



I FEEL
SLOVENIA

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES
SLOVENIA

www.slovenia.info
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TOP CULTURAL SIGHTS

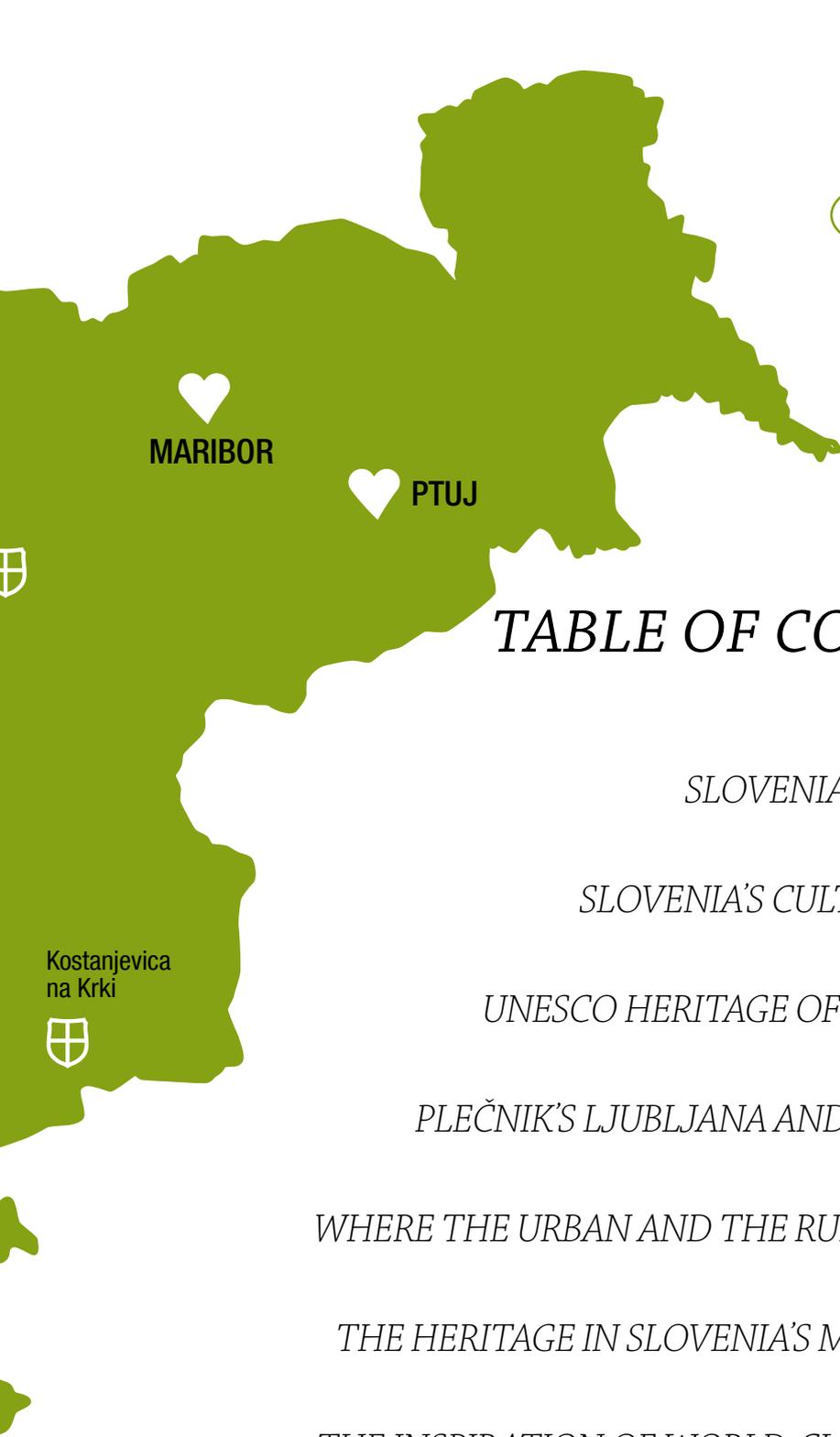
- LJUBLJANA – old city centre and the castle, Plečnik’s Ljubljana
- BLED – island and castle
- PIRAN – old town centre
- LIPICA – Lipizzaner horses and the karst landscape
- POSTOJNA- Predjama Castle and Postojna Cave
- PTUJ – old town centre
- CELJE - Old Castle and town centre
- MARIBOR – the oldest grapevine in the world

UNESCO HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

- Idrija
- Ljubljana Marshes
- Škocjan Caves
- Primeval forests of Krokar and Snežnik-Zdroc
- The Škofja Loka Passion Play

HISTORICAL TOWNS AND CITIES

- | | | |
|---------|----------------------|------------|
| Idrija | Slovenske Konjice | Kranj |
| Piran | Novo mesto | Radovljica |
| Koper | Kostanjevica na Krki | Tržič |
| Ptuj | Žužemberk | Jesenice |
| Metlika | Škofja Loka | Kamnik |



HU

MARIBOR

PTUJ

Kostanjevica
na Krki

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IT'S SLOVENIA CULTURE TIME

*Slovenia is officially one of the greenest countries in the world. It is the proud winner of the World Legacy Award given by the renowned National Geographic to the planet's most sustainable destinations. Discover Slovenia's incredible sights on UNESCO's World Heritage List. The preserved natural and cultural treasures are the pride of local communities, and they include historical towns and cities or mysterious forests and karst underworld. Slovenia's countryside is always only a stone's throw away from urban areas, so this is why the cultural landscape in the area between the Alps, the Adriatic Sea, and the Pannonian Plains is so attractive. We would like to invite you to discover the mysterious combination of cultural sights and natural patterns which have had their meeting point here, at the crossroads of nations and regions, for centuries. Culture opens doors to travellers into the world of artistic creativity and architecture, into the history of culture and the modern way of life. Come on in, **it's Slovenia Culture Time!***



*THE NUMBER
TAKES US THROUGH
SPACE AND TIME*

5

Slovenia's history likes the number 5, so there are many anniversaries and accomplishments connected to this number. The Slovenia Culture catalogue accompanies you through time and space, among stories and people. Every chapter lists 5 highlights for your itinerary. It takes you on a journey from Ljubljana, the capital city and the cultural capital, all over the country. Spring, summer, autumn, and winter in Slovenia are complemented by an additional 5th year-long season of cultural experiences and events. Welcome to your cultural holiday in Slovenia!

SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE CULTURE IN SLOVENIA

50.000 year-old (or more) Neanderthal flute found in the Divje Babe Cave

5.000 year-old (or more) wooden wheel with an axle from the Ljubljana Marshes

5 centuries of the oldest grapevine in the world from Maribor

5 UNESCO sites of natural, cultural, and intangible heritage

150 and more castles

500 years from the first Slovenian printed books

500 years of operation of the oldest Slovenian mine in Idrija

the 1950s in Ljubljana and the birth of the icons of graphic art and festival tradition

50 years of uninterrupted work by the giant of architecture – Jože Plečnik

The 5th year-long season of cultural events, intertwined with the four seasons



The first musical instrument in the world

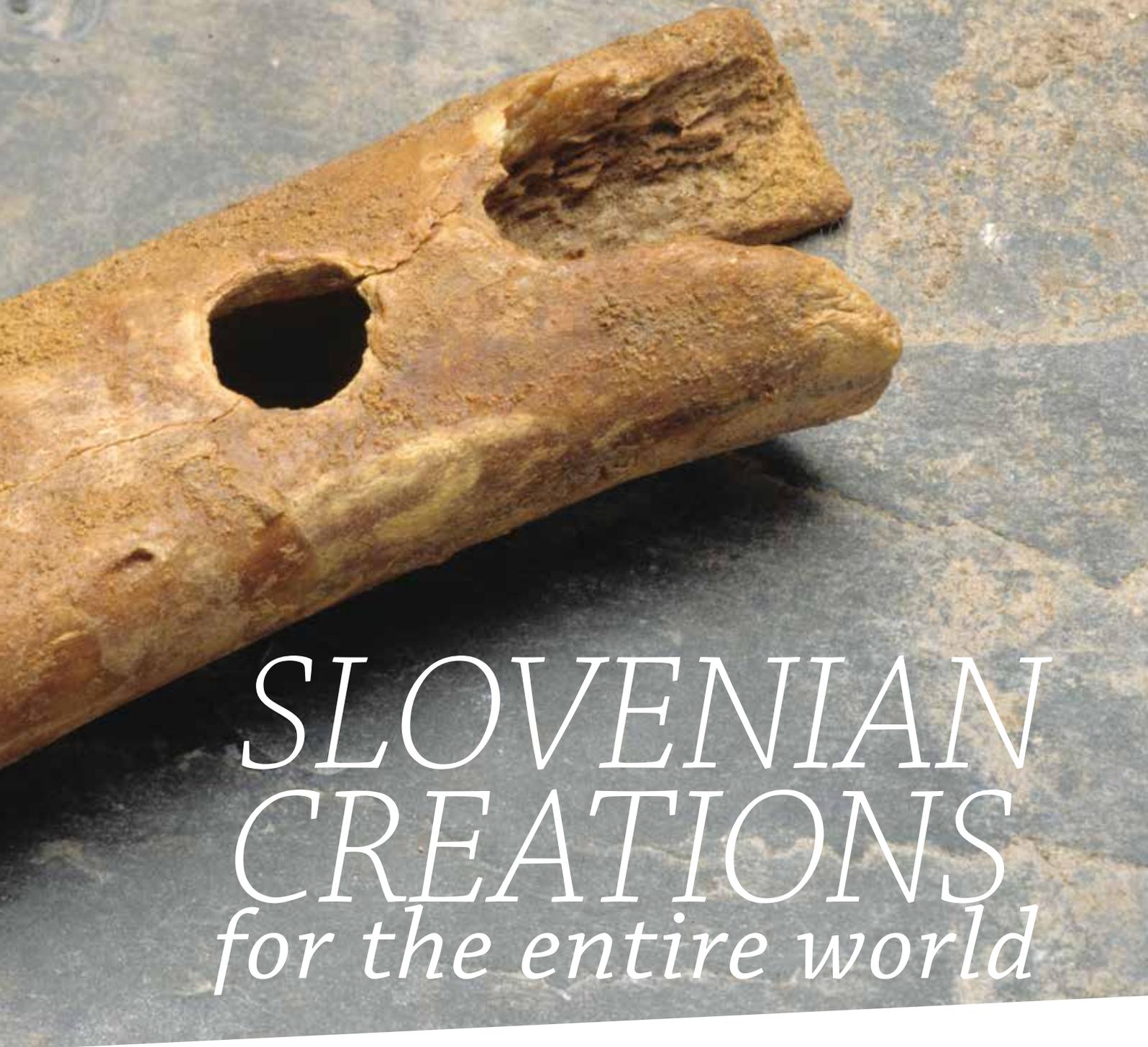
The first known musical instrument in the world is Slovenia's significant contribution to music history. A flute made of cave bear bone, which was discovered in the Divje Babe Cave, is the only such instrument in the world, made and used by Neanderthals. Archaeologists believe that this instrument is almost 60,000 years old. This valuable artefact of global importance can be seen at the National Museum of Slovenia.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SLOVENIA, www.nms.si
DIVJE BABE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK, www.divje-babe.si

Slovenia's recognisable sounds

Slovenia is a crossroads of Europe's cultural creativity with one of the oldest professional musical institutions in Europe. Among others, the famous Gustav Mahler also conducted and composed at the Academia Philharmonicorum (Slovenian Philharmonic). The exceptional character of the Slovenian musical gene is evident from various musical genres and artists – from the cult avant-garde group Laibach to the Avsenik Brothers Ensemble; who are the founders of a new musical genre – folk-pop music. Without the Avsenik sound and the popular Na Golici polka, there would be no real Alpine atmosphere.

THE AVSENIK MUSEUM, www.avsenik.com/muzej
SLOVENIAN PHILHARMONIC, www.filharmonija.si



SLOVENIAN CREATIONS *for the entire world*

The first wooden wheel in the world

Exploring the pre-historical pile-dweller culture in the Ljubljana Marshes brought archaeologists to the discovery of the oldest wooden wheel with an axle in the world. It is more than 5,000 years old. The Alpine pile-dwelling culture dating back thousands of years has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The wheel that surprises us with its ingenious design can be seen at the new permanent exhibition at the City Museum of Ljubljana as of 2018.

CITY MUSEUM OF LJUBLJANA, www.mgml.si/mestni-muzej-ljubljana

High-profile biennials

Ljubljana was a European centre of art and design as early as in the 1950s and 1960s. The Ljubljana Biennial of Graphic Arts and its exhibitions of world-renowned graphic art is one of the oldest of its kind. The Biennial of Industrial Design is known for Slovenian design hits, such as the Iskra ETA 80 telephone by Davorin Savnik, the most copied and manufactured telephone in the world the eternal Rex wooden chair by Niko Kralj the K67 kiosk by Saša Mächtig and the microphone by Marko Turk. New generations around the world are now recognising products designed by Slovenian stars of modern design: Lara Bohinc, Jure Miklavc, and Nika Zupanc.

MUSEUM OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN, www.mao.si
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF GRAPHIC ARTS, www.mgic-lj.si

SLOVENIA'S CULTURAL ICONS



Welcome to the land of picturesque castles and old town centres, which are only a stone's throw away from stunning natural beauties.

City of Ljubljana and Ljubljana Castle

Ljubljana, the European Green Capital 2016, is the cultural capital of Slovenia. The city centre, which is fully adapted to pedestrians and cyclists, is like an outdoor architectural picture book. The famous Three Bridges have witnessed countless kisses already as couples meet in the heart of the city. From here, you can see the medieval Ljubljana Castle dominating the city, baroque and art nouveau architecture, bridges, embankments, arcades inspired by the ideals of Antiquity and designed by Jože Plečnik.

LJUBLJANA TOURISM, www.visitljubljana.com

LJUBLJANA CASTLE, www.ljubljanskigrad.si





Bled and its island and castle

In the middle of a glacial lake, under Alpine peaks, your attention is drawn to an island with a Gothic and baroque church. A cliff with the medieval Bled Castle rises above the water, offering views of the mountains and forests. This is the famous image of Slovenia that is most commonly seen around the world. Come prepared to enjoy some sweets. Treat yourself to lunch at Bled and order a piece of cream cake. Then take a traditional pletna boat to the island housing not only a wishing bell and golden altars, but also a treasure trove of potica cakes, famous Slovenian desserts.

BLED TOURISM, www.bled.si

BLED CASTLE, www.blejski-grad.si



Ptuj, its castle and Kurenti

Ages ago, the ancient Roman road already connected the western and eastern part of what is today Slovenia. In Ptuj, the oldest town in Slovenia, medieval roads ran above the arched underground where a wine cellar with the oldest history in Slovenia is hidden. Ptuj is a cheerful town that makes sure every year Kurenti invite spring. The most famous Slovenian carnival mask is already on the UNESCO Tentative List. You can see an exhibition on Kurentovanje celebrations at Ptuj Castle.

PTUJ TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE, www.ptuj.info

PTUJ CASTLE: www.pmpo.si





Piran and its medieval wall

In Piran, enjoy the sound of the sea and the echoes in narrow medieval alleys. Olive trees, grapevines, and orchards grow beyond the walls that spread from the 16th century onwards and encircled the entire town. The town was made famous around the world by Venetian painters and builders and Tartini's violin, as salt production tradition and trade spread. The façade of the Benečanka (Venetian), the most famous building in Tartini Square, features a meaningful inscription: *Lassa pur dir* – Let them speak. An authentic promenade takes you past the boats of local fishermen to Portorož, a resort with a spa tradition and salt therapies – this town is still distinguished by the elegance and glamour dating back to the time of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

PIRAN TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE, www.portoroz.si



Predjama Castle and Postojna Cave

Predjama Castle is famous for being the largest cave castle in the world. A cliff and a karst cave provided shelter in the 16th century to the famous knight Erazem Predjamski, who received supplies through an underground tunnel and found fresh water in the subterranean world. Just a few kilometres away, you can visit Postojna Cave and discover a kingdom of stalactites and stalagmites and dragon babies, which is a pet name for the indigenous human fish (Proteus). Visit the Expo Postojna Cave Karst exhibition to learn about 200 years of organised tourism at the cave.

POSTOJNA CAVE, www.postojnska-jama.eu

POSTOJNA TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE, www.visitpostojna.com





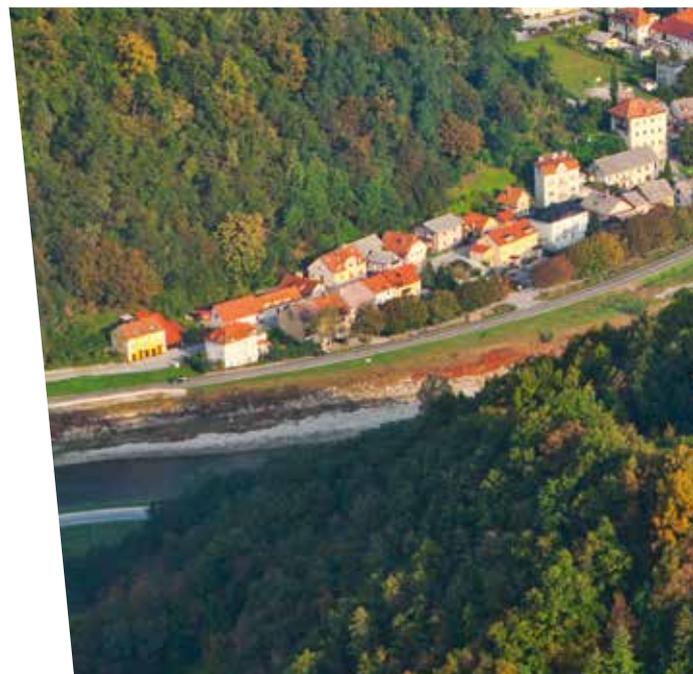
Celje and Celje Castle

In the town on the River Savinja with an ancient atmosphere, one can still sense the spirit of the Counts of Celje, Slovenia's mightiest family of all time. In the Middle Ages, the Celje family were princes of the Holy Roman Empire, and Barbara of Celje was the Queen of Hungary, Germany, and Bohemia, and the highest crowned person in Slovenian history. Her brother Friderik forgot his family's political commitments once he met Veronika, the woman of his dreams. This was the most famous Slovenian love tragedy. The Counts left behind the largest Slovenian medieval castle and the three stars in the national coat-of-arms.

ZAVOD CELEIA CELJE, www.celje.si

CELJE CASTLE, www.grad-celje.com

CELJE REGIONAL MUSEUM, www.pokmuz-ce.si





Maribor and the Old Vine

The Old Vine in Maribor, Slovenia's second largest city and the 2012 European Capital of Culture, is almost five centuries old. The tenacious one, as they call it, has been entered into the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest grapevine in the world that still produces grapes of the Modra Kavčina variety. The crop of the Old Vine is a testament to the love of wine culture in eastern, sun-kissed Slovenia. You can admire the Old Vine in the old city centre on the bank of the River Drava, where the people of Maribor hold the Lent Festival, Slovenia's largest summer open-air festival.

MARIBOR - POHORJE TOURIST BOARD, www.visitmaribor.si

THE OLD VINE, www.staratrtta.com



Lipica Stud Farm

The oldest stud farm in Europe with uninterrupted horse breeding is home to the Lipizzaner horses that have been galloping here since 1580. The herd of these noble, enduring, and mostly white horses is the most beautiful in the morning when they are released from their enclosures and they freely gallop as their manes flutter in the Karst wind. Discover the vast estate as you take a walk or a carriage ride drawn by Lipizzaner horses. Don't miss a visit to the Lipizzaner Museum with its collection of original horse care objects. There is also an old manor that houses the Avgust Černigoj Gallery. Černigoj was one of the most prominent representatives of the Slovenian avant-garde.

LIPICA STUD FARM, www.lipica.org

VISIT KRAS, www.visitkras.info



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World Heritage
in Slovenia

UNESCO HERITAGE OF HUMANITY





United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World Heritage
in Slovenia

There are 5 cultural, natural, and intangible sights in Slovenia that are on the UNESCO List of World Natural and Cultural Heritage. The architecture of Jože Plečnik, the conventional Karst with more than 11,000 subterranean caves, where the science of karstology began developing and spreading worldwide, and the Walk of Peace with World War I heritage are all candidates for inclusion among the world's heritage elite. The Shrovetide Carnival mask kurent or even Slovenian lace might soon join the Škofja Loka Passion Play, the oldest preserved dramatic text in Europe, on the list of intangible heritage. Slovenia has two geoparks in the UNESCO network – the Karavanke Alps with the Peca underground and Idrija with its geological fault. The UNESCO biosphere reserves include the Julian Alps and its highest peak and the symbol of Slovenia, Mt Triglav, the Karst, Kozjansko, and Obsotelje regions. The capital, Ljubljana, is a UNESCO City of Literature.

Idrija – the second largest mercury mine in the world

In the late 15th century, a local wooden bucket-maker discovered something shiny in a stream between the Alps and the Mediterranean. This marks the beginning of the story of the second largest mercury mine in the world, which operated without interruption for almost 500 years. Idrija is a town protected as UNESCO heritage, which is not only hidden in underground tunnels, but also in the town centre and its surroundings. Idrija has a 300-year-old bobbin lace tradition, and Idrija lace masterpieces are quite remarkable on a global scale as well.

CENTRE FOR IDRİJA HERITAGE, www.visit-idrija.si
ANTHONY'S MAIN ROAD AND THE MERCURY SMELTING PLANT,
www.cudhg-idrija.si

The Škofja Loka Passion Play

The Škofja Loka Passion Play is the oldest Slovenian drama text. The largest performance in Slovenia takes place in Škofja Loka every six years. This unique play that fills the town streets in the original Lent period does not only show the Way of the Cross, but also a unique combination of images from the Old and the New Testaments performed by hundreds of locals from Škofja Loka and the nearby villages.

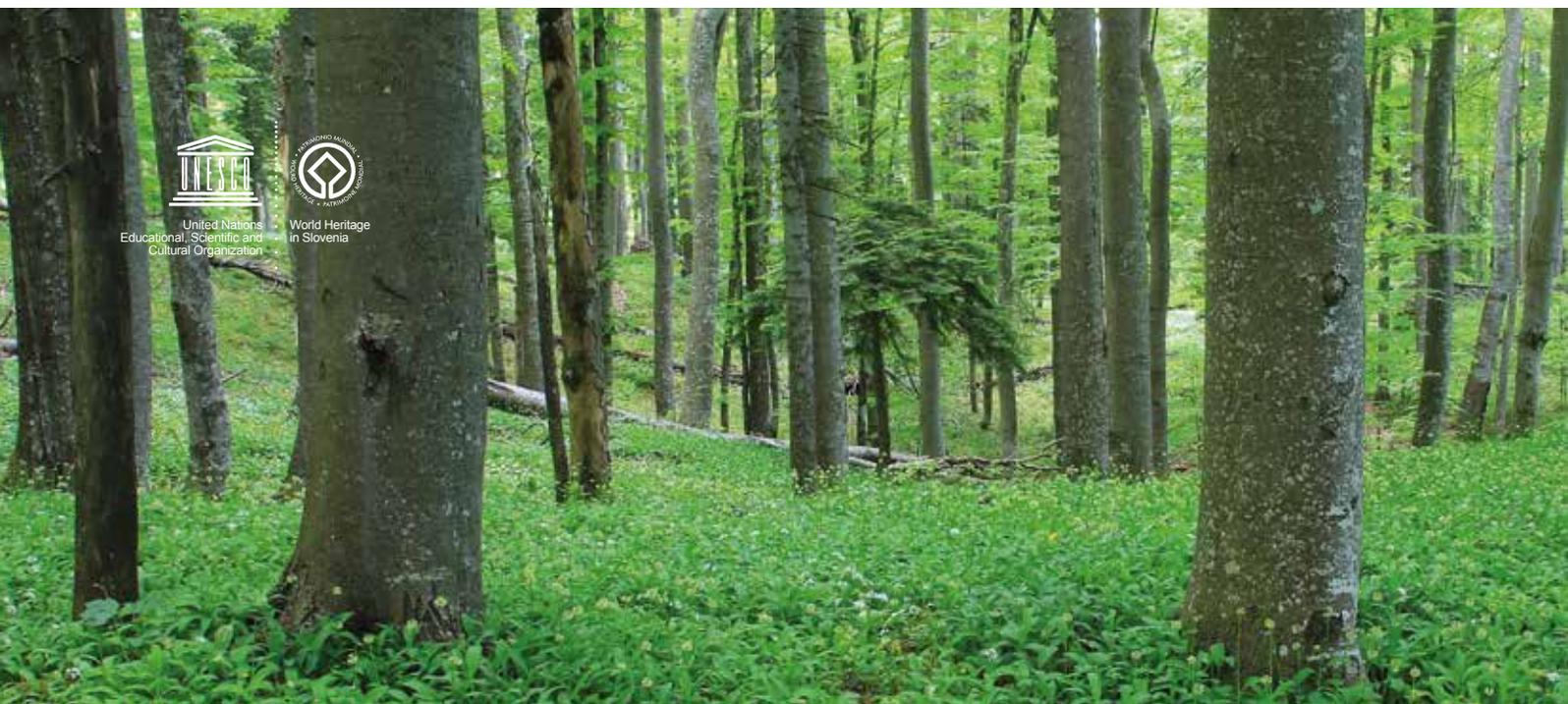
THE ŠKOFJA LOKA PASSION PLAY, www.pasijon.si
ŠKOFJA LOKA TOURISM, www.visitskofjaloka.si

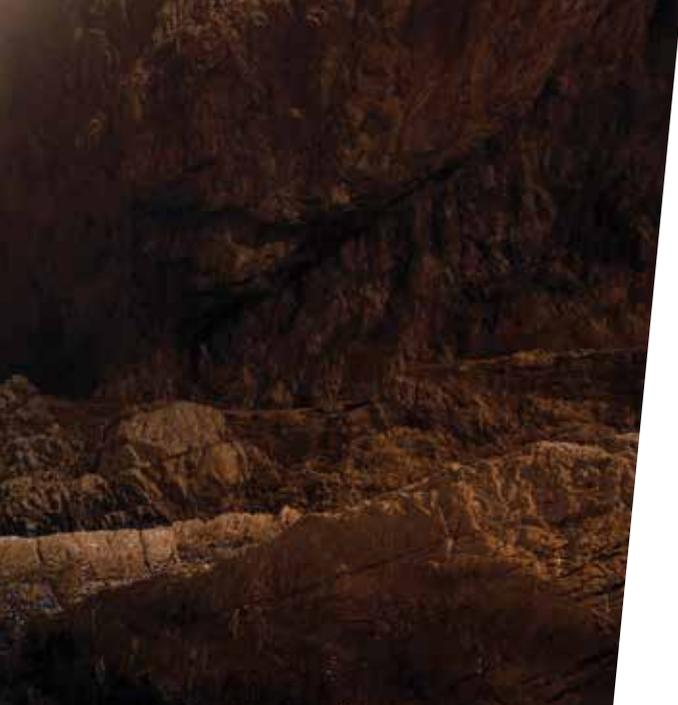


Ljubljana Marshes and the heritage of ancient pile-dwellers

The ancient inhabitants of Ljubljana, also known as pile-dwellers, lived in settlements elevated on piles. The remains of their prehistorical settlements in the Ljubljana Marshes have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage List together with other pile-dwelling settlements in the area of the Alps. It was these pile-dwellers that made the world's oldest discovered wooden wheel with an axle. You can learn about their life at the City Museum of Ljubljana, at the National Museum of Slovenia, and at the My River Ljubljanica exhibition in Vrhnika.

- NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SLOVENIA**, www.nms.si
- CITY MUSEUM OF LJUBLJANA**, www.mgml.si/mestni-muzej-ljubljana
- MY RIVER LJUBLJANICA**, www.mojaljubljanica.si





Škocjan Caves

The Škocjan Caves are a miracle of the Karst region, a unique Slovenian landscape that lends its name to all karst phenomena around the world. Here hides a subterranean kingdom with waterways, halls, and stalactites and stalagmites showing scenes that are otherworldly. It is especially exciting to walk through the world's largest underground river canyon located in the Škocjan Caves, which contributed to the Caves being added to the UNESCO World Heritage List more than three decades ago, together with the karst landscape and the mysterious archaeological findings in the caves.

THE ŠKOCJAN CAVES PARK, www.park-skocjanske-jame.si

VISIT KRAS, www.visitkras.info



The primeval forests of Krokar and Snežnik-Ždrocle

The forests of Slovenia are among the vastest and most diverse in Europe. In the central and southern part of the country, you can even visit a UNESCO forest! Beech forests in the Krokar primeval forest reserve in the Kočevsko region and the Snežnik-Ždrocle reserve in the Notranjska region are Slovenian natural monuments of special significance. They were added to the UNESCO World Natural Heritage List together with other beech forests of Europe that have had an exceptional influence on natural ecosystems from the ice age onwards.

THE KOČEVSKO INSTITUTE, www.kocevsko.com

GREEN KARST, www.zelenikras.si



PLEČNIK'S LJUBLJANA AND SLOVENIA

Modelling after the cities of Antiquity, the architect Jože Plečnik created a timeless centre of the capital city and many cultural monuments around Slovenia. This man with a long beard and round glasses who carried a sketch pad in his hands also has left a mark in Austria and the Czech Republic. So, now, Ljubljana and Prague are joint candidates for the humanistic architecture of Jože Plečnik to be added to the UNESCO List of World Heritage. His every masterpiece exudes his sense for other people and the local community, for genius loci that create an atmosphere in space. As a green-oriented architect, he only used local materials. He gave Ljubljana a comprehensive make-over on the path that he liked to walk from his house to the marketplace and beyond: he brought the river closer to people, he designed embankments, streets, and squares, and he installed the famous arcades and built impressive buildings. The year 2017 is considered as Plečnik's year and it ushers in a decade of celebrating his opus until 2025, which will mark the 150th anniversary of the architect's birth.

In the footsteps of Plečnik

You can learn about the life of Jože Plečnik if you take a guided tour of Plečnik's House, where this architect lived and worked. Everything was dedicated to his work – even the pot for making coffee. Due to the length of its handle, he was able to make coffee while he was working. After you take a stroll through his imagination, follow the architect's daily path along the River Ljubljanica to the city marketplace. Then, discover Plečnik's other sights all over Slovenia, from central Slovenia to the Pannonian Plains.





top 5 *Plečnik's Ljubljana*

1. *The Three Bridges (Tromostovje)*

Plečnik's Ljubljana is a unique and comprehensive 20th century work of art. The Three Bridges and their balustraded railings rising above the River Ljubljanica leave a special mark on the city centre.

2. *The National and University Library*

The building with character; its windows look like waves or open books. Its interior is a temple of knowledge leading visitors up a dark Propylaea-styled staircase to a light reading room.

3. *Marketplaces*

Plečnik gave the people of Ljubljana a masterfully designed riverside marketplace. The outdoor area with the arcade resembles antique forums, and spiral staircases lead into the interior of the marketplace.

4. *Križanke*

The former monastery is now an event venue that was rebuilt by Plečnik with a string of courtyards for the Ljubljana Festival, one of the oldest European summer festivals.

5. *The Žale Memorial Complex*

Plečnik focused a lot on the sacred and on spirituality. The Žale Central Cemetery is known for its memorial complex with a monumental entrance and many chapels of different shapes.

top 5 *Plečnik's Slovenia*

1. *Parish Church of the Ascension, Bogojina*

From afar, the steeple on the edge of the Pannonian Plains resembles a lighthouse. Its architecture combines classical ideals of Antiquity and local tradition, which is also evident from the integration of the old and the new church.

2. *Church of St. Michael, Črna Vas*

The exterior almost gives the impression of an elevated antique temple. Some of the interesting details of the wood-furnished interior include coffee grinders and other recycled items.

3. *Steps by the Rosary Church and the façade of Prešeren Theatre, Kranj*

Architectural harmony in the old heart of Kranj. These romantic steps lead to a fountain, from where only a short stroll takes you to the arcades marking the entrance to the theatre.

4. *Church of St. Benedict, Stranje*

Plečnik created some hidden beauties in Kamnik and its surroundings, including the interior of a church in a panoramic location, which is full of distinct details, from chandeliers to wooden pillars and a ceiling.

5. *People's Savings Bank, Celje*

The undergraduate project of Plečnik's students lends the town centre of Celje some elegance. It is impossible to miss the architect's signature building with balconies with columns.

WHERE THE URBAN

The capitals of cultural pleasures

You can experience a vibrant mix of adventures in **Ljubljana**, where in addition to national cultural institutions, visitors can also experience the lively alternative scene with Kino Šiška and Metelkova City at the helm, serving as centres of modern and urban creativity. The largest cultural centre is Ljubljana's Cankarjev Dom, and visitors might also find a visit to the Slovenian National Opera and Ballet Theatre of Ljubljana and to theatre festivals interesting. As the 2012 European Capital of Culture, **Maribor**, a city in eastern Slovenia, serves as an international cultural centre. It hosts numerous events, including the programme of the Slovenian National Theatre in Maribor, which houses a theatre, music, opera, and ballet venues known Europe-wide.

Romantic historical towns

If you desire some romance, don't miss exploring historical towns and cities. You can find picturesque old town centres behind fortified walls or at the foot of hills with castles. Town castles now resemble time machines that take visitors into the past. **Bled Castle** nestled on top of a high cliff, **Ljubljana Castle** hosting numerous events and historical exhibitions, the **Old Castle in Celje** with the story of the Counts of Celje, and **Ptuj Castle**, once owned by the Ptuj Archdiocese form a recognisable medieval castle quartet. Castles all over Slovenia tell stories of knights and barons. In the 16th century, many were transformed into defence fortifications, and in recent centuries they experienced periods of renovation. **Khislstein Castle** in Kranj refurbished its former defence facilities into a museum and a venue for cultural events. Nearby **Brdo Castle** is the most prestigiously furnished castle and Slovenia's official protocol building in the middle of a park with 11 lakes. **Lendava Castle** and **Murska Sobota Castle** became centres of culture and art with museums and galleries. **Gewerkenegg Castle** in Idrija, a former mining castle, represents a mercury mine heritage, while **Loka Castle** dominating above the town centre of picturesque Škofja Loka depicts Loka's culture through time.



Otočec Castle on the River Krka



Maribor: the Old Vine House with the oldest grapevine in the world

AND THE RURAL MEET

The cultural landscape of the countryside

In Slovenia's towns, you're only a stone's throw away from the countryside, where a distinct cultural landscape has developed. The Mediterranean flourished as the culture of salt production, olive tree growing and wine growing developed; nearby, visitors can go to the Karst, a region inviting them to visit idyllic villages and homesteads with stone walls. A picturesque mountain world with a herding tradition, particularly on the Velika Planina plateau, gives the Alps a special touch. In eastern Slovenia, gentle wine-growing hills transition into plains which then stretch to the River Mura and its nostalgic mills. One of the symbols connecting the Slovenian countryside is the wooden kozolec, a hayrack for drying hay and produce. In Šentrupert in the Dolenjska region, you can see some preserved kozolci in a museum called the **Land of Hayracks** (Dežela kozolcev). **The Eco-Museum of Hop Growing and the Brewing Industry in Slovenia** and the world's first beer fountain in Žalec are an homage to the hop growing heritage of the Savinja Valley.

Stories from countryside castles and monasteries

There are many castles with mysterious stories in Slovenia. One of them is about a robber knight at **Predjama Castle**, another one tells us about King Matjaž at **Negova Castle**, and yet another is a story about Countess Barbara at **Mokrice Castle** near Čatež. Today, the latter houses a high-end hotel where you can enjoy royal comfort. You can also book a night in prestigious accommodation in Otočec, which is home to the only water castle in Slovenia, or at **Strmol Castle**, one of the best preserved Slovenian castles. The picturesque **Snežnik Castle** in Notranjska with its authentically preserved interior, **Štanjel Castle** with the wonderful Ferrari garden designed by the architect Maks Fabiani, and **Dobrovo Castle** in the Brda Hills with an art exhibition by the world-renowned painter Zoran Mušič will also take your breath away. The castles of the Posavje region: **Rajhenburg Castle**, **Podsreda Castle**, **Sevnica Castle**, **Brežice Castle**, and **Kostanjevica na Krki** hold events in the romantic setting of castle courtyards and rooms, and in **Bogenšperk Castle** at Litija you can try manual printing and paper production. The Slovenian countryside is filled with churches, monasteries, and roadside shrines. Pilgrims can visit **Brezje** with the famous Basilica of St. Mary Help of Christians, the pilgrims' path and basilica on **Mt Sveta Gora** above Nova Gorica, and the Basilica of Mary the Patroness in **Ptujska Gora**. In addition to exploring architectural heritage at the **Olimje**, **Žiče Charterhouse**, **Stična**, and **Pleterje monasteries**, you can also discover old monks' recipes, which are still used to prepare products made of healing herbs.



Museum Quarter Ljubljana

top 5 Museums with great time travels

1. National Museum of Slovenia, Ljubljana

The Prehistoric Treasures exhibition reveals extraordinary archaeological findings from prehistoric times. See the oldest flute in the world, a ritual vessel used by pile dwellers from the Ljubljana Marshes, the two oldest golden artefacts in Slovenia found near Lake Bled, and the bronze situla from Vače.

2. Slovenian Ethnographic Museum, Ljubljana

The permanent exhibition Between Nature and Culture displays more than 3000 artefacts for everyday use and holiday items from Slovenia and from cultures outside of Europe that Slovenians encountered. Learn about life in Slovenia as it once was and as it is today, folk art, beliefs, customs, and traditions.

3. Museum of Contemporary History of Slovenia, Ljubljana

The exhibition Slovenians in the 20th Century shows one of the most turbulent periods in history, in which Slovenia belonged to a number of states and regimes. Travel in time from a World War I cavern to personal stories from World War II, and then move on to the period of Yugoslav socialism and Slovenian independence.

4. Technical Museum of Slovenia, Bistra near Vrhnika

In the former Carthusian monastery at Bistra, you can experience the demonstrations of traditional methods of bread baking, weaving, horseshoe-forging and other old crafts. Here, you can learn about Slovenia's rich technical heritage, from the needle to the tractor engine, and you can even see a collection of ceremonial cars that belonged to the former Yugoslav president Tito.

5. Museums around Slovenia

On your cultural holiday in Slovenia, visit some of the interesting local and regional museums and learn about the local character in greater detail. The stories of the Slovenian regions are featured at the Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana, the Maribor Regional Museum, the Museum of Gorenjska in Kranj, the Celje Regional Museum, the Koper Regional Museum, Goriška Regional Museum at Kromberk Castle, the Museum of Dolenjska, the Kočevje Regional Museum, the Posavje Museum in Brežice, the Bela Krajina Museum Metlika, the Ptuj-Ormož Regional Museum, the Murska Sobota Museum of Pomurje, the Koroška Regional Museum, and others.

Cultural monuments and museums of war heritage

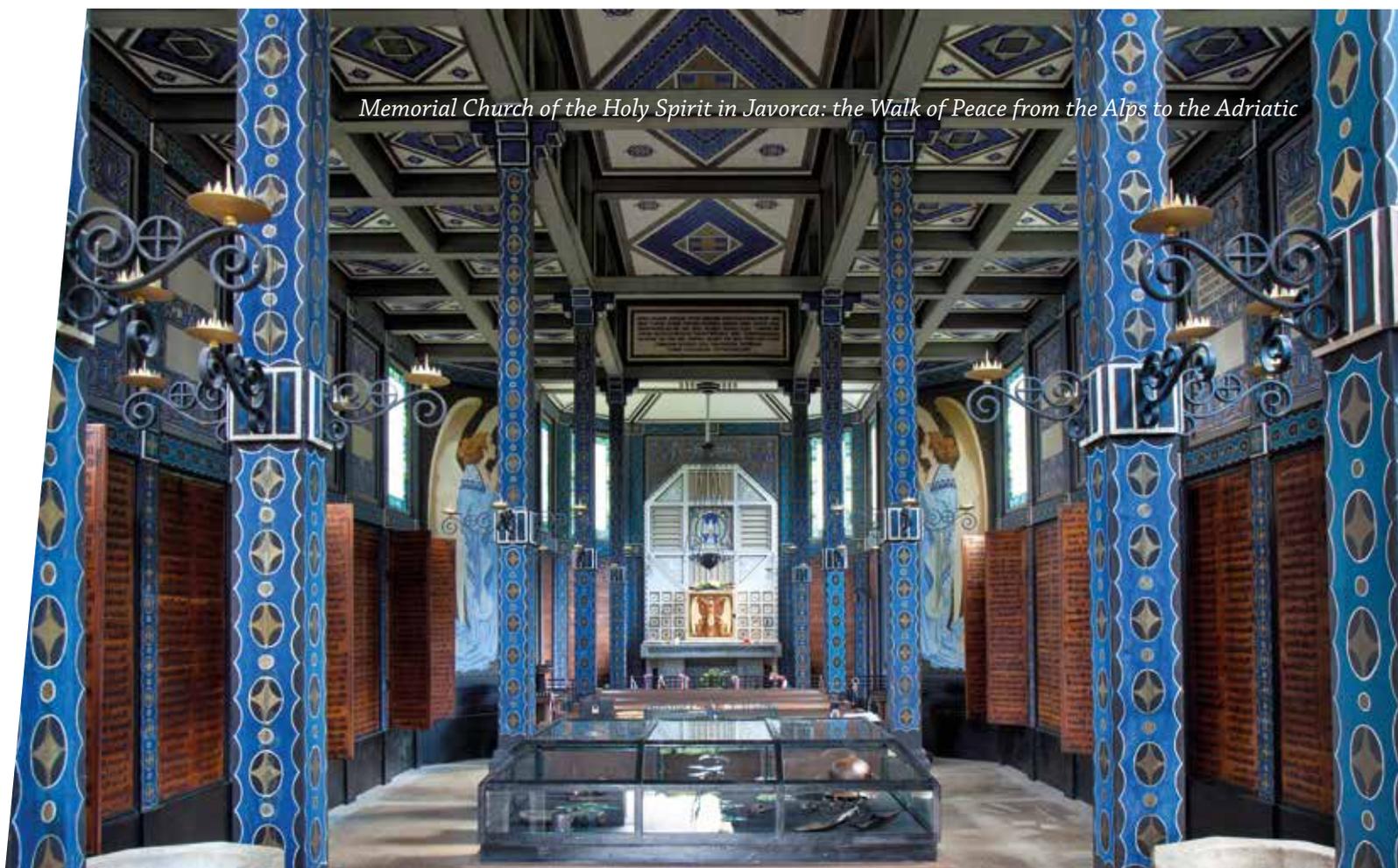
Both nature and history are dramatic in the mountains above the Soča Valley. The **Kobarid Museum** shows the heritage of the Soča (Isonzo) Front and World War I as a part of the cultural **Walk of peace** from the Alps to the Adriatic. One of the sights is also the **memorial church in Javorca**, which is dedicated to all of the nations that fought on the Soča Front. The **Franja Partisan Hospital**, a mysterious hospital with the European Heritage Label, operated in the midst of the forests of the Cerkljansko region during World War II. You can learn about Yugoslav and Slovenian military equipment and about the fight for Slovenia's independence in the **Pivka Park of Military History** in the Karst, where a Festival of Military History is also held.

Slovenian mining museums

You can experience mining culture in Slovenia's mining towns. Visit the UNESCO town of **Idrija and Anthony's Main Road**, an underground tunnel that led miners to work in the mercury mine for more than 5 centuries, and the new mercury smelting plant. The largest water-driven wheel in Europe and the largest water barriers for floating timber are also considered major accomplishments. On the other side of Slovenia, you can find **the Coal Mining Museum of Slovenia** that tells the story of the mining tradition in Velenje, Slovenia's youngest town. Nearby, there is also the interesting **Peca Underground Tourist Mine and Museum**, where visitors can even cycle or go kayaking in the former mining tunnels.

THE HERITAGE IN SLOVENIA'S MUSEUMS

Memorial Church of the Holy Spirit in Javorca: the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic





5 Slovenia's galleries with great art collections

1. National Gallery of Slovenia, Ljubljana

The largest collection of art works in Slovenia allows you to go on an art tour showing everything from Gothic frescos to golden baroque altars, from neoclassicism to the romantic motifs of Slovenian towns and villages, and from realism to impressionism. Learn about the creativity of Slovenia's greatest painter, Ivana Kobilca, and the favourite of elite European painters' circles of the 20th century, Zoran Mušič.

2. Gallery of Modern Art, Ljubljana

The permanent exhibition encompasses the crossroads between art, politics, and life in the 20th century, everything from the avant-garde, Partisan art, sculptures, and retro-avant-garde of the 1980s with the movement Neue Slowenische Kunst. One of the most visited exhibitions of the Gallery of Modern Art, which is touring the world, focuses on the impact and the work of the NSK. The International Centre of Graphic Arts is located in nearby Tivoli Park.

3. Prešeren Award Winners of the Fine Arts Gallery, Kranj

The permanent collection offers a comprehensive overview of the styles and tastes that formed Slovenian modern art. See the works of Slovenian artists who have been given the Prešeren Award. These highest state awards are named after the author of the Slovenian national anthem and a great poet.

4. Božidar Jakac Gallery, Kostanjevica na Krki

One of the largest galleries in Slovenia is located at a former Cistercian monastery founded in the 13th century. The monastery now has a baroque appearance and it has been given a new layout, so it serves as the podium for the works of the most well-known Slovenian expressionists. The Forma Viva exhibition of wooden sculptures can be found in the gallery's surrounding area. Sculptors from around the world submit their works every two years.

5. Koroška Gallery of Fine Arts, Slovenj Gradec

This regional museum of modern visual arts shows commissioned works and encourages intermedia art. Due to the efforts of the gallery, which has already held numerous exhibitions under the auspices of the United Nations, Slovenj Gradec was given the title Peace Messenger City.

The opera and theatres

Slovenian performance art, with theatres at the helm, is among the best in the world. The most recognisable Slovenian director Tomaž Pandur, developed his Theatre of Dreams. Faust, his last play, is still on a world tour. You can enjoy opera and ballet at the **Slovenian National Opera and Ballet Theatre Ljubljana** and at the **Slovenian National Drama, Opera and Ballet Theatre Maribor**. There are also guest performances by renowned international productions on Slovenia's stages, e.g. in **Cankarjev Dom**. Most international audiences visit theatre festivals in Ljubljana, such as **Young Lions** (Mladi Levi) and **Exodus**. Slovenia is also known for its modern dance creativity that you can see at the **Španski Borci Theatre**, **the Ljubljana Dance Theatre**, or at **the Front@ Contemporary Dance Festival** in Murska Sobota.

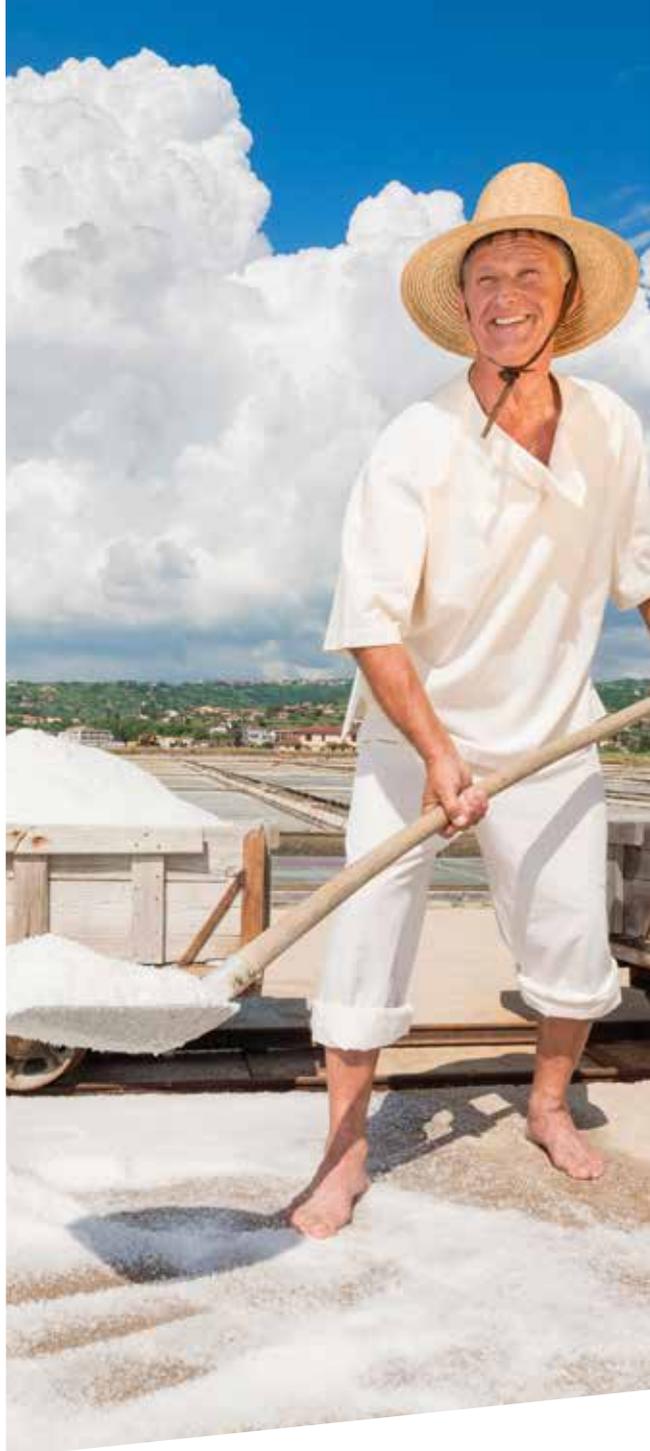
Literary festivals

In Slovenian literary circles, authors often played the role of world ambassadors. The most well-known among them was Tomaž Šalamun, an avant-garde poet. More than 50 of his books and poetry collections have been translated and are read around the world. Today, Ljubljana is UNESCO's City of Literature, where a festival titled **Fabula – World Literatures** is held. This festival hosts renowned European and other internationally successful authors. For over 30 years, an international literary festival for poets, authors, playwrights, and essayists has been held in **Vilenica** in the Karst, where the first tourist cave in Europe was discovered. The **Days of Poetry and Wine in Ptuj** have also had an almost 20-year tradition. The year 2018 is dedicated to Ivan Cankar, the greatest Slovenian author and playwright.

THE INSPIRATION OF WORLD-CLASS ART

Symphony of Sorrowful Songs: ballet directed by renowned director Tomaž Pandur





Salt-makers and salt-making

THE OLDEST SALT PANS IN THE NORTHERN MEDITERRANEAN

Piran salt has been produced using traditional procedures for over 700 years. The **Sečovlje salt pans**, which are now a landscape park, were once a seasonal settlement for saltmakers' families, who moved into cottages next to the salt pans to work in the summer. You can learn about the way of life of saltmakers at the **Museum of Salt Making** and at the saltmakers' dwelling that is now also a museum. Saltmakers who are responsible for producing high-quality white salt and the valuable fleur de sel still consider their work to be a mission.



Bees and beekeeping

THE CRADLE OF BEEKEEPING AND THE CARNIOLAN HONEYBEE

One of the most well-known representatives of European beekeeping, Anton Janša, hails from Žirovnica near Bled. The Slovenian Beekeepers' Association proposed to the United Nations to declare his birthday (20 May) World Bee Day. The indigenous Carniolan honeybee is now the second most wide-spread bee species in the world. Learn about its story at the **Museum of Apiculture** in Radovljica, where a collection of painted beehive panels depicting images from the life at the foot of the Alps is held.



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL STORIES OF THE COUNTRYSIDE



Wine and wine-growing

THE OLDEST GRAPEVINE IN THE WORLD

When it comes to wine, Slovenia and its three wine-growing regions and 14 wine-growing districts have the best that Europe has to offer in a very small area. The first written records on wine-growing date back to ancient Roman times, to the third century B.C., and today some Slovenian wine-growers win the best awards and accolades in the world. The **Old Vine** from Maribor holds a special place among Slovenian wine stories. This grapevine is entered in the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest grapevine in the world. A special feature of Slovenian wine-growing and oenology are certain indigenous grape and wine varieties. These also include two special varieties: Karst Teran and Cviček from Dolenjska.

The culture of living mountain pastures and cheese production

PRESERVED HERDSMEN SETTLEMENTS

In summer, herdsmen take their livestock to mountain pastures in the Alps and they make cheese. One of them is trnič, a special Slovenian cheese of love, from the **Velika Planina** plateau above Kamnik. Its shape resembles women's breasts, as herdsmen gave this cheese to their loved ones as they returned from the pasture in autumn. In the heart of the Julian Alps, travel the **cheese-making trail** and visit the **Cow's Ball**, a traditional event welcoming herdsmen back to the valley. In the Soča Valley, the exhibition **From the Pasture to Planika** tells the story of cheesemaking. In the Solčavsko and Jezersko regions, you can hear the ringing of the bells of local sheep called bicke, which have a distinct teardrop-shaped patch around their eyes.

EVENTS IN SLOVENIA



Ljubljana: Atmosphere on Congress Square

Four Seasons and the fifth Season of Culture

The distinct changing of the seasons is characteristic of Slovenia. Spring, summer, autumn, and winter are connected by numerous traditional events. Throughout the year, you can feel the connection between humans and nature, the towns and the countryside, creativity and art. Summer has the most events. It is introduced by Midsummer, when the day is the longest and miracles happen. This is when cultural events move to streets and squares. In summer, Slovenia is alive and enjoying the rhythm of festivals. Autumn is the joyous time of grape harvests and St Martin's Day celebrations all over Slovenia. In winter, the yearly event calendars reach their end at Advent fairs and Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations. The arrival of spring is announced at Shrovetide carnivals and by the ringing of Kurent's bells. If you wish to experience authentic Slovenia, mark one of these traditional events on your calendar.

SUMMER

IT'S FESTIVAL TIME

EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

- **FROM JUNE TO AUGUST:** Ljubljana Festival, Ljubljana
- **END OF JUNE:** Festival Lent, Maribor
- **JULY AND AUGUST:** Music festivals in the Soča Valley
- **FROM MAY TO AUGUST:** Jazz festivals, Ljubljana, Cerklje, Kranj, and Novo Mesto
- **FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER:** Festivals of serious and early music, all over Slovenia
- **END OF JUNE:** Desetnica Street Theatre Festival, all over Slovenia
- **AUGUST:** mladi Levi (Young Lions), International Theatre Festival, Ljubljana

CULINARY EVENTS

- Open Kitchen in Ljubljana and elsewhere in Slovenia
- Idrija Žlikrof Festival, Idrija
- Cherry Festival, Brda
- Teran Wine and Prosciutto Festival, Dutovlje
- Bogračfest, Lendava

The Ljubljana Festival and Lent Festival

Slovenia's most important summer festivals provide real cultural treats every year. The **Ljubljana Festival** is one of the oldest European festival that has been offering world-class artistic experiences since 1953: everything from concerts by the best orchestras and opera stars to spectacular dance performances, musicals, and theatre shows. The **Lent Festival** in Maribor has been hosting incredible musicians, artists, and street performers on the banks of the River Drava for over 20 years. At the end of June of every year, the old town centre transforms into the greatest performance stage in Slovenia.

Festival holidays in the Soča Valley

The current of the emerald River Soča provides rhythm and a backdrop to so many music events that the Posočje region has become a valley of festivals. **Metaldays**, **Punk Rock Holiday**, **Motorcity**, and the **Overjam Reggae Festival** and many others attract international stars. Their fans from all over Europe buy all of the limited number of tickets every year just to enjoy a holiday at one of the festivals. What is unlimited, however, is the energy of the emerald river that is at the heart of it all.

Jazz festivals

Summer is a relaxed time filled with jazz melodies. The legendary **Ljubljana Jazz Festival** is the oldest festival of its kind in Europe, as it has been providing high-quality programmes connecting jazz legends with up-and-coming stars since 1960. **Jazz Cerklje** is just somewhat younger. Trends in jazz music are introduced here every year in May. **Kranj Jazz Camp** in August is a festival that connects and develops jazz styles, so it focuses heavily on education. In the same month, Novo mesto also transforms into a jazz metropolis, as the town hosts the **Jazzinty Festival**.

Festivals of classical and early music

In summer, monuments of cultural heritage all around Slovenia turn into venues for concerts of serious and early music. During the **Tartini Festival** in Piran, you can hear the sound of violins by the sea, which take visitors back to the time of the composer Giuseppe Tartini. Every summer, early music echoes from the **Seviq Brežice Festival** and the **Radovljica Festival**. The **Maribor Festival** offers top concerts of classical music. The **Imago Sloveniae institution** invites visitors to go to free concerts in famous squares, churches, and hidden courtyards of Slovenian towns and cities.

Street theatre

In summer, it may happen that, while exploring the lovely attractions of old town centres around Slovenia, you encounter mesmerising fire. In this case, this must certainly be the street artists from the **Ana Desetnica Festival**. At this international street theatre festival, you can admire fire eaters, jugglers, puppeteers, acrobats, dancers, and musicians. Ana Desetnica also has a younger sister, **Ana Mraz**, which takes place in Ljubljana during the December holiday celebrations.



Summer festival at Snežnik Castle



5 Summer culinary events

1. **Open Kitchen** – a unique and the most popular culinary marketplace offering street food, which has been refreshing the Slovenian culinary scene for a few years now. On Fridays, from March to October, Pogačar Square in Ljubljana becomes a hotspot for gourmets who taste freshly prepared Slovenian and international dishes by culinary master chefs and their restaurants. The Open Kitchen also occasionally visits Celje, Koper, and Nova Gorica.
2. **The Idrija Žlikrofi Festival** – a story of a dish that remains the greatest speciality of this UNESCO town. Idrija žlikrofi are cooked dough pockets with a potato, minced lard, and aromatic herb filling. They became a staple diet of the mining families in Idrija. You can taste them as an independent dish or with bakalca, a meat sauce that is still prepared using mutton or rabbit meat. Idrija žlikrofi are protected in the EU as a Traditional Speciality Guaranteed.
3. **The Cherry Festival** – the largest culinary and tourist event in the Brda Hills, where you can satisfy your sweet tooth with more than 50 cherry varieties. Seven decades ago, this crunchy fruit was taken by train or by bike all the way to Vienna, a city that eagerly anticipated the arrival of the first cherries every year. This event connects tourists farms from the Brda Hills, fruit growers, and famous wine-growers. One of the highlights of the event is the traditional Brda wedding.
4. **Sweet Istria** – an international dessert festival in Koper is the largest event for sweets in Slovenia. Its mission is to preserve the heritage of sweet dishes, but it also creates new trends and forms of creativity in confectionery. The presentation, tasting, and sale of sweet products from the Slovenian Istria peninsula, Slovenia, and abroad take place on Sweet Paths in the centre of Koper.
5. **Teran Wine and Prosciutto Festival** – Karst Teran and prosciutto with protected geographical indication are among the many specialities from the Karst region. Karst prosciutto (kraški pršut) is cured by being rubbed with coarse sea salt and then dried in the Karst burja wind for at least a year. At the Teran Wine and Prosciutto Festival, masters of manual prosciutto cutting also manage to cut one-metre-long slices that simply melt in the mouth.

AUTUMN

IT'S ST. MARTIN'S TIME



Wine tasting in a wine cellar

Old Vine Festival and St. Martin's day celebration

The most widespread celebration in Slovenia related to wine and the culture of wine is the celebration of St. Martin's Day. On 11 November, the new harvest is celebrated. The joy is so great that the holiday can even be extended to last a week or two, and not only in all of Slovenia's wine-growing regions, but all over Slovenia. Visit one of the public outdoor St. Martin's Day celebrations. The celebration begins by paying tribute to the oldest grapevine in the world growing in the Lent area of Maribor. The formal harvest of the indigenous grape variety takes place in October. Once must turns to real wine in November and this wine is also christened by wine-growers according to old customs, tables become laden with St. Martin's Day specialities, including the most traditional roasted goose or duck with mlinci (Slovenian pasta tatters made from thin dried dough) and pot-roasted red cabbage. During the celebrations, you can also enjoy cakes, pies, potica cakes, and other sweets.

EVENTS AND PERFORMANCES

- **OCTOBER:** [Old Vine Festival](#), Maribor
- **OCTOBER:** [The City of Women](#), Ljubljana
- **NOVEMBER:** [Liffe](#), [International Film Festival](#), Ljubljana

CULINARY EVENTS

- St. Martin's Celebrations, all over Slovenia
- Cow's Ball, herdsman's festival, Bohinj
- Pumpkin festivals, Prekmurje, Prlekija, and Štajerska regions
- Kozjansko Apple Festival, Kozjansko
- JESTIVAL - Food & Art festival, Kobarid
- Novemmmber Gourmmmet, Ljubljana

Film-making Slovenia

The **LIFFE** International Film Festival that takes place in Ljubljana in November is the highlight of the year for film makers and enthusiasts. Most film festivals take place in summer. In June, the **Kino Otok Film Festival** attracts visitors to Izola. In Ljutomer, where the very first scenes of Slovenian film were made, you can visit the **Grossman Fantastic Film Festival** in July. For a whole month, Ljubljana Castle and the Kinodvor Cinema are a great place to be to enjoy films under the stars. In December, Ljubljana hosts the **Animateka Animated Film Festival**. Throughout the year, Slovenia is also interesting as a film destination for production teams from all over the world. When there are no festivals, you can relive nostalgic stories told by film stars at the **Divača Museum of Slovenian Film Actors**.

Gifts of autumn

Autumn in Slovenia is generous with produce that fills marketplace stands and becomes a part of the everyday life of locals and tourists. Every year, chestnuts are eagerly awaited all over Slovenia, so picnics in nature with roasted chestnuts and sweet must can be enjoyed. Pumpkins are another delicious autumn speciality. They are used to create entire decorative installations in the yards of farmhouses and in some small villages, especially in the north-east, which is also known for the culture of producing pumpkin seed oil. In orchards, farmers are proud of their apple, pear, and plum harvests – these are fruits used to press juice from in autumn.

WINTER

IT'S CELEBRATION TIME



Living Nativity Scene in Postojna Cave

The charm of Advent and holiday fairs

In December, Slovenia's towns and cities turn into a real fairy tale. Once holiday lights are switched on, Advent events and fairs and stands full of tasty delights and gifts come to life. An eventful December programme with concerts and live music is held in old town centres where holiday drinks are served outdoors. Ljubljana, Kranj, Celje, and Maribor are particularly eventful. The largest holiday fair in the capital city is illuminated by a unified art concept, which is unique in Europe. In Celje, there is a Fairy-Tale Land every year for children, it even has dwarves and fairies that put a twinkle in the eyes of the youngest visitors. A Fairy-Tale Train goes from Ljubljana to other towns and cities in December.

EVENTS AND PERFORMANCES

- **DECEMBER:** *Advent fairs*, all over Slovenia
- **DECEMBER:** *Outdoor New Year's Eve celebrations*, all over Slovenia
- **DECEMBER:** *A living nativity scene*, Postojna Cave
- **JANUARY:** *Castles of King Matjaž*, Črna na Koroškem

CULINARY EVENTS

- Days of Potica Cake, Bled Island
- Outdoor New Year's Eve celebrations, all over Slovenia

Living Nativity Scene

Traditionally, the Christmas Story is shown at **Postojna Cave** from 25th to 30th December, where a living nativity scene has been held for 30 years. At the largest exhibition of natural sculptures, as people refer to the kingdom of stalactites and stalagmites in the most visited tourist cave in Europe, you can experience the story from Bethlehem in a magical atmosphere. The experience begins at the cave train platform and the train then takes you among exciting biblical scenes. The living nativity scene in the **Mlačca Gorge** near Mojstrana is also quite an experience, as it is held in a completely iced-over location.

The queen of the holiday table

Baking is popular in Slovenia all year round, but in December the aromas in people's houses are particularly festive. Housewives first bake cookies of various shapes. But the queen of the table is the Slovenian potica cake. It is made using various types of dough and nearly 80 different fillings. The most typical fillings include: walnut, hazelnut, almond, honey, carob, poppy seed, and dried fruit. You can learn about the special features of the Slovenian potica cake on an island in the middle of a picturesque Alpine lake in Bled. There, you can tour a small bakery and a shop called Potičnica, where you can taste many types of Slovenian potica cakes and see how they are made.

FROM WINTER TO SPRING

IT'S AWAKENING TIME



Kurentovanje celebration in Ptuj

Kurentovanje celebrations and Shrovetide Carnivals all over Slovenia

The largest Carnival event in Slovenia is the Kurentovanje celebration, which has a tradition dating back more than 50 years. It takes place in Ptuj, the oldest town in Slovenia, where Kurenti, authentic Slovenian Shrovetide masks, go out on the streets and take over the town. Approximately 2000 people put on scary kurent costumes with masks, furs, and bells. Kurentovanje celebrations are visited by more than 120,000 people a year, and about 10,000 Shrovetide masks from more than ten countries appear in the street parade. According to ancient belief, a Kurent is supposed to be a demon, who is chasing away winter and inviting spring to come. In the past, only boys were allowed to dress up as Kurenti; they then walked around villages with other masks known as orači from Shrove Sunday to Ash Wednesday. Their arrival at a house still signifies good luck and an abundant harvest throughout the year. During Shrovetide, Slovenia also has other masks, such as škoromati and škopiti from the Brkini Hills, laufarji from Cerklje ob Krki, pustovi from Drežnica, šelma from Kostanjevica, mačkare from Dobropolje, and many others.

EVENTS AND PERFORMANCES

- **8. FEBRUARY:** *National Cultural Holiday*, all over Slovenia
- **8. FEBRUARY:** *Prešernov smenj*, Kranj
- **7 WEEKS BEFORE EASTER:** *Kurentovanje* celebrations and Shrovetide Carnivals all over Slovenia
- **12 MARCH:** *St. Gregory's Day*, when birds are joined in wedlock
- **BETWEEN 22 MARCH AND 25 APRIL:** *Easter*

CULINARY AND OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

- baking doughnuts and other Shrovetide dishes, all over Slovenia
- making butara Palm Sunday bunches and decorating Easter eggs, all over Slovenia
- Easter potica cake baking, all over Slovenia
- Chocolate Festival, Radovljica

St. Gregory's day

This is Slovenia's version of a spring holiday, on which birds are joined in wedlock, according to tradition. According to old customs, girls would gaze to the sky, as legend has it that the first bird to fly over her would tell her what her husband would be like. In towns with artisan tradition, it is still believed that, on St. Gregory's Day, "light is cast into water" because nights begin being shorter and people stop working under artificial light. Therefore, on the eve of St. Gregory's Day, small candle-lit boats and rafts are released to float on rivers and streams in many places. Visit Tržič, Kropa, and Kamna Gorica, where this old artisan custom is observed and where little lights floating on water bring joy.

Cultural holiday and Prešeren's fair

Experience 19th century romance in **Kranj**. Every year on 8th February, on National Cultural Holiday, which is celebrated by Slovenians as a day off work, unlike anywhere else in Europe, the entire town comes alive dressed up in costumes dating back to the time of France Prešeren. Prešeren, the author of the Slovenian anthem, to whom this cultural holiday is devoted, was a great poet in the Romantic period. He introduced European forms of poetry into the Slovenian language. One of the most solemn events takes place in front of his birth house in Vrba pri Žirovnici, and free admission to selected cultural institutions is available on this day all over Slovenia.

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

A TRIP FROM THE CAPITAL TO SLOVENIA'S PRIMEVAL FORESTS



DAY 1

ICONS OF CULTURAL TOURISM

- Plečnik's Ljubljana: Plečnik's house and a walk around Plečnik's Ljubljana
- Ljubljana Castle and its exhibitions and experiences
- National Gallery of Slovenia, National Museum of Slovenia, or the Slovenian Ethnographic Museum
- An evening concert or show
- A culinary experience: Taste Ljubljana

DAY 2

AMONG THE HERDSMEN ON THE VELIKA PLANINA PLATEAU

- Velika Planina plateau and its herding culture
- Medieval Kamnik with Šutna Street and Plečnik's Main Square
- A culinary experience: Trnič cheese and the Taste Kamnik

DAY 3

ALTERNATIVE LJUBLJANA

- Gallery of Modern Art or the International Centre of Graphic Arts
- The old city centre with boutiques of modern fashion designers
- A culinary marketplace Open Kitchen
- A centre of alternative culture Metelkova City cultural centre
- A concert at Kino Šiška or a film at Kinodvor

DAY 4

THE FIELDS OF DOLENJSKA TO THE PRIMEVAL FORESTS OF KOČEVSKO

- Land of Hayracks (Dežela kozolcev) in Šentrupert
- Novo mesto and the rich Hallstatt culture (Museum of Dolenjska)
- The Kočevsko region with the UNESCO heritage of mysterious forests
- A culinary experience: štruklji (Slovenian dumplings) with various fillings



Ljubljana Castle and Nebotičnik

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

THE CHARM OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE MYSTERIES OF THE KARST



DAY 1

ICONS OF CULTURAL TOURISM

- Postojna Cave and the largest cave castle at Predjama
- Lipica, the oldest stud farm in Europe
- Charming Piran with its old town centre and Tartini Square
- A culinary experience: fish in a marinade (šavor) and Piran branzino

DAY 2

THE ROMANCE OF THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF PRIMORSKA

- Portorož and the Sečovlje Salt Pans, its park and the Museum of Salt Making
- The fishing towns of Izola and Koper, European Destination of Excellence 2017
- little villages in the continental part of the Slovenian Istria Peninsula
- cuisine: fuži pasta with truffles

DAY 3

SUBTERRANEAN MYSTERIES OF THE KARST

- Škocjan Caves, a gem of UNESCO heritage
- Lake Cerknica, one of the largest intermittent lakes in Europe
- The picturesque village of Štanjel and Karst architecture designed by M. Fabiani
- A culinary experience: Karst prosciutto and Teran wine

DAY 4

AMONG THE GRAPEVINES OF THE BRDA HILLS AND THE VIPAVA VALLEY

- Brda Hills, the fortified medieval village of Šmartno
- A visit to the famous winemakers of the Brda Hills
- Kostanjevica Franciscan Monastery (Nova Gorica) with the tomb of the Bourbon dynasty
- Zemono Manor
- Wine tasting in the Vipava Valley
- A culinary experience: polenta and toč (gravy), jota (bean, turnip, and potato soup) from Vipava



Postojna Cave

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

THE MELODY OF ALPINE NATURE AND TRADITION



DAY 1

DRAMATIC NATURE AND HISTORY

- the Soča Valley: a walk on the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic Sea
- Javorca, a memorial church of the Holy Ghost
- Kobarid Museum of the First World War
- a museum train ride on the Bohinj railway line
- A culinary experience: Soča trout and Kobarid štruklji (dumplings with walnuts, raisins, and spices)

DAY 2

ICONS OF CULTURAL TOURISM

- Bled: the island and Bled Castle
- A Bled cream cake for dessert
- Beekeeping tradition in Radovljica and Žirovnica
- the Avsenik homestead
- A culinary experience: mushroom soup and buckwheat mush (žganci)

DAY 3

MOUNTAIN STORIES

- Planica and its Nordic Centre
- Slovenian Alpine Museum in Mojstrana and Kranjska Gora

- The herding tradition in the Triglav National Park
- A culinary experience: ajdovi krapci (buckwheat flour pastry pockets) with various fillings

DAY 4

THE TRADITION OF GORENJSKA

- Kropa with its smelting and blacksmithing tradition
- Kranj with its mysterious underground tunnels and the Museum of Gorenjska
- Škofja Loka with the UNESCO heritage of the Škofja Loka Passion Play
- Tržič and its shoemaking tradition
- A culinary experience: Carniolan sausage (kranjska klobasa)

DAY 5

THE UNESCO HERITAGE OF IDRİJA

- The UNESCO town of Idrija and the heritage of mercury
- Lake Divje (Wild Lake) and the gorge of the River Bela with klavže (water barriers)
- The Franja Partisan Hospital with the European Cultural Heritage Label
- A culinary experience: Idrija žlikrofi (dumplings) with bakalca (sauce)



Bled with its island in the middle of the lake

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

THE BEAUTY OF GREEN HILLS AND PANNONIAN PLAINS



DAY 1

FROM THE COUNTS OF CELJE TO MINERS

- Celje and the story of the mightiest Slovenian family – the Counts of Celje
- Velenje, a socialist miracle and the Coal Mining Museum of Slovenia
- Vitanje, the Cultural Centre of European Space Technologies
- Slovenj Gradec, Gallery of Fine Arts
- A culinary experience: Koroška skuta (curd cheese) with onions and pumpkin seed oil

DAY 2

THE OLDEST GRAPEVINE AND WINE-RELATED STORIES

- Maribor, the oldest grapevine in the world
- A heart-shaped wine road in Špičnik
- Ptuj and Ptuj Castle
- The gentle wine-growing hills of Jeruzalem, a magnet since the times of the Crusaders
- A culinary experience: Prlekija layer cake (gibanica)

DAY 3

THE CURRENT AND THE TRADITION ALONG THE RIVER MURA

- Murska Sobota Castle and its museum collection about the Prekmurje region
- the pottery village of Filovci

- The Ižakovci island of love, a mill on the River Mura
- Vinarium Lendava, a panoramic tower in the midst of gentle wine-growing hills
- A culinary experience: Prekmurje stew (bograč) and Prekmurje layer cake (gibanica)

DAY 4

THE RIVERS AND CASTLES OF POSAVJE

- Podsreda Castle, the memorial room of Countess Ema of Krško, a glass collection
- Sevnica Castle, wine tasting at a winery
- Rajhenburg Castle, the culinary heritage of Trappist monks (cheese and chocolate)
- Brežice Castle, the Knight's Hall with baroque frescos
- Mokrice Castle, the love story of the Countess Barbara

DAY 5

AMONGST THE GENTLE HILLS OF DOLENJSKA

- Kostanjevica na Krki and the Božidar Jakac Gallery
- Otočec Castle surrounded by water
- Metlika and its town centre and the Slovenian Firefighters Museum
- Žužemberk, a picturesque town above the River Krka
- A culinary experience: štruklji (filled dumplings) and matevž (bean and potato purée with fritters)



Špičnik with a heart-shaped wine road and wind rattle

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

ICONS OF SLOVENIAN CULTURAL TOURISM



DAY 1

TIME FOR LJUBLJANA

- Ljubljana Castle and its exhibitions and experiences
- The National Gallery of Slovenia or the National Museum of Slovenia
- The culinary tour Taste Ljubljana
- An evening concert or show at Cankarjev Dom, Ljubljana Slovenian National Theatre Opera and Ballet, or at one of the festivals

DAY 2

FROM DARKNESS INTO THE SUN

- Postojna Cave and Predjama Castle as the largest cave castle
- Lipica, the oldest stud farm in Europe
- An evening stroll through the medieval town of Piran

DAY 3

FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN TO THE ALPS

- the UNESCO town of Idrija and the heritage of mercury
- The Franja Partisan Hospital with the European Heritage Label
- a walk through Škofja Loka and Kranj

DAY 4

FAIRY-TALE ALPS

- Radovljica and the Museum of Apiculture
- A workshop for making gingerbread hearts
- Lake Bled: a ride in a traditional pletna boat to the island, Potičnica (Potica House), and Bled Castle

DAY 5

MIDDLE AGES AND MONASTERIES

- Celje and the story of the Counts of Celje
- Žiže Charterhouse, a former monastery
- Olimje Minorite Monastery with a herbal pharmacy

DAY 6

THE OLDEST GRAPEVINE AND WINE-RELATED STORIES

- Maribor and the oldest grapevine in the world
- Ptuj and the oldest wine cellar in Slovenia
- Vinarium Lendava, a panoramic tower in the midst of gentle wine-growing hills



Tartini Square in Piran

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Slovenian Tourist Board

Dimičeva ulica 13, SI - 1000 Ljubljana

tel.: +386 1 589 85 50

fax: +386 1 589 85 60

e-mail: info@slovenia.info

web: www.slovenia.info

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