



LITTLE HOLIDAYS IN

Slovenia

CONTENTS

PLAN

Quick facts	3
Top recommendations	5
When to go	6
Events and activities	7
Sample itineraries	8
Typical costs	10

BOOK

Getting there	11
Where to stay	12
Renting a car	14
Transportation options	18
Tours and activities	18
Wi-Fi and SIM cards	20

EXPLORE

Map	20
Where to go	22
What to eat and where	36
Where to go next	37

Quick facts

Essential information

- [General visa information for travel to Slovenia](#)
- [Health information](#)

Emergency numbers

Emergency services – urgent medical help, firefighters, rescue team	112
Police – emergencies	113
Roadside assistance and towing	1987
Tourist information	080 1900

Language

Languages: Slovenian, English

Helpful phrases

- Hello – Zdravo!
- Thanks – Hvala
- Excuse me / Sorry – Oprosite
- Cheers! – Na zdravje!
- Bye – Adijo!

Money matters

Currency: Euro (1 EUR ~ 1.14 USD ~ 1.58 SGD)

Credit cards (Visa and MasterCard) are accepted in most stores and restaurants. Always choose to pay in EUR (the local currency) when prompted by the payment terminal.

Carry a bit of cash for smaller stores and markets. If you have a [Transferwise Borderless Card](#) or [Revolut](#), you can withdraw with minimal conversion fees and minimal ATM fees from Slovenia's major banks (try Unicredit ATMs).

Top recommendations

WHERE TO STAY

Ljubljana

House Trta	Warm and friendly guesthouse just outside the city center	Book here
Vila Minka	Aparthotel in a quiet neighborhood near the A2 motorway	Book here

Bled

Vila Bled	Beautiful hotel on the shores of Lake Bled	Book here
Old Bled House	Charming and rustic holiday home near the lake and restaurants	Book here

WHAT TO DO

Postojna Cave and Predjama Castle	Explore the historic cave system and largest cave castle in the world	Book here
Piran and Lipica	Visit one of Slovenia's prettiest coastal cities	Book here
Bled and Vintgar Gorge	See one of Europe's most picturesque destinations and enjoy breathtaking views	Book here

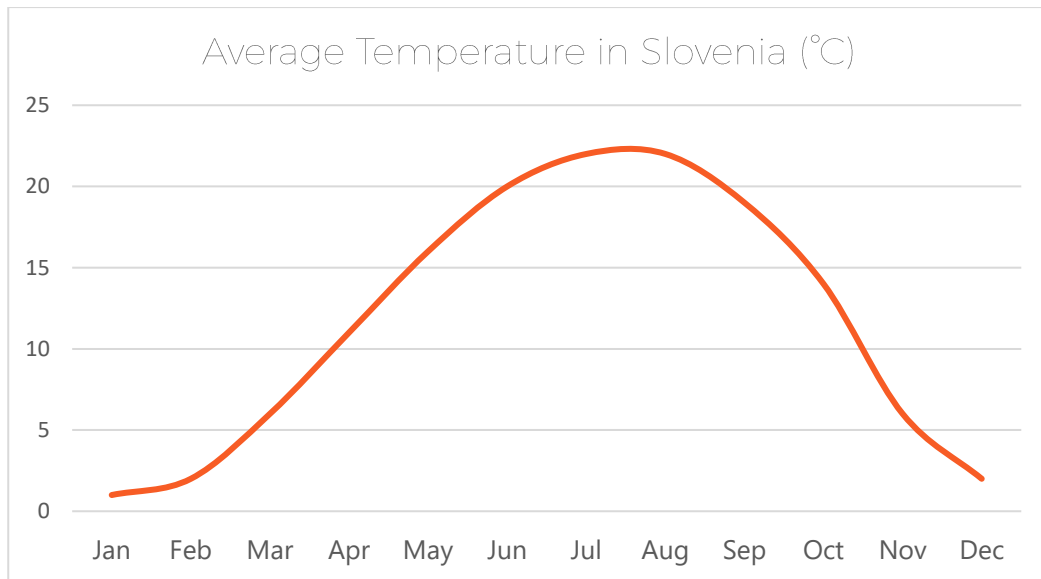
WHERE TO EAT

Bled

Restaurant Sova	Delicious dishes with bold flavors with amazing views of the lake	Make a reservation
Gostilna pri planincu	Traditional Slovenian cuisine in a cozy pub in the old center of Bled	Make a reservation

When to go

Slovenia is best enjoyed outdoors – **May to September** are ideal months to go hiking, cycling, and sightseeing. You can go skiing in the northwestern alpine regions from **December to March**. Ljubljana and Lake Bled are beautiful year-round.



Events and activities

[Here's a complete list of events in Slovenia.](#)

MAY

[Refoška Festival](#)

[Sočna vilica](#)

JUNE

[Light Art Festival](#)

[Wine Days Brda](#)

[Cherry Festival
Brda](#)

JULY

[Lent Festival](#)

[Wine and Garlic
Feast](#)

[Caravan of Local
Craft Breweries](#)

SEPTEMBER

[Festival Maribor](#)

[Beer Fest Maribor](#)

[Sweet Istria
Dessert Festival](#)

NOVEMBER

[Wine Route in the
Tunnels](#)

DECEMBER

[Velenje
Underground](#)

Sample itineraries

▶ 3 days

Day 1: Start your adventures in Slovenia's lovely capital city, Ljubljana. Enjoy the city center's beautiful architecture, green and cobbled streets, and delicious cuisine. From the old town, make your way up to the castle and watch the sunset.

Day 2: Drive southwest to Postojna Cave and Predjama Castle for a taste of Slovenia's diverse natural and historical landmarks.

Day 3: Now, it's time to explore Slovenia's most loved destination: Lake Bled. Spend the day around the lake and visit the island and the castle for the most amazing views.

Enjoy **Ljubljana's** beautiful architecture, cobbled streets, and delicious cuisine.





Visit the beautiful coastal town of **Piran**. Walk along the coastline and explore the historic medieval walls.

► 5 days

Days 1-2 as above.

Day 3: Start early and make your way to the beautiful coastal town of Piran. Walk along the coastline and check out the old town and the historic medieval walls. Then drive to Goriška Brda for an afternoon in the charming Slovenian wine region and more fantastic food to end the day.

Day 4: Explore Lake Bled, the island, and the castle.

Day 5: See more of the beautiful Triglav National Park. Spend the day swimming and sunbathing at the Lake Bohinj or go for a hike to the Triglav Peak. You can also go for a short hike to Savica Waterfalls and along Vintgar Gorge.

Typical costs



BUDGET

EUR 17/night

[MS Sparrow Hostel](#)

COMFORT

EUR 90/night

[Urban Hotel](#)

SPLURGE

EUR 200/night

[Grand Hotel Toplice](#)



EUR 3.50

Sausage at
[Klobasarna](#)

EUR 20

[Ostarija Peglez'n](#)

EUR 200

[Gostilna pri Lojzetu](#) tasting
menu for two



EUR 6.30

[Bus ride from Ljubljana to Bled](#)

EUR 60/day

[Rental car](#)

EUR 110

[Private tour to Bled and Bohinj](#)



**FREE
ACTIVITIES**

EUR 60

[Ljubljana Food Tour](#)

EUR 145

[Slovenia in one day tour](#)

Getting there

By plane

You can [fly to Ljubljana](#) from many European cities, and then it's a 20-minute ride to the city center. Other nearby convenient airports with more international connections are [Venice](#), which is a 2-hour drive to Ljubljana, and [Trieste](#), which is a 1-hour drive to Ljubljana.

[Check flights to Ljubljana](#)

By bus or train

If you're coming from neighboring countries, you can also go by [train](#) or [bus](#).

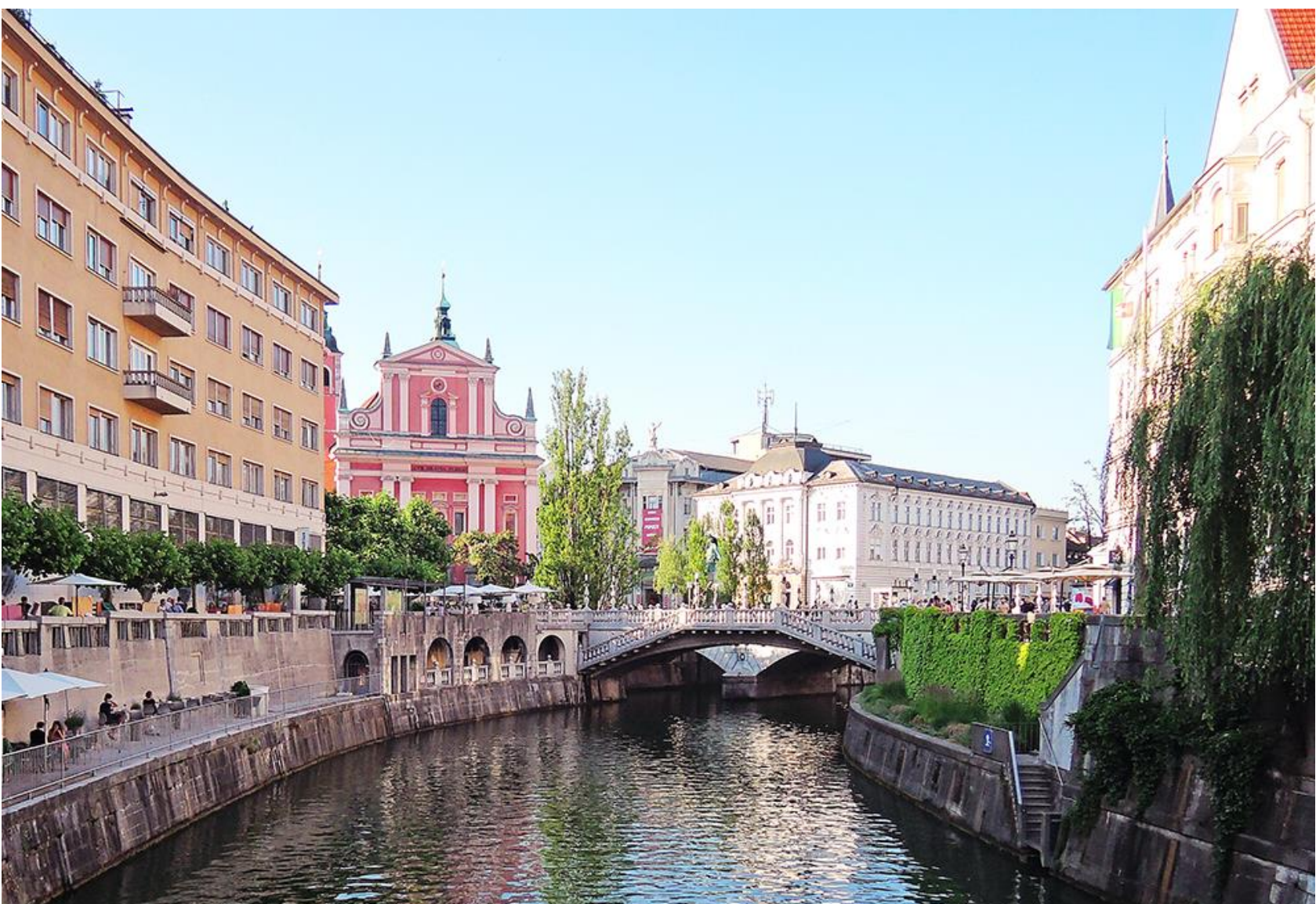
Where to stay

For a 5-day road trip, split your time between two bases: stay in **Ljubljana** while exploring the capital and the coastal cities, then move to **Bled** to explore the lake region. If you're not driving, though, stay in Ljubljana and take day trips around the country.

Ljubljana

Ljubljana is an excellent base for exploring most of the popular destinations around the country. As Slovenia is compact and has an excellent motorway system, you can get to any point in the country from Ljubljana in under 2 hours.

- [House Trta](#)
- [Vila Minka](#)





Bled

Stay in Bled for 2-3 nights to explore the beautiful lake and the rest of the region. It's a great place to enjoy Slovenia's beautiful outdoors.

- [Vila Bled](#)
- [Old Bled House](#)
- [Vila Cvetka](#)

If you have more days to spend in Slovenia, other good bases are [Piran](#) (for coastal adventures), [Šmartno](#) (for a relaxing holiday in the countryside), and [Bohinj](#) (for hikes around the Julian Alps).

Renting a car

Requirements

- **Age** – You must be 18 years old to drive in Slovenia. Some rental car companies only rent to drivers at least 21 years old.
- **License** – If you plan to drive in Slovenia for a short time as a tourist, it is recommended to get a valid International Driving Permit (IDP) from your country's automobile association. Note that the IDP is only valid when accompanied by a valid local license, so make sure to bring both. Driving licenses issued within the European Union are valid in Slovenia.
- **Other documents** – Have your passport and a credit card under your name when picking up the rental car. The rental car company might authorize a deposit on your credit card to cover for any damages. When driving, always carry proof of insurance, proof of ownership or rental, and a valid ID (passport).

Renting a car

- **Reserve online** - Make sure to reserve your car online in advance. If you're flying into Ljubljana airport, you can get your car from there.

Rental cars in Ljubljana

Other car hire locations in Slovenia

- **Get a comprehensive car hire insurance** – For total peace of mind, get a [comprehensive personal car hire insurance](#) that will cover for damages and theft.

Get a rental car insurance

- **Add-ons** – A GPS unit and child seats can be added to your reservation if needed.
- **One-way rentals** – Many rental car companies in Slovenia allow domestic one-way rentals for an extra fee. This means you can pick up your car from one city and drop it off in another.

Costs – 5-day road trip (2021 prices and estimates)

- **Rental car** – A 5-seat sedan ranges from EUR 300-500 for five days.

- **Gas** – Estimating 1000 kilometers over five days, gasoline could cost you up to EUR 200.
- **Tolls** – You'll need a highway toll sticker or [vignette](#) to use the motorways. Most rental car companies will include this with the car, but if not, it costs EUR 15 for a vignette with a 1-week validity. You can buy it from gas stations and other [points of sale](#).
- **Parking** – Within cities, you can look for blue zones where parking is free for a short period – you'll need a parking disc to indicate your time of arrival. You can also find free and paid parking spaces near most tourist attractions.

Road rules and safety

Emergency numbers

- 112 – General emergency number
- 113 – Police
- 1987 – Roadside assistance and towing

Slovenia drives on the right side of the road.

Usual speed limits

- Motorways – 130 km/hr (80 miles/hr)
- Country roads – 90 km/hr (55 miles/hr)
- Towns and cities, urban roads – 50 km/hr (30 miles/hr)

Follow posted speed limit signs in motorways and villages.

Things to watch out for

- Don't drink or use mobile devices while driving.
- Always wear a seatbelt.
- Winter equipment is mandatory from 15 November to 15 March (and beyond, depending on conditions). You must use winter tires and carry snow chains.
- Turn on your lights day and night.

Navigating

Useful apps

- [Google Maps](#)
- [Waze](#) – add “Vignette SLO – Vinjeta” to your Toll and HOV Passes (Settings – Navigation) so the app can give you the best routes
- [Maps.me](#)

Connectivity

- [4G WiFi](#)

Resources

- [**A guide to driving in Slovenia for tourists**](#)
- [**RentalCars**](#) – Online rental car booking platform
- [**Comprehensive car hire insurance**](#)

Transportation options

Local transportation

You can travel around the country by bus. From Ljubljana, you can ride a bus to almost every Slovenian town or city. Here's where you can [check for bus connections and timetables](#).

Tours and activities

If you're not driving, you can stay in Ljubljana during your entire trip and join day tours to see the rest of Slovenia. Here are the top recommended tours you can take from Ljubljana.

- [Postojna Cave and Predjama Castle](#)
- [Piran and Lipica](#)
- [Bled and Vintgar Gorge](#)

If you have extra days to add to your Slovenia trip, here are more destinations to check out.

Soča River

This is a beautiful day trip to Slovenia's "adventure capital." You can white water raft down the Soča River as well as visit several historical landmarks on the drive there and back.

Kranjska Gora

If you can't get enough of Lake Bled, go back to the Julian Alps and visit Kranjska Gora and Jasna Lake. You'll see more picturesque mountain ranges, breathe in the fresh air, and drive through the gorgeous countryside.

Maribor and Ptuj

Take a trip back in time to Slovenia's oldest town, Ptuj. You can wander through the medieval town and learn more about Slovenia's history and traditions.

Vipava Valley

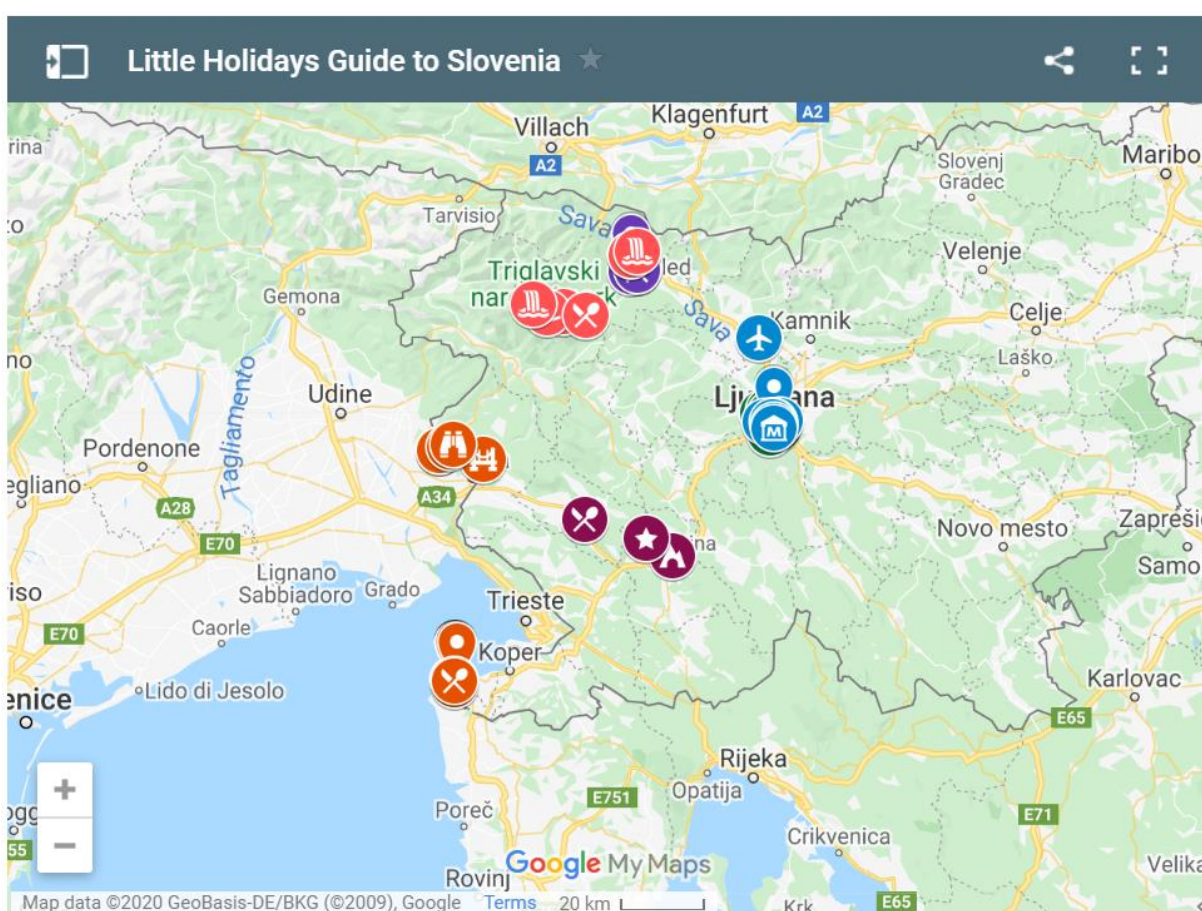
If lovely little villages and vineyards are more your jam, head to Vipava Valley for wine-tasting in a boutique family-run winery.

Wi-Fi and SIM cards

- [4G WIFI](#)

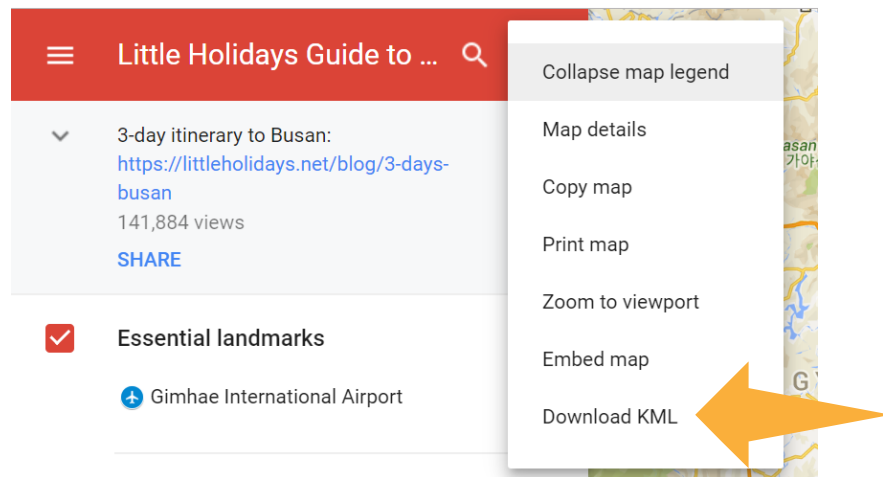
Map

Use this [Google Map](#) to get around and plan your trip.



To get an offline version of this map –

1. Download maps.me to your phone
2. Open the [Google map \(click\)](#) on your desktop web browser
3. Click on the **⋮** icon on the right side of the map name
4. Select **Download KML**



5. Export as KML
6. Send the file to your mobile via email or messaging app
7. Open the KML file using maps.me
8. Download the Slovenia map on maps.me when prompted while you have an internet connection
9. You'll then be able to use maps.me offline – you'll find this Slovenia map saved in your **Bookmarks**

Where to go

Ljubljana

Make Ljubljana your base for the first half of your road trip in Slovenia. It's the perfect starting point for road trips to the wine region and the coastal towns. It's also a lovely city to get your first taste of Slovenian hospitality.

Start at the **Tromostovje (Triple Bridge)** to instantly get a glimpse of what makes Ljubljana so lovable and memorable. The bridge connects the city's historical and medieval town on one bank, and the modern city center on the other. From here, you can see the leafy and lively banks of the Ljubljanica River and feel the laidback and playful vibe of the city's residents and tourists.

There's a lot to see and enjoy in **Ljubljana**. Walk along the leafy and lively banks of the **Ljubljanica River** to ease into the laidback vibe.



Take a stroll along Ljubljana's riverbanks. From Tromstovje to the **Dragon Bridge**, you'll be walking past several Baroque and modern architecture, starting with the **Prešeren Square** and the distinctive pink Franciscan church. You'll also pass by the Butcher's Bridge and the Central Market.

From the Dragon Bridge, slowly make your way to the **Old Town**. Stop and explore the Central Market and check out the Slovenian products and fresh produce. The indoor market is also a great place to buy cured meat products, homemade pastries, and local cheeses.

During Fridays from March to October, you'll find local restaurateurs setting up stalls and taking part in [Odprta Kuhna](#) (Open Kitchen) and offering the best of local and international cuisine in the outdoor market.

From the Central Market, take a quick tour of the Baroque Cathedral of St. Nicolas, then continue walking along the Ciril-Metodov trg until you see the Town Hall and the Robba fountain.

From the Old Town, make your way to Krekov trg and either ride the funicular up to the **Ljubljana Castle** or go on foot starting at the Študentovska ulica. It's a nice 20-30-minute walk up with great views as you get higher.

Shop for Slovenian products and fresh produce in the **Central Market** and the **Old Town**. This is also a perfect spot for a quick coffee break.



and vast green spaces outside the castle. There are plenty of architectural and historical monuments on the castle hill with many pleasant walking trails to cover them, and it's also a great spot to watch the sunset.

If you have a couple more days to spend in Ljubljana, here are several places and activities you can check out:

Tivoli Park and the Ljubljana Zoo – As one of Europe's greenest cities, you can be sure that the city takes its parks and green spaces seriously. Tivoli Park is the largest one in Ljubljana, and if you love to walk, you can easily spend a whole day exploring around the area. There are a couple of hiking trails, a pond, a mansion, a beautiful promenade, and on the southern part stands the [Ljubljana Zoo](#).

Metelkova Mesto – Metelkova Mesto is Ljubljana's [alternative culture center](#). Previously the site of the military headquarters of the Austro-Hungarian Empire army and then that of the Yugoslav National Arms, it became a squat in 1993 after the Slovenian and Croatian declaration of independence. Since then, it has become the city's center of underground music and art, hosting performances, exhibitions, and festivals. You can see several art installations and exhibitions while walking around here.

Museums of Ljubljana – If you want to learn more about Slovenia's art and culture, spend a day visiting Ljubljana's

top museums: the [National Museum of Slovenia](#), the [National Gallery](#), and the [Museum of Modern Art](#).

Jože Plečnik's Ljubljana – As you explore the city, you'll see much of the works of Slovenian modernist architect Jože Plečnik. His works can be seen not only in Ljubljana, but also in Vienna, Prague, and Belgrade. He rebuilt most of the important structures and spaces in the city after a devastating earthquake in 1895. His works include the National and University Library, the Tromostovje or Triple Bridge, the central market or Tržnica, and the embankment of the Ljubljanica River. If you're keen to know more about his works, you can take a [guided tour](#) or visit his home, [Plečnikova Hiša](#).

Ljubljana's Food and Wine Scene – While you can pretty much follow your nose to find your next meal as you weave in and out of Ljubljana's lively streets, if you want a bit of direction, [join this food tour](#) and get a tasty introduction to Slovenian cuisine.

Ljubljana Bike Tour – Biking around Ljubljana is a great way to see the city. This [4-hour bike tour](#) will bring you through the old city center, the Krakovo gardens, the Metelkova neighborhood, and all the way to Tivoli Park. It's a fun and active way to experience much of the city in a short time.



Visit one of the most dramatic cave castles in the world, the **Predjama Castle**.

Postojna Cave and Predjama Castle

The **Postojna Cave** is a 24-km cave system carved out by the Pivka River over millions of years. You'll get to explore 5 kms of the cave in 90 minutes, which starts with an underground electric train ride, and then a guided walk through corridors, galleries, and halls with diverse karst features.

The cave system has a constant temperature of 8-10°C, so make sure to bring a warm jacket and wear closed and comfortable shoes when you visit. You can also rent capes at the entrance. Lines can be long at the Postojna Cave

ticket office, so consider buying tickets online in advance. You can [get a combined ticket for Postojna Cave and Predjama Castle here](#).

Predjama Castle is a short 15-minute drive from Postojna Cave and is the largest – and certainly the most dramatic – cave castle in the world. The Renaissance castle was built in the mouth of a cavern up a rocky cliff with a series of secret tunnels behind it, and it was virtually impenetrable when it was built in the 13th century.

If you're up for an elevated dining experience after visiting Postojna Cave and Predjama Castle, drive to [Gostilna pri Lojzetu](#). Call ahead for a reservation.

Piran

The drive from Ljubljana to **Piran** takes a little over 2 hours, but once you're there, the views of the Adriatic Sea – and the prospect of a delicious seafood lunch – will make the drive worthwhile.

Piran is a car-free town, so you'll have to park outside – the Garage Fornače (see the Google map) is a good option. From there, you can ride the shuttle or walk 15 minutes to the center. If you're ready for lunch, you'll find a lot of restaurants along the harbor and within the old town – [Pirat](#) and [Fritolin Pri Cantini](#) are great options.

Tartinijev trg (Tartini Central Square) is a great place to start your adventures around Piran. The square is named after Giuseppe Tartini, an Italian Baroque composer and violinist.

Tartini Square is the heart of the old town and used to be an inner fishing port. If the vibe here feels a little bit like Italy, that's because it was part of the Republic of Venice for 500 years until 1797. Much of the architecture and cuisine have strong Italian influences, and it's also not very far from the Italian border.

From Tartini Square, visit St. George's Parish Church, go up the Bell Tower for amazing views of the sea and the town, then walk along the seaside promenade towards the lighthouse. If you don't mind a bit of a trek, the Walls of Piran also offer fantastic views of the surroundings.

Explore the sunny alleys of **Piran's** old town.





Take a day trip to **Brda**, one of Slovenia's wine-growing regions. Visit **Dobrovo** for good food and wine then explore **Šmartno**, a small medieval town.

Goriška Brda

From Piran, head to **Goriška Brda**, one of Slovenia's wine-growing regions. It's a 90-minute drive from Piran to Brda past beautiful countryside scenery.

Goriška Brda produces world-class wine, but that's not all the region has to offer. It's a great place to visit if you love charming historic towns, medieval villages, and the sight of vineyards everywhere you look.

Start your drive towards the Brda region. Make a short side trip to see the **Solkan Bridge**, a large, beautiful stone bridge over the Soča River.

Continue to **Dobrovo**, the region's capital, and explore the castle. Visit [Klet Brda](#) if you're keen on learning more about Slovenian wines. You can schedule a wine-tasting with them and tour the cellar.

From Dobrovo, make your way to **Šmartno**, a small medieval walled town perched on top of a hill in the center of the wine-growing region. Spend some time going around the cobbled alleys – the town is small, so it's the perfect place to wander around. You'll get some incredible views from here, and if you're hungry, [Marica](#) serves traditional Slovenian cuisine and the region's best wines.

One last stop before you head home: the **Gonjače lookout tower**. Go up 144 stairs for a sweeping view of the Brda region. With clear skies, you'll be able to see the Julian and Carnian Alps, as well as the Dolomites to the north. Beside the tower is a bronze monument dedicated to the 315 citizens of Brda, who gave their lives in World War 2.

From Brda, Ljubljana and Bled are both about a 2-hour drive away, so at this point, I'd recommend that you plan to stay in Bled after your day trip to Brda. If you want to soak up Brda's atmosphere a bit longer, a night or two here would be ideal. [Marica](#) in Šmartno and [B&B Calligaris](#) in Dobrovo are lovely places to stay in Goriška Brda.

Lake Bled

Spend the day exploring **Lake Bled**. You can go for a stroll along the boardwalk or go for a hike around the lake. The most popular trail is the one to **Mala Osojnica**, where you can get amazing views of Lake Bled against the backdrop of the Julian Alps.

Ride a pletna or row your own boat to Bled Island. During warm months, you can also swim in designated areas around Lake Bled.

Lastly, go up the **Castle Bled** for amazing views of the lake and the island. It's also a great place to learn more about the history and traditions of Bled and Slovenia, plus a great spot to try the Lake Bled cream cake.

Enjoy the breathtaking views of the **Lake Bled**, go for hikes around the Triglav National Park, and explore the beautiful natural landscapes in the area.





You'll find lots of nature trails and beautiful landscapes around the **Triglav National Park**.

Triglav National Park

While Lake Bled may be Slovenia's most famous landmark, there are a lot more places to visit around the area. You can be as laidback as spending the day swimming and sunbathing at the Lake Bohinj or as intense as going for a hike to the Triglav Peak. For something in between, a short trek to visit the Savica Waterfalls or a leisurely walk along the Vintgar Gorge is a great way to see Slovenia's natural wonders up close.

Lake Bohinj is Slovenia's largest lake, so even at the peak of summer, it's easy to find a spot to lay down your beach

towel and relax. You can go cycling and hiking around the lake, with plenty of trails passing through hamlets and quiet, lovely villages.

You can also ride the Vogel cable car for amazing views of the Julian Alps. There are several hiking trails from the upper station, one of which brings you to the Vogel summit.

From Lake Bohinj, drive 10 minutes to the parking lot near [Savica Waterfall](#) (Koča pri Savici). The drive itself is an adventure, with lots of winding roads and hairpin bends. From the parking lot, you can then climb the stone steps through the woods to the waterfalls in around 20 minutes.

From Lake Bohinj, the **Savica Waterfalls** is a short thrilling drive and trek away. Go here for an easy mini-hike before heading back to Bled.



If you only have a few hours before leaving Bled, I'd suggest you go to **Vintgar Gorge** instead. This is nearer to Bled (15-minute drive), and you can walk through the ravine trail and back to your car in 2 hours (3 KM walk).

It's a pleasant, easy stroll on wooden boardwalks along the gorge carved out by the Radovna river, with spectacular emerald waters, plenty of small waterfalls, and rapids along the way. You'll also see a preserved and functioning stone arch railway bridge that was built in 1904 from cut stone.

At the end of the gorge, you'll see the beautiful Šum waterfall, and you can either go back again through the gorge (fastest way back to your car) or take a longer, alternate hiking trail back to the parking lot.

[You can find more information about the trails in Triglav National Park here.](#) There are easy trails as short as 1 KM (the Goreljek bog nature trail) and cycling trails like the 16-km Radovna trail.

What to eat and where

Sausage and prosciutto

Kranjska klobasa (Carniolan sausage) and Kraški pršut (Karst prosciutto) are must-tries for meat-lovers.

- [Klobasarna](#)
- [Ala Pršuterija](#)

Buckwheat-based dishes

You'll also find a lot of buckwheat-based dishes in Slovenian restaurants. One that I tried was the ajdovi žganci, a simple yet delicious and filling buckwheat dish topped with pork cracklings. We had it with a platter of meats, and it was plenty for two.

- [Gostilnica Štrudl](#)

Desserts

For dessert, try the Prekmurska gibanica, the potica, and when you're in Bled, the Bled cream cake or kremšnita.

Where to go next

If Slovenia's beautiful roads and natural landscapes got you hooked to road-tripping around Europe, here are more amazing destinations for your next holidays.

[Salzkammergut, Austria](#)

Explore two of Austria's beautiful cities – Salzburg and Vienna – on this road trip across the beautiful Lake District. This road trip is filled with charming villages, gorgeous natural landscapes, and outdoor activities.

[Alsace, France](#)

Head to the sunny region of Alsace, France to enjoy and explore historic wine trails, delicious wine and food, vast national parks, and plenty of hiking and biking trails.

[South Moravia, Czech Republic](#)

Here's another underrated destination – the Czech Republic's South Moravian wine region. You'll find plenty of castle towns, forests, and vineyards to explore.

[Jungfrau, Switzerland](#)

Head to the quieter areas of Lauterbrunnen and Mürren to enjoy that traditional Swiss countryside ambiance. You'll find stunning alpine views and cozy chalets.



ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Thank you for downloading this guide! I wish you exciting adventures in Slovenia. If you found it useful, please forward or share it with your friends and travel buddies. Using the links on this guide and on the blog to plan and book your trip is what keeps the Little Holidays up and running (at no extra cost to you), so thank you so much for that!

This guide was downloaded from the [Little Holidays travel blog](#) and the information is current as of July 2021. Please check the website for updates.

If you have more questions about travel in the area, [send me a message](#), and I'll get back to you ASAP!

Lastly, I'd love to know what you think! Please take 2 minutes to help us make better guides in the future.

How likely are you to recommend this travel guide to a friend?

NOT LIKELY AT ALL

EXTREMELY LIKELY

1

2

3

4

5

Thank you and enjoy your little holidays! ♥