# I FEEL Slovenia

# TRAVEL AGENT'S MANUAL SLOVENIA. MYWAY. NEWWAY.

#ifeelsLOVEnia #myway



www.slovenia.info



# Slovenia, the homeland of safe 5\* experiences

Dear business partners, dear co-creators of amazing travel stories,

it is my greatest pleasure to present you with the latest edition of our travel agent manual, which represents a helping hand for creating amazing travel stories which your clients will love. It will give you ideas for including Slovenia into your itineraries and unveil top destinations and meeting opportunities which await you in one of the most sustainable and friendly countries in the world.

On every step and 365 days a year, Slovenia offers diverse authentic experiences. Unique stories, pristine nature, amazing outdoors, superb gastronomy and short distances between geographically diverse places combined with the network of top local providers and venues are the main assets that make the country not only worth visiting, but also re-visiting. Also, it is important to highlight that Slovenia is GREEN. And by green, I do not only refer to the breathtakingly beautiful green nature. I speak of Slovenia's green soul. Slovenia prioritizes sustainability and has thanks to establishing the Slovenia Green national certification scheme become the leading example in sustainability. This is reflected in all aspects of tourism, which plays an important role in the so-called new era of travel.

Conveniently located in Central Europe and a bit more than half-a-size of Switzerland, the country is nestled between Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia. It is the only country in Europe where 4 geographical worlds meet, which reflects through stunning natural beauties and an astonishing diversity of terrains: we have the mountains, the rolling hills, the coastline, even caves and of course a number of charming towns and cities dotted all over the country. Diversity guaranteed, excitement as well!

Allow me to finish by highlighting that Slovenia is a safe destination. According to the Global Peace Index, it has been among the world's safest tourist destinations for many years. This holds true also when it comes to health. Slovenia has established the Green & Safe platform which combines sustainable principles, responsible travel standards, and the hygiene protocols and became one of the first destinations to obtain the global Safe Travels stamp, conferred by the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC). As such, Slovenia is your perfect partner for creating unforgettable, sustainable and safe experiences for your guests, away from the crowds.

By organizing a number of business events and other unique opportunities to discover Slovenia, Slovenian Tourist Board is here to help you establish strong connections with local providers, who are keen on helping you create unforgettable, sustainable and safe experiences for your guests, away from the crowds. Starting with this handbook. We hope you will like it.

From Slovenia with love,

Ilona Stermecki Acting Director of the Slovenian Tourist Board



# SLOVENIAN **TOURIST BOARD**

"A green boutique global destination for high-end visitors seeking diverse and active experiences, peace, and personal benefits."

This is the vision of the tourist destination Slovenia, as perceived and pursued by the Slovenian Tourist Board (STB), the central national agency for the promotion of tourism. Systematic planning, development and promotion activities and a modern approach to the placement of Slovenia on the global tourist map – this is what has particularly helped the STB in recent years to increase the recognisability and reputation of the country as an authentic boutique destination for five-star experiences, which is committed to sustainability.



Travel agents needing general information about Slovenia can turn to the Slovenian Tourist Board. Contact the Business Communication Department or the Representative Offices of the Slovenian Tourist Board in Austria, Germany and Italy.



## **SLOVENIAN** TOURIST BOARD

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<sup>⊙</sup> Maribor



# **CONNECTED** THROUGH BUSINESS

Slovenia is a country of countless opportunities to come together to design authentic and boutique programmes for travel, holidays and adventures. Let us discover and co-create them face to face at live events or remotely at virtual business events.



# LIVE EVENTS

It's finally time to meet live! At our business events, you can establish contacts with representatives of Slovenian tourist destinations and providers of various tourist services, including accommodation providers and tour operators. By sharing valuable information and developing new business ideas, you can find new opportunities and co-create exciting travel stories.



A www.slovenia.info/travel-trade



## **SIW ON BOUTIQUE TOUR 2022**

Join us for the SIW on Boutique Tour 2022, which this year takes place 29 – 31 May. The SIW on Boutique Tour is an updated version of the well-known Slovenian Incoming Workshop, a unique fusion of oneto-one business meetings and diverse unforgettable experiences – while on tour, you will meet with Slovenian business partners and discover Slovenia.



Awww.slovenia.info/siw



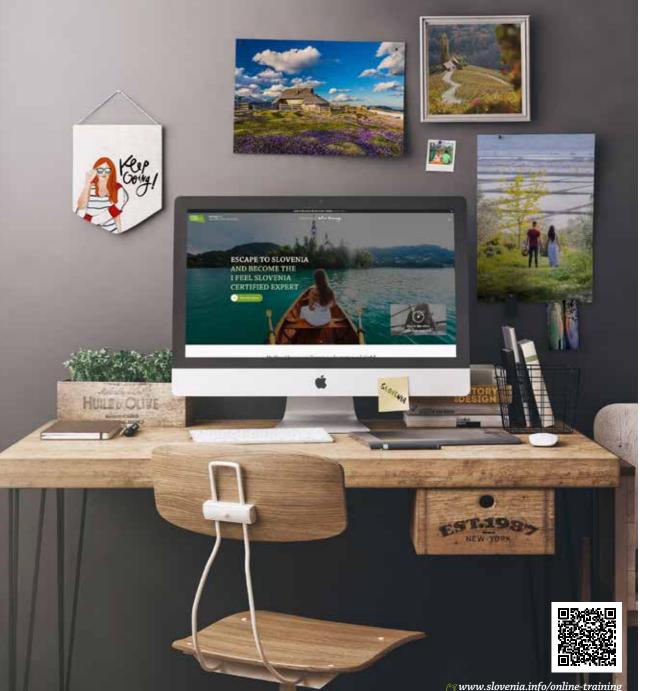
## TRADE NEWS

Be up-to-date about what is happening in Slovenian tourism. By subscribing to our newsletter you will receive the latest trade news in the field of tourism and other current information on a monthly basis. From the latest travel trends, new hotel openings, exciting events, unforgettable experiences, to useful tips for your business - all nicely packed for you to help you write your success story with Slovenian tourism providers. Subscribe now!



#### Feel sLOVEni@ Online Training a captivating, playful, and interesting way to become an expert on Slovenia

My Way of Escaping to Slovenia virtual trainings are an excellent opportunity for you or your team embers to become experts on boutique experiences in Slovenia and its unique features. At the end of the personalised informative trainings that are accessible from anywhere in the world, participating tour operators and travel agencies will be awarded with the "I Feel Slovenia Expert" certificates.



# INCOMING AGENCIES

We all want the best for our clients, which is why it is important to be connected with local experts who have the required knowledge and expertise – also, or especially, in tourism. Slovenia is a country of friendly people and there are numerous excellent incoming tour operators that will be glad to assist you when making arrangements for your guests – be it individuals or groups. Let them help you find the perfect destination, give you hints on exciting trips and arrange unforgettable experiences, based on authenticity and diversity.

Find your perfect partner for your next travel story in Slovenia



🕝 www.slovenia.info/in

🖸 Slovenian Istria

# 7 GREAT REASONS For choosing Slovenia

Slovenia is a green country in the heart of Europe that will take you by surprise upon your first visit and amaze you with the diversity of four tourist regions every time you come back. Believe it or not, you have just found your perfect place for boutique five-star experiences.

If you're not familiar with Slovenia, even the basic facts about this country nestled between the Alps and the Mediterranean, between the Karst and the Pannonian Plains, might surprise you. But also if Slovenia is already among your favourites, you are sure to find another good reason to return and find a new exciting 5-star experience to put on your bucket list.

Discover how you can spend some great time in the world's first country to receive the international Green Destination designation. Slovenia is perfect for those in search of diverse, authentic, tailor-made and boutique experiences.

Slovenia's main assets are easy accessibility and manageable distances. They allow you to include multiple regions and inspiring custom-made experiences to your itinerary.

20.273 km<sup>2</sup>

surface area







2004 accession to the 20 European Union

2007 member of the Schengen area Slovenian the of language (Hung

Slovenian the official C language (Hungarian and Italian in ethnically mixed territories)

3<sup>rd</sup> most forested

country in Europe

Milan



20

# **RESPONSIBLE IN EVERY WAY**

Visit one of the safest countries in the world. Check Green&Safe standards.

# SUSTAINABILITY IS ITS MIDDLE NAME

Learn about the destinations and operators committed to sustainability under the Slovenia Green label.

# **RESPECTING INDIVIDUALITY**

Enjoy Slovenia Unique Experiences in your own way!

# **EUROPE IN A NUTSHELL**

Discover four geographically and culturally different worlds in one country.

# IT MAKES YOU WANT TO MOVE

It's the pristine nature that surrounds you on every step – even in urban areas – that makes Slovenia one of most desired Europe's natural playgrounds. This is also the reason why Slovenia is homeland to so many great athletes.

# SUPERB GASTRONOMY

Check the recommendations by Michelin and Gault&Millau and make sure to taste local specialties. They are also one of the reasons why Slovenia holds European Region of Gastronomy 2021 title – for the first time, as the entire country.

# **GLOBAL MEDIA LOVES IT**

Check their recommendations and bucket lists.

The sustainable development of tourism, authentic experiences, individual approach and safety form the basis of Slovenia's responsible adjustment to new conditions.

10



In a country that has been among the safest in the world for years, the safety of residents and guests is furthermore maintained with high levelled hygiene measures, responsible behaviour of the tourist providers and self-protective behaviour. Safe travels

Honey Village, Mozirje

# 3 FACTS THAT PROVE SLOVENIA IS A SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE CHOICE

The future seems bright, but precautionary measures in Slovenia to ensure safe travels are strictly being observed in Slovenia. This ensures visitors that their stay in Slovenia is safe and trustworthy.

# Trustworthy & safe in when it comes to health.

The I feel Slovenia brand is trusted by guests from all around the world. It was during the uncertainty of the epidemic that Slovenia established the Green&Safe platform, which promotes the unified responsible operation of tourist destinations and operators. There are already more than 1,100 providers using the Green&Safe label, thus ensuring that Slovenia is a safe destination to visit.

Thanks to a quick response to the new conditions, Slovenia was among the first countries in 2020 to receive the global Safe Travels stamp conferred by the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC).

## One of the safest countries in the world.

According to international criteria, this green country is a safe tourist destination. According to the GPI (Global Peace Index), Slovenia has been among the safest countries in the world for many years. In 2021, it was the fifth safest country in the World.

# The fulfilment of the criteria is being constantly verified.

A number of tour operators meets the international certification system criteria. The Slovenia Green Label holders meet the Green Destinations Standard prescribed by the GSTC (Global Sustainable Tourism Council). Slovenia is also a member of the Hotelstars association, which meet European standards. After a revision at the beginning of 2020, these are even stricter.

# SUSTAINABILITY IS ITS MIDDLE NAME

When it comes to sustainable tourism, the green, active, and healthy Slovenia is the best choice. Tourism in Slovenia is developed with a special sense for nature and green experiences. Our aim is to preserve the incredible diversity of this precious corner of the world for the generations to come!

According to the Green Destinations international criteria, Slovenia is the first country in the world to boast the title of a Green Destriction.

More than 200 destinations, operators, agencies, parks, and landmarks operate in Slovenia in accordance with the principles and criteria of the Green Scheme of Slovenian Tourism for certification. Their sustainable operations are certified with the Simeria Green label.

At the 2020 Sustainable Top 100 Destination Awards, Slovenia won the Be Europe 2020 award for its

In 2021, when Slovenia held the European Region of Gastronomy title, Movemor Green Colline label was added to the the Green Scheme of Slovenian Tourism, given to those who preserve authentic gastronomic specialties of Slovenia, short supply chains, reduce waste, consume sustainable models in tourism. energy responsibly, and in other ways follow sustainable principles.

All the efforts for the sustainable development of tourism in Slovenia are combined under the umbrella of the Green Scheme of Slovenian Tourism, which is included in the handbook of the European Travel Commission (ETC) as a best practice example for the implementation of green schemes by national tourist boards around Europe.

Guests who are aware of the negative impacts that tourism can have on the environment choose their holiday destinations responsibly. In Slovenia, one of the greenest countries in the world, sustainability is in the forefront in tourism. Practices are tested and certified.

The Green Scheme of Slovenian Tourism is a certification system that has been educating, encouraging, and awarding sustainable approaches in tourism since 2014. Its effectiveness has caught the attention of experts in tourism around the world. This is proven by numerous international awards and accolades.

The Slovenia Green label is only awarded to the destinations, accommodations, agencies, attractions, restaurants, parks and beaches that meet no fewer than 100 criteria and indicators related to sustainable operations.

As one of the most water-rich countries in Europe, boasting drinking water of incredible quality, Slovenia was the first European country to include the right to water in its constitution. The participants of the Green Day of Slovenian Tourism in 2019 also signed the initiative of the Slovenian Tourist Board for the protection of water as one of the greatest treasures of Slovenia.

# RESPECTING INDIVIDUALITY 3

When it comes to tourism, Slovenia has been systematically developing individual boutique experiences in accordance with its strategic goals for years. Slovenia's most significant tourism products are based on ensuring the privacy of guests and fulfilling their wishes. This is another reason why you can experience Slovenia your own way!



Slovenia's boutique experiences are designed for small groups and individuals. They ensure bespoke and very personal experiences of premium quality. An important part of this experience is to discover the full story and enjoy our excellent gastronomy.

Slovenians, known for their hospitality and foreign language proficiency, invite their guests to enjoy the same lifestyle that they have - in touch with nature, with respect to local, and with passion for sustainability.





With its authenticity, Slovenia speaks for a new kind of luxury. It does not offer mass tourism, but safe, responsible, and individual experiences.

Together with experienced incoming agencies and local tour guides, every getaway in this green country or a trip to any of the regions can become *a memorable individual experience*. Trust the experts



# **CHOOSE EXPERIENCES UNIQUE TO SLOVENIA**

Fall asleep in the Touch the herbs hayloft of a House of Tradition garden

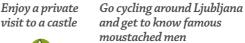
Explore a karst cave like the first

Float over to a sea garden where the best

Grill and taste Drive a vintage excellent meat car through an dishes olive grove

UNIQU visit to a castle

19 HILL



THE MOST LOCAL,

THE MOST UNIQUE

The most authentic and high-quality part of the offer is labelled by the Slovenia Unique Experiences designation of

quality. These experiences are distinctively local and authentic,

always experiential and boutique. They are of top quality and compliant with the principles of sustainable tourism. They are ranked and recommended by the Slovenian Tourist Board.

> Taste wine where the oldest grapevine in the world grows

Experience adrenaline packed abseiling onto a suspended alpine platform

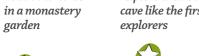
UNIQUE



Awaken vour senses in the

rituals of the Staroverci

(Old Believers)



sea bass are grown

See bears near a Go rowing down an primeval forest underground river located 700 metres below Earth's surface

Learn about old customs and traditions, folk music. dance and lore Treat yourself with a delicious, fresh and local breakfast at the Ljubljana market place

Dine at 160 metres below ground

Fly fish on three Slovenian rivers

 $\rightarrow$  More on pages 26-34  $\circlearrowright$  www.slovenia.info/unique

# A NUTSHELL

Slovenia is the land of four worlds and four seasons. Every time you visit, you can find something special that is perfect for you. In your own way.

# 365 DAYS OF DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES

Where ski centres invite you in winter, green countryside with countless opportunities for outdoor activities will attract you in summer. While you can enjoy the sun and the sea in summer, the opportunities for discovering the picturesque inland areas of the coast and their hiking and cycling trails will take your breath away in the other seasons. Towns and cities which you will remember for the vitality of their streets will excite you with their galleries, museums, and special holiday experiences in winter.

# ACCESS TO DIVERSITY

Slovenia is one of the few places where you can visit such diverse destinations separated by easily manageable distances. In just a few hours, you can replace snow-capped peaks with the seaside, an underground karst world with therapeutic thermal waters among gentle wine-growing hills, and the urban hustle and bustle of the capital with nature reserves and their primordial forests.

# **4 WORLDS OF EUROPE IN ONE PLACE**

Slovenia is the only country in Europe where the Alps, the Mediterranean, the Karst and the Pannonian Plain meet. Its diverse regions are a unique treasure trove of the special natural and cultural features of the Old Continent. As a place where diverse landscapes meet, it offers opportunities for recreation in nature and a getaway full of unique experiences.



#### Among the tallest mountains and the wildest waters

In addition to the special natural and cultural features of the Alps, protected by one of the oldest national parks in Europe, *Alpine Slovenia* offers incredible opportunities for various outdoor activities. Here, you can always be in touch with nature!



# MEDITERRANEAN & KARST SLOVENIA

### From Karst caves to the stories of salt makers

From the Karst, a region that lent its name to all karst phenomena around the world, to the Adriatic Sea – here, you'll find all the wonders of *Mediterranean & Karst Slovenia*. In this area, you can visit famous karst caves, experience stories about salt in many different ways, and discover that it was the salt trade that gave rise to some of the most beautiful coastal towns.



## Among wine-growing hills and therapeutic hot springs

Right on the edge of the plain that leaves its mark on Central Europe, you'll fund numerous Slovenian spas and health resorts. They are nestled among gentle hills where grapevines have been grown for millennia. *Thermal Pannonian Slovenia* is home to authentic and heartfelt cuisine.



# LJUBLJANA & CENTRAL SLOVENIA

## From the capital city to primordial forests

From Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, to incredible forests and forest reserves – here, you'll see places that belong to the world UNESCO heritage In *Ljubljana & Central Slovenia* you'll find a unique vibe of urban culture and events as well as the serenity of the green countryside at the same time.

# IT MARES YOU WANT TO MOVE

In Slovenia, four different worlds fuse into a magnificent symphony of personalised experiences. Pristine nature – even in urban areas – and incredible diversity surround you on every step, which makes Slovenia one of most desired natural playgrounds and a paradise for outdoor and sports lovers. Consequently, Slovenia is homeland to numerous world-renowned top athletes.

Throughout the year, you can choose between numerous hiking and cycling trails, horse-riding, golf or paragliding. Spring and summer will surprise you with an array of water activities, be it on lakes, rivers or at the sea. And winter is much fun as well. Slovenia is world-known as a popular skiing destination. More than ten winter-sports resorts provide possibilities for Alpine, Nordic and off-piste skiing, snowboarding, sled-riding and other winter recreational sports, making it popular among visitors of all ages.

ng trails, ring an array ers or s well. ar skiing ports ne, arding, ional

You will certainly notice the diversity of our culture,

→More on pages 44-57. 🖇 www.slovenia.info/nature > More on pages 58-63. © www.slovenia.info/culture

O Pohorje

# SUPERB GASTRONOMY

Thanks to excellent chefs and sustainable approach, Slovenian gastronomy has been brought to spotlight by numerous world-renowned media.

In Slovenia, you can taste excellent cuisine in fine restaurants that cater to the most demanding guests, as well as in traditional 'gostilna' restaurants that are typical of our green country, or at tourist farms. Epicureans from all around the world are excited about our chefs, who introduce innovations to Slovenia's reputable gastronomic heritage.

The fact that Slovenian restaurants have been included in renowned internation culinary guides is a result of the principles on which Slovenian chefs have been operating for a long time. The work of the best Slovenian chefs is also excellent because they find inspiration in their local environments time and again.

🛈 Ana Roš's plate, Hiša Franko - Two star Michelin Restaurant

If you'd like to taste a different speciality from the treasure trove of Slovenia's gastronomy every day, 365 days would not be enough! No fewer than 24 different gastronomic regions of Slovenia offer more than 400 local traditional dishes and drinks. Culinary diversity is an increasingly important reason to visit sustainable and green Slovenia.

> → More on pages 36-43 ♂ www.tasteslovenia.si

# THE LAND OF CHEFS WITH MICHELIN STARS AND OTHER ACCLAIMS

The latest edition of the prestigious Michelin guide for Slovenia features as many as 52 restaurants, among them Hiša Franko in Kobarid with two stars and another five amazing restaurants with one star: Atelje, Dam Restaurant, Gostilna pri Lojzetu, Hiša Denk and Gostišče Grič. The Bib Gourmand was given to seven restaurants, and 39 restaurants were awarded the Michelin Plate. In addition, as many as five restaurants received the Michelin Green Star.

😋 guide.michelin.com

# Gault Millau

# EXCELLENCE INDICATED BY GAULT & MILLAU TOQUES

The 2022 edition of Gault & Millau, one of the most influential gastronomy guides in the world, provides you with a detailed insight into Slovenian gastronomy scene. From popular gathering places, wine cellars, breweries and typical Slovenian food products to the very best of the restaurants which are given a prestigious designation of quality that is indicated by the number of toques. Check them out!



# GLOBAL MEDIA LOVES IT

# TIME

"The Slovenian capital's already acclaimed gastronomic scene got a huge boost with the 2020 unveiling of its first ever Michelin Guide..."

World's greatest places 2021 by Tamara Hardingham-Gill for Time

# Traveler

"This compact Central European country with its fairytale mountain scenes of Baroque-spired churches and wooden hayracks has long since punched above its size as a hero of green tourism."

12 sustainable destinations we'd love to visit in 2022, by Juliet Kinsman, Condé Nast Traveller

# 

"You're never far from the green and serene in Slovenia's castle-topped capital. At its heart is a leafy river, around which bike paths, food markets and arts festivals unfold."

52 best weekend breaks by Jessica Vincent for National Geographic Traveller

# THE TIMES

"Slovenia is beautiful in whichever direction you wander, but now thanks to their updated mapping, we're being steered to less crowded areas, which will also support more local producers."

12 sustainable destinations doing good for the planet by Juliet Kinsman for The Times

# Forbes

"From natural wines and traditional desserts to endless varieties of sausages and Michelinstarred fine dining, these are Slovenia's musthave foodie experiences."

A Gourmet Guide to Slovenia, Europe's Most Underrated Food Destination by Nicole Trilivas for Forbes



"If one word could describe Slovenia it would be green – literally and figuratively."

Lonely Planet ranked Slovenia 5<sup>th</sup> on their Best in Travel 2022 list

# The New York Times

"It validated the way this central European country of just over 2 million people has been putting environmentally responsible travel and its good food and wines at the heart of its identity as a desirable destination for travelers since it became independent 30 years ago."

Alexander Lobrano, 52 places for a changed world, New York Times

## European Best Destinations®

»Ljubljana is a city for curious and adventurous souls. The city is a treasure trove of exciting secrets and natural joys. The proud green capital of Slovenia invites all vagabonds who are hungry for culture, art, entertainment, and large green areas, which provide a relaxed atmosphere.«

Best places to travel in Europe 2022 by European Best Destinations

# VIRTUOSO

"Europe's undiscovered wine country is crowned by a soaring alpine playground. Visiting now earns "I was there when" bragging rights."

Jen Rose Smith, Virtuoso's Top Ten Global Destinations for 2022

O Logar Valley

# SLOVENIA UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

🛈 In the Footsteps of Luk

It is not enough just to see it. You have to experience it! Don't be just a visitor, become an explorer of the most unique stories of Slovenia. Pick a boutique 5-star experience you cannot have anywhere else! The strict rules on awarding the Slovenia Unique Experiences label guarantee that you will experience your chosen story in an unforgettable way. Tailored for individuals and small groups.

## **BEING A DIFFERENT KIND OF GOURMAND**

You can enjoy exceptional culinary specialities at many gastronomic hot spots in Slovenia. But they will be the most memorable if you discover their origin and taste them at an original venue.

#### TRACING WINE STORIES TO THE WORLD'S OLDEST GRAPEVINE

Let an experienced sommelier take you through the vineyards along the famous heart-shaped road. After meeting the local winemakers, he will take you to one of the oldest classic wine cellars whose catacombs extend under the city streets. Just a stone's throw away, *the* oldest grapevine in the world has been growing for nearly 500 years! Enjoy the first-class flavours of the wine country in the Old Vine House.

♥ Maribor

# VINTAGE GOURMET TOUR

Take a drive with legendary vintage cars around the most beautiful viewpoints of Istria, which is known for its world-class olive oils. Learn about their flavours, special features and use. In the largest family-owned oil *mill* in Slovenia, mix your own *favourite oil blend* and sample Istrian dishes.

A heart-shaped road in the vineyards of Špičnik

🛛 Slovenian Istria



Ljubljana castle

TRAVELLING

**TO DIFFERENT ERAS** 

## THE MOUSTACHE TOUR

Cycle to the important points related to the moustached giants of Slovenian culture in the company of a moustached expert. On one of **the best cycling tours in Europe**, you will see Jože Plečnik's architectural masterpieces in Ljubljana, the gallery with the paintings of Rihard Jakopič and the hill where writer Ivan Cankar lived as a star. Prepare yourself for a lesson in the art of moustache styling!

🛛 Ljubljana

In Slovenia, explorers of culture can journey from the prehistoric times of pile-dwellers through the Iron Age, antiquity and the Middle Ages, all the way to modern times. But

what makes the experience real is meeting the heroes of different eras in person!

# LJUBLJANA CASTLE JUST FOR YOU

Treat yourself to a very private experience of the castle with *live theatrical presentations of the six key periods* of Slovenia's capital performed just for you. Your personal guide will take you past the queue to the funicular railway, up to the castle, to the top of the viewing tower and finally to the castle restaurant, where top chefs will prepare a delicious meal for you.

🛛 Ljubljana



## **VELENJE UNDERGROUND**

After saying the usual miners' farewell of Srečno! (Good luck!), take the oldest lift in Slovenia and descend to an impressive depth of 160 metres below ground! There, in the deepest dining hall, a four-course culinary experience awaits, prepared by awardwinning chefs. After a ride on the underground train, make a toast to new experiences with a glass of sparkling wine in the Black Changing Room! Velenje



### **RAISING YOUR** HEARTBEAT

**Postojna** 

OVEN,

You can find many adrenaline-filled challenges in any of Slovenia's diverse regions. But the most memorable adventures are calling to you from the mysterious underground world and a spot where you can enjoy astonishing views in all directions.

#### FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE FIRST CAVE EXPLORERS

Equip yourself with ropes and a headlamp and descend into the hidden tunnels of the famous Postojna Cave away from all the visitors. Explore this karst cave as the first cave lamplighter did at the beginning of the 19th century. Cross the underground lake and river, guess the age of dripstone formations and visit the home of the fascinating amphibian known as an olm. Make your way out of the cave on the famous cave train.

#### **KAYAKING ADVENTURE** UNDER MOUNT PECA

Paddle along an underground river to little lakes that are located as deep as 700 metres below ground! With a former miner as your guide, explore the excavation sites, tunnels and spacious halls of *the* abandoned lead and zinc mine, which is part of the Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark. At the end, restore your strength with a traditional miner's meal. <sup>©</sup> Mount Peca, Mežica

Mount Peca underground adventures

Dobrovo Castle, Goriška Brda

EXPERIENCING

**ANCIENT WISDOM** 

## MAGICAL HERBS OF THE SAVINJA VALLEY

Awaken your senses with herbs from the garden of the former Benedictine monastery near the largest Slovenian cathedral. Sensory exercises in *the garden with 160 herb varieties* will help you find the right herb for you. Experienced herbalists will guide you in the preparation of culinary delicacies and herbal incense. Enjoy a tea party by the fire!

Gornji Grad

Slovenia will amaze you with the old skills taught to people by monks through the centuries. Even further back in time stretch the roots of our connection to nature and our surroundings, of what used to be such a simple self-presence and self-awareness.

# VERTICAL ADRENALINE ADVENTURE

Experience the beauty of mountains like alpine climbers. Bivouac between the earth and the sky! After a ride in a Jeep from World War II, abseil onto *a suspended alpine platform* with outstanding views. Watch a sunrise or sunset from *the middle of* an overhanging rock face! Discover the valley of the Nadiža River and treat yourself to the tasty local dishes.

Soča Valley



#### THE MINDFULNESS INTINITI WINE BLISS EXPERIENCE IN GORIŠKA BRDA

In Goriška Brda, Slovenia's renowned wine-growing region, achieve mindfulness in the way of the almost forgotten Staroverci – Old Believers. Between the castle and the cellar, the terraces and olive trees, use all five senses to connect with the earth, produce, flavours, sounds and stories. Try the wine from the barrels that the Staroverci smoked with herbs. Celebrate and dance.







OVEN,

# EXPERIENCING SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Throughout Slovenia you can easily perceive the beauty of self-sufficient home garden. Slovenian farms always have ingredients for excellent meals at hand.



#### AN UNFORGETTABLE DAY AT THE FONDA FISH FARM

Sail to this *unique sustainable fish farm* in the protected Sečovlje Salt Pans Landscape Park and feed the fish. When you return to land, taste the seabass seasoned with fleur de sel and see for yourself that the Fonda family have succeeded in achieving their goal: *to produce the best farmed fish in the world*!

🛈 Fish Farm Fonda

Sečovlje



You can really experience the landscape and biological diversity of Slovenia when you delve into its secret spots with real experts.

#### DREAMY NIGHTS IN A HAYLOFT AT THE FIRBAS HOMESTEAD

At this homestead, which is a one of the Slovenian Houses of Tradition, they will pamper you with traditional dishes, and in the evening you can take a relaxing bath in an outdoor wooden tub. The *scent of hay* will lull you to sleep in a luxurious natural bed. In the morning, the hosts will surprise you with a spectacular live breakfast preparation with freshly laid eggs.

♥ Cogetinci





## MEET A BEAR IN ITS NATURAL HABITAT

The Kočevje forests are home to the largest brown bear population and the highest number of primeval forest remnants in Europe. Here you will learn **the skills of picking wild edible plants** and how to behave in bear territory. Observe the largest European carnivore in its home! In the company of a hunter and from **the safety of special observatories**. **% Kočevje** 

### **NEW FOR 2022**

Slovenia is a land of unforgettable experiences and the experiences bearing the Slovenia Unique Experiences label represent the very best of the best. Strict rules for granting the label are a guarantee that Slovenia Unique Experiences will provide you with Slovenia's originality in an unforgettable way. Check the latest that have joined the club.

#### YUMMY MARKET WALK

Lively markets form the heart of every town and this holds true also for Ljubljana. Here the Central Market was designed by famous architect Jože Plečnik. Take a guided tour and taste seasonal treats produced by local farmers and sourced from places near Ljubljana. You will finish off with a tasty, fresh and locally produced breakfast in a restaurant close to the market.

🛛 Ljubljana

### MEET MEAT AND EAT

An unforgettable culinary experience in the Prekmurje region, which will take you on a journey of exploring meat products; you will learn all about dry ageing of meat products at an acclaimed ham producer in the Prekmurje region and try your hand at grilling steaks. This is your chance to become the master of steak preparation.

Prekmurje

## FISH & FLY TRIO

A unique three-day experience for lovers of fly fishing, pristine nature and clean rivers that includes local cuisine and an unforgettable adventure – a helicopter ride above the most picturesque parts of Slovenia, above the mighty Alps all the way to the Soča Valley.

🛛 Krka river, Kolpa river, Soča river

## SOUND OF HOLIDAYS

How did the locals in the Gorenjska region countryside used to celebrate holidays? Travel back in time to the days of the great Slovenian poet France Prešeren. In three hours, you will feel the cosy homeliness and festive joy of an authentic Gorenjska homestead through cuisine, old customs and traditions, folk music, dance and lore. **Bled** 





# MY WAY OF BUSINESS NETWORKING.

24<sup>th</sup> Slovenian Incoming Workshop on Boutique Tour 29 – 31 May 2022

The SIW on Boutique Tour is the best possibility to discover Slovenia and establish new or strengthen the existing business partnerships and connections. The new edition is a unique fusion of one-to-one business meetings and diverse unforgettable experiences.

#ifeelsLOVEnia #myway #SIW2022





Slovenia was awarded the prestigious title of European Region of Gastronomy 2021.

# TASTE

SLOVE

astronomic regions

over 400 typical local and regional dishes and drinks

**3** wine regions

52 wine grape varieties

5 centuries of the oldest grapevine in the world from Maribor

over **40** sustainably oriented food service providers holding the Slovenia Green Cuisine label

Gostilna pri Lojzetu, Dvorec Zemono - 1 star M

Restaurant, Vipava

More info



Chef Uroš Fakuč

Dam, Nova Gorica

දි3

Chef Ana Roš Hiša Franko, Kobarid දියි දියි දියි Gault Millau Slovenija

# TOP SLOVENIAN CHEFS



Gault Millau Slovenija



**Chef Jorg Zupan** *Atelje*, Ljubljana

දි3



**Chef Jure Tomič Debeluh,** Brežice

Gault Millau Slovenija

> **Chef Marko Pavčnik Pavus,** Laško

> > Gault Millau Slovenij





SUSTAINABILITY LABEL FOR FOOD SERVICE PROVIDERS

Which gastronomy providers have committed to sustainability and received the Slovenia Green Cuisine label check at *mww.tasteslovenia.si* 



**MICHELIN** 

2021



SLOVENIA MICHELIN GUIDE 2021 RECOMMENDATIONS

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6 Michelin-starred

restaurants

**Chef Igor Jagodic** *Strelec,* Ljubljana

0000



Chef Tomaž Kavčič Gostilna pri Lojzetu, Vipava Č3

> Gault:Mill Slover

**Chef David Vračko** *Mak*, Maribor

Gault:Millau Slovenija





# CHEFS OF THE EUROPEAN REGION OF GASTRONOMY CREATE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

Slovenia is the perfect place for all seekers of authentic flavours. The country, which became the world's first green destination, surprises with a vast variety of dishes inspired by local ingredients. The best food prepared in Slovenian kitchens comes from gardens and fields cultivated organically. Top chefs and other gastronomic experts also use the fruits of the forest and other native species that grow in the diverse Slovenian landscapes. The flavours of their dishes are enhanced with salt from traditional Adriatic saltpans, honey collected by an indigenous species of bee, pumpkin seed and olive oils typical of individual regions, wine, which has been drunk here since antiquity, and water, which earned a special place in Slovenia's Constitution. With regards to water being one of the greatest treasures of Slovenia, the initiative of the Slovenian Tourist Board for the protection of water was also signed. Supreme quality in Slovenian gastronomy is ensured by respecting the principles of sustainability and green supply chains. What is more, the most recent initiative "Less plastic, more sustainability" invites the Slovenian tourism industry to make a step further and reduce the plastic used and help save the environment. This all results in the fact that Slovenia is the place where you can indulge in unforgettable boutique 5-star gastronomic experiences, which rank among the best in the world.

Discover the special and characteristic features of Slovenian culinary regions, the unique stories of Slovenian gastronomy, select restaurants, the best chefs and original gastronomic experiences at *gwww.tasteslovenia.si*.

# LOCAL FOOD IN »GOSTILNA« AND AT TOURIST FARMS

The views from the terraces of top-quality restaurants and excellent typical inns (gostilna) – the most recognised catering establishments in Slovenia, which frequently preserve family traditions from generation to generation and usually offer regional dishes and typical beverages, the same is also true for tourist farms – turn the tasting of local and regional cuisine into a first-class experience. The most famous dishes which you can try all year round include:

# POTICA

a symbol of Slovenian cuisine and a traditiona speciality. With its famous walnut filling and many other fillings, it reigns among different cakes, braid cakes and similar dishes;

# KRANJSKA SAUSAGE

which is the most well-known Slovenian product with protected geographical indication. It has been popular since 1896. Kranjska sausage goes well with sour cabbage and pickled turnip, which are also typical of Slovenia;

# PIRAN SEA BASS

PREKMURSKA GIBANICA

a protected sweet festive cake with

layers of apple, cottage cheese,

walnut and poppy seed fillings;

a supreme farmed fish, calamari, stuffed or grilled squid, which together with mussels prepared in various local ways prove that Slovenia is also a sea country.

Dishes typical of each region are further supplemented by excellent beverages: clean drinking water can be found everywhere, famous mineral water, organically produced fruit juices, various types of beer styles, spirits typical of each individual region and of course superb Slovenian wines from three wine-producing regions.

# WINES OF SLOVENIA

White or red, lushly aromatic, strong, full-bodied or light, dry or sweet – no matter what kind of wine you prefer, you will discover your favourite variety in the three wine-growing regions of Slovenia.

# PRIMORSKA

#### The winegrowing region of authentic native varieties. The vineyards basking in the Mediterranean sun produce excellent red wines, such as Refošk, Teran, Merlot, Shiraz and Cabernet. Gaining in prominence are the characteristic old white varieties, such as the local Rebula, Zelen, Pinela and many others. Visit the House of Refošk in Koper, the winegrowers in Slovenian Istria and Goriška Brda, Karst and the Vipavska areas, the Dobrovo castle cellar and other remarkable features of the Wine Roads.

# PODRAVJE

# The winegrowing region of noble white wines.

The winegrowing region of noble white wines. The winegrowing hills of eastern Slovenia are renowned for their superior quality white wines as well as for some red wines. What particularly stands out is their qualitytested wines: late harvests, selections, Beerenauslese (BA) wines, ice wines and Trockenbeerenau - slese (TBA) wines. The Wine Roads lead to wonders such as the world's oldest grapevine (the Old Vine House in Maribor), one of the biggest tunnelshaped cellars in this part of Europe (Vinag, Maribor), the cellar with the oldest Slovenian archive wine from 1917 (Ptuj) and many others.



# POSAVJE

The winegrowing region of Cviček and other white and red wines. The land on the right bank of the river Sava boasts Cviček – a registered wine with character, low in alcohol content and with a distinctive acidic taste. There are many who say it has beneficial effects on your health! In addition, the land offers other pleasantly light, rose and white wines. Visit the notable "repnice", pits dug into quartz sand (Bizeljsko) and other first-class wineries, including those housed in the Rajhenburg Castle under Brestanica and other marvels!

🙆 Premium wines

# SLOVENIA OUTDOOR

The Alps and the Mediterranean or the Karst and the Pannonian Plain with all their diverse landscapes will spur your desire for outdoor exercise 365 days a year! Wherever in Slovenia you are, you can find a green playground for all sorts of outdoor activities almost on our doorstep.

More than **10,000** kilometres of marked hiking trails

More than **10** long-distance cycling trails

21 bathing sites on the Adriatic coast

More than **40** paragliding launch sites

More than **5,000** kilometres of themed trails

More than 10 large ski resorts

More than 1,300 lakes & 300 waterfalls

More than **20** adventure parks

SLOVENIA OUTDOOR

# Discoveries in **PRISTINE NATURE**

Take your time to respectfully explore the natural treasures of Slovenia. See for yourself that this green country is one of the most biologically diverse parts of the world. Visit a protected area in nature. Experience authentic connection with the plant and animal world. When visiting parks, respect the rules of the particular protected area.

#### BE ACTIVE IN EXCEPTIONAL NATURE

**PRISTINE NATURE** 41.4% of Slovenia is designated as protected areas and Natura 2000 sites.

NATURE PARKS AND RESERVES 15.4% of Slovenia is designated as national, regional and landscape parks, nature reserves and natural monuments.

Act responsibly towards nature! Let's make sure that Slovenia stays green for future generations.

A COUNTRY OF FORESTS 58.2% of Slovenian territory is covered by forests.

#### CRADLE OF KARSTOLOGY

There are more than 13,000 karst caves in Slovenia. The beginnings of the study of all karst phenomena are linked to Slovenia.  Triglav National Park (? www.tnp.si
 Logar Valley Nature Park
 (? www.logarska-dolina.si
 Skozjansko Regional Park
 (? www.kozjanski-park.si
 Škocjan Caves Regional Park
 www.park-skocjanske-jame.si

SLOV

5 Notranjska Regional Park 🕼 www.notranjski-park.si 6 The Seasonal Lakes of Pivka Nature Park 🕼 www.pivskajezera.si 7 Sečovlje Salina Nature Park 🕑 www.kpss.si 8 Strunjan Nature Park 🕑 www.parkstrunjan.si <sup>9</sup> Škocjanski zatok Nature Reserve 🕼 www.skocjanski-zatok.org <sup>10</sup> Debeli Rtič Nature Park 🕄 www.visitankaran.si <sup>11</sup> Ljubljana Marsh Nature Park 🕼 www.ljubljanskobarje.si <sup>12</sup> Tivoli, Rožnik and Šišenski Hrib Nature Park (I www.kp-trsh.si Radensko Polje Nature Park 🕑 www.radenskopolje.si 14 Lahinja Nature Park 🕼 www.belakrajina.si 15 Kolpa Nature Park 🕼 www.kp-kolpa.si 16 UNESCO Global Geopark Idrija 🕄 www.geopark-idrija.si 17 Karavanke UNESCO Global Geoprak 🕼 www.geopark.si Boričko Nature Park

ن www.park-goricko.org Ormož Basins Nature Reserve ن www.ptice.si

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# choose your HIKING **CHALLENGE**

#### THE SLOVENIAN **MOUNTAIN TRAIL**

• 617 km, 35 days • 55 mountain huts, 21 peaks, 5 Slovenian cities

The longest mountain trail in Slovenia from the Alps to the sea.

#### **JULIANA TRAIL 330**

• 330 km, 20 stages • Circular long-distance trail of grand views under Mt Triglav. One of the World's Best New Long-Distance Hiking Trails for 2021 by Lonely Planet.

#### ALPE ADRIA TRAIL

- Three countries: Austria, Slovenia and Italy
- In total 750 km, 43 stages • In Slovenia 145 km

One of the seven most beautiful hiking trails in the world.

## **VIA ALPINA**

• Eight countries, 5.000 km • 2 trails, 340 km, 24 stages in Slovenia

Hike Through Eight Alpine Countries.

## THE WALK OF PEACE

• On the footpaths of the Isonzo Front • 500 km, 30 stages

Historical trail along the emerald river Soča.

## **VIA DINARICA**

• Dinaric Alps in the Balkans • 160 km of trails wind through Slovenia

One of National Geographic's top travel destinations in 2017!

(3 www.slovenia.info/hiking

# choose your CYCLING CHALLENGE

#### DRAVA CYCLING ROUTE

 passes through 4 countries: Italy, Austria, Slovenia and Croatia
 the route is 710 km long (145 km in Slovenia)
 scenic stages along Slovenian towns located by the river Drava

#### PARENZANA

- along the former railway connecting
  - Trieste with Poreč 123 km kilometres
- the trail along the Slovenian coast is

# ideal for families

### TRANS SLOVENIA 1

- connects Slovenia, Italy and Austria
- from the Julian Alps to the Adriatic Sea
  - seven days for the entire trail in Slovenia

## TRANS KARAVANKE

- long distance MTB tour along Karavanke massif
   132 km, 5 stages
- total height difference: 5.700 m

#### THE SLOVENIAN BICYCLE TOURING TRAIL

longest European MTB circular biking trail
1,850 km, 41 stages
total ascent over 50,000 meters

## POHORJE CYCLING TRANSVERSAL

 a diverse 75 km route linking the sports centre of the Maribor Pohorje Hills with those of Areh, Rogla, the Ribnica Pohorje Hills and Kope

## JULIANA BIKE

 a cycling loop, part of the Slovenian cycling tour, that takes you around and across the Julian Alps
 290 km, 7 stages

An activity for any day of the year: **CYCLING** 

Cycle across the land of cycling champions! At the top of the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) ranking of road cycling riders are Slovenians, Tadej Pogačar, two-time winner of Tour de France and Primož Roglič, three-time winner of La Vuelta.

You might also consider trying the *world's first sustainable bike trail* that connects destinations that hold a certificate of sustainability. *Discover 'Bike Slovenia Green'*.

# Are you a thrill seeker? ADRENALINE SPORTS

the appropriate s

# **ATTENTION!** *Stay safe*. Go in search of adventures that will raise your hear rate with experienced local guides and

 The world's steepest zipline: Planica, Slovenia

# EXCITEMENT IN THE AIR

choose your

**ADRENALINE CHALLENGE** 

TOP ZIPLINES

You can gradually gather up courage for even greater thrills in more than twenty adventure parks that are also suitable for family adventures. • The largest zipline park in Europe: Učja Canyon, Slovenia

Some of the most attractive ones in our land of four seasons are the sites in Goriško and Vipavsko, where there can be up to 300

flyable days in a year. • Paragliding launch sites: more than 40 locations

# GO WILD ON RIVERS

Where? In the world-famous adrenaline valley on the emerald Soča River, and on Sava Dolinka, Sava Bohinjka, Savinja and other rivers.

- Raft, kavak, canoe
- Try hydrospeeding, bellyaking, tubing and canyoning (where you climb, swim, jump into water and surmount natural slides and waterfalls with the help of a rope)

# FUN IN ADVENTURE PARKS

- More than 20 adventure parks for all generations.
  - Giant swings, finding balance, conquering heights ... you will find all of the above and more in adrenaline and adventure parks scattered all over Slovenia.
  - 🕼 www.slovenia.info/adrenaline

# Destojna Cave Exploring mystical underground: CAVING

There is a long tradition of cave exploration in Slovenia as the country has a very extensive subterranean world, particularly in the Karst. In Slovenia, speleologists discover new caves every year; so far, they have discovered over 13.000 of them but only a little more than twenty are open to visitors.

## UNFORGETTABLE TOURS OF SOME POPULAR CAVES

- A special cave train will take you to the magnificent sculptures, stalactites, stalagmites, and halls of Postojna Cave, the most popular Karst cave in Europe. In the vivarium, you can admire the "human fish" (proteus) and interactively experience Karst phenomena at the Expo Cave Karst exhibition.
- Predjama Castle, the largest cave castle in the world, hides behind its walls an impressive four-level cave, *the* second longest tourist cave in Slovenia.
- One of the largest known underground river canyons in the world can be found in **Škocjan Caves**, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.
- You'll be taken by boat across emerald green lakes to the site where the remains of a cave bear were found in Križna Cave.
- Different coloured underground halls can be admired in Vilenica Cave, the first tourist cave in Europe.

- You can see the highest underground waterfall in Slovenia in **Pekel Cave** in the Savinja Valley.
- In *Snežna Cave*, the highest situated tourist cave in Slovenia, it's possible to walk around an ice hall that has an ice pillar even in summer.
- Kostanjevica Cave near Kostanjevica na Krki reveals the fauna of the underground world as well as various speleothem forms.

#### Awww.slovenia.info/caves

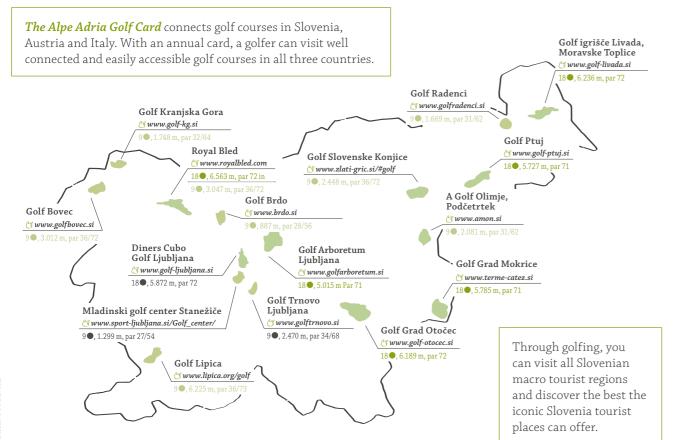
#### UNDER GROUND IN A DIFFERENT WAY

- Explore the tunnels of an abandoned mine by bike and its underground waters by kayak: Podzemlje Pece, Geopark Karavanke.
- Delve into the hidden tunnels of the famous cave equipped with caving gear and headlamp - almost like the first cave explorers: Postojna Cave.

Courses with beautiful views: **GOILF** 

Golf has been present in Slovenia since 1937, and today you can enjoy a round on 16 golf courses across the country. Many amateur and professional tournaments – and even European championships in various categories – have been hosted by many of these courses. In 2015, the International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO) declared Slovenia the Undiscovered Golf Destination of the Year 2015.

Moravske Toplice



On an area of more than 20,000 square kilometres, Slovenia has 27,000 kilometres of water courses and around 1,300 lakes larger than one hectare. There are 93 species of fish living in Slovenian waters, of which 33 are protected. Sport fishing favours 25 fish species. Most of them can also be caught with an artificial fly. Fly-fishing has a more than a 100-year-long history and the Slovenian fly-fishing school is renowned around the world.

In the land of extraordinary waters:

**FISHING AND** 

**FLY-FISHING** 

#### SALMONIDS

The waters of the Adriatic catchment area are home to particularly interesting native fish species. One of them is the *marble trout* (*Salmo marmoratus*) – the largest salmonid species in Slovenia. The area of the Soča River and its tributaries is considered the most beautiful fly-fishing district, but it is also worth discovering lesser-known Slovenian rivers.

A typical representative of the Danube river basin is the Danube salmon (*Hucho hucho*), the king of Slovenian waters. The rivers suitable for **Danube salmon** fly-fishing are the Sora, Savinja and Kolpa, but you will have the best chance of success on the Sava Bohinjka River.

#### **CYPRINIDS**

Slovenian rivers are also an excellent choice for fishers who like to fish for cyprinids, such as *chub, barbel and carp*, and for *pike*, which are fished with streamers.

Slovenian lakes with large fish are also attractive. The largest carp caught to date in Slovenia weighed more than 34 kilograms!

#### SEA FISHING

In the Slovenian part of the Adriatic Sea, fishers fish from boats for *garfish*, *gilthead seabream and red bream*, and out in the open for *Atlantic mackerel and common dolphinfish*. Those who like spinning from the shore catch squid, cuttlefish, and *European seabass* at river estuaries.

There are **12** *fishing districts* in Slovenia offering authentic fishing and fly-fishing experiences. Respect the rules of the fishing districts!

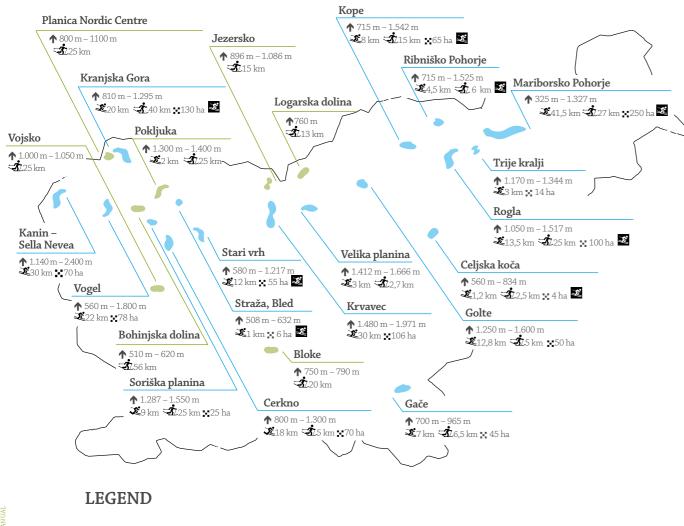
🕼 www.slovenia.info/fishing

#### 👌 www.slovenia.info/golf

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# SKIING IN SLOVENIA

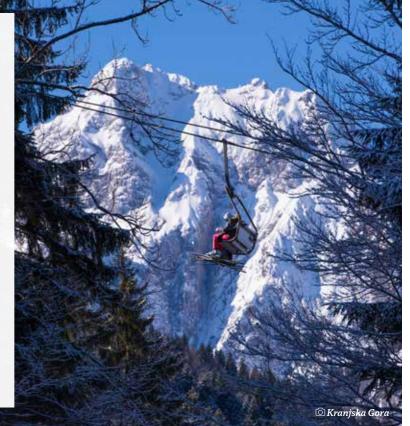
Ten large ski resorts, the Planica Nordic Centre and more than thirty smaller ski resorts and centres for cross-country skiing welcome all types of skiers, cross-country skiers, snowboarders, lovers of sledding, winter hiking and other winter sports, and seekers of less ordinary winter adventures. Slovenia's major advantage are manageable distances and easy access to all major winter centres. Smaller centres all over Slovenia also cater for beginners and families. Also, Slovenia is known for hosting numerous world renowned sporting events and in 2023, Planica will host FIS Nordic World Ski Championships.



Ski centres	↑	Altitude	Ť	Length of	fcross	-country trails
Centres for cross-country skiing	Ľ	Length of ski slopes	×	Ski area	ž	Night skiing

## SKI RESORTS

In addition to well-maintained slopes for Alpine skiing and suitable ski lifts and other devices, the major Slovenian mountain centres provide equipment hire, and have ski schools, catering and accommodation facilities. On rocky and little overgrown high mountain slopes such as Kanin and Vogel, the ski season can last until May. Other ski resorts, such as **Kranjska Gora** in the Julian Alps, Krvavec and Golte in the Kamnik-Savinja Alps, Rogla, the Maribor Pohorje Hills and **Kope** in the Pohorje Hills feature welcoming plateaus among forests. Ski resorts of the pre-Alpine hills such as Cerkno and Stari **vrh** are particularly attractive for families. Numerous smaller ski resorts are an excellent choice for beginners. If you want to experience different ski resorts in Slovenia, SINGLE SKI PASS is exactly what you need. You can choose from individual or family passes that are valid between two and seven days.





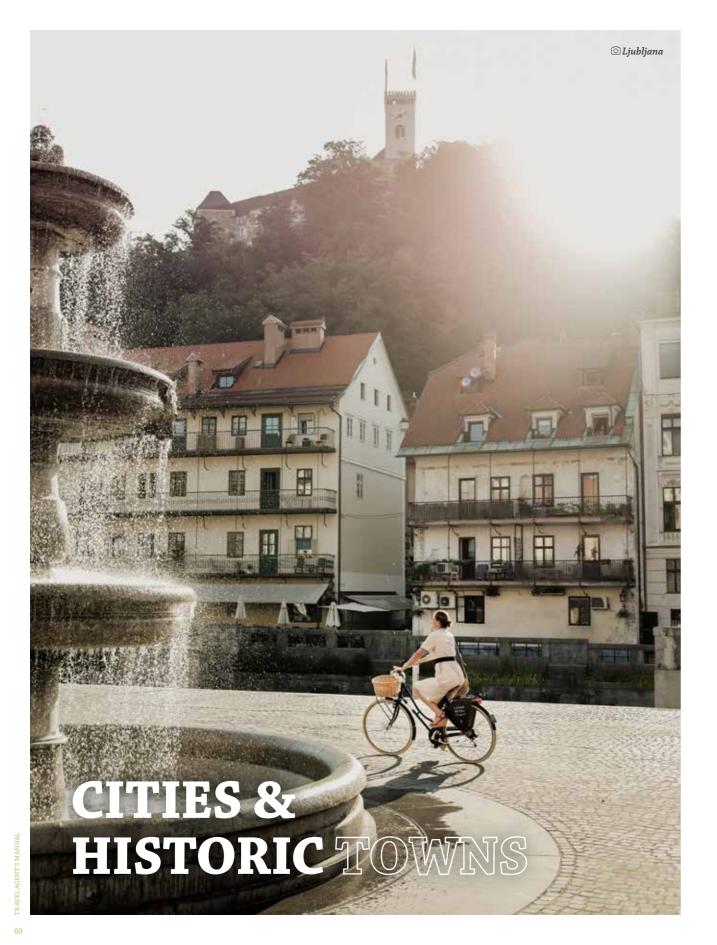
## SKI TOURING

Ski touring enables genuine contact with wild winter nature on off-piste unmarked terrains. There are plenty of options in Slovenia, but don't embark on this exciting journey alone! Even the most experienced should ski tour in pairs, and with a mountain guide to areas they do not know. The experienced mountain/ ski-tour guide will then choose a suitable goal: descent from the top in the vicinity of mountain centres, ascent to the top and descent from it, which can be achieved in one day (for example, to the popular Komna) or a special experience such as the **Juliana Ski Tour** - a four-day trip across the Julian Alps with eight different ski tours.

# SLOVENIA CITIES & CULTURE

Everything is nearby in the only European country where the Alps, the Mediterranean, the Karst and the Pannonian Plain meet. It is only up to a two-hour drive from the capital and Central Slovenia to even the most remote corners of Slovenia. But even a brief encounter with each of them fuels the desire to spend more time discovering its special features and to return to Slovenia.

🛈 Piran



# **EXPERIENCES OF DIFFERENT AGES**

Slovenian cities are small on a global scale, but they offer everything you expect from city life. You can wander through interesting museums and galleries, theatres and exhibitions, churches and castles. You will be fascinated by remains from antiquity and ancient times, its preserved medieval town centres and the original architecture of famous and more contemporary masters. You come across culture at every turn. Summer festivals and numerous events

turn streets and squares into the most interesting venues. Markets and city parks invite you to spend time there. Your curiosity will be sparked by the spaces of innovative urban culture.

Take a themed guided tour. Experience special stories in popular escape rooms and through playful programmes to discover a city's hidden secrets.

## THE THREE LARGEST SLOVENIAN CITIES

*Ljubljana* – the green capital of a green country, the city of Plečnik's architecture and urbanism.

*Maribor* – the city of the oldest grapevine in the world, surrounded by vineyards and green forests of Pohorje.

*Celje* – the city of the Counts of Celje, a European aristocratic family.



## HISTORIC TOWNS OF SLOVENIA NOT TO MISS

Discover the distinctive features of historic towns from different historical eras and the stories associated with their prominent citizens.

Brežice Celje Idrija Jesenice Kamnik Koper Kostanjevica na Krki Kranj Metlika Novo mesto Piran Ptuj Radovljica Ravne na Koroškem Slovenj Gradec Slovenske Konjice Šentjur Škofja Loka Tržič Žužemberk

ASSOCIATION OF HISTORICAL CITIES OF SLOVENIA

## LIVELY CITY BUZZ

Restaurants open onto streets. Summer street festivals boost the city vibe. Several cities are also known for their casinos. The oldest are in Portorož and Bled. They are especially interesting in Nova Gorica, which with its original concept ranks at the very top of the gambling scene in Europe.

Witness the rich festival events in Slovenia. Enjoy the work of top music performers from around the world and the artistic creativity at festivals. Taste Slovenian and global cuisine at diverse gastronomic festivals and experience Slovenian tradition at ethnological festivals. Indulge in children's playfulness in the company of fairy-tale heroes. Which one would you choose? *www.slovenia.info/events* 

# SURPRISING FINDINGS FROM SLOVENIA



An over **50,000-year-old Neanderthal flute** – perhaps the oldest musical instrument in the world. | National Museum of Slovenia An over **5000-year-old wooden wheel** with an axle from the time of the pile-dwellers | City Museum of Ljubljana





*a third* of slovenian cities are protected as monuments



**500 years** from first printed book



# A TREASURE TROVE OF ART FROM PREHISTORIC TIMES UNTIL TODAY.

There are many museums and galleries in Slovenia that deserve your attention in addition to those listed below. They are scattered across the country. Most offer expert guided tours in foreign languages, although groups need to book these in advance.



and galleries

THE NATIONAL MUSEUMS

The National Museum of Slovenia

Slovenian Museum of Natural

The Slovene Ethnographic Museum

Ljubljana | 🖱 www.etno-muzej.si

The Museum of Contemporary

Ljubljana | 🖱 www.muzej-nz.si

The Slovenian Theatre Institute -

History of Slovenia

the Theatre Museum

Bistra | 🗳 www.tms.si

Ljubljana | 🖱 www.slogi.si

The Slovenian Cinematheque

Ljubljana | 😋 www.kinoteka.si

**Technical Museum of Slovenia** 

Stična | 🖱 www.mks-sticna.si

National Gallery of Slovenia

Ljubljana | 🖱 www.ng-slo.si

Ljubljana | 🖱 www.mg-lj.si

Slovenian Museum of Christianity

Ljubljana | 🖱 www.pms-lj.si

**OF SLOVENIA** 

History

Ljubljana | 🖱 www.nms.si



and galleries

#### **THEMATIC MUSEUMS & EXHIBITIONS**

Kobarid Museum Kobarid | 🖱 www.kobariski-muzej.si

> Slovenian Alpine Museum Mojstrana | 🖱 www.planinskimuzej.si

**Museum of Apiculture** Radovljica | 🖱 www.mro.si

The Herman Potočnik Noordung **Center of Space Technologies** Vitanje | & www.center-noordung.si

The Old Vine House Maribor | www.staratrta.si

Božidar Jakac Art Museum Kostanjevica na Krki 🖱 www.galerija-bj.si

THE REGIONAL MUSEUMS OF SLOVENIA

The stories of the Slovenian regions are featured at the Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana, the Maribor Regional Museum at Maribor Castle, the Museum of Gorenjska in Kranj, the Celje Regional Museum, the Koper Regional Museum, Goriška Regional Museum at Kromberk Castle, the Museum of Dolenjska in Novo mesto, the Kočevje Regional Museum, the Posavje Museum in Brežice, the Bela Krajina Museum Metlika, the Ptuj-Ormož Regional Museum at Ptuj Castle, the Murska Sobota Museum of Pomurje, the Koroška Regional Museum, and others. Awww.slovenia.info/museums

42,894 guided tours, workshops and other educational programs

Slovenian Fire Fighting Museum Metlika | 🖱 www.belakrajina.si

House of Illusions Ljubljana | 🖱 www.houseofillusions.si

Expo Cave Karst Postojna | 🖱 www.postojnska-jama.eu

Park of Military History Pivka | C www.parkvojaskezgodovine.si

Shells Museum Piran | & www.svet-skoljk.si

**Coal Mining Museum of Slovenia** Velenje | C muzej.rlv.si

Children's museum Herman's den Celje | & www.muzej-nz-ce.si

Pavilion EXPANO Murska Sobota | 🖱 www.expano.si



# CASTLES, MANORS, **CHURCES AND** MONASTERIES

# SLOVENIA BOASTS A RICH CULTURAL TRADITION

Slovenia is rich in castles, manors, fortresses and fortification systems. These were built at various times during the medieval, Renaissance and Baroque periods, and the first traces of their construction date all the way back to antiquity. Quite a few mighty buildings survived the test of time; in these you can now see various exhibitions and shows, listen to concerts, dine, spend the night, or experience the wedding of your dreams. Slovenia is also a land of churches and wellpreserved monasteries well worth a visit.



more than 150 castles & manors

### **CASTLES & MANORS**

Bled Castle Ø Bled | <sup>CI</sup> www.blejski-grad.si

Ljubljana Castle ♡ Ljubljana | ♂ www.ljubljanskigrad.si

Predjama Castle Postojna | "www.postojnska-jama.eu

Snežnik Castle 🕅 Stari trg pri Ložu 🛛 🦉 www.nms.si

Ptuj Castle 🛛 Ptuj | 😋 www.pmpo.si

Velenje Castle Velenje | & www.muzej-velenje.si

**Bogenšperk** Castle Ø Bogenšperk | @ www.bogensperk.si

Gewerkenegg Castle Idrija | "www.muzej-idrija-cerkno.si

Škofja Loka Castle Škofja Loka | 
 www.loski-muzej.si

Sevnica Castle ♥ Sevnica | ♥ www.gradoviposavja.si

**Brežice** Castle ♥ Brežice | ♥ www.pmb.si

**Rajhenburg** Castle Ø Brestanica | <sup>CI</sup> www.gradrajhenburg.si



3000 sacred buildings & 6 basilicas

<sup>♥</sup> Podsreda | *™ www.castlepodsreda.com* 

Podsreda Castle

Old Castle Celje

Negova Castle

Grad Castle

**Otočec Castle** 

Strmol Castle

Brdo Castle

**Mokrice Castle** 

Prem Castle

<sup>♥</sup> Celje | <sup>™</sup> www.visitcelje.eu

Negova | "www.gradnegova.si

© Grad | <sup>C</sup> www.park-goricko.org

Otočec Grand Ward Contract Con

Predoslje | 3 www.brdo.si

<sup>♥</sup> Jesenice na Dolenjskem

Prem | & www.gradprem.si

SLEEPING IN CASTLES

Something a little extra.

Accommodation where your

special wishes are catered for.

/www.slovenia.info/

sleepinginthecastle

🖱 www.terme-catez.si

Žiče Charterhouse the oldest charterhouse in Central Europe

**CHURCHES** 

The Basilica of Mary Help of Christians 🛛 Brezje | 🗳 www.marija.si

The Basilica of the Virgin Protectress Ptujska gora | & www.ptujska-gora.si

The Church of the Holy Trinity <sup>♥</sup> Hrastovlje | <sup>™</sup> www.visitkoper.si

The Church of the Ascension Ø Bogojina 🗸 www.moravske-toplice.com

The Basilica of the © Cerklje na Gorenjskem | 🖱 www.brdo.si Assumption of Mary 🕅 Sveta Gora | 🖱 www.svetagora.si

#### **MONASTERIES**

**Olimje Minorite Monastery** <sup>♥</sup> Olimje | <sup>™</sup> www.olimje.net

Žiče Charterhouse Špitalič pri Slovenskih Konjicah 🖱 www.rogla-pohorje.si

Charterhouse of Pleterje Šentjernej | "www.kartuzija-pleterje.si

Stična Cistercian Monastery ♥ Stična | ♥ Www.sticna.si

# **SLOVENIA** UNESCO

# **UNESCO SITES OF NATURAL, CULTURAL AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE**

Slovenia is rich in gems of natural and cultural heritage. The UNESCO World Natural and Cultural Heritage List includes five sites in Slovenia, two natural and three cultural, and further four on the Tentative List. The Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage includes four special features of world heritage in Slovenia. In addition, Slovenia also appears in other UNESCO programmes - the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, the Global Geoparks Network, on the UNESCO list of documentary heritage Memory of the World and on the List of Wetlands of International Importance.

# **BOBBIN LACEMAKING IN SLOVENIA**

Discover the tradition of making lace by hand by braiding, twisting and weaving threads wound on special wooden sticks called bobbins. The knowledge was spread by a variety of lace schools, including The Idrija Lace School, which has been operating continuously for more than 140 years.

# THE HERITAGE OF MERCURY IN IDRIJA

Descend into Anthony's Mine Shaft dating from 1500, which is considered the second largest mercury mine in the world and also one of the oldest in Europe. Learn about the technical heritage in the museum at the Gewerkenegg mine castle and in its surroundings.



# THE ART OF DRY STONE WALLING

Slovenia is part of a network of eight countries in which the knowledge and techniques of building walls from local stone without using any binding material are preserved. You can see drystone wall constructions while wandering though the Karst region, where they protect pastures, vineyards and cart tracks.

**ŠKOCJAN CAVES** 

Descend 500 steps into the karst cave with the largest underground canyon in Europe. Deep underground, stalactites, waterfalls, halls and other phenomena created by water await you. The area around the caves is a regional park with educational and cycling trails.

UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List

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UNESCO
Global Geoparks
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UNESCO World Natural Heritage List

UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

**UNESCO Biosphere Reserves** 

Julian Alps Biosphere Reserve

The Karst

Biosphere Reserve



Geopark

Karavanke

Kozjansko & Obsotelje Biosphere Reserve

#### Do not miss a unique performance of the oldest preserved dramatic text in Slovenian presented by a more than 900-member cast. This unique event takes place every 6 years. The importance of the passion play is highlighted by the museum collection at Loka Castle.

<mark>M</mark>ura River **Biosphere** Reserve



# DOOR-TO-DOOR ROUNDS OF **KURENTI AT PTUJ**

Square, and Žale Cemetery.

Traditional Slovenian carnival characters, dressed in sheepskin and equipped with cowbells, drive winter away. Their door-to-door rounds are part of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity. You can see them at the Kurentovanje carnival in Ptuj or on a tour of the museum collection at Ptuj Castle.

THE WORKS OF JOŽE

PLEČNIK IN LJUBLJANA

Feel ispired by the architectural masterpieces

by the renowned Slovenian architect, Jože

Plečnik, who is considered one of the 20th century's greatest architects. Some of his works in Ljubljana are now UNESCO World Heritage listed, among others Triple Bridge, Congress

# **KROKAR AND** SNEŽNIK-ŽDROLCE PRIMEVAL FORESTS

Though you may not enter these UNESCO World Heritage listed primeval forests, which are home to the brown bear, make sure to observe them from marked paths that lead through the Kočevje region, the most densely forested area in Slovenia, and through the Notranjska region.



# PREHISTORIC PILE **DWELLINGS IN THE** LJUBLJANA MARSHES

On themed trails, discover prehistoric pile dwellings in the Ljubliana marshes, which include two areas with the remains of nine settlements – of the 40 pile-dwelling settlements discovered near Ljubljana. Here, also the oldest wooden wheel with an axle in the world was found.



# SLOVENIA HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Slovenia is the land of health and well-being. There are many natural health resorts and thermal spa centres around thermal and mineral water springs. In addition to healing waters, beneficial sea and mountain climates, mud and brine from salt pans, natural peat and many other natural factors are used in therapies. Bees and unspoilt nature found throughout Slovenia also lead you on the path to well-being.

lature Park Sti

# SLOVENIAN NATURAL SPAS

The natural therapeutic effects of thermal water, the beneficial effect of sea and mountain climates with aerosols, salt water and saltpan mud, therapeutic peloids and peat are the medicinal substances that can be found in abundance in Slovenian nature and that form the basis for the operation of 13 Slovenian natural health resorts.

SLOVENIAN SPAS ASSOCIATION

 Terme 3000 - Moravske Toplice & www.sava-hotels-resorts.com
 Radenci Health Resort & www.sava-hotels-resorts.com
 Ptuj Thermal Spa & www.sava-hotels-resorts.com
 Rogaška Medical Centre & www.rogaska-medical.com
 Olimia Thermal Spa & www.terme-olimia.com
 Zreče Thermal Spa & www.terme-zrec.eu

7 Dobrna Thermal Spa
(5 www.terme-dobrna.si
8 Thermana Laško
(5 www.thermana.si

• Čatež Thermal Spa

· Www.terme-catez.si

Dolenjske Toplice Thermal Spa
 www.terme-krka.si
 Šmarješke Toplice Thermal Spa
 www.terme-krka.si
 Terme Portorož
 www.lifeclass.net
 Talaso Strunjan
 www.terme-krka.si

763

10

12 5

# NATURAL HEALING RESOURCES

Natural healing resources	Čatež Thermal Spa	Dobrna Thermal Spa	Dolenjske Toplice Thermal Spa	Thermana Laško	Terme 3000 – Moravske Toplice	Olimia Thermal Spa	Portorož Thermal Spa	Ptuj Thermal Spa	Radenci Health Resort	Rogaška Medical Centr	Talaso Strunjan	Šmarješke Toplice Thermal Spa	Zreče Thermal Spa	1. 1.
Cold drinking mineral water						-5			~	~		E.		
mal mineral water: temp. at source (°C)	42-63	35- 36,3	36-38	32-35	62-73	30-44	23	39	41	55		32	34,5	4
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State-certified health resort	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	ŝ.

# INDICATIONS

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Indications	Čatež Thermal Spa	Dobrna Thermal Spa	Dolenjske Toplice Thermal Spa	Thermana Laško	Terme 3000 – Moravske Toplice	Olimia Thermal Spa	Portorož Thermal Spa	Ptuj Thermal Spa	Radenci Health Resort	Rogaška Medical Centre	Talaso Strunjan	Šmarješke Toplice Thermal Spa	Zreče Thermal Spa	
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Metabolic diseases				3			(1)	~	~	~	-			-
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Neurotic disorders		~		182	~	~		~				~	~	
Respiratory diseases			53									S.	~	1
												CE		4

'RAVEL AGENT'S MANU/



#### WELLNESS AND SELFNESS

#### Good well-being = Self-care in Slovenian spas.

With their traditions, Slovenian health resorts have always been connected with the preservation and restoration of health. In the last few decades, their placement in the environment, natural factors and modern professional approach have also made them places for self-discovery. Wellness with pampering, relaxation and treatment programmes are supplemented by selfness programmes – selfness is a lifestyle which puts physical and mental health, and good energy at the centre. Relax with wellness experiences, invigorate yourself with selfness discoveries.

#### PREVENTION -MEDICAL WELLNESS

#### Preserve your health. Prevent diseases.

Programmes for preventing lifestyle diseases take into account the latest medical findings concerning particular indications. They are based on individualised holistic treatment of guests. They combine modern medicine with natural therapeutic factors and traditional medicine experience.



Rogaška Medical Centre and Donat Mg mineral water, the richest in magnesium.

#### HEALTH TREATMENT

### Improve your health with the help of nature, knowledge and experience.

Come and improve your health in the world-class medical centres and clinics at Slovenian natural health resorts. Experienced specialists in various diseases, state-of-the-art diagnostics equipment, and rehabilitation experts await you.

#### AQUAFUN & THERMAL WATER PARKS

) Thermana Las

#### Thermal water parks = Fun experience in spas.

Slovenian spas have an abundance of outdoor and indoor water areas for swimming in all seasons. Moreover, they also have massage and therapeutic pools, and very attractive water parks with slides. Entertainment for children is also available.

## THERMAL SPA CENTRES

In addition to natural health resorts, you can discover thermal spas and wellness centres. In Thermal Pannonian Slovenia you can experience the unusual paraffin water of **Terme Lendava** and the black thermal water of **Terme Vivat**. The thermal spa in **Banovci** has a campsite and a nudist area. In **Bioterme Mala Nedelja** you can stay in the hotel or choose to go glamping. Under the mountains are **Terme Topolšica** that offer preventive health programmes, **Terme Snovik** which is specialised in kneipping, and **Terme Cerkno** with apartments with a view of the ski slopes. At the foot of the Posavje mountain range is the thermal resort of **Rimske Terme**, whose story started in Roman times. In the southern part of Slovenia are **Terme Paradiso Dobova**, with a special area dedicated to honey and bees.

Thermal Resort Lendava(? www.wellnessresortlendava.com)Terme Vivat(? www.vivat.si)Bioterme Mala Nedelja(? www.bioterme.si)

Terme Topolšica C www.terme-topolsica.si Terme Snovik C www.terme-snovik.si Terme Cerkno C www.ski-cerkno.com Rimske terme I www.rimske-terme.si Terme Paradiso Dobova I www.paradiso.si Terme Banovci I www.terme-banovci.si

O Apitherapy in the apiary

# APITOURISM

Slovenian beekeepers offer original experiences that strengthen your body and soul. Special api arrangements ensuring your well-being are being developed at their apiaries; in many places, bee-related accommodation is available as well. At an apiary, you can discover the beekeeper's secret of long life by inhaling the wonderful aroma of bee products while listening to the bees' buzzing. Pamper yourself with honey skin treatment, or a honey bath. Take care of your looks, health and well-being with honey wellness, relax in a honey sauna and enjoy a honey massage.

> At Slovenia's initiative, the United Nations proclaimed 20 May as World Bee Day, a day for raising awareness about the extraordinary significance of bees for the survival of humankind.

> > &www.apiturizem.si

# SLOVENIA MEETINGS

Slovenia is an excellent choice for boutique motivational travels, as well as small and medium-sized business meetings and events. When you want to offer your participants even more to do in their free time, the diversity of Slovenia and short distances provide countless options. If you are health and safety conscious, you can rely on the holders of the Safe and Healthy Meetings & Events certificate in Slovenia to meet your requirements.

## WHY ORGANISE A MEETING IN SLOVENIA?

#### EXPERTS IN THE PROFESSION

The Slovenian Convention Bureau is a professional intermediary between organisers and clients for services related to congresses, meetings, events, motivational programmes and travels. As a strategic partner of the Slovenian Tourist Board, it will help you find the best solutions and the most suitable partners for your needs.

#### PEOPLE, ADAPTABILITY AND QUALITY

The best trait of professionals who will help you realise your ideas in Slovenia is adaptability. They will seek the best solutions with all their heart and an understanding of your needs. Another advantage of Slovenia is the excellent quality-price ratio.

#### CERTIFIED PROVIDERS AND VENUES

In Slovenia, we follow a personalised approach to achieve an above-standard fulfilment of expectations. When you choose Slovenia, you are inviting your participants to one of the safest countries in the world according to the Global Peace Index. In the current situation, you can also be sure that you are inviting them to a country that is taking all the necessary health protection measures. The Safe and Healthy Meetings & Events certificate awarded by the Slovenian Convention Bureau, in cooperation with the National Institute of Public Health, certifies that the organisers and venues take above-standard measures to ensure the health safety of participants at events.

#### AN ATTRACTIVELY DIVERSE AND ACCESSIBLE COUNTRY

Slovenia is located at the heart of Europe and is accessible from any part of the world. This geographically diverse country offers a wide range of well-equipped venues for organising small and medium-sized events. In addition to professional and organisational support, all venues provide superb cuisine and possibilities for discovering the authentic specialities of Slovenia, which proudly holds the title of the European Region of Gastronomy 2021.

#### SURPRISED AND DELIGHTED BY CHOOSING SLOVENIA

Slovenia is still a relatively hidden gem of a destination for business meetings and motivational travels. As one of the most sustainable countries in the world, in recent years it has developed a series of boutique products which make this green country even more attractive. Its flourishing nature allows you to augment your events with memorable outdoor adventures.

SLOVENIAN CONVENTION BUREAU



#### 7 INNOVATIVE CHOICES FOR MEETINGS IN SLOVENIA

#### OUTDOOR MEAL WITH LIPIZZANER HORSES

After experiencing the stories of Lipica, the oldest European stud farm for white Lipizzaners, surprise your guests with a pop-up picnic under the trees. The participants will enjoy the culinary delights of your choice while watching the herd in the paddock.

#### VINTAGE CAR RALLY OF SURPRISES

Participants, equipped with navigation iPads, go on a ride with vintage cars from Ljubljana to Kras and Istria. Along the way, they discover attractive spots and enjoy private viewings and tastings. They conclude the rally with a dinner and a surprising event on the pier in Portorož.

#### MEDIEVAL GAMES IN BLED

At Bled Castle, participants are welcomed by castle lords and ladies. They then invite them to watch sword fights, dancing and other medieval games. The experience is topped off by a medieval feast. During the warm months, the feast is served on the castle terrace with the view over the lake, the island and Alpine peaks.

#### WINTER CHALLENGES

Pick fun challenges of the snowy Alpine Slovenia in the regions of Bled, Bohinj, Kranjska gora, and Maribor and Pohorje. Provide participants with an opportunity to enjoy snowshoeing, sledging or meeting rescue dogs. Round off your adventures with a meal in a gondola, a picnic in the snow or an après ski party with a DJ.

#### APICULTURALLY WITH BEES

Provide participants with the opportunity to meet a beekeeper by their bee house. In addition to the tastings of honey and honey delicacies, experiences in the Alpine Slovenia can include various beekeeping tasks – from painting beehive panels to planting honey plants or making honeybread.

#### THE CAPITAL IN A DIFFERENT WAY

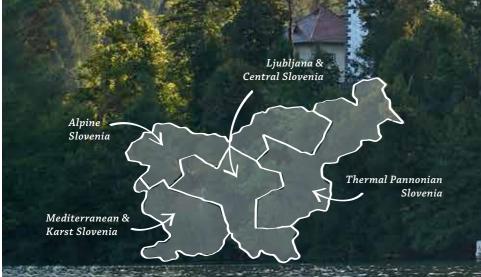
You can offer your participants unusual tailor-made ways of discovering Ljubljana. For example, themes of social responsibility can be linked with learning about urban beekeeping or discovering the invisible Ljubljana with Kralji ulice (Kings of the Street) – representatives of homeless people. The experiences that combine various activities with cuisine will awaken all your senses.

#### UNIQUE EXPERIENCES YOUR WAY

The most original 5-star programmes of unique experiences can serve as an inspiration for your own incentive programme. The most authentic experiences bearing the Slovenia Unique Experiences label, which are only available in Slovenia (see page 26-33), can be fully customised to your requirements. Surprise participants with such an original Slovenian experience!

# 4 TOURIST AREAS FOR 365 DAYS OF EXPERIENCES

Everything is nearby in the only European country where the Alps, the Mediterranean, the Karst and the Pannonian Plain meet. It is only up to a two-hour drive from the capital and Central Slovenia to even the most remote corners of Slovenia. But even a brief encounter with each of them fuels the desire to spend more time discovering its special features and to return to Slovenia.





#### **BLED**

an image of paradise, with its beauty and sustainable way ranks among top 10 destinations according to Lonely Planet. Lake Bled under the peaks of the Julian Alps and the castle perched on a cliff make it one of the most beautiful Alpine resorts in Europe. Thanks to its mild climate, it has the longest bathing season.

C www.bled.si





#### **KRANJSKA GORA**

1

is a mountain tourist and sports resort attractive all year round. In the winter, Alpine skiers compete here and the best ski-jumpers set records in nearby Planica. The highest Slovenian road pass is ready for cyclists and many attractions are in store for hikers.

🖪 www.kranjska-gora.si

#### SOČA VALLEY

a valley of action, energy and discoveries was voted among the 10 best destinations to visit in Europe in 2021. The emerald-green river hosts numerous water sports and fishing. The Walk of Peace, which unveils the heritage of World War I, runs along the mountains above the river. 🕼 www.soca-valley.com



## **TOP 5** things to do

COSMOPOLITAN IN BLED.

Let a pletna boat take you to Bled Island. Ring the church bell for good luck. Visit Bled Castle for the best views. Taste Bled cream cake.

#### **RESPONSIBLE IN BOHINJ.**

A place in the Triglav National Park is a place of responsible mobility Alpine Pearls. Come by public transport. Climb on the museum train on the scenic railway line. Visit the International Wild Flower Festival.

#### NATURAL IN THE TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK.

Neat trails lead you to treasures of nature. Watch animals and take pictures of them on tours with guides. See multi-image presentations and exhibitions at information centres.

#### IN TOUCH WITH WATER IN THE SOČA VALLEY.

Experience rafting, canyoning and other water sports. Visit natural swimming pools, treat yourself to some fishing. See the Soča River from the air or from vantage points along hiking trails.

#### VISTAS IN THE LOGAR VALLEY.

Let the views of one of the most beautiful glacial valleys in Europe astonish you on the Solčava panoramic road. Go to the Rinka Waterfall, visit homesteads with old crafts.

BOHINJ

🖰 www.bohinj.si

#### CERKNO

Gorges and canyons, just like the one in which the famous Franja Partisan Hospital is located, are one of the many faces of Cerkno, which will surprise visitors with its special Shrovetide ('Pust') traditions, an archaeological site where the oldest flute in the world was found, a family friendly ski centre, and new ways of experiencing selfness in the forest.





#### MARIBOR - POHORJE

Maribor, the city with the oldest vine in the world, is an excellent starting point for exploring eastern Slovenia. On one side, it touches the Pohorje Hills, which have ski centres and hiking and cycling trails, and on the other it continues into areas famous for wine growing.

🖰 www.visitmaribor.si



attracts visitors with its extensive forests, peat bog and lakes. One of the attractions inviting you to visit the ski centre on Rogla and the spa in Zreče is also the Pohorje Treetop Walkway on a wooden construction 20 metres above the ground. Near Slovenske Konjice are the Žiče Charterhouse and the oldest inn in Slovenia, and not far away also KSEVT, the Cultural Centre of European Space Technologies.



#### RADOVLJICA

a medieval town with a moat and views of the Karavanke Alps, is known today as Sweet Radovljica (Radol'ca). The tradition of beekeeping and honey is supplemented with new sweet experiences.

😋 www.radolca.si





#### UPPER SAVINJA VALLEY

preserves the essence of Alpine life. Feel nature in the iconic glacial Logar Valley, on tours to the Kamnik - Savinja Alps, in the Mozirski Gaj Flower Park and in Snežna jama Cave, the highest located tourist cave in Slovenia.

🖰 www.visitsavinjska.com



#### KOROŠKA

1 Koroška

- 1095

a hilly region with mighty forests, charms with the treasures of the UNESCO Global Geopark Karavanke, with the Topla Nature Park and the mining underground world of Peca. You can also travel along it by bike and kayak.

🕝 www.koroska.si

# MEDITERRANEAN & KARST SLOVENIA

#### IZOLA

is a town with a fishing tradition. Special experiences of the sea are provided by the legendary sunken ocean liner and a marine archaeological park. The Strunjan Cliff invites you to hikes in nature, while the green outskirts are famous for wine-growing and olive treegrowing.

🖰 www.visitizola.com



## PORTOROŽ AND PIRAN

are surrounded by salt pans from both sides. The value of the famous salt made the medieval rise of the picturesque Piran. In cosmopolitan Portorož, salt is today part of wellness options, one of the most complete in Europe.

🖰 www.portoroz.si



## **TOP 5** things to do

#### WORLD FAMOUS.

A train on the oldest cave railway in the world will take you among the stalagmites and stalactites of Postojna Cave. A trail with a bridge that is 50 m above the bed of an underground river will lead you to the underground canyon in Škocjan Caves.

#### MEDITERRANEAN TOWNS.

Discover the differences between the medieval towns of Piran and Koper. Meet the health resort tradition and the cosmopolitan coastal area of Portorož, and the fishing tradition of Izola. Go to Istria, the green outskirts of coastal towns.

Ô Škocjan Caves

#### TRADITIONAL SALT PANS.

Visit the Sečovlje Salt Pans which are among the oldest still operational salt pans in the world. Ride a bike to the Museum of Saltmaking and relax in a wellness resort – outdoors, in the salt pans.

#### NOBLE HORSES.

After seeing the oldest stable of white Lipizzaner horses in Lipica in the Karst, treat yourself to a show of the Classical Riding School, visit a museum, ride a horse around the region or take a carriage ride.

#### DIFFERENT ARCHITECTURE.

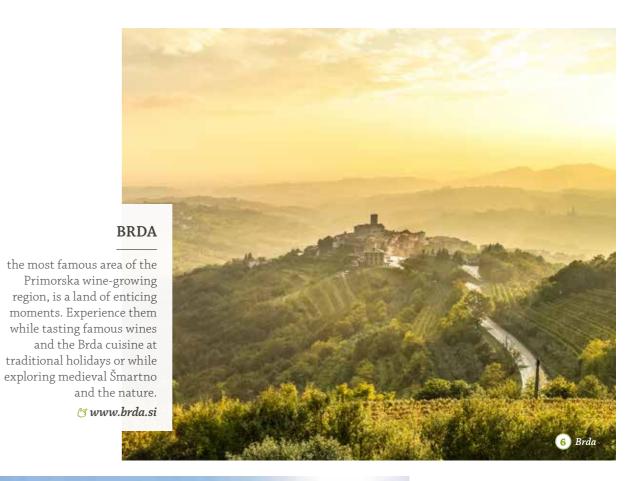
Learn about the original creations of the architect Maks Fabiani during a guided tour of medieval Štanjel in the Karst. Check out the Ferrari Garden and enter the Karst House, the oldest building in Štanjel.



KOPER

is a town of a hundred suns which adorn the medieval Venetian palaces. The sun warms up the lagoon of the Škocjanski Zatok Nature Reserve with hundreds of birds, the Karst Edge and world famous climbing areas. Istrian cuisine draws you to numerous events.

🕝 www.visitkoper.si





#### ANKARAN

is renowned for its mild climate with favourable health effects. The town which hosts one of the largest campsites in Slovenia touches Debeli rtič which is a protected coastal area with a Mediterranean park.

🖰 www.visitankaran.si

4 Ankaran



#### THE KARST

surprises with Postojna Cave, which is the most visited cave in Europe, Škocjan Caves with an extraordinary underground gorge and other world famous special features. Lipica has been the original stud farm of white Lipizzaner horses since 1580. Štanjel is the architectural gem of the Karst. Be stunned by the intermittent Lake Cerknica. Once the water from the karst underground fill it up, you can go for a boat ride on Slovenia's largest lake. In Pivka, go on board a submarine and see the items displayed in the Park of Military History. Culinary offer can be found along the Brkini Fruit Road and the Karst Wine Route.

Www.zelenikras.si
Www.visitkras.info



#### NOVA GORICA AND THE VIPAVA VALLEY

are a crossroads of diversity on the border – without borders. In the Transalpina Square, you can stand in two countries at the same time. The traditions of the fruit-growing and wine-growing valley are enriched with casino experiences. (3 www.vipavskadolina.si

# THERMAL PANNONIAN SLOVENIA



#### PTUJ

is an old town of new experiences. The castle above the town of the oldest wine cellars overlooks the streets with one of the most interesting carnivals in the world, which is entered in the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Ptuj Thermal Spas is nearby.

🖰 www.visitptuj.eu

#### THE POMURJE REGION

Feel the difference between the various Pomurje healing waters: black thermo-mineral water in Moravske Toplice, thermal and drinking water in Radenci and green paraffin water in Lendava. Here, you can also climb to the top of Vinarium Tower offering a stunning view of four countries. Discover the specific features of the landscape by the Mura River in the many virtual presentations of the Expano pavilion in Murska Sobota.

🖰 www.visitpomurje.eu





#### VELENJE AND TOPOLŠICA

invite you to the town of the unique underground Coal Mining Museum and to a Topolšica Thermal Spa in the midst of green forests. Velenje has an attractive beach by the lake and hosts the largest children's festival in Slovenia.

😋 www.velenje-tourism.si

## **TOP 5** things to do

#### HEALTHY WATERS.

In addition to thermal and mineral water, this is also home to famous mineral waters Donat Mg and Radenska. Treatment, prevention and medical wellness programmes in health resorts include, in addition to healing waters, the benefits of the climate, peat, healing mud and other natural factors.

#### RELAXATION IN THERMAL WATER.

This part of Slovenia is home to 13 Slovenian natural thermal spas and many wellness resorts. Wellness and selfness programmes, swimming and entertainment in swimming pools with water attractions ensure an excellent break.

#### CASTLES AND CONVENTS.

In addition to historical towns, Ptuj and Celje castles and a set of castles in the Posavje region, various convents and monasteries related to the traditions of herbalism, cheese making, chocolate making etc. are also worth visiting.

#### LOCAL DELICACIES.

The cuisine is based on local ingredients and hundreds of years old recipes. The best addition to dishes are top local wines from the Podravje and Posavje wine-growing regions, Slovenian special wine Cviček and beer made from Slovenian hops.

#### ACCOMMODATION AMONG NATURE.

A hotel in a thermal spa or a town, a tourist farm, an apartment, camping or glamping – you are in touch with nature anywhere you choose. This is demonstrated by environmental certificates for high-quality accommodation.



#### DOBRNA

is a place with the oldest Slovenian thermal spa linked to the centre with a mighty chestnut alley, while pleasant walking and educational forest trails link it to the energy park, green nature and attractions in the surroundings.

🖰 www.visitdobrna.si





is the town of the Counts of Celje on account of one of the most powerful European noble families. The Old Castle of Celje and the town centre are surrounded by a green environment where you can take an active break. Hop-growing Žalec is home to the internationally known attraction the Green Gold Fountain.

🖰 www.travelcelje.com





is the confluence of well-being and health, brewing, beekeeping and herbalism. In the town below a castle, the Thermana Laško Thermal Spa is located right next to the Savinja River, and the Rimske terme Spa is not far away.

🖰 www.lasko.info



#### DOLENJSKA

a region of thermal springs along the Krka River, invites you to from the thermal spas of Šmarješke Toplice and Dolenjske Toplice and to Novo mesto with its globally important archaeological heritage. The quirky Slovenian wine called Cviček is produced around the town of situlae. 🕑 www.visitdolenjska.eu



ROGAŠKA SLATINA

is a place of glass production and unique mineral water Donat Mg which contains the most magnesium in the world. The promenade among the Secession buildings has been connecting a health resort and a top medical centre for centuries.

🖱 www.visit-rogaska-slatina.si



#### THE POSAVJE REGION WITH THE ČATEŽ THERMAL SPA

8 Rogaška Slatina

is full of opportunities for experiences 365 days a year. The largest thermal riviera is near the confluence of the Sava and Krka rivers, which are the longest Slovenian rivers. The area is also home to six picturesque castles.

🖰 www.posavje.com

#### PODČETRTEK

Podčetrtek, the European Destination of Excellence 2019, lies at the very heart of the region by the Sotla River. The Terme Olimia spa and the village of Olimje with its monastery and one of Europe's oldest apothecaries beckon visitors to stop by. Here, you can also discover the distinctive features of the UNESCO Kozjansko and Obsotelje Biosphere Reserve and the Kozjansko Regional Park with meadow orchards and Podsreda Castle. 🖰 www.visitpodcetrtek.com

# LJUBIJANA & CENTRAL



#### LJUBLJANA

is the green capital and European Best Destination to visit in 2022, by European Best Destinations. The wholesome image of the town by the river, featuring numerous picturesque bridges and a charming marketplace, was designed by the worldwide renowned Slovenian architect, Jože Plečnik, whose works are listed on UNESCO World Heritage List. The town of a thousand events is surrounded by parks and natural protected areas.

🖰 www.visitljubljana.com

#### KAMNIK

is a medieval town with two castles, a convent and a picturesque street of craftsmen. It is inseparably connected with the Velika Planina Plateau and its shepherds. It only takes a few minutes for you to reach the largest Slovenian botanical garden and the Terme Snovik Spa, the spa closest to the capital. 🕑 www.visitkamnik.com





#### **CERKLJE NA GORENJSKEM**

is a starting point for hiking and biking trails and ascents to Krvavec where you can ski in winter. In addition to many churches, a special attraction is Strmol Castle, one of the oldest preserved castles with extraordinary stories of contemporary history.

🕼 www.tourism-cerklje.si

## **TOP 5** things to do

#### MOST URBAN.

Discover Plečnik's Ljubljana in the cultural centre of Slovenia. Ascend to the castle, take a boat ride on the river, visit museums and galleries, enjoy festivals and numerous events.

#### SHEPHERD'S LOVE.

While strolling around the old centre of Kamnik and along the Velika Planina Plateau, taste Trnič cheese, which used to be an expression of a shepherd's love for a girl in the valley, and other typical dishes from Kamnik.

#### PREHISTORIC PILEDWELLINGS.

With remnants of the prehistoric culture of pile dwellers and the discovery of the oldest wheel in the world, the Ljubljana Marshes are part of UNESCO heritage. Educational and other trails run along the wetland.

#### MYSTERIOUS FORESTS.

You can discover the most pristine nature and primeval forests during short or multi-day hikes on well-marked trails in the Kočevje region. Taste the forest honey from the Kočevje region with protected designation of origin.

#### INSPIRED BY THE RIVER.

The Kolpa River, which is the warmest Slovenian river providing plenty of opportunities for water sports, is one of the European destinations of excellence in Slovenia. The crossroads of three religions and five nationalities captivates with experiences of folk tradition.





#### THE BELA KRAJINA REGION

along the legendary border river Kolpa amazes with images of litter meadows full of silver birches. Črnomelj, Metlika and Semič are towns with quirky folklore, handicrafts, wine and excellent dishes.

Kočevsko

🕝 www.belakrajina.si

#### THE KOČEVJE REGION WITH THE KROKAR PRIMEVAL FOREST

which is a UNESCO World Heritage site is a true mysterious forest of Slovenia. The most complete forest habitat in Europe is home to bears. Hiking and biking trails wind around the marvellous nature. & www.kocevsko.com





#### IDRIJA

the UNESCO World Heritage site of the second largest mercury mine in the world, is also a town of original lace making and cuisine and peculiar technical heritage. Meet klavže – Slovenian pyramids and visit the UNESCO Global Geopark

🕑 www.visit-idrija.si

# GETTING TO ANI WHERE TO STAY

From luxury hotels to tourist farms, from private rooms to camping grounds. An exclusive offer of glamping accommodation or staying at the vineyard cottages. In Slovenia, you will find accommodation to suit every taste.

🕲 www.slovenia.info/where-to-stay

Find your own green hotel, a tourist farm, or other accommodation with one of the environmental labels (EU Eco-Label, Green Globe, Travelife, Tour Cert, Green Key, or Bio Hotels), which has also been given the sustainable tourism quality label Slovenia Green Accommodation.

🕼 www.slovenia.info/sloveniagreen



ASSOCIATION OF SLOVENIAN NATURAL SPAS

ASSOCIATION OF HISTORICAL CITIES OF SLOVENIA © www.slovenia-historic-towns.com

SLOVENIAN CONVENTION BUREAU

🛪 www.slovenia-convention.com

HIKING & BIKING SLOVENIA

ី www.slovenia-outdoor.com

ASSOCIATION OF TOURIST FARMS OF SLOVENIA & www.farmtourism.si

ALPINE ASSOCIATION OF SLOVENIA & www.pzs.si

HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL SLOVENIA & www.youth-hostel.si

#### LATEST TRAVEL INFORMATION

Slovenia is easily accessible from all neighbouring countries, as it has good road and rail connections, with daily flights from major European airports. Useful information and safety guidelines for carefree travel to Slovenia are available at

🕼 www.slovenia.info/planyourtrip





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