



Slovenia

Includes ➔

Ljubljana	1009
Julian Alps	1015
Bled	1015
Bohinj	1017
Bovec	1019
Postojna & Škocjan Caves	1020
Piran	1021

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Druga Violina (p1011)
- ➔ Prince of Orange (p1011)
- ➔ Cantina Klet (p1022)
- ➔ Restaurant Proteus (p1020)
- ➔ Štrud'l (p1018)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hostel Vrba (p1011)
- ➔ Adora Hotel (p1011)
- ➔ Rustic House 13 (p1018)
- ➔ Old Parish House (p1016)
- ➔ Hostel Soča Rocks (p1019)

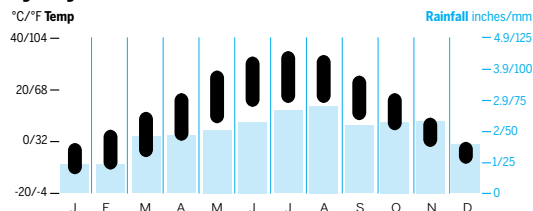
Why Go?

It's a pint-sized place, with a surface area of just over 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 liveability and sustainability over unfettered growth. This sensitivity towards the environment also extends to rural and lesser-developed parts of the country.

When to Go

Ljubljana



Apr–Jun 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.



Slovenia Highlights

- 1 Ljubljana Castle** (p1010) Enjoying a 'flight' on the funicular up to this spectacular hilltop castle.
- 2 National & University Library** (p1010) Considering the genius of architect Jože Plečnik at Ljubljana's historic library.
- 3 Lake Bled** (p1015) Gazing at the natural perfection of this crystal green lake.
- 4 Škocjan Caves** (p1020) Gawking in awe at the 100m-high walls of this incredible cave system.
- 5 Mt Triglav** (p1019) Climbing to the top of the country's tallest mountain.
- 6 Piran** (p1021) Getting lost wandering the narrow Venetian alleyways of this seaside town.

LJUBLJANA

01 / POP 278,800

Slovenia's capital and largest city also happens to be one of Europe's most liveable capitals. Car traffic is restricted in the centre, leaving the leafy banks of the emerald-green Ljubljanica River, which flows through the city's heart, free for pedestrians and cyclists. In summer, cafes set up terrace seating along the river, lending the feel of a perpet-

ual street party. Slovenia's master of early-Modern, minimalist design, Jože Plečnik, graced Ljubljana with beautiful bridges and buildings. The museums, hotels and restaurants are among the best in the country.

Sights

The easiest way to see Ljubljana is on foot. The oldest part of town, with the most important historical buildings and sights (including