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GREEN CHARMS OF SLOVENIA

8 days / 7 nights

Discovering green places of Slovenia

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover Slovenia's gems, lakes Bled and Bohinj, located in the heart of the Julian Alps
- Explore the beauty of Soca Valley which overwhelmed also Ernest Hemingway
- Visit Piran, Slovenian little Adriatic treasure
- Go underground to the best-known cave in the world, Postojna cave
- Enjoy the charming capital Ljubljana
- Experience Ptuj, the oldest city of Slovenia and visit its nearby

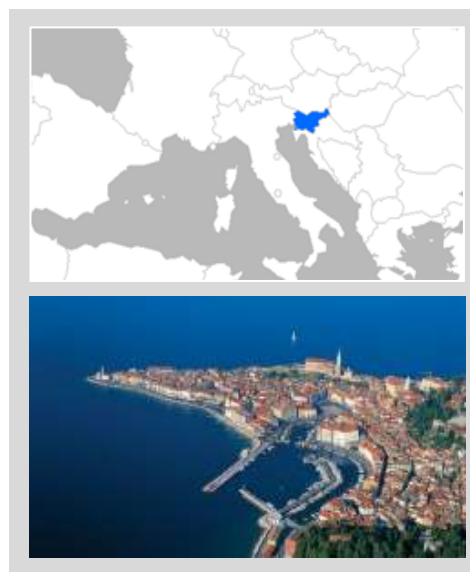


GENERAL INFORMATION

SLOVENIA

The country of Slovenia lies in the heart of the enlarged Europe. It has a border with Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia. The capital Ljubljana is a modern, fresh, young, creative and surprising city.

Slovenia, a green and diverse country between the Alps and the Mediterranean, boasts all the beauties of the Old World. When you want to experience Europe in one stroke, come to Slovenia. In just 20,273 square kilometres there are snow-covered mountains, a sea coast bathing in the Mediterranean sun, beautiful karst caves and thermal springs, narrow white-water canyons and wide slow moving rivers, high mountain lakes and lakes that disappear mysteriously underground at the start of summer, ancient villages and medieval cities, the antique castles and modern entertainment, countless vineyards with top quality wines, and the only primeval forest in Europe. Here in this small and easily covered area, where hundreds of birds migrating south make a briefly stop and where dozens of unique indigenous plants find their home, more diverse experiences await you all year round than can be found anywhere else.



SUGGESTED ITINERARY

DAY 1

Arrival to Ljubljana Airport
Drive to Bled (20km) and check-in to a hotel
Dinner at a local restaurant
Overnight in Bled

BLED – Alpine pearl of Slovenia

The picture-postcard of the Alpine town of Bled was once the preferred choice of the Austro Hungarian Empire's elite. Its many charms include a medieval castle, perched high on a rocky cliff, a scenic lake studded by a tiny wooded island, and the alpine splendour of the nearby Triglav National Park, a natural wonderland of glacial valleys, glittering peaks, Limestone canyons, ice-cold tarns, flowered meadows, Alpine forests, Pretty hamlets and cascading waterfalls. It is a tourist place, surrounded by the wreaths of the Julian Alps and Karavanke Mountains, placed in a dish shaped basin of a glacial lake, the warmest in Europe.



DAY 2

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Pletna boat ride to Bled Island
Visit of Bled Castle
Continue to small village of Gorje and walk through Vintgar gorge
Return to Bled for lunch at a local restaurant
Drive to Bohinj lake (20km) and ride by cable car to Mount Vogel
Check-in to a hotel
Dinner in the hotel
Overnight in Bohinj area

VINTGAR – the gorgeous gorge

The 1.6 km long Vintgar gorge carves its way through the vertical rocks of the Hom and Bort hills and is graced by the Radovna with its waterfalls, pools and rapids. The path leads you over bridges and Sumer's galleries, and ends with a bridge overlooking the mighty 16m high Sum waterfall. Due to its natural beauty, Vintgar was classified among the more important tourist sites in Slovenia and the number of visitors increases every year.

BOHINJ - one of the most beautiful places in the heart of the Julian Alps

The natural beauty of high mountains, green forests, beautiful mountain pastures and meadows, the cultural and historical monuments, also friendly villages and towns with their hotels, restaurants, inns, and private rooms guarantee visitors a pleasant stay in Bohinj.

It is an ideal starting point for day trips, for walks on the trails that run throughout the valley, and for mountaineering or climbing tours and offers ideal options and opportunities for rest and relaxation in all seasons. In winter the valley becomes a winter sports centre, while during the summer the most beautiful pearl of the valley, Lake Bohinj, invites bathers, and with the Sava Bohinjka River, kayakers and fishermen as well.



VOGEL – ski resort with fantastic panoramic view

Mount Vogel (1,922 m) is the first mountain barrier above the Adriatic Sea. It is a high mountain setting in the heart of protected territory of the Triglav National Park. It is accessible by foot or by cable car. From the foot of the mountain (not far from the Lake Bohinj) you are lifted to the altitude of 1,535 m above sea level, from where you can enjoy an incredible panoramic view of the mountain range.



DAY 3

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Drive to Kranjska Gora and continue via Vrsic pass towards Bovec (90km)
Visit of source of Soca River
Lunch in Bovec at a local restaurant
Check-in to a hotel
Afternoon at leisure or optional rafting
Dinner in the hotel
Overnight in Bovec

KRANJSKA GORA – a great opportunity for outdoor recreation in the superb natural surrounding

Zgornjesavska valley is one of the most breath taking alpine valleys. The valley has developed into a major tourist and sports region, famed primarily for its World Cup competitions in alpine skiing and ski flights on the giant ski-jump in Planica. The valley, situated between Karavanke Mountains and the Julian Alps, is renowned for the hospitality and friendliness of the local people. Kranjska Gora is both the municipal centre and the largest town in Zgornjesavska valley as well as a famous year-round mountain tourist resort and an important, well-known winter sports resort.



BOVEC – the valley of inspiration

If you are seeking something for yourselves, your soul and body, you will find it in and around Bovec. There is plenty of all that you secretly wish: well-preserved and wild nature, mountains, the emerald river with its tributaries, the gentle and unique combination of Alpine and Mediterranean climates, centuries of preserved tradition, genuine people, their excellent hospitality and diverse services.



SOCA VALLEY

The Soca Valley is dominated by one of Europe's most beautiful rivers. The Soca's stunning turquoise hue flows for about 100km against a backdrop of imposing limestone mountains cloaked in dense forests, lush meadows rich in wildflowers and a clutch of small towns and villages, including Tolmin, Kobarid and Bovec. Besides its rich history - the WW1 Soca Front was one of the bloodiest mountain battles ever known - the valley is now a hiking, kayaking, and fly-fishing haven with much of the area set aside as part of the Triglav National Park.

Rafting on the Soca River has for many years been a hallmark of the Soca Valley. It is an unforgettable adventure that inspires both large and small groups. It is suitable for all swimmers over 15 years old. With highly trained and friendly guides you will descend the section between Boka and Trnovo, the most attractive part of the Soca.



DAY 4

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Drive to Kobarid (21km) and visit the museum of the WWI
Lunch at a local restaurant
Continue towards Portoroz (140km)
Check-in to a hotel
Dinner at a local restaurant
Overnight in Portoroz

KOBARID - a place of the biggest alpine battle in the I. world war

One of the most renowned historical places in Slovenia was already inhabited in the Hallstat period and prospered in the Roman period. The town is mainly known for the aftermath of the Battle of Kobarid in October 1917, which placed Kobarid on the world map. Kobarid is known for the famous Battle of Caporetto, where the Italian retreat was documented by Ernest Hemingway in his novel *A Farewell to Arms*. The battle is well documented in the museum in the centre of Kobarid. During the Second World War, Kobarid was the centre of the liberated territory, called the Kobarid Republic. The Kobarid museum presents the story of these historical events and in 1993 it received the Council of Europe Museum Award. Kobarid is also the culinary capital of the Primorska region, since it boasts many excellent restaurants.

PORTOROZ – the Slovenian Monte Carlo

Sea, wind, salt, Mediterranean odours, palms, roses and evergreen plants, relaxation, entertainment and companionship are the words, with which we can easily introduce Portoroz, a seaside resort in the heart of Europe. The intermingling of various cultures and music expressions, nature, culinary delights and turbulent historical events, create an atmosphere, in which the everyday life stress and tensions disappear in a relaxed state of mind. The relaxing stroll on the shoreline, recuperating run on the beach, swimming in the sea and pools, beauty and health programmes in spas or sports and recreational activities, will fill you with new energy. Portoroz is a great departure point for the sailing in the Adriatic.



DAY 5

Breakfast in the hotel
Boat ride to Piran (3km) for a visit
Lunch in Piran
Drive to Koper (19km) for a wine tasting
Return to Portoroz
Dinner at a local restaurant
Overnight in Portoroz

PIRAN- historical gem on Slovenian coast

Piran, a typical Mediterranean town designated by a lovely St. Georges Church and square, named after Piran's most famous citizen - musician Giuseppe Tartini. It is situated at the cape of the Piran peninsula on the Northern side of Istria. The town is actually one large museum with the medieval architecture and rich culture heritage. Narrow streets and tight houses form a special charm of the town. Piran is also an administrative centre of the local area and important Slovenian tourist centre.



KOPER - Mediterranean as it used to be

Carved grey Istrian limestone, eight squares situated at the outer edge of the town covered with a carpet of white stone, eleven other squares, remnants of an ancient city wall, narrow intertwining streets leading to the main square, boasting the largest cathedral in Slovenia - all this narrates the story of the past and of the present moment. Step by step the facades of the buildings and their interiors reveal the millennial history of Koper, once Iustinopolis, Capris, evoke the era of the Venetian Republic, the golden age of the Gothic and Renaissance - up to the present moment.



DAY 6

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Drive towards Ljubljana
Visit of Postojna caves (71km)
Lunch in Postojna caves mansion
Drive to Ljubljana (54km)
Check-in to a hotel
A sightseeing tour of Ljubljana
Dinner at a local restaurant
Overnight in Ljubljana

MARVELLOUS POSTOJNA CAVES – the most visited caves in Europe

The Postojna cave system is the largest known cave system in Slovenia. A visit to a cave such as Postojna deserves full attention due to the diversity of shapes, expansive cave areas, stalactite and stalagmite formations and water characteristics. Admire its unique Karst underground world of beautiful formations of stalactites and stalagmites. You can also see an unusual and rare underground animal Proteus Anguinus - the so-called "human fish". A visit to Postojna cave is a special experience, as an electric train takes visitors to their hour and a half circle tour visit to the cave. From train station inside the cave guides accompany visitors as they walk amongst magnificent creations of nature.



LJUBLJANA - a charming mixture of styles of Central Europe

One of Europe's best-kept secrets, the ancient walled city of Ljubljana lies at the very heart of Slovenia and boasts a vibrant history that traces 3,000 years of Roman, Medieval, Baroque and Italian influences. A friendly and cosmopolitan city Ljubljana offers a broad selection of diversions that range from strolling the shimmering reaches of the Ljubljana River to exploring the formal gardens and fortified battlements of the city. There is also wandering the cobbled streets of the Old town and a bright café society to be enjoyed plus plenty of atmospheric bars, a broad range of regional restaurants and a host of cultural events.



DAY 7

Breakfast in the hotel
Drive to Ptuj (130km)
Lunch at a local restaurant
Wine tasting in one of the nearby wine cellars
Return to Ljubljana
Dinner at a local restaurant
Overnight in Ljubljana



PTUJ - treasure house of the millennium

Ptuj is the oldest town in Slovenia, full of interesting sights such as the uniquely beautiful 'Orpheus' monument in the centre of the town, a Roman tombstone that dates from 2nd century, and a wide range of medieval, baroque and renaissance architectural treasures. During your stay you also shouldn't forget to visit the glorious castle of Ptuj.

Its rich history reaches back to the Stone Age, but the city experienced its greatest flowering in the Roman period. The name originated in the times of Emperor Trajan, who granted the settlement city status and named it Colonia Ulpia Traiana Poetovio. In 69 A.D., Emperor Vespasian was elected in Ptuj and the first written mention of the city of Ptuj is from the same year. Once a roman settlement Poetovio then contributed very well to its lively history and so had developed into an important cultural, administrative, economic, educational and traffic centre worth visiting at any time of the year.

DAY 8

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Drive to Ljubljana airport for your departure flight



SERVICES

SERVICES INCLUDED:

TRANSFERS:

Air conditioned comfortable vehicle through the whole tour

ACCOMMODATION (in DBL or SGL room, breakfast included):

1 night in 4* hotel in Bled, 1 night in 5* hotel in Bohinj area, 1 night in 4* hotel in Bovec, 2 nights in 4*/5* hotel in Portoroz, 2 nights in 4*/5* hotel in Ljubljana

GUIDES:

English speaking guide through the whole tour including meals and accommodation

ENTRANCE FEES:

Bled castle, Pletna boat ride & visit of St. Mary church, Vintgar gorge, Mt. Vogel cable car, Soca source, Kobarid museum, boat ride to Piran, wine tasting in Koper, Postojna caves with lunch, Ptuj castle, wine tasting in Ptuj

MEALS:

As per program

OTHER:

Organization of the tour and VAT

SERVICES EXCLUDED:

- Services not mentioned in the program
- Porterage
- Drinks during the meals
- Tips

OPTIONAL SERVICES:

- Rafting in Soca valley