

EUROPE · HIKING · MOUNTAINS · ADVENTURE · WINE · ROAD TRIPS



Slovenia

Slovenia packs Alpine peaks, karst caves, a Venetian-era coast and wine country into an area slightly smaller than Wales, with almost everything within two hours of Ljubljana. Row out to Lake Bled's island church, descend into Postojna or Škocjan caves, raft the emerald Soča and hike in Triglav National Park. Distances are short and buses link the main sights.

i Before you go, read the UK government's travel advice for Slovenia and entry requirements (visas, passport validity). Last updated by FCDO 11 August 2026.

CAPITAL Ljubljana	CURRENCY Euro (EUR) £1 ≈ €1.19	LANGUAGE Slovene	BEST TIME May-Sep
DAILY BUDGET £55-£240 ££ Moderate	PLUGS Type C, F 230V · adapter needed	FLIGHT FROM LONDON 2h 10m direct ~£60-£220 return	TIME ZONE UTC+1 standard time

Slovenia is small enough to see a great deal in a week, and most trips radiate from Ljubljana, a compact capital largely shaped by the architect Jože Plečnik. The Julian Alps lie an hour north-west, with Lake Bled, quieter Lake Bohinj and Triglav National Park; over the Vršič Pass, the Soča Valley offers rafting and hiking. To the south-west, the karst holds Postojna and Škocjan caves and cliff-built Predjama Castle, before the short Adriatic coast at Piran. Wine lovers head for Goriška Brda on the Italian border or the vineyards around Maribor and Ptuj in the east.

Prices are lower than in neighbouring Austria and Italy, with good value in mountain huts, gostilnas and tourist farms. July and August bring crowds to Bled, Bohinj and the Soča, so May, June and September are often the sweet spot. The Vršič Pass closes in winter, when the Julian Alps switch to skiing. English is widely spoken, especially by younger Slovenians. The country suits walkers, cyclists, paddlers and anyone wanting mountains and sea without long drives, and its tidiness and calm often surprise first-time visitors.

Top 5 highlights

- 1

NATURE

Lake Bled

Take a pletna boat to the island church and ring its wishing bell, then climb to the clifftop castle. Walk the 6 km lakeshore path early in the day, and try the cream cake (kremšnita) the town is known for.
- 2

NATURE

Postojna Cave

An electric train carries visitors deep into one of Europe's most visited show caves, past halls of stalactites, to see olms, the blind cave salamanders. Combine it with Predjama Castle, built into a cliff about 10 km away.

3

ADVENTURE

Lake Bohinj and Triglav National Park

Slovenia's only national park centres on Triglav, at 2,864 m the country's highest peak. Lake Bohinj is calmer than Bled; from its western end a cable car climbs Vogel, and a trail leads to the Savica waterfall.

4

ADVENTURE

Soča Valley

The emerald Soča runs past Bovec and Kobarid, hubs for rafting, kayaking and canyoning. Kobarid's museum tells the story of the Isonzo Front, where hundreds of thousands of soldiers died in the First World War.

5

ARCHITECTURE

Piran

A Venetian-era town on a narrow peninsula, with marble-paved Tartini Square, a bell tower modelled on St Mark's in Venice, and medieval walls to climb for views across the bay to Italy and Croatia.

Biggest cities

LARGEST CITY

Ljubljana

≈ 293,000 people

A largely car-free centre along the Ljubljanica river, Plečnik's Triple Bridge and market colonnade, a funicular to the castle and riverside cafés make for two relaxed days, and it's the hub for buses everywhere.

2ND LARGEST CITY

Maribor

≈ 98,000 people

Slovenia's second city has the Old Vine House, home to a vine more than 400 years old, plus the Pohorje ski slopes and Štajerska wine roads on its doorstep.

3RD LARGEST CITY

Celje

≈ 38,000 people

Once seat of the powerful Counts of Celje, the town has a vast hilltop castle, Roman remains beneath its streets and a calm old centre; an easy stop between Ljubljana and Maribor.

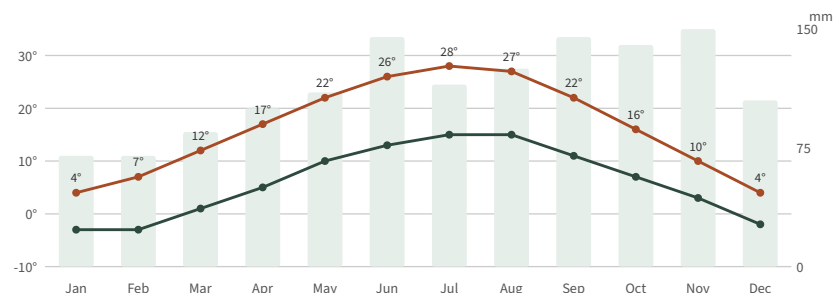
Ranked by urban-area population where available. Figures are rounded estimates, and sources define city limits differently, so rankings of similar-sized cities can vary.

When to go to Slovenia

Best time: **May–Sep.**

**Average climate in Ljubljana**

— High °C — Low °C — Rain (mm)



Festivals & events

Feb	Kurentovanje Slovenia's biggest carnival takes over Ptuj in the run-up to Lent, led by kurenti, sheepskin-clad figures with horned masks and cowbells who chase away winter.
Jul-Aug	Ljubljana Festival Through July and August, orchestras, opera and dance fill the open-air Križanke venue, remodelled by Plečnik, and other stages across the capital.
Sep	Kravji bal (Cows' Ball) Bohinj's September festival celebrates herds returning from the high summer pastures with folk music, dancing, local cheese and a costumed parade.

How much does Slovenia cost?

SHOESTRING £55 per person / day ≈ €65.47 hostels, street food, buses	MID-RANGE £120 per person / day ≈ €143 3-star hotels, restaurants, some taxis	COMFORTABLE £240 per person / day ≈ €286 4-star+, guided trips, private transfers
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Estimates per person per day, excluding flights. Prices vary by season and city.

Food to try

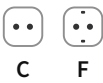
Kranjska klobasa Carniolan sausage of coarsely minced pork and bacon, seasoned with garlic and pepper and smoked, served with mustard, sauerkraut and bread; it has EU protected status.	Idrijski žlikrofi Small dumplings from the old mercury-mining town of Idrija, filled with potato, onion and herbs and often served with a lamb sauce called bakalca.	Potica A rolled yeast cake swirled with fillings such as walnut, tarragon or poppy seed, baked for Christmas and Easter and sold in bakeries year-round.
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Getting around

Arriva and Nomago buses link Ljubljana with Bled, Bohinj, Piran and Bovec, and are often quicker than trains. Trains suit the routes to Maribor and the scenic Bohinj line, which also carries cars through a tunnel. A hire car makes the Soča Valley and Vršič Pass far easier, but motorways require an e-vignette. In Ljubljana, city buses take the Urbana card or a contactless bank card, not cash.

Practical information

PLUGS & VOLTAGE



230V — bring a UK-to-C/F adapter

DIALLING CODE

+386

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police: **113**
Ambulance, fire and mountain rescue: **112**

Source: FCDO “Getting help”

TIME ZONE

UTC+1 (standard time)

TAP WATER

Generally safe to drink

DRIVING

On the right

TIPPING

Not obligatory, but rounding up or leaving around 10% for good restaurant service is appreciated; tell the server the total when paying.

ETIQUETTE

Say 'dober dan' when entering shops and greet fellow walkers on mountain trails. Remove shoes in homes, and never confuse Slovenia with Slovakia, a sore point for locals.

MAIN AIRPORTS

Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport (LJU), Ljubljana

Visas & entry for Slovenia

Shown for a British passport.

No visa needed

You can travel without a visa to the Schengen area, which includes Slovenia, for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. This applies if you travel: as a tourist; to visit family or friends; to attend business meetings, cultural or sports events; for short-term studies or training.

The requirements for working in Slovenia are different.

From the UK government's FCDO entry requirements for British passport holders — read the full page for passport validity, permits and exceptions.

Health & vaccinations



See a travel health nurse, GP or travel clinic **6–8 weeks before you go**. Make sure routine UK vaccinations (such as MMR and diphtheria-tetanus-polio) are up to date.

RECOMMENDED FOR MOST TRAVELLERS

Tetanus

SOMETIMES ADVISED — DEPENDS ON YOUR TRIP, ACTIVITIES AND HEALTH

Rabies

Tick-borne encephalitis

YELLOW FEVER CERTIFICATE

No yellow fever certificate is required to enter.

MALARIA

No malaria risk

Source: TravelHealthPro (National Travel Health Network and Centre), checked 21 October 2026. This is a summary, not medical advice.

Public holidays in Slovenia

The next 12 months. Banks, offices and some sights may close, and transport and hotels get busy around these dates.

Sat 31 Oct 2026

Reformation Day

Sun 1 Nov 2026	Day of Remembrance for the Dead
Fri 25 Dec 2026	Christmas Day
Sat 26 Dec 2026	Independence and Unity Day
Fri 1 Jan 2027	New Year's Day
Sat 2 Jan 2027	New Year's Day
Mon 8 Feb 2027	Prešeren's Day, the Slovenian Cultural Holiday
Sun 28 Mar 2027	Easter Sunday
Mon 29 Mar 2027	Easter Monday
Tue 27 Apr 2027	Day of Uprising Against Occupation
Sat 1 May 2027	Labour Day
Sun 2 May 2027	Labour Day
Sun 16 May 2027	Pentecost
Fri 25 Jun 2027	Statehood Day
Sun 15 Aug 2027	Assumption Day

National holidays only. Dates based on lunar calendars can move by a day or two depending on official announcements.

Useful phrases in Slovene

ENGLISH	SLOVENE	SAY IT
Hello	Dober dan	<i>DOH-ber dahn</i>
Thank you	Hvala	<i>HVAH-lah</i>
Please	Prosim	<i>PROH-seem</i>
Excuse me	Oprostite	<i>oh-proh-STEE-teh</i>
How much is this?	Koliko stane?	<i>KOH-lee-koh STAH-neh</i>

Know before you go

Buy an e-vignette online from the official DARS site before driving on motorways; hire cars should already have one, but check, as fines are heavy.

Ljubljana has limited direct flights from the UK, so also compare Trieste, Venice and Zagreb airports; shuttles and buses connect them with Ljubljana and Bled.

Reach Bled before 9am or arrive by bus, as lakeside parking is expensive and fills quickly, and book Triglav mountain huts ahead for July and August.

Visa, health and safety rules change. Before you book or travel, check the FCDO travel advice (gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) and TravelHealthPro (travelhealthpro.org.uk). Costs are estimates. © 2026 Pick My Trip.