, the **contact with the sea, numerous squares and churches**.

Tartini Square is the gem found in the very centre of Piran. It was named after the famous violinist and composer Giuseppe Tartini, who made the town world-famous. His statue is located in the centre of the square. The city is surrounded by a **circular wall**. Piran is a member of the European Walled Cities Association.

The city of Piran is a national historical monument. People earn

their living mainly by tourism. Numerous **events** take place **all year round** in the open and in magnificent buildings named after famous people from Piran. The Church of St. George, the patron saint of Piran, rises above the town. From its lookout tower you have a wonderful view of Piran and its surroundings and all the way across the sea to the Croatian and Italian coast.

Two hotels, a youth hostel, a number of private rooms, churches, galleries, museums and Piran Aquarium invite you to come and see for yourself. **You will not regret it.**



The countryside of Slovenian Istria

Just as a person is identified by their name and surname, towns in Slovenian Istria cannot exist without their countryside, forming a geographic and social unity.

In the surroundings of Koper, Slovenian most important contact with the sea, there are many villages complementing Koper with their special features.

Črni Kal is the first Istrian village on the way from the mainland to the Mediterranean Istria. Here you can see the remains of the oldest Slovenian farmhouse, the Benko house, from the 15th century. The village is also known for the slanting church tower of the church of St. Valentine. Crossing the Črni Kal viaduct on your way to the sea, you enter the modern era.

Osp is one of the oldest villages in Slovenia, first mentioned in the 11th century. It is best known for its 200-metre-high climbing wall above the village, popular among climbers from all over Europe, offering 55 different climbing routes.

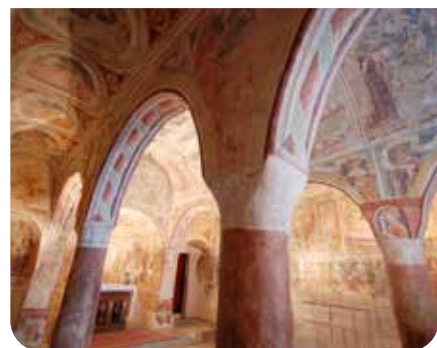
Socerb is famous for its castle, Strmec, which stands on the edge of



a 300-metre-high Karst cliff offering a breathtaking view. The history of the castle goes back to the 13th century. Today, among its walls, you will find a top-quality castle restaurant. Close to the castle is Sveta jama (the Holy Cave), with the only underground church in Slovenia, the abode of the martyr St. Socerb.

Hrastovlje, a beautiful village located under the Karst edge, is famous for the church of the Holy Trinity, considered the only entirely painted church in Slovenia, where it is still possible to admire the very well preserved fresco with the motif of the Dance of Death. The offer of the village is additionally enriched by two galleries, one dedicated to the sculptor Jože Pohlen, and the other to the restorer, painter and poet Viktor Snoj, and various offerers of traditional Istrian cuisine.

Krkavče in a village of Celtic origin, its name means 'a stone' or 'a rock'. The centre of the village was indeed built on solid rock. The mysterious Krkavče Monolith with the carving of the pagan Sun God, 100 metres eastwards of the village cemetery, is at least 3000 years old. The work and lifestyle of Istrian people can be seen in the Vrešje House, the living museum of Krkavče.



Črni Kal, Osp,
Ankaran, Socerb,
Krkavče, Hrastovlje,
Kubed, Marezige,
Lopar, Nova vas,
Padna, Korte,
Cetore

Villages Kubed, Marezige and Lopar are also worth mentioning. Kubed acted as a fort to protect people from the attacks of the Turks in the 15th and 16th centuries. Marezige and Lopar are located above the Vanganel valley. Marezige is the famous capital of the Refošk wine. Another attractive town is Ankaran, a popular holiday resort, with excellent hotel facilities, wellness centres and numerous recreational paths, where you can relax and learn a lot about the historical and cultural heritage.

The villages in the countryside of Piran are also very interesting. Nova vas can be found on the first

map of Istria, dating back to the year 1525. The village has the status of Slovenian cultural heritage, just as the neighbouring village of Padna with the gallery of the famous Slovenian painter Božidar Jakac. Sv. Peter is best known for Tonina hiša, open-air ethnological museum, torkla – olive oil press – and old-time kitchens, illustrating the life of the village people in the past.

In the countryside of Izola, the villages Korte and Cetore are well worth visiting not only for their cultural heritage features but also because of gastronomic pleasures.





Portorož.
The name we
associate with
flowers...



Excursions

We have already mentioned some villages in the hinterland of Koper, Izola and Piran which offer tourists a pleasurable experience.

Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, surprises with a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The city is characterized by numerous natural and cultural sights and a rich history. Explore the city by bike and you will be astonished by the beauties it offers.

Karst, a unique landscape stretching on more than 500 square kilometres, reveals numerous underground secrets and offers various overground experiences. A visit to one of the caves is a must if you are traveling around this part of Slovenia.

On the Karst plateau 5 kilometres from Sežana you will find the **Lipica Stud Farm**, the home of the famous white Lipizzaner horses. This is one of the oldest stud farms in the world, an important part of the Slovenian as well as global heritage.

A couple of kilometres further on, you can visit the **Cave of Postojna**.

In 185 years since it was discovered,

this wondrous cave with 27 kilometres of underground tunnels, galleries and halls has been visited by over 30 million people!

9 km from the Cave of Postojna you will find the **Predjama Castle**, built in front of a large cave. It was built over 700 years ago and was the home of the robber baron, knight Erazem of Predjama, who lived in this hideout, perched on a 123-metre-high cliff.

Travelling further, you should take a look at the **Škocjan Caves**, which have been on the UNESCO's list of natural and cultural world heritage sites since 1986.

On the western edge of the Julian Alps lies **Bled**, the pearl of the Slovenian Alps. In the middle of Lake Bled lies a small island. On the island stands a church with a wishing bell. Enjoy a boat ride on the lake and try the famous Bled cream cake.

If you decide to visit Italy, **Trieste** is not far away. This is the biggest port in the region and the meeting point of many European traffic corridors. You can also travel to **Venice** by sea or by road.

Portorož in the past and today

Portorož. The name we associate with **flowers**. However, the town was named after the Church of Maria delle Rose – Mary of the Rosary.

The name tells a story of the town which has been known as a health resort since the 13th century. Monks discovered the healing properties of seawater, and sea mud. All town authorities – Venetians, members of the Habsburg Empire, as well as the French, maintained the tradition of the monks up to this day. At the end of the 19th century, a shareholders' company was established, which built a spa and health resort. People know how to make the best of the city of

flowers. They have developed a health resort and advertised the importance and value of the unique **Sečovelje Salt pans**. Health, beauty, wellness ... the gifts of nature found in the area are indeed in abundance: salt, sea and air. Since 1920, the natural beauty has been combined with the resplendent architecture of the Palace Hotel, the jewel of the glamorous Portorož promenade.

The Kempinski Palace Hotel is a memorial of times when famous guests, beautiful ladies and handsome gentlemen of various eras, indulged in its luxurious treats. It has

seen times of wealth and those of misery. The year 2008 has witnessed its revival. The Kempinski Palace Hotel has been restored and improved, combining the famous old-fashioned exterior and contemporary facilities. In 1913, Portorož was visited by 7000 guests. It is impossible to compare this number with the present-day number of visitors of the Palace Spa, which acquired its natural health resort status in 1975. The modern image of Portorož with its hotels, marina, airport, one big and two small casinos, wellness centres and numerous events in the port of flowers differs considerably from that of the old days.





Natural world

Nature is our beautiful teacher. 'Look after me and I will make you happy' nature tells us every day.

At **Sečovlje Saltpans** Regional Park people started to take salt at the beginning of the 9th century. Progress in salt-taking has not driven away over 200 animal and plant species nor destroyed other treasures of the saltpans ecosystem. Sečovlje saltpans are one of the most important areas of Slovenian natural and cultural heritage and the salt they produce is of the best quality. The salt-making museum was created in



the disused part of the saltpans. **Strunjan Natural Reserve** is a part of the regional park and also includes saltpans. On the Strunjan hill you can see the church of the Ascension of Virgin Mary, the most famous Istrian place of pilgrimage. Above the church, on the edge of the flysch cliff, stands a big cross. **Dragonja Nature Park** was named after the disappearing river Dragonja. It is a part of Natura 2000 network. **Cape Madona** is one of the most interesting places in Piran, with incredible underwater biodiversity.



An extremely interesting sight is the **Škocjanski zatok Nature Reserve**, the biggest brackish wetland in Slovenia, a fascinating natural habitat of many endangered animal and plant species. **Debeli rtič** rounds off the Ankaran peninsula. It is a natural monument, a protected coastline area with the only salty meadow in the Mediterranean. **Spodmoli** and the **Natural Bridge at Sočerga**, an impressive cliff with three uniquely-shaped rock shelters, belong among the greatest natural sights. Visit the area of the **Karst edge**, the geological boundary where Karst limestone changes to Istrian flysch. Along the Karst edge, we can see a series of fortifications and towers, silent witnesses to historical events, battles between the Venetians and the Hapsburgs.

It is almost impossible to list all the fascinating attractions. Let this small fragment act as an invitation and stir your imagination.

Cultural sights

Buildings, stones, monuments and famous people who gave their names to the streets, squares and embankments, are all a part of history.

The entire **city of Piran** is a historical monument. Since the 13th century, the heart of the city has been the central **Tartini Square**, named after the famous violinist and composer Giuseppe Tartini. On the 300th anniversary of his birth, the square was renovated. Its new elliptic platform of white stone was designed by the famous architect Boris Podrecca. The white stone leads us further on to **Tartini's house**, where you can see the composer's room and his violin. Here is also the **Town Hall**, which has performed this function since the 18th century. Not far from the square, we reach the Minorite monastery of St. Francis, dating back to the year 1301, with a cross-shaped monastery arcade. **The Venetian** is the name of a red house at the edge of Tartini Square. An old legend says that the house was bought by a rich merchant as a present to his beloved. On the wall of the house we can still see the inscription 'Lasa pur dir', meaning 'Let them talk'. Walking across the 1st May Square we come to the centre of the old city of Piran, Punta. Above the city stands the magnificent Church of **St. George**, the patron saint of Piran. Its treasury holds a silver statue of St. George. The church is presently being restored. The surrounding **City Wall** with seven gates was built over many centuries, from the 7th to the beginning of the 16th century. The city also boasts a number of **galleries**, the most prominent being **Forma Viva** on the Seča peninsula. If you visit the

six Piran **museums** you will learn a lot about the world of the sea, salt-taking, maritime lifestyle as well as see interesting ethnological and musical collections.

And now to **Izola**. The **Park of Pietro Coppo**, a geographer, cartographer and explorer, who was born here, is the lively centre of the city and a green place of relaxation. In the Church of **St. Maurus**, the patron saint of Izola, there are many interesting religious objects. Walking to the **San Simon** seaside resort, we come across an **archaeological site** with artifacts from Roman times, a national cultural monument. Many historical buildings in **Koper** speak of the city's past. The majority of them can be found around **Tito Square**, former Platea Comunis, one of the most beautiful squares of the Venetian Republic. On the edge of



the square stands the **Praetorian Palace**, former headquarters of town officials, which houses today a renovated pharmaceutical collection, the wedding hall and the hall of the city council. **Armeria** and **Foresteria** are used as the head office of the University of Primorska and the Faculty of Humanities. **Loggia**, a former town debate



club, is today a pleasant coffeehouse with a view of the square and old buildings. Nearby stands the **church of Mary's Ascension**, a mixture of Gothic and Renaissance styles with the **bell tower** offering a magnificent view of the city. **Prešeren Square** can be reached if we step through the Muda Gate. The jewel of the square is **the Da Ponte Fountain**, a reproduction of the Venetian Rialto. **Carpaccio Square** is near the sea, on its edge stand Carpaccio House and **Taverna**, which serves as a venue for outdoor events. **Belgramoni-Tacco Palace** is the headquarters of the Regional Museum and one of the most beautiful baroque palaces in the city. Calegaria, the main street of the city, today called **Čevljarska ulica** (Shoemaker street) has always been the street of merchants and craftsmen.





Feeling well in Slovenian Istria

Our well-being is the result of our own decisions. To those places, nature and man, gods have been generous - to enjoy a mild climate, an abundance of vegetation, olive trees, the sea, salt and fango.

Health and spa tourism in Portorož date back to the 13th century. Portorož Spa was followed by others. Today, all the cities in Slovenian Istria offer you a wide range of services for your pleasure. Take advantage of them and have a good time, however, do not overlook the less obvious ones.

In the northern part of the Sečovelje salt pans, a new and unique outdoor centre Thalasso Spa Lepa Vida was opened in Spring 2013.

Go for a **walk** or a **cycling** trip along one of the well-kept and marked paths. There are ten in Piran alone! Walk around Koper and Izola, or take a stroll by the seaside. Experience the **Path of Health and Friendship** the old track of narrow-gauge railway **Parenzana**. You are about to encounter breathtaking views! Perhaps you feel adventurous.

Try the **European Walkway E6**, which can take you all the way to Finland or the **Slovenian Mountain Walkway** from Ankaran to Maribor. How about walking along the **Karst edge**? We also offer **sailing, fishing, diving or windsurfing**. Let us not forget **horseback riding, tennis, cave-exploration, climbing, panoramic flights**.

If none of the listed appeal to you, you can simply enjoy sunbathing at one of the pleasant beaches.



Cuisine

The main characteristic of the Istrian cuisine is the abundance of natural ingredients. Its basic elements are part of its historical development: salt, fish, olives, wine, the persimmon fruit, asparagus, truffles ...

The sea gave people fish and salt. **Fishing** was one of the most important trades already in the Middle Ages, whereas salt production is even older. The procedure of **salt production** at Sečovelje Saltpans is carried out by means of natural crystallisation processes, over 700 years old.

Olive tree is a tree with a millennial tradition. Olive oil, world-famous for its beneficial effects on our health, invites us to taste delicious Istrian dishes, meat, fish, vegetables, even desserts prepared with olive oil.

Vines give us an abundance of excellent wines, the best known are probably refošk and malvazija. The Valley

of Strunjan is the home of the **persimmon fruit**, full of vitamins, also called »the food of Gods«. **Asparagus** is another famous Mediterranean plant, growing mostly on the forest edge. How can we join together fresh, cooked and roasted delicacies? By invitation! You are invited to taste and enjoy Istrian cuisine in inns, osmicas (traditional feasts) and restaurants. For centuries, Istrian dishes and wine offer a tradition so plentiful, rich, yet simple and appetizing it would indeed be a sin if you left it only at reading ... Therefore we invite you to taste them.





Entertainment

The roulette ball first bounced here in the year 1913, on St. Laurence Hill in Portorož. This is the home of **Grand Casino Portorož**, the casino with the longest tradition in Slovenia. Here you can find traditional games, slot machines, organised tournaments. This is just a part of the offer. The guests can enjoy various forms of entertainment: concerts of famous musicians, fashion shows, exhibitions. The special feature of this casino is its 'salon prive', the place known to all top-ranking players in Europe. Casino Portorož also runs a casino in **Lipica**.

All the casinos offer their guests **gastronomic and oenologic feasts**.

Besides the big casinos, you can also find some smaller ones: **Casino Carnevale**, near the former border pass Škofije, **Casino Andor** in Ankaran and **Casino Belvedere** in Izola.

Besides the Grand Casino, Portorož has two smaller casinos. **Casino Bernardin** is a casino with an entertainment centre. Frequently, the casino organizes surprise evenings for its guests. **Casino Riviera** is a centre of entertainment and pleasant social activities.



Congress tourism

The story of tourism used to be written only in warm months. For some time now, tourist offer is no longer limited to warm weather, it stretches throughout the entire year. This story is written 365 days a year.

The sea is wonderful to look at in all seasons. It is a relaxing sight to people who choose these cities as the place for their **business events** and meetings. **Work in a pleasant environment** is easier and less stressful, you will be relaxed and therefore more efficient.

Congresses, seminars, symposia as well as expert, educational, cultural and sports meetings – the hotels provide all the required facilities for every kind of occasion, offering **top-quality** services, catering for numerous domestic and international **events**, over a course of hours, days or weeks. The organisation is excellent, **each guest** is given the best possible care and attention.



Tourist marinas, passenger terminal, airport

Everything at the seaside is connected with the sea. For many tourists, the arrival in Piran, Koper or Portorož is the goal of their destination, for others a starting point. Three big ports are available to those who love travelling by sea.

The biggest and the oldest port in Europe is **Marina Portorož** 45° 30' 3" N and 13° 36' 1" E. This is a modern marina, with over 1.000 moorings for boats up to 22m in length and with the depth of up to 3,5m. Boats can also be stored on land in two halls. Here the guests will find everything they need for their boats as well as comfortable accommodation, restaurants, shops, etc. Marina and the bathing resort have been awarded the **Blue Flag**, a proof of complying with stringent quality standards.

The Marina in Izola has 650 offshore moorings for boats with the length from 8 up to 35 metres in length. It boasts excellent repair and maintenance equipment and offers its guests a variety of services. In the centre of the marina there is the residential facility Amfora with the marina administration, shops and a restaurant.

Koper, with the only **international cargo port in Slovenia**, **Luka Koper**, boasts also the passenger terminal. That is where passenger ships, travelling around the Adriatic Sea and the Mediterranean, dock.

Stopping at Koper is a good starting point for tourists who want to learn more about Slovenia and Slovenian Istria.

Portorož Airport is a modern international airport, located next to the Sečovelje Saltpans. It is suitable for smaller passenger and sports planes, connecting Portorož and Slovenian Istria with the world.

Performances and events

Let us begin by inviting you to all the events in **Koper**.

The most appreciated one and from year to year more visited is undoubtedly **Sweet Istria**, which in September transforms the city streets into an avenue of deserts and sweet products that visitors can taste and buy. The city atmosphere is additionally enriched by the already traditional **Istrian Carnival**, **The city dances**, **Koper on the palm**, **From the winemaker to the olive oil maker**, **Days of agriculture of Slovenian Istria**, **Festival of the golden olive twig**, **Refosco festival**, **With Koper in the New Year**, **Littoral Fair** and many other events. Summer evenings of July and August offer **Theatre evenings**, concerts in Taverna, the Littoral puppet festival – **PUF, JEFF – Jazz Ethno Funky Festival**,

the Street revives, **the Squid Festival**, **the Party on the Pier** and numerous others.

Izola invites you to visit the **galleries** in the city centre. For decades, the city has been famous for the **Fisherman's Feast**. In the last couple of years, you can also enjoy the **Feast of olives, wine and fish**. Izola is also popular with film-makers – **Kino otok** is the festival of films from developing countries. Musicians are traditionally brought together at the **summer brass bands** and athletes at numerous sports events ashore and at sea..

Piran and Portorož host an incredible number of festivals. Many of them are connected with old customs and traditions: **Saltpans Feast**, **Persimmon Fruit Feast**, **Maritime Baptism** and **Antiques' Fair**.

Others are marked by music and culture: **Piran Musical Evening** at the Cross-Shaped Arcade, **MIFF Folklore festival**, **Ex Tempore**, **Tartini Festival**, **Slovenian Film Festival**, **Roses and flowers festival**, **Fest of olive oil and chard**, **Wine and garlic fest**. Don't forget the **Sparkling wine festival** in December.

Take your time, visit the reception of your hotel or Tourist Information Offices. They will be glad to help you.





Stories from the past

People are proud of their land. We are aware that without yesterday there is no today and no tomorrow. Tourism manages to intertwine the threads of the past and those of the present with special skill. Would the food in Slovenian Istria have its delicious taste if modern cooks did not respect the recipes of their grandmothers? The respect for our past is felt in the attitude towards our heritage and culture, keeping in touch with old habits and traditions, respecting the work of numerous generations of our ancestors from all walks of life. It is good to hear children telling the

story of [Parenzana](#), the narrow - gauge track, which connected Trieste and Poreč for 33 years. The train was so slow that passengers were able to pick cherries and figs during the ride. In Izola you can visit the [Parenzana Museum](#) and look at model trains from all over the world. Portorož Airport is connected with the story of two businessmen, brothers Cosulich, who established [the first passenger airline in this part of Europe](#).

While driving from Koper to Izola, your eyes are attracted by the mesmerizing sea. Somewhere here, deep on the sea bottom lie the remains of [Rex](#), the ship which sank in 1944, during the attack of allied planes. The story still causes a great deal of excitement. Its memory is immortalised in Rex Gallery in Izola. Sečovlje Salt pans still whisper to us the stories of distant past. [How are Santorio, Carpaccio, Tarsia, Vergerij, Carli and](#)

[other prominent men of Koper](#) inviting us to visit Slovenian Istria? [What does the legend of St. Nazarius, the patron saint of Koper tell us?](#) And the cobbles of the streets in old town centres of Piran, Koper and Izola? What are the words of invitation of farmers, who offer us homemade olive oil and their excellent wines? [The stories of local people](#) await us. People who live here and now, respecting the past and respecting you, who have come here to write and experience your own story. [You have chosen Slovenian Istria. Welcome!](#)



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I FEEL
SLOVENIA



BY PLANE:

Portorož (till 50 seats, sport airplane)
Triest (Ronchi): 80 km
Ljubljana (Jože Pučnik): 143 km
Venice (Marco Polo): 190 km
Klagenfurt: 196 km

BY TRAIN – railway station:

Koper
Triest

BY HIGHWAY:

Munich – Slovenian Istria
(Piran – Izola – Koper): 485 km

Wien - Graz - Ljubljana –
Slovenian Istria (Piran – Izola –
Koper): 490 km

Venice – Slovenian Istria
(Piran – Izola – Koper): 190 km



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