

SLOVENIA OPTIONAL TOURS

Prices are from 2018 – we will update closer to the trip

BUS TOUR - PTUJ, PTUJSKA GORA & MARIBOR



We're going to enjoy a fabulous tour outside of Ljubljana today and take in some beautiful scenery and sights. We'll start off with the town of [Ptuj](#) and an optional visit to the castle. Ptuj is a haven for archaeological and architectural buffs. Slovenia's oldest town contains historical artifacts and architecture dating back from Roman, Medieval and even the Stone Age era. Visitors will enjoy exploring the old town and the wonderful views and museum from the Castle above. Entering through an enticing courtyard, the Castle grounds offer fine views of Ptuj and the surrounding area. The Castle's

main attraction is the Ptuj Regional Museum which houses the main permanent exhibitions of various collections.

From there we'll visit [Ptujaska Gora](#) a very scenic area of Slovenia with picturesque views from all sides: from Boc to Pohorje, from Maribor to Graz in Austria and to nearby Ptuj and Slovenske gorice and towards the south over the steep, rolling country of Haloze and over to the Croatian border. It's famous for its splendid Gothic church, which stands on the peak of a 352m hill and is visible from afar. Ptujaska Gora is one of many beautiful Gothic churches in Slovenia. Then we will continue on to Maribor.

Maribor is pleasantly small and set in the wonderful natural surroundings of Pohorje on the one side and wine growing hills on the other, with the river Drava winding its way through it. With its diversity and quality offers, surrender to the best that can be offered in one of Slovenia's key tourist destinations! They have a rich wine tradition of the oldest vine in the world. The old town core promises unforgettable experiences: go for a walk along the banks of the river Drava and through the lively streets and squares, where history and tradition mix with dynamism and contemporaneity. We will have some free time here to enjoy a nice stroll and lots of photos. Cost, with our bus and guide is just \$35. Entrance fees, if any, are not included.

BUS TOUR - SKOFJA LOKA, RADOVLJICA & VINTGAR GORGE



This tour is included in your package (other than entry fees of about 8 euro total) as we are seeing all of these places on our way to Bled. [Skofja Loka](#) is a small town that almost looks like something you might find in England. The old city boasts numerous points of interest from the past, and the [Loka Castle](#), built before 1202, reigns above the city. Skofja Loka is considered the **most beautifully preserved medieval city in Slovenia**. Its rich cultural heritage intertwines with unspoiled nature, earning the city the name "Gallery in Nature," while the picturesque and colourful house facades fostered yet another:

"Motley Loka." There is an interesting museum there that our guide Diana will take you to or you can enjoy some free time.

The magnificent **medieval Old Town of Radovljica**, its numerous museums, galleries, festivals and events, the exquisite cuisine on offer in its traditional inns, and the outstanding opportunities available for sport and recreation and also the largest number of sunny days in the **Gorenjska region**.

In Radovliica we will repeat a group lunch that we did on our last trip at the restaurant [Lectar](#). For the set price of 23 euro the lunch will include:

- Spread of black radish and home made Pate
- Roast pork and »Mavzelj« (traditional meat food), Sour Turnip, »Matevz« (potatoes and beans traditional way mashed together), Slovenian Buckwheat Mash
- Saison fresh salat
- Sweet Tris of Gorenjska :
Gibanica (hot curds, apple, and poppy pie)
legendary Lectar »strudel« since 1822
grmada (cream cake)
- 1/4 wine or juice or 1 beer included

This is not just for lunch but there is musical entertainment by the owner himself who once ran for President of Slovenia. [See this video of mine](#). This was really a fun experience. Please let us know if you do not want to have the lunch. In this case you can find something to eat in this town in your free time.

Next up is [Vintgar Gorge](#) for a little taste of nature and exercise. The Vintgar gorge is one of the most popular natural features in Slovenia. The gorge has been arranged for visitors for more than a hundred years. Along the narrow passage, where the Radovna river thrashes loudly against its rocky confines, there are paths, galleries and bridges constructed in the rock. The trail runs through the 1600 m long gorge. The Radovna flows over cascades and rapids, and in clear pools it finds peace for a few moments. The Vintgar gorge ends at the delightful Sum waterfall, the highest river fall in Slovenia. Entrance fees not included: 5 euro for castle, 3 Euro for Vintgar Gorge.

BLED

We have 3 days for tours in Bled. There is SO much do to and see there. Check out this website: <http://www.bled.si/en/what-to-do/summer-sports> There is really no limit on what you can do here but I've picked what I think will be the most popular. You are certainly welcome to get yourself signed up for any other activity. One of the companies I am working with even offers paragliding, kayaking and other adventures.

MOUNTAIN BIKING TOUR - BOHINJ VALLEY



We did this tour with our last group and I can tell you it was the best mountain biking experience in my life. So beautiful! Here's the scoop. We transfer you to high plateau Pokljuka where you start cycling. You ride over the blossoming mountain meadows and cows, then a nice long panoramic downhill to Bohinj valley (<http://www.bohinj.si/en>). On the lake shore they will arrange a tasty picnic lunch. Price includes transfer up to Mt. Pokljuka, standard trekking bike hire, helmets, picnic lunch with one drink and an English speaking guide. Check out this [nice map](#) that will show you our route. 10 people minimum. [Check out my video on Youtube](#) from our last trip. **COST:** \$53

NOTE: This price is for biking back to Lake Bled (about 20 kilometers). If you would prefer to take a van back at the end of our downhill portion you will pay them an extra 10 euro the day of.

CANYONING



We will be doing this tour 4 times total over 2 days as it's better with smaller groups and the maximum number they can take is 21. So if you want to do both the mountain biking and the canyoning, sign up for this one on Tuesday.

Here's another fun adventure! This one is from the folks at 3 Glav Adventures. Check out the [details here](#). This company will be running 3 different tours for us - Canyoning, Horseback riding and the hot air ballooning (see details below). I have set up a meeting with them the night we come in to Bled where they will explain more about the tours and take your payment.

Canyoning is great fun - it's just like a natural water park, where you have lots of slides, jumps and rappelling. We usually go to a canyon which is considered moderate, so no previous experiences needed, but it's also the most dynamic canyon out of all in Slovenia and around. There are 4 repels in the Canyon and Bob (our guide) teaches the guests how to abseil them before they go into the Canyon. You also have lots of jumps in the Canyon, the highest one is 8 meters. **COST:** 55 euro (normally 65). You will express an interest in this on our trip form and will pay them direct the night we get into Bled.

HOT AIR BALLOONING

Now that we're one of the most beautiful places in Europe, how about seeing it from the sky? Today we will enjoy this incredible balloon ride. Imagine floating over a beautiful deep green Lake Bled and the mighty Julian Alps, as the sun rises slowly above distant Karavanke mountain range. It is a peaceful, magical and certainly unforgettable balloon flight over Bled and the surrounding area, a unique experience for everybody.



We'll get an early start (around 6am) and get picked up at our office or close to your accommodation. It's a really amazing experience, especially in our area of Lake Bled with its island and castle and the views of Triglav National Park, Julian Alps and Karavanke mountain range. It takes around 4 hours all together but we'll spend around 1-1/2 hours in the air. There is room for up to 11 people and they do just one flight a day so send your tour selections in early to make sure you can be counted in. You may also do this tour on Monday or Wednesday if you're not interested in those tours. This is a weather dependent activity.

COST: 162 euro (normally 190 euro). Please express an interest on the form and then you can pay when we get to Bled.

CANYONING

Second day of Canyoning.

HIKING OR FREE TIME

After the ballooning we'll plan to meet in the lobby to take a hike and make our way out to the island on Lake Bled by way of their classic [Pietna boat](#) (cost 12 eu) where they give you some time to walk around and visit the Church of the Assumption of Mary dating back to the 1400's. Another option, if you didn't already visit on the mountain biking, is to visit Lake Bohinj and take the tram up and maybe enjoy a hike. Here's a [website that talks about local hikes](#). I do also have some information and maps of some hikes. There is a public bus that runs every hour. I will share this information with you when we are together.

SCENIC BUS TOUR - EMERALD RIVER

ADVENTURE

Today we'll be on our private vans with our guide Diana who will lead the way to some of the most scenic places around Triglav National Park and Julian Alps and greater area of Bled, and Kranjska Goraj in a day full of adventures. This is the number 2 (out of 18) attractions in Bled on Tripadvisor!

ROUTE: Bled - Kranjska Gora - [Vrsic pass](#) - Bovec - [Kobarid](#) - [Most na Soci](#) - Boh. Return through Predel. approx. 2,5 hours of very scenic drive with stops every 10-20 minutes for points of interests and some



hiking, swimming and lots of photos. Check out some of the things we will do today!

HIKING on [Vrsic Mountain Pass](#) (highest mountain pass of Slovenia - 1161 meters)

- HIKING to the [source](#) of the Emerald river - Soca
- Winding drive along the Soca river and the scenic [Trenta Valley](#)

- Boka waterfall
- Napoleon bridge
- HIKING AND SWIMMING* at amazing Kozjak waterfall
- SWIMMING* at the bridge on Most na Soci

COST with bus, guide: \$45 (reg \$95 [see link!](#)).



BOVEC



We will depart from our hotel in Bled at 9 am. Bovec is only about an hour and a half away. Once there we will divide into groups for either river rafting, hiking (you can hike to the [Kozjak Waterfall](#)) or spending time in the town. [Here you can read about the river rafting and the kayaking.](#)

The river rafting I'm sure will be popular as it's on the Soca river which is supposed to be absolutely beautiful. The Class 3-4 Soca River allows you to experience challenging rapids and some of Europe's most breathtaking scenery.

COST: just \$55 with our discount.

PORTOROZ

SKOCJAN CAVE TOUR

The [Skocjan Caves](#) are a unique natural phenomenon and a [Unesco World Heritage site](#)! The Skocjan



Caves were entered on UNESCO's list of world heritage sites on 28 November 1986. The Skocjan Caves are, above all, a natural phenomenon of global significance,

ranking side by side with the Grand Canyon, the Great Barrier Reef, the Galapagos Islands, Mount Everest and others.

The Reka River springs from below the Snežnik plateau and flows some fifty-five kilometres on the surface. After reaching the Karst, the Reka river that is the limestone surface, the river not only deepens its riverbed through erosion, but also by means of corrosion – it dissolves the limestone. In the first part of its course on the limestone, the Reka still flows on the surface, along an approximately four-kilometre-long gorge that ends with a magnificent wall under which it disappears underground. The park is located in the classical Karst and is a true open-air museum. Here you can acquaint yourself with distinctive aboveground and subterranean karst phenomena, the most characteristic example of which is unequivocally the Skocjan Caves (Skocjanske jame) system with its unique natural values. The area is renowned for its exceptional archaeological finds, pioneering explorations of the Karst underground, and rich natural and cultural heritage.

The guided tour begins at the Visitors Centre taking you to the man-made passageway in the Globocak Collapse Doline and continues through the Silent Cave (Tiha jama), a fossil passage filled with numerous dripstone formations. Exiting the Cave, you will be enthralled by the view of the underground canyon of the Reka River that you cross on the Cerkevnik Bridge, suspended nearly fifty meters above the riverbed. You can return the surface past Tominc Cave (Tominceva jama) and the waterfall under the natural bridge in the Big Collapse Doline (Velika dolina). With both the guided and non-guided paths our estimated time here is 3 hours. Cost with our bus and guided tour is \$60.

After our cave tour we will stay on our bus to visit [Piran](#) and enjoy some free time. You will walk or taxi back to our hotel at the end of your visit.

BUS TOUR WITH FREE TIME TO POREC AND ROVINJ - CROATIA

Here's an opportunity to visit Croatia and two of the most scenic towns! It will make for a wonderful day trip. Porec Croatia is a small town on the [west coast of Istria](#). The town has a long history dating back to Roman times. The town's Episcopal Complex of the Basilica is Unesco World heritage site and its oldest parts date back to 4th century, although the basilica itself is from the 6th century. Venetian-style houses dominate the old town. Other



interesting sites include: remains of Roman temples, various gothic, baroque, and renaissance palaces, fortification walls and towers.



Rovinj is a Croatian fishing port on the west coast of the Istrian peninsula. The old town stands on a headland, with houses tightly crowded down to the seafront. A tangle of cobbled streets leads to the hilltop church of St. Euphemia, whose towering steeple dominates the skyline. South of the old town is Lone Bay, one of the area's pebble beaches. The Rovinj archipelago's 14 islands lie immediately off the mainland. [Website](#)

COST: with bus and guide - \$35