



The Karst & the Coast

Includes ➔

Postojna.....	129
Green Karst.....	133
Škocjan Caves.....	136
Lipica.....	137
The Coast.....	139
Koper.....	139
Izola.....	144
Piran.....	147
Portorož.....	153
Sečovelje.....	156

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Kaki Plac (p154)
- ➔ Old Schoolhouse Korte (p146)
- ➔ PachaMama (p151)
- ➔ Lipizzaner Lodge (p130)
- ➔ Kempinski Palace Portorož (p155)

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Capra (p142)
- ➔ Hiša Torkla (p146)
- ➔ Etna (p137)
- ➔ Restaurant Proteus (p131)
- ➔ Cantina Klet (p152)

Why Go?

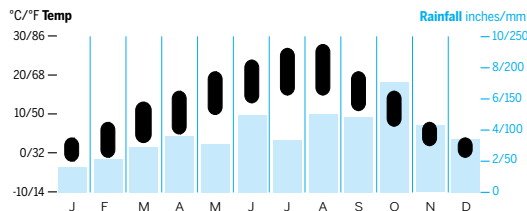
Slovenia's astonishing diversity comes to the fore in this region. Separated by short distances, you can traipse through remarkable Unesco-recognised caves that yawn open to reveal karstic treasures, go bear-watching in dense green forests, or admire the Venetian history and architectural legacy of photogenic seaside towns.

Continue the winning mix of history-meets-scenery: view dancing white Lipizzaner horses at the estate that first bred them in the late 16th century, then inspect the marvellous detail of the 15th-century *Dance of Death* fresco at remote Hrastovlje. Visit the historic salt pans of Sečovelje then enjoy a salt scrub at the stylish open-air day spa in their midst.

Flavours are equally diverse and delectable. Lunch on *pršut* (air-dried ham) accompanied by ruby-red teran wine for the definitive taste of the Karst; dine on seafood washed down with local *malvazija* wine on the coast – best savoured with a sunset view of the Adriatic.

When to Go

Piran



Jun–Aug The summer peak: prime weather, crowds, beaches and activities in full swing.

Sep The perfect time for swimming in the Adriatic, when the tourist numbers have died down.

Dec See the living nativity scene inside Postojna Cave.



The Karst & the Coast Highlights

- 1 Descend into the netherworld with a tour of the **Škocjan Caves** (p136).
- 2 Enjoy the catch of the day amid the glorious Venetian architecture of **Piran** (p147).
- 3 Marvel at a train *inside* a cave and look for human fish at **Postojna Cave** (p129).
- 4 Unwind at the peaceful **Lepa Vida Thalasso Spa** (p156) in the salty Sečovlje Salina Nature Park.
- 5 Be dazzled by the detail of the frescoes lining the interior of the **Church of the Holy Trinity** (p143) in Hrastovlje.
- 6 Admire the stories told at **Predjama Castle** (p132), an impregnable castle perched in a cliffside cave.
- 7 Get off the beaten track (and potentially spot a bear) in the forests of the **Lož Valley** (p134).