

DNHG Trip to Slovenia
Friday June 5 to Saturday June 13, 2015

Slovenia is a small independent country in the heart of Europe with only 2 million inhabitants, who have managed to preserve their culture and language despite millenniums of foreign domination. Previously one of the six republics of Federal Yugoslavia, Slovenia has been independent since 1991, been part of the European Union since 2004 and has adopted the Euro as a national currency in 2007.

Despite its small size, Slovenia is a country of significant biological, geographical, climatic and cultural diversity: Alps, Mediterranean, Pannonian Plain, Karst, rivers, forests, lakes and caves. It is a place where Slavic, Romanic, Germanic and Hungarian cultures and languages meet.

During our intensive 9-day tour of Slovenia we will visit all the most important sights, as well as some hidden gems of this country. Some of the highlights are in the attached program.

The number of participants is limited: min 8 and max 19.

Cost of the trip will depend on the number of participants: from 1500 to 1200 euro per person sharing a twin/double room.

Single room supplement: 200 euro (single rooms are subject to availability)

The above cost includes: all the transfers and transport cost, English-speaking tour guide, local guides and nature experts, all the entrance fees (as per the program), all meals (except two dinners in Ljubljana) including traditional dinners, typical fish dinner on the coast and few wine tastings, 3 or 4 star hotels (as per the program), 1 litre of water per day per person.

The cost excludes all extras, tips and air ticket.

There are no direct flights from Dubai to Slovenia (Ljubljana). An air ticket with Turkish Airlines through Istanbul is approx 500 - 600 euro.

June is considered high season in Slovenia and the above cost (hotel bookings and air fare) are only guaranteed if we commit asap, in January.

500 euro prepayment will be collected to secure the booking.

If less than 8 participants we will have to cancel the trip (or recalculate the cost).

At the moment we are assessing if there's enough interest to proceed with this trip.

If interested please contact Sonja at lavson@gmail.com

SLOVENIA - 9 DAYS



Friday :

Arrival at Ljubljana Airport

Transfer to Ljubljana driving time 40 min

Afternoon: Ljubljana city tour

Ljubljana is one of Europe's greenest and most liveable capitals. In summer, cafes set up terrace seating along the Ljubljanica River, lending the feel of a perpetual street party. Architect Jože Plečnik graced Ljubljana with elegant, early-modern, minimalist architecture with beautiful alabaster bridges and baubles, pylons and pyramids that are both elegant and playful.

Accommodation: hotel * /******



Saturday :

Itinerary: Ljubljana – Ptuj – Maribor – Dravograd - Jamnica

Total driving time 4 hours

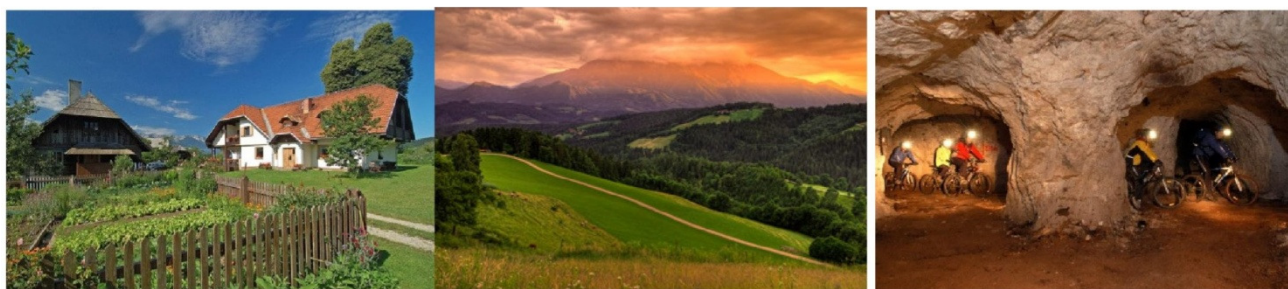
Highlights:

- Landscapes of North East Slovenia (Subalpine hills, Pannonia flat)
- towns Ptuj and Maribor

Ptuj's history is rich and the city has numerous monuments to reveal it. Its history reaches back to the Stone Age, but the city experienced its most prosperous times in the Roman Empire period. The name originates from the times of Emperor Trajan, who granted it the status of a city and named it Colonia Ulpia Traiana Poetovio.

Maribor is the second largest city in the country. At the same time Maribor is pleasantly small and set in the wonderful natural surroundings of Mount Pohorje on one side and wine growing hills on the other, with the river Drava wending its way through it. The old town core promises unforgettable experiences: let Lent, the oldest part of the town enchant you along with the Old Vine, the oldest vine in the world, the Old Vine House, medieval towers and remains of the city walls, as well as the square Grajski trg with the castle and museum, the square Glavni trg with the Plague memorial, the Town Hall and Bishop Slomšek's cathedral with its viewing tower.

Accommodation: Ecohotel Farm Koroš



Sunday

Itinerary: Jamnica – Mežica - Jamnica

Total driving time 1 hour

Highlights: Polhov Mill – Ethnological collection, Geopark Karavanke (UNESCO), Unique Underground Biking, Mining Museum Mežica

Geopark Karavanke The Geopark offer much more than geology, however, there is always a close connection with geology. It offers unique nature, culture, archaeology, a strong mining tradition and friendly chats with locals. Nature in the Geopark area exhibits extraordinary biodiversity with numerous plant and animal species on the eastern border of the Alps. Several rare habitats have been conserved for centuries thanks to the engagement of the locals. Here you will experience unique Underground Adventure with bike.

Accommodation: Ecohotel Farm Koroš



Monday

Itinerary: Jamnica – Črna – Logarska valley – Jezersko – Kropa – Bled

Total driving time: 4 hours

Highlights: Solčava panoramic road, Natural park Logarska valley, Village Kropa

The Logarska Valley is one of the most beautiful Alpine glacial valleys in Europe. It extends into the Kamnik-Savinja Alps from the north. A part of the Solčavsko region, tradition and nature have found harmony here, serving as a good example of sustainable development.

The village of **Kropa**, the cradle of Slovene iron-forging, lies hugged in a narrow valley beneath the Jelovica Plateau. With its authentic and unique iron mill owners' architecture, roaring waters, preserved technical heritage, and stories of the hard-off life of iron forgers, it is certainly well worth a visit.

Accommodation hotel */**** Bled.**



Tuesday

Itinerary: Bled – Bohinj Lake – Bled

Total driving time: 1 hour

Highlights: Bled lake and trip across the lake in the traditional Pletna boat, Bled Castle, Vintgar Gorge, Lake Bohinj, Waterfall Savica.

With the outstanding natural beauty, **Bled**, together with its surroundings, ranks among the most beautiful alpine resorts, renowned for its mild, healing climate and thermal lake water. The beauty of the mountains reflected on the lake, the sun, the serenity and the fresh air please visitors throughout the year, guaranteeing an ideal base for further exploring.

Bohinj Lake is enclosed by the Lower Bohinj Mountains, which rise to 2.000 meters, and on the north by the Triglav mountain range with Mount Triglav, Slovenia's highest mountain (2864 m). Bohinj is one of the most beautiful places in the heart of the Julian Alps and in Triglav National Park.

Accommodation hotel */**** Bled.**



Wednesday:

Itinerary: Kranjska gora - Soča Valley – Kobarid – Goriška brda

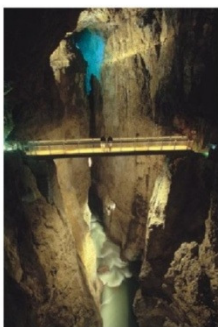
Total driving time: 4 hours

Highlights: Triglav National Park, Soča valley, Kobarid 1st World War Museum, Vine region Goriška brda.

Soča Valley

One of the most pristine Alpine rivers, the emerald Soča has been writing its own stories for centuries: the Goldhorn fairy tale and legends of a miracle flower atop Slovenia's highest peak, stories about shepherds on mountain pastures and about remarkable natural wealth, family sagas of strong-willed and friendly people. The area is a lasting memorial to the cruelties of war, WWI especially left its mark on this natural paradise. Dominated by Alpine peaks and situated not far from the famous Triglav National Park with its Alpine Botanical Garden, the valley is a blend of distinctive cultural heritage and boasts a wide spectrum of protected natural resources. The Soča Valley, where nature meets culture, is a place of European importance.

Accommodation: Small hotel***



Thursday:

Itinerary: Goriška Brda – Kras – Škocijan – Hrastovlje – Piran

Total driving time: 3 hours

Highlights: Karst region, Lipica Stud Farm, Škocian Cave (UNESCO), Istria, Adriatic Sea, medieval town Piran,

The name of the **Karst** area gave the name to typical Karst topography: a landscape formed from the dissolution of soluble rocks such as limestone, dolomite, and gypsum. It is characterized by underground drainage systems with sinkholes, dolines, and caves. The Škocjan Caves, which are on UNESCO's list of natural and cultural world heritage sites, boast the 1400-meter long and 150-meter deep underground canyon of the Reka River. The **Lipica** Stud Farm is one of the oldest stud farms in the world and the birthplace of the Lipizzaner horse. The over 400 year tradition of breeding these white horses has been preserved to the present day in the centre of the unique Karst landscape and represents one of the most beautiful natural and cultural monuments of Slovenia. In the cellars of the stone houses excellent wines are poured and sold, and in the attics excellent pršut (air dried ham) is cured in the bora wind.

Accommodation: hotel*** Piran



Friday:

Itinerary: Piran – Secovlje - Izola – Koper – Postojna – Ljubljana

Total driving time: 3 hours

Highlights: Izola, Koper, Predjama Castle,

Slovenian coast measures only 46.6 kilometres and is covered with abundant vegetation. It includes a natural reserve with a rich supply of marl and sandstone and the unique Strunjan cliff which ascends 80 metres above the sea and is the highest flysch wall on the Adriatic coast. Sečovlje Saltworks, first mentioned in the 13th century, were made a regional park thanks to the extremely abundant natural and historical heritage and a variety of flora and fauna. The towns of Piran, Izola and Koper attract visitors with their medieval Venetian palaces.

Accommodation: hotel***/* Ljubljana,

Saturday

Free morning in Ljubljana

Departure to airport:

Total driving time: 1 hour