



Slovenia

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Best Places to Eat

- » Gostilna na Gradu (p490)
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Best Places to Stay

- » Antiq Palace Hotel & Spa (p489)
- » Max Piran (p509)
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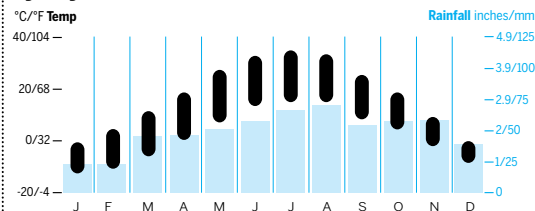
Why Go?

It's a pint-sized place, with a surface area of just more than 20,000 sq km and two million people. But 'good things come in small packages', and never was that old chestnut more appropriate than in describing Slovenia. The country has everything from beaches, snowcapped mountains, hills awash in grape vines and wide plains blanketed in sunflowers to Gothic churches, baroque palaces and art nouveau buildings. Its incredible mixture of climates brings warm Mediterranean breezes up to the foothills of the Alps, where it can snow in summer.

The capital, Ljubljana, is a culturally rich city that values livability and sustainability over unfettered growth. This sensitivity towards the environment extends to rural and lesser-developed parts of the country as well. With more than half of its total area covered in forest, Slovenia really is one of the 'greenest' countries in the world.

When to Go

Ljubljana



Apr–Jun Spring is a great time to be in the lowlands and the flower-carpeted valleys of the Julian Alps.

Sep This is the month made for everything – still warm enough to swim and tailor-made for hiking.

Dec–Mar Everyone (and their grandma) dons their skis in this winter-sport-mad country.

AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Euro (€)
- » **Language** Slovene
- » **Money** ATMs are everywhere; banks open weekdays and Saturday morning
- » **Visas** Not required for citizens of the EU, Australia, USA, Canada or New Zealand

Fast Facts

- » **Area** 20,273 sq km
- » **Capital** Ljubljana
- » **Country code** ☎386
- » **Emergency** Ambulance & fire ☎112, police ☎113

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	€0.82
Canada	C\$1	€0.77
Japan	¥100	€0.83
New Zealand	NZ\$1	€0.65
UK	UK£1	€1.18
USA	US\$1	€0.78

Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room** €50
- » **Two-course meal** €20
- » **Museum entrance** €4
- » **Beer** €3
- » **100km by train/bus** €6/10

Resources

- » **Slovenian Tourist Board** (www.slovenia.info)
- » **E-uprava** (<http://e-uprava.gov.si/e-unprava/en>)

Connections

Border formalities with Slovenia's three European Union neighbours – Italy, Austria and Hungary – are nonexistent and all are accessible by train and bus. Venice can also be reached by boat from Piran. Expect a somewhat closer inspection of your documents when travelling to/from non-EU Croatia.

ITINERARIES**One Week**

Spend a couple of days in Ljubljana, then head north to unwind in Bohinj or romantic Bled beside idyllic mountain lakes. Depending on the season, take a bus or drive over the hair-raising Vršič Pass into the valley of the vivid blue Soča River and take part in some adventure sports in Bovec or Kobarid before returning to Ljubljana.

Two Weeks

Another week will allow you to see just about everything: all of the above as well as the Karst caves at Škocjan and Postojna and the Venetian ports of Koper and Piran on the Adriatic. The country is small, so even the far eastern region, particularly the historically rich and picturesque city of Ptuj, is just a few hours away by car or train.

Essential Food & Drink

- » **Pršut** Air-dried, thinly sliced ham from the Karst region not unlike Italian prosciutto.
- » **Žlikrofi** Ravioli-like parcels filled with cheese, bacon and chives.
- » **Žganci** The Slovenian stodge of choice – groats made from barley or corn but usually *ajda* (buckwheat).
- » **Potica** A kind of nut roll eaten at teatime or as a dessert.
- » **Wine** Distinctively Slovenian tipples include peppery red Teran from the Karst region and Malvazija, a straw-colour white wine from the coast.
- » **Postrv** Trout, particularly the variety from the Soča River, is a real treat.
- » **Premurska gibanica** A rich concoction of pastry filled with poppy seeds, walnuts, apples, and cheese and topped with cream.
- » **Štruklji** Scrumptious dumplings made with curd cheese and served either savoury as a main course or sweet as a dessert.
- » **Brinjevec** A very strong brandy made from fermented juniper berries (and a decidedly acquired taste).