

Welcome to Slovenia

A paradise of snow-capped peaks, turquoise rivers and Venetian-style coastline, Slovenia enriches its natural treasures with harmonious architecture, rustic culture and sophisticated cuisine.

Jaw-Dropping Beauty

From the soaring peaks of the Julian Alps and the subterranean magic of Postojna and Škocjan Caves, to sparkling emerald-green lakes and rivers and the short but sweet Adriatic coast, Slovenia has it all. An incredible mixture of climates brings warm Mediterranean breezes up to the foothills of the Alps, where it can snow even in summer. And with more than half of its total territory covered in forest, Slovenia really is one of the greenest countries in the world.

Architectural & Cultural Treasures

You might be forgiven for thinking that anything of beauty in this greenest of green lands is, well, all natural. But it ain't necessarily so. Where humans intrude it's often to good effect, such as at Lake Bled, where a tiny baroque chapel on a picturesque island with a dramatic castle looming above complete a harmonious whole. The architecture is wonderfully varied – from the Venetian harbour towns of the coast and the rustic Hungarian-style farmhouses of Prekmurje to the Gothic church of Gorenjska and art nouveau splendours of Ljubljana – the museums are rich and the culture vibrant.

Outdoor Pursuits

Slovenia is a top outdoor destination. Locals favour active holidays, and you'll be invited – even expected – to join in. The list of activities on offer is endless, with the most popular pursuits skiing, walking and hiking in the mountains and, increasingly, cycling. Fast rivers like the Soča cry out to be rafted and there are ample chances to try out more niche activities like horseback riding, ballooning, caving and canyoning. If all this sounds a bit much, you can always decamp to the coast and sunbathe on the Adriatic.

A Matter of Taste

Slovenian cooking borrows a little something from each of its neighbours – Italy, Austria, Hungary and the Balkans – synthesising and reinventing dishes so they emerge both familiar and unique. Slovenians have an obsession with using only fresh and locally sourced ingredients. This is a terrific foodie destination, where you'll sample dishes in unusual combinations such as scrumptious pasta dumplings of potato, chives and bacon, salads drizzled with nutty pumpkin seed oil, and multi-layered *gibanica*, a wildly decadent dessert. Slovenian wine is an unheralded strength, and regional whites and reds pair well with local specialities.



Why I Love Slovenia

By Steve Fallon, Writer

Even serial visitors to Slovenia like myself often stop and stare, mesmerised by the sheer beauty of this land. The wondrous bucolic valley of Logarska Dolina brings heaven to earth, and at the dramatic Vršič pass through the Alps I feel on top of the world in every sense. I can never tire of the wonderful and varied architecture, excellent wines and traditional dishes, and vibrant folk culture. But for me the country's greatest attribute is the Slovenes themselves: quietly conservative, deeply self-confident, remarkably broadminded, especially tolerant and very, very hospitable.

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