



Southeast Slovenia & the Krka Valley

Includes ➔

Ribnica & Around . . .	160
Krka Valley	162
Dolenjske Toplice . . .	164
Novo Mesto	166
Otočec ob Krki	169
Kostanjevica na Krki	171
Brežice	173
Mokrice Castle	176
Bizeljsko-Sremič Wine District	176
Metlika	177
Črnomelj	180

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Grad (p170)
- ➔ Oštarija Debeluh (p175)
- ➔ Oštarija (p165)
- ➔ Gostilna Vovko (p170)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hotel Balnea (p165)
- ➔ Šeruga Farmhouse (p170)
- ➔ Otočec Castle Hotel (p170)
- ➔ Glamping Malerič (p182)
- ➔ Domačija Novak (p164)
- ➔ Vila Castanea (p173)

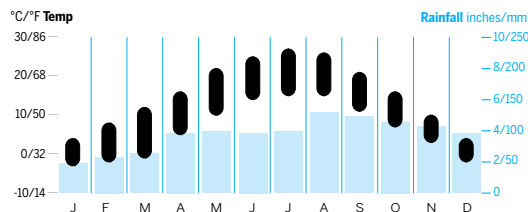
Why Go?

Slovenia's southeast doesn't announce itself as loudly as other parts of the country, preferring subtle charms over big-ticket attractions. Dolenjska (Lower Carniola) and Bela Krajina are regions where life slows down considerably – all the better to enjoy the meandering rivers and rolling hills covered with forest, orchards and grapevines. Villages cluster around church spires and distinctive *toplarji* hayracks shelter neat woodpiles.

Low-key tourist attractions come in the shape of grand monasteries and restored castles, thermal water resorts, and surprisingly good regional museums and galleries. Local farms and vineyards welcome travellers with rustic accommodation, farm-to-plate food and unique wine. The area encourages outdoor exploration, too: walking and cycling trails take in the bucolic splendour; kayaking and rafting get you onto those green rivers. With some time up your sleeve and a desire to see beyond Slovenia's headline acts, you could craft an itinerary where slow travel brings its own rewards.

When to Go

Novo Mesto



Mar–May Put on your hiking boots as spring blooms and temperatures warm up.

Jun–Sep Mix summer sun with kayaking on the waters of the Kolpa or Krka Rivers.

Sep–Oct Take to the cycling trails during cooler autumn days, and enjoy the autumn grape harvest.

Southeast Slovenia & the Krka Valley Highlights

- 1 Cycle the back roads of the picturesque **Krka River valley** (p163).
- 2 Kayak the rapid-water run on the **Kolpa River** (p183) from Stari Trg to Vinica.
- 3 Walk the island of **Kostanjevica na Krki** (p171), and explore the art that fills its ancient monastery outside town.
- 4 Castle-hop from Renaissance Bogenšperk to fresco-rich Brežice, stopping for a sumptuous night in regal surrounds at **Otočec** (p170).
- 5 Take in a music performance at the stunning Knights' Hall during the annual **Seviqč Brežice** (p175) festival.
- 6 Embrace the local wine culture by staying in a vineyard cottage, sampling new wine varieties, and touring fascinating wine caves in **Bizeljско-Sremič wine country** (p177).
- 7 Soak in thermal waters at **Dolenjske Toplice** (p164) or **Terme Catež** (p174).

