

Welcome to our home

Imagine the embrace of green surroundings, the smell of freshly cut grass, genuine Slovenian dialects, traditional architecture and old farming customs and you'll start to get some idea of the appeal of our countryside. Farm tourism, usually family-owned, open their doors and serve their guests the best produce from their gardens, fields, cellars, smokehouses, pantries and kitchens. Housewives upgrade their grandmothers' recipes with the elements of modern cuisine, while farm owners show off their wine cellars or accompany their guests to the sauna or a swimming pool, and their children show their peers from the city how to spend a day without a tablet or a smartphone.

Farm tourism owners are sincerely looking forward to your visit. They will help you slow down your everyday rhythm and make sure that you experience the authenticity of the Slovenian countryside. You are welcome in all seasons.



Matija Vimpolšek
Chairman of the Association
of Tourist Farms of Slovenia



PEOPLE LIVE IN SLOVENIA (1 JANUARY 2020)

900 TOURIST

325 excursion farms, 129 wineries, 31 "Eights" (Osmice), 8 camping sites, and 391 tourist farms with accommodation.



MORE THAN 200.000 BEE FAMILIES

Slovenia is the home of the indigenous Carniolan honeybee.
Based on Slovenia's initiative,
20 May has become World Bee Day.



MORE THAN 400 DISTINCTIVE LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOODSTUFFS, DISHES AND DRINKS



30.000 WINE PRODUCERS

cultivate grapevines on almost 16,000 hectares of vineyards.



Slovenia and its farms



water-rich countries in Europe.



There are 127,988 tractors in Slovenia, making Slovenia one of the top countries in the world for the number of tractors per capita.



6,6 ha

In Slovenia, an average farm works 6.6 ha of land, which is about 8 times less than the size of an average farm in Germany.

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Flavours from Slovenian farms

Experience authentic culinary pampering. Give yourself over to the flavours of delicious home-made food produced on the farm.



Feel nature, feel the Slovenian countryside

Visit a tourist farm and learn about the wealth of the countryside. Visit natural gems of Slovenia and marvel at their diversity.



Have a splendid at a farm!

The entire family will enjoy discovering life on a farm. Especially while helping the farmer do various tasks.



Where tradition and modernity meet

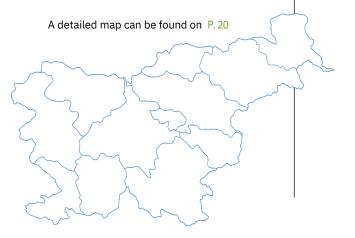
Tourist farms are a rich source of knowledge about Slovenian customs and traditions, and you can spend especially satisfying holidays



Time for friends

When you visit a farm, you will be welcomed with wide open arms. Your experiences will be provided according to your wishes and you will be treated as the best of friends.





A review of farms according to regions

The Gorenjska Region

It is easy to find one's own piece of paradise in a region where mighty mountains, crystal waters and fresh forests prevail.

The Goriška Region
This region spread along the foot of the Alps
will mesmerise you with the sounds of the
River Soča and adrenaline-fuelled adventures.

The Zasavska Region
The smallest region in Slovenia beckons you to come and explore mining shafts and to climb its green hills on foot or horseback.

South-eastern Slovenia South-eastern Slovenia offers an elegant, intertwining artistic creation of wild nature and human creativity.

The Koroška Region
Prepare to be overwhelmed by the forest fairytale, as you bike on mountain trails or through the perforated subterranean world.

The coast and the Karst

Enjoy the benevolent effects of the sea and make sure to also stop further inland where you can treat yourself to some culinary delights. P. 56

The Primorska and

Notranjska Regions
What is happening beneath the surface is just as interesting as what is happening on it. Discover the Karst wilderness.

Central Slovenia

Join the vibrant atmosphere of central Slovenia, and travel short distances to enjoy many diverse experiences.

The Podravska Region
Prepare to have an adventure in sunny places where an abundance of beautiful things can be found along wine roads and trails in the hills.

The Pomurska Region
In the midst of plains and wine-growing rolling hills, you can be inspired by relaxing thermal waters and rich culinary experiences.

The Savinjska Region
Explore the world by the River Savinja and beyond, as it is full of jewels, given to people by nature. P. 80

The Posavska Region

Sun-kissed river valleys, rolling hills, and castles, the diversity of which make them most alluring, invite you.



TOURIST FARM TYPE



tourist farm with accommodation



excursion farm (warm and cold dishes and





wine, and non-alcoholic

while, and horf-accinotic beverages). Wineries are typically open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and during the week for groups who call in advance. The winery must be notified prior to your arrival.





"Osmica" wine bars mostly open twice a year, usually in spring and autumn, and remain so for up to ten days. They originate from the times of Maria Theresa and are especially common in the Primorska region. They are marked with ivy sprigs and bunches of ivy, called "fraske", in courtyards. Each "osmica" offers wine and non-alcoholic drinks, three distinctive local warm dishes, cold cuts, bread and pastries.



camping space

TOURIST FARMS WITH ACCOMMODATION CATEGORY



simply furnished rooms with a shared bathroom and toilet



a good selection of offerings at the farm, simply furnished rooms (at least half of them have a private bathroom and toilet)



a very good selection of offerings at the farm, well furnished rooms (most of have a private bathroom and toilet)



excellent selection of offerings, a lot of comfort; well furnished rooms (all include a private bathroom and toilet), a diverse selection of dishes, diverse complementary offerings

COMPLEMENTARY OFFERINGS AT FARMS



located on a wine road



pets are welcome



house with a tradition



bee-keeping at the farm



accessible by bus



caravan



organic farming

CAPACITIES



seat capacity





apartments

SPECIALISED OFFERINGS AT FARMS WITH ACCOMMODATION



tourist farm with healthy lifestyle offerings
This farm offers holidays for lovers of a healthy lifestyle. It enables visitors to actively spend their leisure time in unspoilt nature and it combines this extremely well with healthy nutrition.

a tourist farm suitable for families with children



It offers family holidays in an authentic countryside environment. It pays much attention to entertainment for children and it also boasts a child-friendly living environment (room furnishings, playgrounds, healthy nutrition). Special attention paid to also including parents in all activities.

a tourist farm suitable for children not accompanied by parents



It offers interesting and active holidays, even when children visit the farm unaccompanied by their parents, usually with their teachers. Some farms provide child care and a diverse programme entirely by themselves. Farm accommodation programmes include learning about nature and working on a farm, as well as

under the watchful eye of teachers and other professionally qualified persons.



a biker-friendly tourist farm

It offers numerous opportunities for biking in the surrounding area, information on biking trails and their characteristics, and information on interesting features accessible by bike. Bikes can be stored at the farm or, if you do not bring your bikes can also be hired.



a wine-growing tourist farm

Wine-growing tourist farms, mostly located along tourist wine roads, are pleasant homesteads, which treat their guests to excellent wines and delicious culinary delights. Guests can learn about working in a vineyard or in a wine cellar. These farms are not only attractive for wine connoisseurs, but their hospitality and pleasant home-like atmosphere will charm just about anyone.



a tourist farm suitable for disabled persons

It enables guests to independently move around the farm in a wheelchair; it also provides rooms intended specially for them, where the equipment is adjusted to their needs to the maximum extent.



a tourist farm suitable for horse lovers and horseback riding enthusiasts

It offers numerous opportunities for horseback riding at the farm and in the surrounding area, as well as information on learning how to ride horses, guided tours in nature, hiring horses, horseback riding lessons, horseback riding trails and terrains. During holidays, guests at the farm can take care of and groom the

ACTIVITIES ON THE FARM

hiking, mountain climbing

skiing

cross-country skiing

equestrianism

tennis

golf

table tennis

river, lake swimming

swimming in indoor swimming pool

swimming in outdoor swimming pool

₽, archery

sauna

ice-skating

biking

📤 rowing

snowboarding

paragliding

hang-gliding

bowling

boules (bocce)

playground for children

hunting

fishing

FOREIGN LANGUAGES SPOKEN

AT THE FARM

D German Italian ΕN English **CRO** Croatian French

RUS Russian ES Spanish

ΗU Hungarian CZ Czech

Polish

SRB Serbian

PRICELIST ABBREVIATIONS

B&B accommodation and breakfast (price per person per day)

HB half-board accommodation (price per person per day)

full-board accommodation (price per person per day)

Α apartment hire

A2 apartment hire for two persons (price per day)

A3 apartment hire for three persons (price per day)

Α4 apartment hire for four persons (price per day)

Α5 apartment hire for five persons (price per day)

A6 apartment hire for six persons (price per day)

apartment hire for eight persons (price per day)

price per bed per day

PRICE/PER. price per person per day

Green Slovenia Sustainable, unique and hospitable

Those who seek nature, find Slovenia. Those who seek relaxation in nature, start in the countryside. Tourist farms are the perfect choice for discovering the specialities of green Slovenia.



Sustainable tourism is the flagship of the only European country combining the Alps, the Mediterranean, the Karst, and the Pannonian Plain.

FOUR WORLDS OF HOSPITALITY

Slovenia embodies Europe's diversity. Alpine Slovenia boasts the highest mountains and the wildest waters. Mediterranean and Karst Slovenia has the warm sea and the alluring mysteries of karst caves. Thermal Pannonian Slovenia has springs of healing water, as well as castles and vine-growing hills. In Central Slovenia, not far from the lively capital of **Ljubljana**, you can find primeval forests of global importance. Wherever you go, you can always rely on the welcoming hospitality offered by the green countryside. Since everything is within easy reach in Slovenia, tourist farms make the perfect starting point for discovering the whole of Slovenia.

GENUINE AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

The entire country, which is synonymous with sustainable tourism development, offers its authenticity to guests in every place. Authenticity is an important part of the Slovenia Unique Experiences. Local, authentic, sustainable and green experiences of high quality can be enjoyed in our green environment and in contact with the local people. In all parts of Slovenia, you can rely on the exceptional opportunities to participate in various outdoor activities and to experience natural and cultural attractions. Farm holidays can be combined with visiting health resorts and historical towns.



Worth 5 stars!

Unforgettable experiences carrying the Slovenia Unique Experiences label take us in a fascinating way to herb gardens, hay lofts, grazing pastures, and to a milk dairy, fish farm, olive grove, vineyards, or even to a natural habitat of – bears! Find out more on www.slovenia.info/unique

SLOVENIA GREEN

At their every step, guests can rely on green choices, certified within the framework of the internationally renowned Green Scheme of Slovenian Tourism. Visit places in green destinations which carry the Slovenia Green label, choose places to sleep, travel agencies, parks and attractions with this green label.

SUSTAINABLE ATTITUDE TO NATURE AND TO ONESELF

Slovenia was among the first countries in the world to receive the Safe Travels WTTC (World Travel & Tourism Council) stamp. Tourist providers in Slovenia respect sustainable travelling standards. The GREEN&SAFE label is used to highlight those standards and sustainable attitu- de as well as the consideration of all measures stipulated by the National Institute of Public Health. Even on tourist farms providing individual relaxation amidst green nature in the countryside, we can help main- tain our health and the health of others. When wandering in nature, act responsibly towards the environment. Stay on marked trails and leave no unnecessary traces and waste behind.

A STRAIGHT FIVE WELCOME

The beauty of nature that we preserve together belongs among the five most important reasons for choosing a vacation on a tourist farm. This is where we live in touch with the natural environment. Ingredients for excellent food come directly from this environment and its naturally cultivated fields and gardens. Those dishes are prepared directly in front of you by the farm families. You can experience the real rural life - through the rhythm of different farming chores. If you visit at the right time, you can learn about the festive countryside life and its interesting customs. Even if it's not holiday time: no worries, farms can always get you into a happy and sociable mood. Visit Slovenia. Choose your tourist farm. Visit more of them! You can feel at home everywhere.

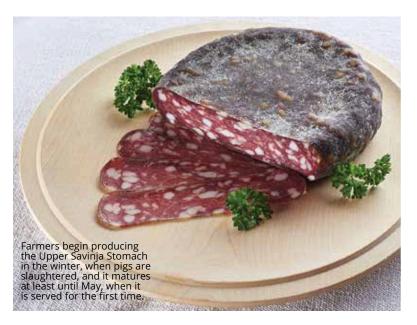
Flavours from Slovenian farms Learn about Slovenian cuisine with dishes made by Slovenian

Learn about Slovenian cuisine with dishes made by Slovenian housewives. Give yourself over to the experience of local delicacies. Allow yourself to be pampered, or try preparing the dishes yourself.



The European Region of Gastronomy 2021 is dedicated to respecting gastronomic heritage and premium cuisine with natural ingredients.

Food which is prepared with love not only strengthens your body, but also your spirit – and this is exactly what you will feel on your culinary visit to a tourist farm. A large farm table laden with freshly prepared home-made delicacies will take you on a unique gourmet experience with authentic flavours seasoned with both tradition and modernity. After making prior arrangements with the housewife, you will be able to taste home-made dishes made from high-quality, seasonal, and in places also organic ingredients produced on the farm. You will also be served a glass of excellent house wine or cider, which we call must, and those who are more adventurous can also try one of the local brandies.



400 years

The Podravje wine-growing region is home to the oldest grapevine in the world, the Blauer Kölner, which is over 400 years old and has thus been entered into the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest grapevine in the world.

A CUISINE WITH RICH TRADITION AND INNOVATIVE MODERNITY Not only is Slovenia a country with one of the most diverse landscapes, but its dynamic character is also reflected in its cuisine. It could be described as a true mix of traditional recipes, modern innovation, and culinary influences from four neighbouring countries - Austria, Croatia, Italy, and Hungary, with an authentic Slovenian touch. Every few kilometres, Slovenian cuisine can surprise you with a new traditional dish, drink, or side dish and with different customs related to food. All of this contributed to the formation of 24 gastronomic regions, each with its own special features and characteristics. Slovenia has more than 400 distinctive local and regional foodstuffs, dishes and drinks that are considered to be the foundation of the Slovenian culinary reputation and which often serve as inspiration for creating modern palettes of flavours. Slovenian cuisine places much emphasis on close contact with nature and local food production. You will experience both in the most authentic light if you visit tourist farms.



A layer of thin filo dough of the Prlekija gibanica is called a "güba," and thus it gets its name.



»When we sit down to eat, we put a smile on our faces and say "Enjoy your meal!" or "God bless!" and then raise our glasses to exclaim a loud "Cheers!"«

TASTE TRADITIONAL SLOVENIAN DISHES

Take advantage of your visit to a tourist farm to taste typical Slovenian dishes. In the Upper Savinja Valley, you will be served the Upper Savinja stomach, a cold cut made from the highest quality pork and bacon, produced exclusi- vely in this area. The housewives of the Gorenjska Region will gladly serve you traditional buckwheat or corn žganci (mush) as the main dish and add side dishes, such as sour milk, yoghurt, cabbage, turnip, café latte, milk, fried eggs, a stew, or goulash. In the Dolenjska Region, you can taste one of the oldest Slovenian dishes - pretty rolls made from filo pastry or leavened dough, stuffed with fillings such as skuta (curd) cheese, cream, walnuts, apples, or honey. They are called the Dolenjska cheese štruklji. One of the most wellknown Slovenian food products must be the "Car- niolan Sausage - distinctly the best since 1896," which is traditionally served in the Gorenjska Region with mustard and horse radish or sauerkraut and turnip, and which has a protected geographical origin. You can conclude your tasty feast with a typical dessert – the con- stant at all Slovenian holiday feasts, the Potica Cake with tarragon filling, or one of the typical regional desserts, such as the Prlekija gibanica, a Slovenian pie with seven layers of filo dough and a skuta (curd) cheese and cream filling.

SLOVENIAN SPICES

Local and regional spices such as marjoram, mint, lemon balm, sage, thyme, winter savoury, laurel, basil, oregano, and rosemary are an indispensable part of Slovenian traditional and modern cuising





"Carniolan Sausage, distinctly the best since 1896" Traditionally, the Carniolan Sausage is served with mustard, horse radish, bread or a bun, and in winter, with sauerkraut and cabbage.

AN ACTIVE CULINARY EXPERIENCE

Visitors will not only enjoy the local food and drinks, but they will also be able to learn how to prepare them first hand. They will be able to work on preparing holiday and traditional dishes, knead their first bread and bake it in a wood-burning oven, and learn how to make cheese, butter, or yoghurt. Autumn is an especially cheerful season, when visitors can participate in the harvest and wine tasting or work in the olive groves of the Primorska Region, where olive oil is made. Visiting the countryside also provides an excellent opportunity to learn about the cuisine at culinary or gastronomic events, where farmers introduce their delights. Visitors can take part in a wheat harvest festival and the Kozjansko Apple festival or go down memory lane reminiscing about the rich tradition of Alpine dairy farming and timber rafting.



70%

In Slovenia, from 80 to 100 million litres of wine is produced annually, which is an insignificant amount when compared to the total global production. However, no less than 70% of all Slovenian wines meet the criteria for high-quality and world-class wines.

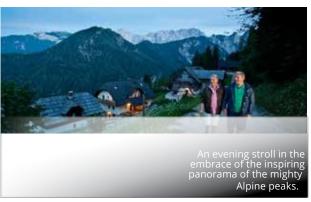
LEARN ABOUT THE CHARACTER OF SLOVENIAN WINES Nothing goes with excellent food quite like a sip of fine wine. No less than 53 different grapevine varieties, of which 37 are white and 15 are red, are grown in three Slovenian wine-growing regions. The largest one, according to area size, is Podravje, which stretches across north-eastern Slovenia. It is famous for producing white wines with a distinct floral and fruity note, and you can also taste specific red wines, such as the Blue Franconian and the Zweigelt. They say that the sun-kissed wines of the Primorska Region are a treat for lovers of strong red wines. The wine-growing region of Primorska produces most Slovenian wines, including the famous red Teran, a special wine from the Refošk variety, which grows only on karst soil. In the midst of the picturesque rolling hills of Dolenjska, on the banks of the rivers Krka, Sava, and Sotla, you can find the third and smallest wine-growing region – the Posavje Region. There, the unique Cviček is produced; a special wine consisting of four varieties of white and red grapes. Apart from the Chianti wine from Tuscany, this is the only wine of its kind in the world. Tourist farms will also take care of those who are not lovers of wine, who will be served home-made fruit juices, a shot of fruit or herbal brandy, mead, must, and a glass of fresh tap water.

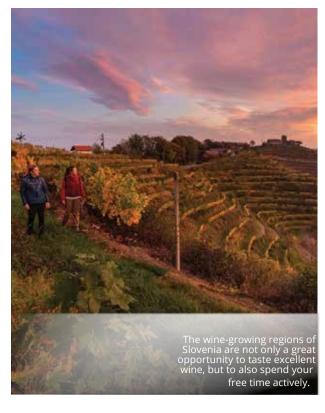
Feel nature, feel the Slovenian countryside

of complete serenity that energises your body and spirit. Visit a tourist farm and feel the wealth of nature.











Slovenia is the fourth smallest country in the centre of Europe. The nation's total number of inhabitants is only comparable to a small global city, but it boasts a wealth of nature that is extremely diverse. In its small territory, no fewer than four geographic areas meet. These form a unique mesh of the Alps, the coast in the Primorska Region, the wine-growing rolling hills of the Štajerska Region, the Pannonian plains, and the Dinaric-Karst plateaus and their mysterious subterranean world. It is a true game of opposites, which allows you to combine the most unique experiences in just one day: you can climb a mountain ascending over 2000 metres and then jump in the sea; you can explore the cave world and enjoy a panoramic view from hilltops; you can run for many kilometres in the Pannonian plains and then hike up mountain trails; and you can see the remains of a glacier and sunbathe on a beach. Make memories that last.

CLEAN AIR AND DRINKABLE WATER

Embraced by this diversity, you will be welcomed by tourist farms, surrounded by vast meadows, colourful fields, and lush forests, where farmers have been living in close touch with nature for centuries. They take from it, but they also make great efforts to give back. The air is kept clean everywhere and the water is eminently drinkable. Far from the hustle and bustle of the city and the fast pace of everyday routine, life here has a somewhat different rhythm. Here, you can experience full relaxation: you will awake hearing the sounds of cow bells and smelling freshly cut grass, you will lay without a care in the world in the shade of trees, listening to birds singing in their leafy canopies. If you wish to explore the charms of unspoilt nature, you are free to take a stroll through the forest and across meadows. Clear evenings when the sky is filled with thousands of stars that are otherwise dimmed by the glare of city lights will make for a wonderful experience as well. On such evenings, you will feel in close touch with nature and full of fresh energy. The experience offered by the Slovenian countryside is an ideal opportunity for you to escape your everyday routine and enjoy getting in authentic touch with nature and with yourself.

According to the Green Destinations international criteria, Slovenia is the first country in the world to boast the title of a Green Destination.

The linden tree, a symbol of Slovenian national identity and of Slovenians

By planting a linden tree in front of the Slovenian Parliament in Republic Square, Slovenians commemorated the declaration of independence more than twenty years ago. The Najevnik linden tree is still considered to be the most famous of its species and, due to its age of more than 700 years, it was declared to be the oldest in Slovenia.



ONE HUNDRED AND ONE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW ACTIVE EXPERIENCES

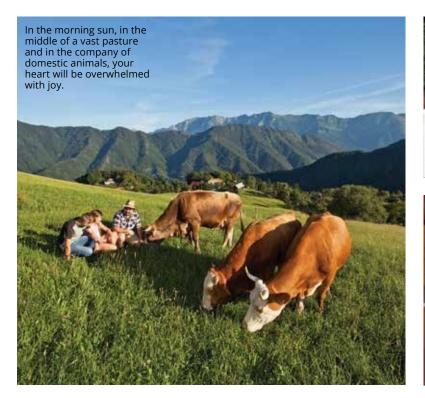
Due to their location, tourist farms are an ideal starting point for exploring the surrounding area and for actively spending time in nature. Therefore, take your bike on an exploration of trails in the vicinity, climb one of the Slovenian mountains, ride horses across vast meadows, or simply take a stroll in nature. During the summer months, it feels especially good to jump into clean rivers and lakes or to feel the salty gusts of wind caught in sails. You can also cool down by exploring the mysterious world of stalactites, stalagmites, cave waters and other karst phenomena, as more than 10,200 karst caves are hidden in the subterranean world of Slovenia, and an additional 100 are found on average every year. Slovenia is one of the countries with the highest level of biodiversity in Europe, which it carefully protects, so its territory is full of national, regional, and landscape parks. These parks provide you with an excellent opportunity to go on an adventurous photo hunt, and if you're lucky, your camera will be able to catch some of the rarest wildlife, such as wolves, lynxes, bears, wild cats, capercaillies, and pheasants. Those of you who like living on the edge should not miss adrenalinefuelled adventures such as river rides, ziplining, or paragliding - the view of the landscape from a bird's perspective will simply stun you. Learn about Slovenia through entirely new experiences.

NATURA 2000

No less than 37.16% of the area of Slovenia is a part of the specially protected NATURA 2000 area. This is a European network, which protects the natural habitats of endangered plant and animal species and thus makes efforts to preserve biodiversity.

Have a splendid time on a farm!

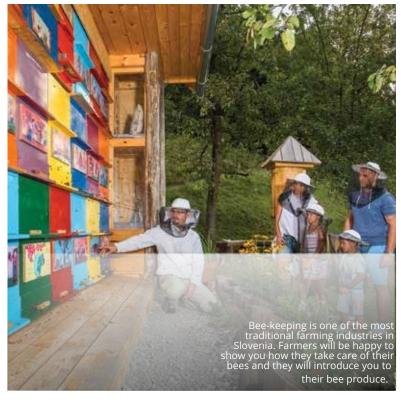
Spend the night on hay. Run around freely. Learn about farm life through games and laughter. Enjoy your time at a farm in the company of your loved ones, and make memories that will enrich your life.











174,000 ha

Land cultivation is one of the most important aspects of Slovenian farming. In 2014, all farms combined had a total of 174,000 ha of fields, which equates to 245 football pitches. More than half of these are intended for grain production, mostly corn and wheat.

Tourist farms can be an informative experience for the whole family. Accept the challenge and try raking hay, and show your curious children where the milk that they drink from their favourite cup actually comes from. Together, you can test your skills in various farm tasks and learn something new. Children will enjoy discovering life on a farm the most, as most farms are far away from busy roads, so they can run around on vast meadows in a care-free way, learn about where and how food is produced, play with animals, and learn about life and nature from their own experiences. Some farms have extra-special ways to make children happy because they also provide various activities for the young ones in the form of special entertainment programmes and camps. Let the adventure begin!

INDIGENOUS DOMESTIC ANIMALS

No less than twelve indigenous domestic animals live on Slovenian farms: three horse breeds (the Lipizzaner, the Posavje horse, and the Slovenian cold-blooded horse), four sheep breeds (the Bela Krajina pramenka, Istrian pramenka, the Bovec sheep, and the Jezersko-Solčava sheep), Cika cattle, the Štajerska hen, the Drežnica goat, the Krško Polje swine, and the Carniolan honeybee.

»The food was excellent. Mrs. Vilma is a great cook! The master farmer will make sure to take care of you all week.«

IN THE SHOES OF THE MASTER FARMER

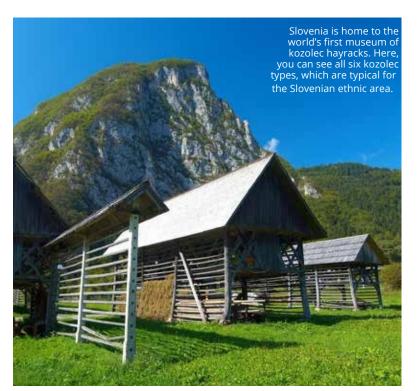
On farms, the day begins at dawn. After enjoying a hearty breakfast and morning coffee, the master farmer puts on his working gear and his wife begins the new day's tasks. Put yourself in their shoes and see how you do when performing farming tasks just for a day. Farmers will also gladly show you the jobs that nowadays have been largely replaced by modern machinery on most farms. You will join them as they work in the garden. These are especially rich with various garden herbs and vegetables in the summer months. The master farmer will take you to his orchard, where you will be able to help him prune trees or harvest fruit, and children will be able to learn to differentiate between various trees first hand. The farmer's wife will also take you to the barn and teach you how to milk a cow or distinguish the fresh from the not so fresh eggs of their hens. As children join in with all of these activities, they will be able to learn where the food that they find on their plates comes from, how farmers produce it, and the importance of plants and animals for our survival.

HAVING FUN IN THE COMPANY OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS

There are also others who will welcome you at a farm - domestic animals, in the company of which you will be able to have so much fun. As you arrive at a farm, a tail-wagging dog will greet you, and cats will weave around your legs. You will enjoy a view of magnificent horses and cow herds grazing in the pasture. You will also be delighted to see how hens and geese can freely run around the yard or the meadow. At an average Slovenian farm, you can encounter as many as 15 different types of animals. Your children will be able to learn about them, help take care of them and feed them, play with them, and even have a cuddle with them. With a little luck, one of these animals will give birth to young, which will bashfully hide, safely sheltered by their parents. The morning call of the rooster, announcing your trip to the barn, where you can help to feed the animals, will also certainly be an unforgettable experience. The sight of the animals, which will excitedly eat everything that you prepare for them, will give you a feeling of satisfaction and warmth.

Where tradition and modernity meet

Discover Slovenian folk customs and taste the life where tradition and modernity meet. Learn about the rich cultural heritage revealed to you when you visit tourist farms.











1550

In 1550, the first Slovenian book was published – the Catechism. With this book, the protestant pastor Primož Trubar proved that Slovenian can be written and printed, thus placing it alongside the literary languages of Europe.

When you sit next to a warm wood-burning oven and listen to tales about life on a farm, you will feel the authenticity of the rustic environment. Old customs and traditions on farms are still alive, and your hosts will be happy to tell you all about them. You will be able to join them as they celebrate traditional holidays, you will be able to learn how to make holiday dishes first hand and find out about the interesting customs that have been preserved until now. In places, you will also be able to see distinctive farming facilities, where you will get a sense of the past and learn what some of them are still used for.

AUTHENTIC HOLIDAY ATMOSPHERE

During holidays, such as Christmas and Easter, tourist farms will be happy to welcome you and create a holiday atmosphere with lovely traditional elements. Singing Christmas carols, decorating the Christmas tree with hand-made decorations, setting up the nativity story and preparing and tasting traditional Christmas delights will excite you and inspire you with nostalgia for your childhood. Old customs are especially alive at Easter, when loved ones all gather at one table. Experience a true adventure as you prepare Easter eggs, one of the most recognisable symbols of this holiday, which differ from place to place. They have different names, typical motifs, and various methods of preparation. For example, in Idrija, they are decorated with the famous Idrija lace, Easter eggs in Bela Krajina are still decorated according to the old method with melted bee's wax, and those in Vrhnika are traditionally perforated with thousands of small holes, which results in a true lace masterpiece. Housewives will be happy to show you how they decorate Easter eggs themselves, and you can also help them to prepare a traditional Easter feast.

SIX FARMING PROVERBS

- 1. No matter where you go, the best bread is baked at home.
- 2. Bread is not made from flour but by hand.
- 3. Luck strikes, it cannot be caught.
- 4. Love is like the sea; it's dangerous if you cannot swim.
- 5. A tree leans on a tree, a man on a man.
- 6. Work is the measure of its master.

EXPERIENCE THREE RUSTIC TRADITIONS

They say that "St. Martin makes wine from must." This saying also includes the crux of one of the most important celebrations on farms. Today, St. Martin's Day is a special festival of wine-makers, which is celebrated, according to the Christian calendar, on 11 November, but its beginnings go back far into the pre-Christian age, when it signified the end of work in the fields and giving thanks for a good harvest. If you visit a farm on St. Martin's Day, you will be able to help prepare and taste the traditional St. Martin's Day feast, tour a wine cellar, taste selected wines, and experience a true wine baptism. Mischievous traditional celebrations that take place 46 days before Easter Sunday are also very exciting. Slovenia is considered to be a country that is one of the richest when it comes to carnival masks. Among these masks, the kurent is the most famous (or korant, as they call it in the Ptuj Field where it originates). This is a mythological character that chases away everything that is bad and brings luck, joy, and all that is good. At farms, you will be told everything about the Shrovetide carnival customs, you will be shown typical masks, and in towns and villages you will be able to visit the carnival and satisfy your sweet tooth with desserts such as krofi and flancati. In addition to St. Martin's Day and the Shrovetide carnival, events that pay homage to the heritage of various farming activities are also a very special experience. You will be able to learn about old farming activities and tasks, such as cutting grass with a sickle, harvesting, threshing, corn husking, brandy distillation, and others.

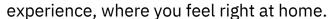
AN ATMOSPHERE WITH A SENSE OF THE PAST

While you stay in the comfort of a modern farm house, you will be able to experience the essence of the past as you tour some of the typical farming facilities. This way, you will experience a fragment of life on a farm as it once was and learn how these facilities are used today. Zidanice or vineyard cottages are most definitely an example of this. They can be found in vineyards in the wine-growing regions of Slovenia, where they are still used for storing tools and pressing grapes. Wooden or solid construction cottages are no longer used today, but they once represented the central part of every farm because most of the food that was produced with so much effort was stored there. In the pastures of Gorenjska, as you ascend one of its mountains, you will notice Alpine shepherds' cabins, which make up entire villages in the mountains. They once served as shepherd dwellings during the pasture season, and milk was also produced there. The Slovenian countryside is known around the world for a special feature, the kozolec hayracks, which were once considered to be a symbol of a farm's stability. Farms used them mainly to dry hay, and store produce and machinery. In Slovenia, they developed typical forms, which cannot be found anywhere else in the world, and these authentic forms have been preserved until the present day.

Time for

friends

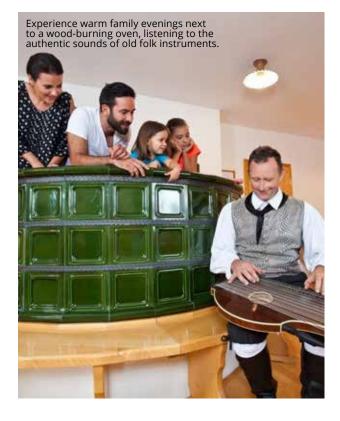
Farms, which are spread out all around Slovenia, differ from one another very much, yet they share the desire to create an unforgettable custom-made













When the melodeon plays

The fun of celebrations and gatherings reaches its peak when the accordion plays. This is one of the most typical of Slovenian national instruments. Most frequently, Slovenians play the diatonic button accordion or melodeon, which Slovenians call the "fraitonar'ca."



Shots of home-made brandy to welcome you, followed by a rich table stocked with delights from the farm garden and fields, from pantries, and smoke-houses. The farmer will happily and enthusiastically tell you how many head of cattle graze in his pasture, what the dimensions of his orchard are, and what is produced in his fields. Furthermore, he will tell you that you cannot miss an evening chat while enjoying a sweet home-made speciality. He will then focus on his tasks, but not before shaking your hand and promising to tell you even more later about every-day life on his farm. As you enter your room with its fresh white linen, you will become aware that there are still places where people are happy and proud to accept you into their home and treat you as their good friend.

CUSTOM-MADE EXPERIENCE

Your kind hosts will always welcome you with open arms and a smile. Their hospitality will make you feel right at home and that you are accepted. Such values, which are often forgotten in our fast-paced modern lifestyle, are very much alive on these farms. People will take time for you and try to create an experience that is tailored to you and your wishes. Tourist farms are different from other tourist providers because they are not seething with masses of tourists, but have only a handful of visitors who are seeking relaxation in harmony with nature, just like you.

THIRD BEST SPEAKERS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Slovenians are the third most multilingual nation in Europe. According to the Statistical Office of Slovenia, no less than 93% of Slovenians speak at least one other foreign language, 32% speak two, and 45% speak three or more. They speak mostly English, German, Croatian, and Italian.

FEEL THE WARM AND WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE

Visiting wineries, "Eight" inns, and excursion farms can take you a few hours, but visiting a tourist farm can be an adventure that lasts a few days, as they offer accommodation - comfortable rooms or pleasant apartments with all of the comfort that you need. You will truly feel relaxed, surrounded by the comforting warmth of timber as well as the cosy heat radiated by a wood-burning oven. Here you can be snug on cool evenings in the midst of a welcoming haven. A particular ambience will also be felt as you hear a mosaic of dialects while visiting various Slovenian farms and compare how different and interesting each sounds. Did you know that Slovenians have the most dialects among the Slavic languages? There are over 50, which is certainly an unusual phenomenon, considering that Slovenia only has two million people. Of course, you can also communicate with your hosts in other languages. The languages that they speak at each farm are listed in the catalogue.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Some tourist farms offer accommodation adjusted to the special wishes of their guests regarding specific experiences and have thus acquired the label for specialised offerings. If you visit an ecological tourist farm, you will be able to learn in great detail how organic food is produced and you will even be able to taste some. Due to their location, many farms are an excellent starting point for actively spending time in nature, and these are holders of the label for tourist farms with healthy lifestyle offerings. If you seek more specific activities, such as biking and horseback riding, farms that are suitable for bikers and lovers of horses and riding are the right choice for you. In wine-growing regions, there are quite a few farms bearing the label that is used to designate a wine-growing tourist farm. There, farmers will be glad to show you how wine is produced. Farms which provide special experiences for children offer a true adventure for the whole family. This is why they have been given the title family-friendly farms. Some of them even have their own teachers and leaders of entertainment programmes, as these tourist farms specialise in welcoming children who are not accompanied by their parents. Certain farms are also adapted for persons of limited mobility.



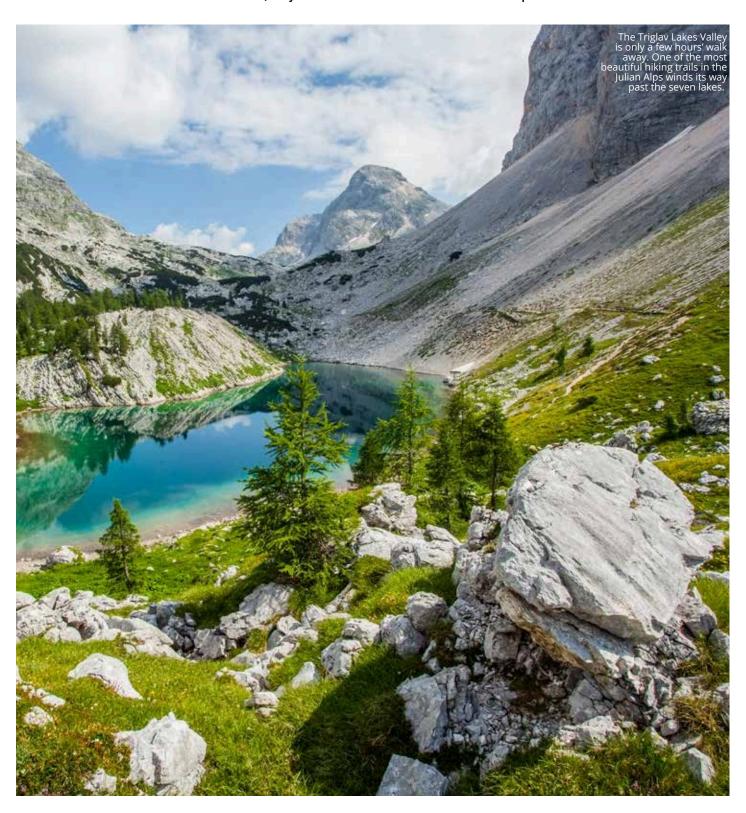


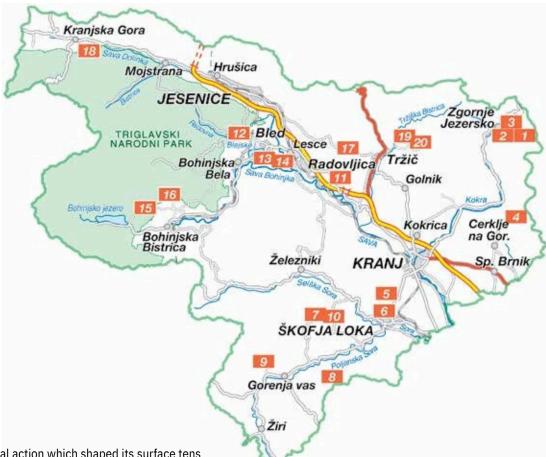
The Gorenjska Region



On light feet

It is easy to find one's own piece of holiday and adventure paradise in a region where mighty mountains, crystal waters and fresh forests prevail.





Due to the glacial action which shaped its surface tens of thousands of years ago, the curves of Gorenjska are particularly voluptuous and dramatic. Triglav National Park, one of the oldest protected environments in Europe, was established here. The highest peaks, wooded Pokljuka Plateau, the Savica and Peričnik waterfalls, deep river and flooded valleys and lakes Bohinj and Bled determine the character of this region, which towards the east is supplemented by the Jelovica Plateau, abundant with natural features, charming valleys such as Jezersko, and the diverse history of the Škofja Loka and Cerkno Hills.

HEALTHY AND NATURAL

The beneficial effects of nature of Gorenjska have been drawing visitors seeking sun and fresh air for centuries. At the end of the 19th century, the Swiss natural healer Arnold Rikli invited people to Lake Bled for climatic therapy. In addition to sunbathing and bathing in water, his patients ascended Bled Castle and enjoyed a *pletna* boat ride to Bled Island. They spent their time on mountain pastures where a cheesemakers' trail can be found today and where Alpine dairy farmers are still active. They also tasted spicy *Mohant* cheese, a special treat for gourmets. Part of their strict healthy diet was undoubtedly also honey of the Carniolan honeybee, an indigenous Slovenian bee species.

SWEET AND PASSIONATE

The tradition of bee-keeping initiated by Anton Janša, the founder of modern bee-keeping, was an inspiration behind the Museum of Apiculture in Radovljica. Sweet honey, an ingredient of gingerbread hearts intended to express affection, certainly kindled many flames of passion. And it is passion – for activity, deliciousness and relaxation – that is imprinted on the Gorenjska region.

SPECIAL FEATURES

- be enjoyed after ascending the peaks of the Julian Alps and the Karavanke, while the silence of the wilderness can be enjoyed on lower hills and mountain pastures, which are even more tranquil in winter, when there are numerous possibilities for skiing and cross-country skiing.
- 2 The height can make you dizzy, especially if you fly over Gorenjska in a sports plane, descend in a parachute, or experience the vertiginous giant Planica ski jumping hill.
- The waters of Gorenjska are extremely clean. Fly fishing, rafting or canyoning enable relaxation by and on the water. On the shore of Lake Bled, enjoy a delicious Bled cream cake.







MY WAY OF TASTING NATURE.

When I discover Slovenia's landscape, I also discover the flavours of excellent local delicacies. Here, in the European Region of Gastronomy 2012, the ingredients of a wealth of delicacies come directly from nature or are organically produced. Their path from the field to the plate is very short. When I visit a tourist farm, I am constantly surprised by the flavours of fresh vegetables, freshly gathered forest fruits and meadow herbs. Great aromas always come from a home's kitchen.

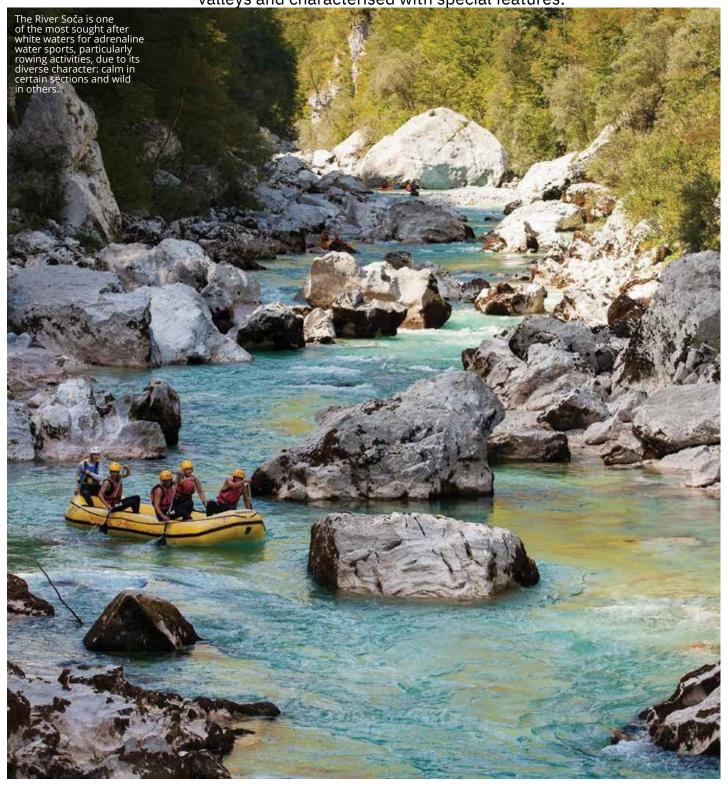
#ifeelsLOVEnia #myway #tasteslovenia

> www.slovenia.info www.tasteslovenia.si

The Goriška Region

Between earth and sky

An experience of almost all shades of Slovenia: this is the Goriška. Stretching across the foothills of the Alps, extending over picturesque valleys and characterised with special features.



The rainbow of the Goriška shines like the first documented meteorite to land on Slovenian territory, which lit up and hit Avče in 1908. The rainbow's arch bends across the high mountains almost to the sea and draws beneath it unimaginable shades of emerald nature, intense history and a bright future.

IN SEARCH OF PEACE

Today, you can hear the roaring of the River Soča as it plunges on its first few kilometres from the spring in the idyllic mountain Trenta Valley. However, only a century ago, different sounds echoed from the mountains. The present-day Slovenian–Italian border was one of the most important locations of the First World War; the Isonzo Front. But the voice of the past, which can be heard at the multiple award-winning Kobarid Museum, resounds today in more positive tones. The Walk of Peace carries the message of Ernest Hemingway, who wrote his novel, *A Farewell to Arms*, inspired by the battles he experienced here. The trail along the former Isonzo Front connects areas and people in search of tranquillity and offers many opportunities for beautiful trips full of historic events reminding us not to forget or repeat.

LEAD ME, MILKY WAY...

The life in the Goriška Region is very vibrant. The main artery fed by the River Soča is of a blinding milky green colour due to its limestone bed. At times half empty, then half full, but always exciting. This region has been featured in the adventure-filled chapter of Slovenia's story for decades and is considered an epicentre for hiking, cycling, kayaking, rafting, canyoning, skiing, skydiving and hang-gliding. However, these environmentally-friendly sportspeople do not leave scars behind, such as were left here by several earthquakes in the last century. The behaviour of visitors and the attitude of those enabling the Soča Valley to offer activities of various levels of difficulty ensure that the Emerald Route along the Soča will be preserved for our descendants, so that they will be able to taste the traditional Tolminc cheese in the invigorating simplicity of Alpine dairy farms more than a century from now.



SPECIAL FEATURES

- Road in the Idrija mercury mine or discover the inspiring living heritage of bobbin lace making in the Idrija and Cerkno regions.
- 2 If you're looking for an adrenaline rush, try one of the white water sports available in the Soča River Valley, or descend by bike or sledge from the Mangart mountain pass. Those in search of tranquillity may enjoy fly fishing in the Soča or its tributaries, cycling along the Vipava Valley or hiking to Nanos, Gora, Čaven and other hills.
- 3 Catch the train from Jesenice to Nova Gorica free of any care and travel at your own pace between the intermediate stops. The Bohinj Railway crosses the Julian Alps with almost 100 tunnels, galleries and bridges.



The Zasavska Region

Getting dizzy from the depth and height

The Zasavje is by far the smallest Slovenian region, but utilises the space and opportunities posed by nature exceptionally well.





MINING DEPTHS

This mining river valley has unique ethnological characteristics. The miners were considered a special group of people and it is not surprising that they congregated in special mining settlements or colonies, where they shared the good and the bad. The mining pickaxes will soon stop digging, but the descendants of those who went to work clean and returned home covered in dirt transformed the Zasavje into an attraction, which creatively combines its industrial and natural heritage.

ch contributed significantly to Slovenia's development.

GREEN HEIGHTS

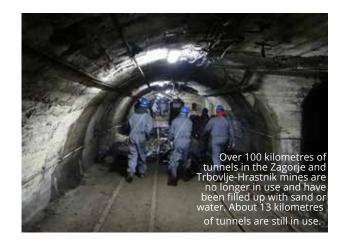
The natural wealth is lush here, surprisingly enough also above ground. The top of Mt. Kum, also known as the Zasavje Triglav, enables a view all the way to the actual Triglav, the highest Slovenian mountain. On the slopes of Mt. Kum, you may see chamois and mouflon, and in a small dark fissure, you will perhaps catch a glimpse of Kum's blind beetle (*Anophthalmus schaumi kumensis*), which is native to this area. Similarly to the radio and television signals that spread far and wide from the top of Mt. Kum, many hiking paths also lead off the mountain. Cross the River Sava and you will soon find yourself on the green forest slopes and blooming meadows of the Mrzlica and Čemšeniška Planina mountains.

And do not be surprised if on your way home with a belly full of *funšterc*, the Zasavje egg omelette, you will be greeted with a typical miners' greeting, *srečno* (good luck), which has accompanied miners into the underground of Trbovlje, Zagorje and Hrastnik for centuries.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Perkmandeljc, the mine elf, who played tricks on the miners and also warned them of danger. Venture on an exciting hike through the tunnels of the Trbovlje–Hrastnik mine and learn about the tradition of mining in the Mining Museum in Zagorje.

- 2 Head off on the Zasavje Long-Distance Trail and climb the 1,220-metre high Kum, a picturesque peak offering panoramic views of all the hills between the rivers of Sava, Savinja and Sotla.
- ② Discover the Zasavje Hills on foot or on horseback. Horses were once used in the mines, but today they are carefully looked after in equestrian clubs.

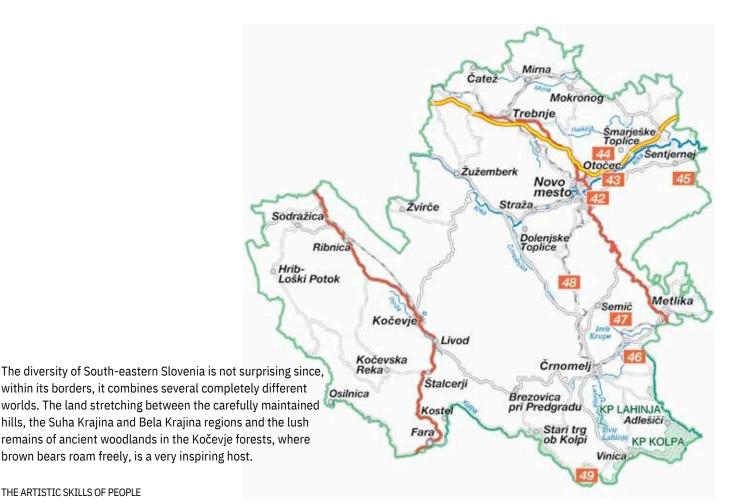


South-eastern Slovenia

Invigoratingly diverse

Although giants are considered clumsy, this could not be said for the largest who gaians region about want was few and another are legant,





THE ARTISTIC SKILLS OF PEOPLE

The ancient inhabitants of the Dolenjska region recognised the properties of nature expressed through fertile hills exposed to the sun and abundant with water and thermal springs. A treasure of amber and glass decorations and masterfully designed situlae made in the late Iron Age and found near Novo Mesto can be admired by everyone in the Museum of Dolenjska.

However, creativity was not solely the domain of the ancient past. With a keen sense of aesthetics, castles such as Otočec and Kostel were positioned on the most exceptional, even dramatic, sites. Medieval townscapes are complemented with vineyards growing on steep slopes, while modest vineyard cottages testify to the hard-working character of local people.

THE ARTISTIC SKILLS OF NATURE

Skilfulness is not reserved for people only. Matching the marvels of the travertine dams near Žužemberk, the works of beavers, those wild construction engineers that are returning to the enticing waters of the Krka and Kolpa rivers, persistently add to the beauty of the undulating landscape.

Unique natural features can be seen in the Lahinja and Kolpa landscape parks, and the traditions of local people and their work at the Bela Krajina Museum in Metlika. Indulge in the art which accompanies you on every trail along this all-inone region, for the most pristine experience. This is the art in which the people of Dolenjska and Bela Krajina excel the most: sincere hospitality supplemented by the Bela Krajina pogača flat bread and a glass of Cviček wine.

SPECIAL FEATURES

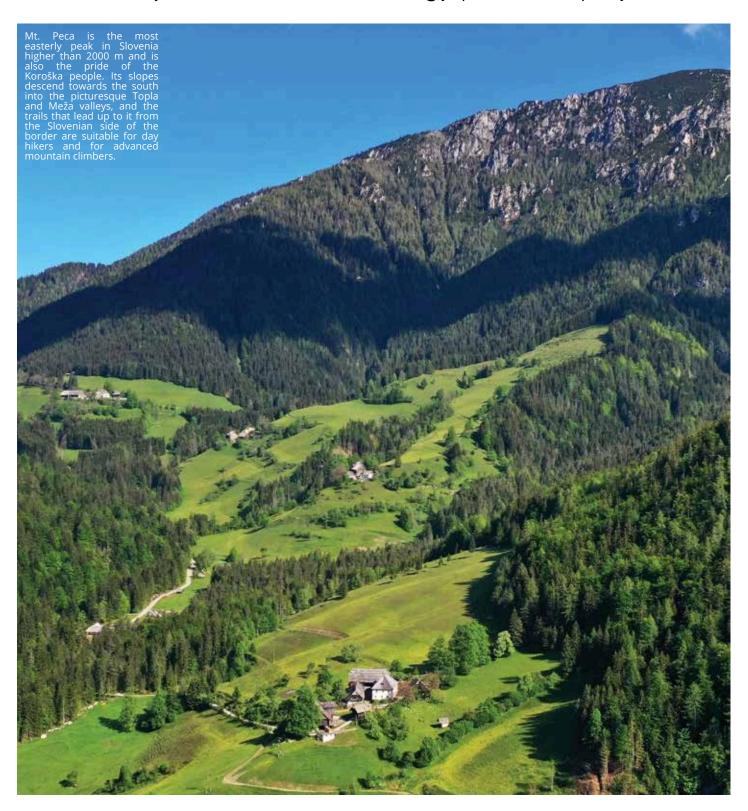
- 65 castles were once to be found in the valley of the River Krka – and the Land of Hayracks in Šentrupert, where many of these traditional architectural creations can be seen in the openair museum.
- 2 The Krka and Kolpa rivers attract visitors with their rich and well-preserved nature all year round. In summer months, bathing, rowing, stand-up paddle boarding and fly fishing provide a beneficial way to cool off.
- 3 Enjoy an authentic experience of hospitality and refreshment with fresh and light Cviček wine in a typical vineyard cottage. This wine is typical of this part of Slovenia and is, next to Chianti, the only wine which combines red and white grape



The Koroška Region

Forest fairytale

The Koroška shines in a diamond glow. Not because (micro)diamonds can be found in the Pohorje rock, but because it is so stunningly special in its simplicity.





Three valleys – the Mežica, the Drava and the Mislinja – and three mountain ranges – the Karavanke, the Pohorje Hills and the Kamnik–Savinja Alps – make up the puzzle of this region.

UP AND DOWN

Pristine mountain nature with deep, dark, but not grim, forests is variegated with dispersed settlements scattered over the landscape. Here and there, they give way to ski slopes, countless hiking trails and – what is even more tempting – to more than 1,000 kilometres of routes for mountain bikers, who are warmly welcomed by the people of Koroška and it is not surprising that, due to their fondness for the sport, the first mountain bike park in Slovenia was established here. What is more, a true cycling adventure awaits you here: the pushing of pedals along the abandoned underground mine under Mt. Peca.

PAST IN THE PRESENT

The underground world of Mt. Peca is intertwined with tunnels as ore was extracted here for 400 years to be melted into lead and zinc. It seems that the mining activities under the mountain did not disturb King Matjaž. Legend has it that the mountain opened up and took him and his army in its embrace as they fled their enemy. King Matjaž still sleeps at a table in the cave under Mt. Peca, while the people wait for his beard to wrap around the table nine times. It is then that he will awake and save them.

THE HOME OF SUPERLATIVES

But the people of the Koroška do not really need help from their beloved king. They accept, nurture and use with the utmost care everything that nature offers them. And nature is truly generous and superabundant. A large number of capercaillies strut about Topla Landscape Park. The tallest (Sgerm) spruce in Central Europe still grows in the Ribniško Pohorje Hills, and Smrekovec, the only remnant

SPECIAL FEATURES

- of the river. Travel with rafters from Gortina or Javnik and enjoy the Koroška apple cider and cottage cheese with onion and pumpkin seed oil.
- 2 Take a deep breath and hike along the Koroška Mountain Trail or tackle the K24 mountain challenge: climb the Uršlja gora, Smrekovec, Raduha, Olševa and Peca mountains in 24 hours. Cycle along the Drava Cycling Route or the Pohorje Cycling Route. Take your skis to Kope and the Ribniško Pohorje Hills, and your swimsuit to the Radlje ob Dravi Water Park, and don't forget a safety rope when climbing breath- taking rock walls.
- 3 Descend into the underground world of Mt. Peca and learn about the history of mining in the museum while enjoying a miner's breakfast. Discover the mine by train, bike or even kayak.



The coast and the Karst

Scent of wind and salt

The beneficent effects of the sea will be felt long after seasoning with salt becomes a mere memory. The sea also has magical powers within its hinterland.





The coast is only a short distance away in this region. But before reaching the coast, stop in Karst for its culinary delights, the Brkini Hills for sweet fruit and visit small villages in the Primorje Hills.

AT THE DRAUGHT OF CENTURIES

In the 16th century, the influential people of the Austrian monarchy discovered that the grasses growing on the stony Karst soil were particularly nutritious. Not only did the aromatic vine variety *Refošk* grow on the Terra Rossa, from which dark red Teran wine is still being produced today, but the vast grasslands were also perfect for horse breeding. Due to this fact, the oldest European stud farm at Lipica was established, where predominately white Lipizzaner horses have been bred and put on display for over 400 years.

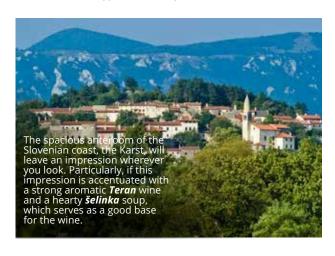
But nature does not only provide for the animals. Lung patients still receive treatment in cold and damp caves near Sežana. The Karst has a particularly diverse underground, and what is more, all landscapes throughout the world displaying at least some characteristics similar to the underground or surface formations that are found here are named after the Karst. It is not surprising that Škocjan Caves were the first Slovenian site to be included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. A look into the deep collapsed doline of the torrential River Reka, which disappears into the seemingly ominous underground realm, will tempt you to walk carefully on safely attached bridges above the groundwater.

HOT AND COLD. NEVER TEPID

The unusual lack of surface water is unique. Water may also be only felt in the Brkini Hills when watching large collapsed dolines typical of contact karst at the conjunction of impermeable flysch and permeable limestone. Many caves can be accessed easily in this area and it is not surprising that they once served as refrigerators. They were even used for storing ice, which kept the fish from the coast cool in warm months. Typical temperature variations between day and night and a combination of rain and sun add to the supreme sweetness of fruit grown in the Brkini Hills, such as apples, plums, pears and cherries.

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Farmers or wine producers were once able to sell their excess wine tax-free for eight (osem in Slovenian) days a year; today, this tradition has been complemented with a culinary offer, which includes traditional Prosciutto. You can recognise osmica inns by the ivy bouquets in their yards.
- 2 The Karst and coastal region, with villages situated in the shade of olive trees, the mulberries and pine trees are, with their manageable diversity of terrain, perfect for exploring by bike or on foot.
- 3 Take a walk to the Strunjan and Sečovlje salt-pans, where salt is harvested on *petola*, a special natural base, which prevents the salt from mixing with the mud on the bottom of the salt-pans and also aromatises the salt. The uniqueness of this salt, and particularly of the fleur de sel, is appreciated in top kitchens around the world.

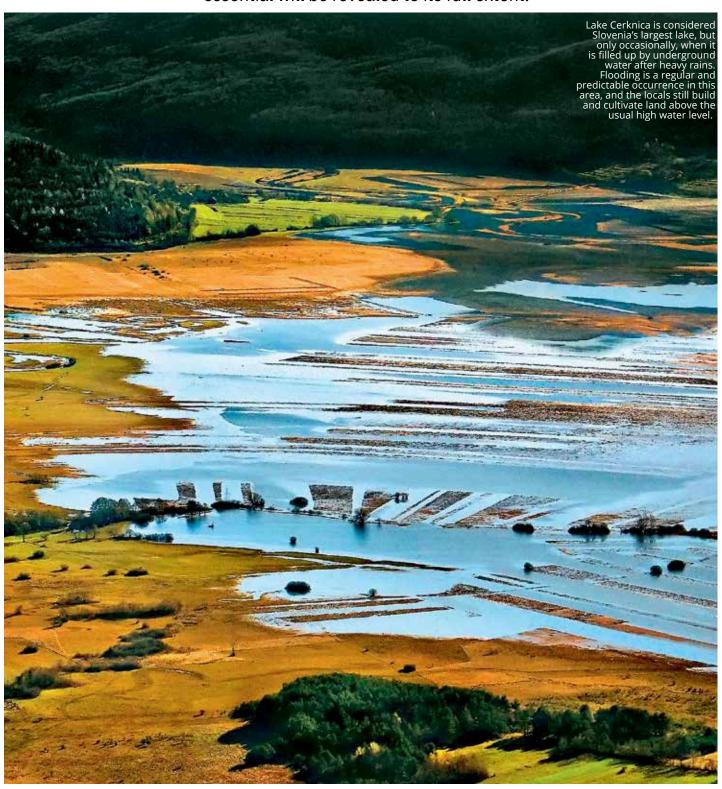




The Primorska and Notranjska Regions

Perforated wilderness

What is happening underneath the surface is just as interesting as what is happening on it. It may be true that what is essential is invisible to the eye, but in the Primorska and the Notranjska the essential will be revealed to its full extent.





A true wilderness can be found in this heavily perforated corner of Slovenia. High Notranjska plateaus, with lush forests that are home to bears, lynx and wolves, alternate with the plains of Karst fields, which give an impression that beneath your feet, in the subterranean world, things are far from still.

WILD UNDERGROUND

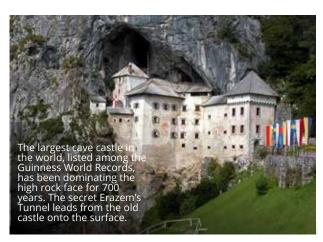
And that's completely true. In numerous caves under the surface – there are more than 12,000 caves in Slovenia – water decants and violently spews from sinkholes after heavy rains to flood fields, while deep rifts and gaps are seen during periods of drought. Polymath Janez Vajkard Valvasor observed the occurrence of intermittent lakes 300 years ago. He wondered where the transparent 'dragon's offspring', which were later called olm or human fish, (*Proteus anguinus*) come from. They may not be unique to Slovenia, but an extremely rare event has taken place in Postojna Cave, where the first cave train took visitors into this subterranean realm 140 years ago – the laying of olm eggs and the hatching of their young.

WILD SURFACE

The people of Notranjska know that nature should not be fought against. Predjama Castle was thus built on, or rather against, a rock. The devastating occurrences around the town of Cerknica were simply interpreted as the evil deeds of the witches living in the area. Skiing in deep snow was invented on the Bloke Plateau, where locals also hunted dormice, which they baked or cooked in stew or goulash, as they still do today. Such wild experiences and wild nature will certainly be difficult to forget any time soon.

SPECIAL FEATURES Discover the Karst wilderness. Ex

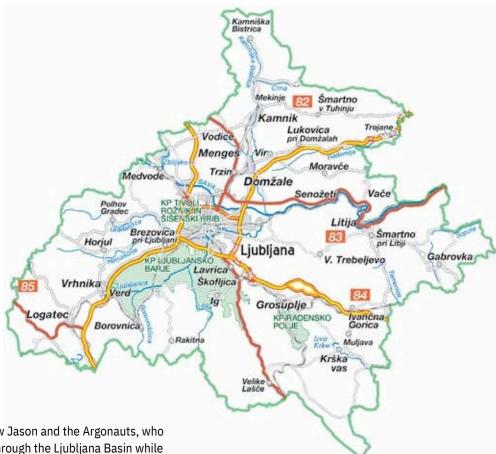
- exceptional caves such as Križna Jama Cave or Postojna Cave, one of the most famous tourist caves in the world, which is also the home of the largest number of subterranean animals. Admire the springs, sinkholes, natural bridges such as the one in Rakov Škocjan, and the intermittent lakes at Cerknica and Pivka.
- 2 Find vantage points looking towards the sea. Diverse hiking and cycling routes lead to high plateaus – Vremščica, Nanos, Bloke, Javorniki and Snežnik – enabling views of the near and far surrounding areas.
- 3 Allow yourself to be transported into the myths and legends of the Snežnik and Predjama castles and ignite your imagination.



Central Slovenia Lively Crossroads of Slovenia The central area is a true concentrate of this country under the Alps. Many diverse things can be

seen and experienced at short distances, while both liveliness and tranquillity fill the air.





Can you imagine how Jason and the Argonauts, who supposedly sailed through the Ljubljana Basin while carrying the golden fleece, were surprised when they sailed up the River Sava and saw the Alps bathing in the sun and the lush greenery all around?

URBAN GREEN RING

A small but cosmopolitan anthill of the urban and cultural centre of Slovenia, Ljubljana, can be found here. It is not surprising that it was entitled the European Green Capital since it is surrounded by Tivoli Park, the Rožnik Hill and a 32-kilometre ring route of the Path of Remembrance and Comradeship. This famous path leads through former suburbs whose rural style is now intertwined with the elegant architecture of Jože Plečnik, who left a distinct mark on the capital situated beneath the castle hill.

WILDERNESS RING

It takes only an ascent to Ljubljana Castle or the Šmarna Gora Hill, which also has many visitors in winter, to see the diversity of this region. The wooded Polhov Gradec Dolomites rise to the west. The Velika Planina mountain plateau in the north invites you to the threshold of the jagged Kamnik-Savinja Alps. Towards the east, the River Sava cuts into a picturesque valley, which opens out somewhat at the town of Litija. The extensive Ljubljana Marshes open up in the south, where the River Ljubljanica, 'the almost tamed shrew', meanders and brings joy to many rowers. After its springs at Vrhnika, which carry water from many underground streams, springs and Karst fields, the river obtains its seventh name. It could easily get an eighth one, too: Archaeologica. Many important artefacts were found in its riverbed, including the oldest wheel with an axle. This region in the heart of Slovenia is unique like its special delicacy, tarragon potica roll.

SPECIAL FEATURES Breathe and fill your lungs! It does not mat

- you ski at Krvavec Resort or hike among the Alpine dairy farmers on Velika Planina, by the flower beds in Volčji Potok Arboretum or along the endless forest and waterside paths. You can be active and relaxed anywhere.
- Many remains may lead you along the Roman paths to Longaticum (Logatec), Nauportus (Vrhnika) and back to the centre of the former Emona (Ljubljana), where the Romans built a town with a sewage system, baths and inns.
- 3 Find tranquillity in impressive churches and visit the oldest operating Cistercian monastery in Slovenia in Stična, where you can improve your health with traditional herbal products prepared by monks

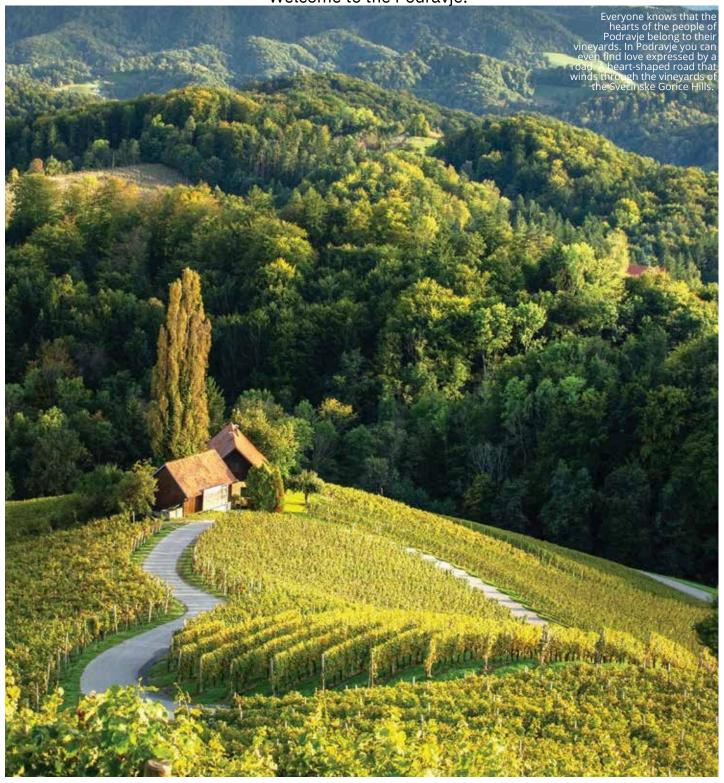


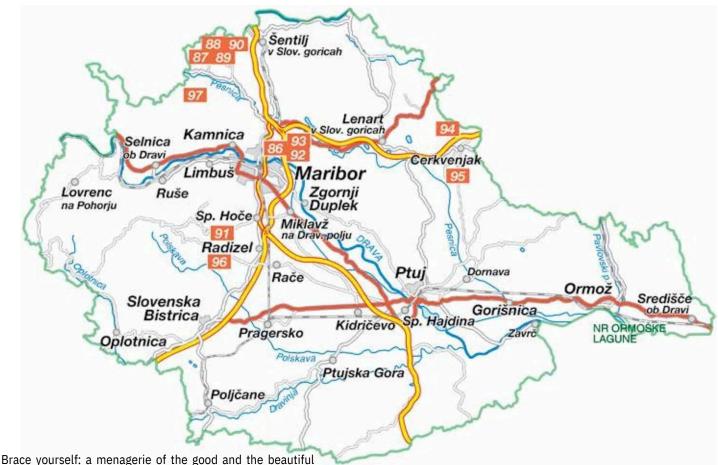
The Podravska Region

Meeting the abundance

Are you ready for an adventure in sunny places, which invite with their diverse nature and experience?

Welcome to the Podravje.





awa- its you on wine routes, hillside paths, ski slopes and in castles.

(ALMOST) EVERYTHING IS THE RIVER DRAVA

The generosity of Podravska is always, at least to some extent, connected with the great River Drava. Its tributaries have furrowed the Pohorje Hills and Kozjak Hills, which enabled the locals to transport timber into the valley. Nowadays, the hills are a maze of hiking and biking trails. One fourth of Slovenians get electricity from hydroelectric power plants on the Drava, and its dammed lakes provide shelter for many birds. The oldest Slovenian town, Ptuj, and Maribor with a romantic promenade along the Drava, Lent, the oldest part of the town, and the oldest vine in the world would not be the same if the Drava had not wound its way through and deposited fertile soil onto the plains over the centuries.

SUNNY AND RICH

The River Drava did not carry only soil but it also brought gold from the Austrian Hohe Tauern to the Slovenian plains. Only a century ago, gold panning was profitable, but not anymore, even though there are supposedly still several thousand tonnes of gold in the river. Indeed, the people of Podravje tend to pride themselves on their bottled 'gold'. Wine production is a serious business on the sun-caressed hills of Slovenske Gorice, Haloze and the outskirts of the Pohorje Hills. This can be noticed in the well-maintained vineyards and orderly wine cellars, such as the 2.5-kilometre long Vinag wine cellar below Maribor, which is one of the largest and oldest classical wine cellars in Europe. When visiting Podravska, you receive what one should experience on any visit: the excitement of exploring and meaningful content. Even if the latter includes mushrooms, pot barley and meats cooked in a home-made Pohorje stew.

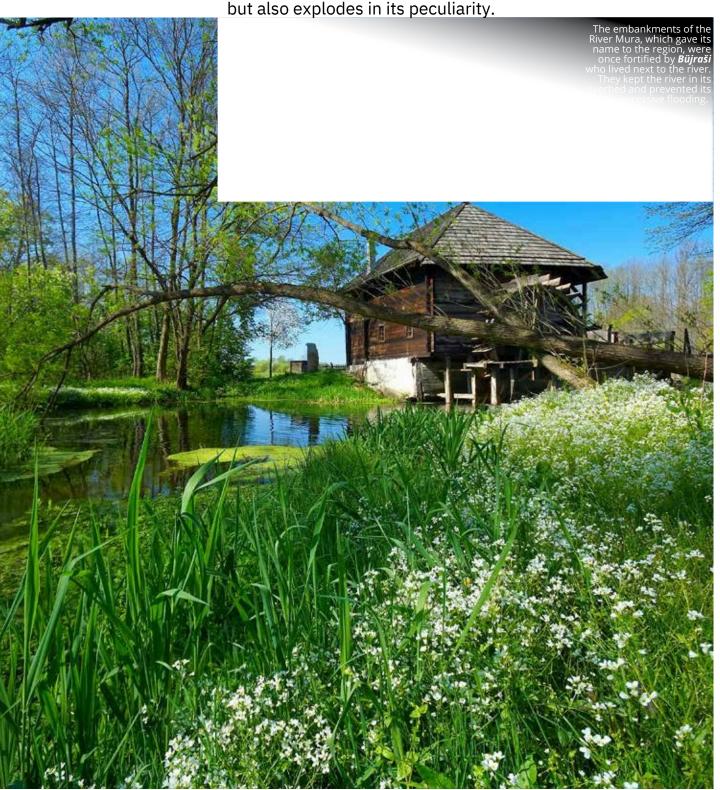
- and stop at a wine cellar where you can taste excellent wines.
- 2 Turn to the Pohorje Hills: by bike, on skis, on foot or in a saddle. Pick blueberries, blackberries, mushrooms and chestnuts, then quench your thirst in one of the fresh and clean streams that roll down the Pohorje Hills. Crayfish sensitive to pollution still inhabit some of them.
- ② Learn about the art of the past. Impressive castles (Ptuj, Štatenberg, Slovenska Bistrica etc.) testify to the ingenuity of its past inhabitants and local people. Follow their footsteps and discover old crafts.



The Pomurska Region

Sharming peculiarity

Pomurje is like a flower in the hair which gives a special charm to Slovenia's uniqueness. It radiates, accentuates and soothes





FEEL THE PLAINS IN VINE-GROWING HILLS

It seems that everything evolves from the lightness of the plains and the mellowness of the hills. The River Mura makes its way lazily among the fields; at some places, it is so slow that it pauses in oxbows, the unique habitats for harmless freshwater jellyfish. People of the Prekmurje and Prlekija take time for pottery and gathering while husking corn. They produce aromatic wines, prepare rich and filling dishes and press excellent pumpkin seed oil. Its rich flavour and green-black colour supplement many a speciality. Perhaps it was romanticism, which is felt even more intensely by visitors accustomed to everyday hustle and bustle, which gave the name to the Island of Love in Ižakovci. And this may also be the reason for the return of the storks to the Pomurje time and again while expecting their young.

EXPERIENCE THE EXPLOSION

In addition to the clattering wind rattles, the traditional protectors of vineyards, there is only one other thing that disturbs this idyllic tranquillity: a volcano in the middle of the Goričko Hills with an exciting adventure park. Like the diverse Prlekija extending from the right bank of the River Mura, the rounded hills of the Goričko also contribute to the diversity of biking and hiking trails, which lead all the way to Hungary, whose cross-border influence enriches the Pannonian region. This is a melting pot of languages and people; similarly, thermal and mineral waters mix underground below many health resorts. They are the remnants of the Pannonian Sea, which once covered the present-day plains and hills. The Pomurje song is endless. When you leave, you will only wish to memorise as many verses as possible from this special world by the River Mura.

- the master craftsmen or join the housewives on tourist farms when they prepare the *Prekmurje gibanica* (layer cake) or enjoy the *Prleška tünka* (minced lard and pork).
- 2 Listen to the interesting stories of millers when crossing the River Mura on a raft or when visiting the Babič Mill near the village of Veržej. Cycle or hike along flat or slightly elevated trails in Pomurje and enjoy a glass of natural mineral water while relaxing your muscles in a health resort.
- 3 Try understanding the Prekmurje or Prlekija dialects when speaking to locals at wine tastings on tourist farms in the Lendavske, Ljutomersko-Ormoške and Radgonsko-Kapelske Gorice Hills.



The Savinjska Region

Green kingdom

The Savinjska region resembles the River Savinja with which it shares its name: sometimes untamed, then neatly maintained, playful and calm at the same time.





The world by the Savinja and beyond is full of jewels, given by nature to local people to shape and enjoy. And to please the most demanding hedonists.

ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAINS

The western edge of the Savinjska region looks promising. The image of the boutique mountain valleys of Robanov kot, Matkov kot and the Logar Valley with bikers and hikers is unforgettable. It may seem that the world comes to an apparent dead end at the Rinka Waterfall, but the trails lead on. To the pastures and homely farms, where the locals still know how to prepare pear *žlinkrofi* (dumplings), and to mighty mountains where giants used to roam. The blindingly gleaming River Savinja meanders between the rocks, which the giants threw into the valleys, and brings special delight to kayakers and rafters.

ECHOES FROM THE PLAINS AND HILLS

Downstream of the Savinja, the narrow valleys widen into the Savinja Valley. It is known as the green valley, but it could also be called the valley of gold. The bubbly golden coloured beer is brewed here from the noble Štajerska hops, which grow in the valley.

This was probably not the case in the Roman period, since the Romans did not particularly appreciate beer. But they nevertheless left many remnants, including the exceptional necropolis in Šempeter v Savinjski Dolini and even a 'town below town' in Celje, where the Savinja starts its journey to the River Sava. Behind, the rounded and sunny hills of the Škalce pri Slovenskih Konjicah and Šmarje-Virštanj wine -producing districts can be seen, including pristine nature with mineral and thermal springs and seven health resorts. Those who like to enjoy life to the fullest will find in the Savinjska region everything and more.

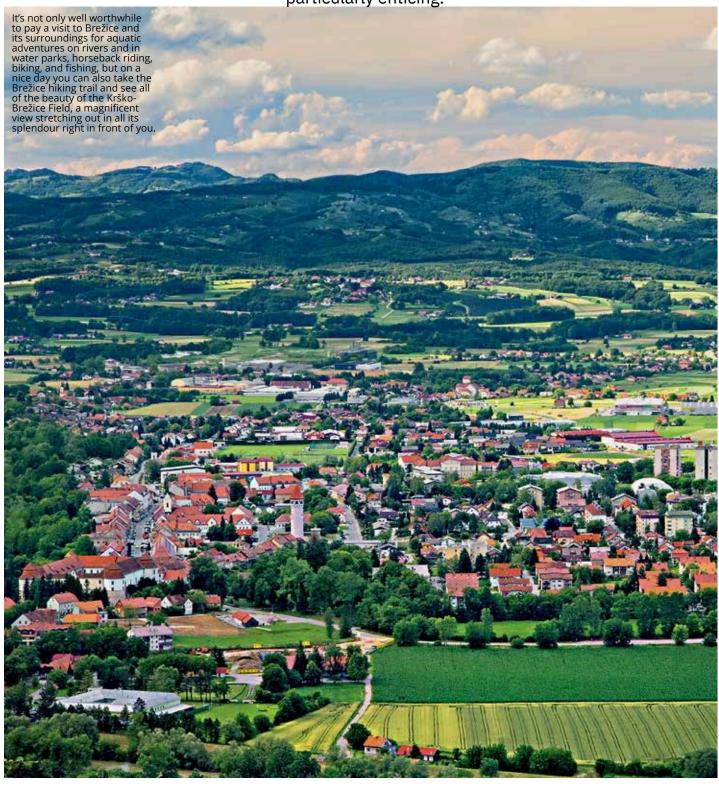
- 1 Šmartinsko, Braslovče etc.), the refreshing forests of the Zreško Pohorje Hills, and warm up in underground caves (Snow Cave, Pekel Cave) and thermal spas in winter.
- Quench your thirst at one of the pristine springs along the Savinja's upper stream and enjoy mineral water with the highest magnesium content in the world in Rogaška Slatina.
- ② Discover the rich diversity of landscape parks in the Logar Valley, Robanov kot, Boč-Donačka gora, Golte, Ponikovski kras, Vrbje Pond and Kozjansko Regional Park, where delicious apples still grow in meadow orchards hosting an abundance of wildlife.

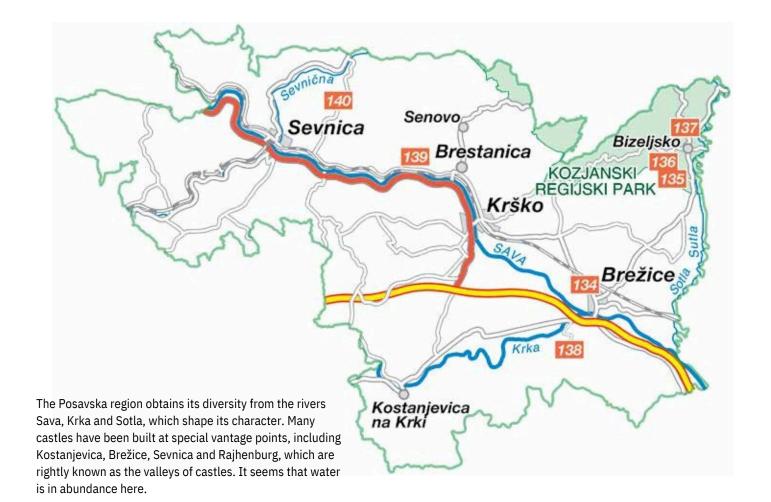


The Posavska Region

In the embrace of water

The Posavje is 'hot'. Not because of the record temperatures, but because river valleys, hills and castles bathing in the sun are particularly enticing.





WATER KINGDOM

Although the water which regularly floods the island town of Kostanjevica na Krki is not welcomed, the flood plains of Jovsi along the Sotla and the Krakovo forest at the Krka offer safe refuge for rare plant and animal species. The forest stands of English oak are more than 300 years old; the stoutest English oak, Nujčev oak, grows in the Bizeljsko Hills, its circumference measures almost eight metres.

BREAD AND WINE

Lush growth does not refer only to the forest. Old apple tree varieties are tended on grasslands in the Kozjansko Regional Park, while aromatic grapes, suitable even for the production of champagne, are cultivated in the Bizeljsko-Sremič area.

More than 200 years ago, produce and wine were kept in underground *caves*, repnice, which were dug out from soft flint that was deposited here millions of years ago by the Pannonian Sea. The people of Posavje particularly treasure their produce, and the vineyard cottages where they store wine are still considered 'holy' places. Cottages and *repnice* are meeting places where people gather for a glass of high-quality wine. And how is it possible to express a welcome to a visitor in a warmer manner than with a vineyard cottage door into which the image of the sun has been carved? The sun doors are a particularity of this part of Slovenia and show the true face of the Posavje, the sunny region of many hearty experiences, interesting sights and adventures.

- the flat wetlands of Jovsi and the Krakovo forest, and the grasslands of the Kozjansko Regional Park and the Vetrnik Hill, which is considered one of the most biodiverse habitats in Europe.
- 2 Venture on a journey along the Repnice Route and indulge in a culinary experience. You will be offered wine, fruit and perhaps even the traditional buckwheat cake.
- 3 Get your pedals and your feet moving and explore river valleys with preserved mills and paths along vine-growing hills and ascend the top of the Lisca or Bohor hill, on the edge of which you can cool off in one of the many waterfalls.





7 steps to a carefree getaway

We believe that, while reading, you were charmed by each corner of Slovenia, so the decision which farm select cannot be an easy one. In order to make your final steps to your holiday easier and to make sure t

You can plan your visit to a tourist farm in all seasons, as most of them are open all year round. However, each season requires different tasks on the farm, so it's important that you inf beforehand.

DATION FOR A DAY VISIT TO A TOURIST FARM? You can contact the tourist farm of your choice by telephone or e-mail, and the information is found in this cata gue or of Tourist on the website of the Aspciatio

ovenia (www. it your an also sub web 1 rm. All infor ation o holida, the offerings. also provided by the office of the Association of Tourist Farmania venia.

E-mail (ztks@sic_net) or all the office a +386 (0)3 491

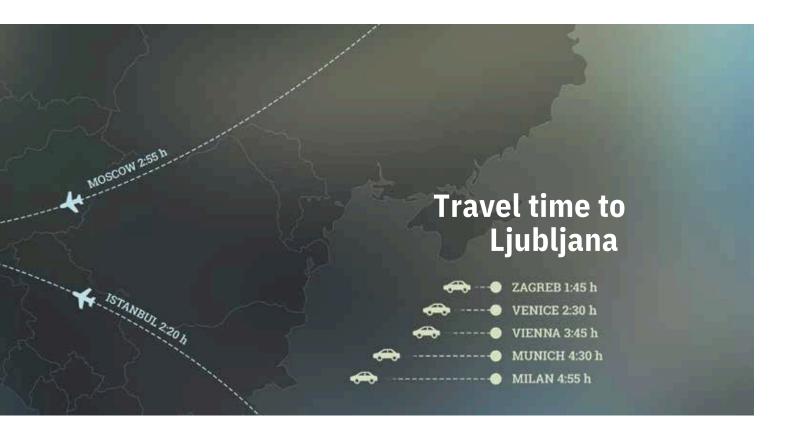
lovenia was ranked

8tamong 163 countries by the Institute for Economics and Peace, thus making it one of the safest countries in the world.

At most Slovenian tourist farms you will have to pay by cash, in euros. This is the official currency in Slovenia. Only a few farms also precide the option aying with a card (POS system). The highest demand for clude the t ist fee Christmas h ırcharges wi than three ights at counts are a and in some places lower prices also apply for retired visitors. Tourist farms reserve the right to change prices. At most farms, high season

lasts from 1 July to 31 August, during public

and school holidays.



WILL WI-FI BE AVAILABLE AT TOURIST FARMS?
As you find yourself in the midst of unspoilt nature, you will not feel cut off from the world, unless this is what you desire. Farms have Wi-Fi, which can be accessed free of charge at all tourist farms. Slovenia also has good broadband LTF/4G and 2G mobile network coverage, who he excelsion of only a few remote with the puntry

WHAT IS THE EAS
SLOVENTA AND AROUND SLOV. HE? School agen a

is easily accessible from neighbouring countries, as it has good road, railway, and air connections. Most aeroplanes land at the Jože Pučni¬k Ljubljana Airport, where you can fly into Slovenia on a daily basis from various cities around Europe. There are daily bus and train connections from numerous European cities. The fast¬est mode of transportation in the country is by car, on the motorways, the

This can be purchased at atrol sin

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL ILL OR INJURE YOURSELF IN SLOVENIA?

There are hosp-itals and healthcare entres in most of the major SI enian cities and towns, and small towns have individual medical offices, wh

to Slamin's small circumd god wa

are required prile to your sisit to Slovenia Pay special attraction to take when walking through forests and spending time in nature and near water. We recommend the use of suitable repellents or undergoing preventive vaccination.

WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT EMERGENCY CONTACTS?
Slovenia is

ver, it is wise to be careful. If you happen to be robbed or if you encounter similar problems, call the police or 113. so re

vetermary assistance. It can also be called if you require the as stance of the be brigade



É S BEF /E RESF NSIL Y.

Slo niz vas of of the first counces in the word to obtain the Sara Travels Loel of the World gravel and Touris Counce (WTTC). Slovenian tourist providers observe the GREEN & SAFE responsible travel standards, including all hygiene measures stipulated by the National Institute of Public Health. Please respect them, too. Observe the recommendations at your selected destination and stay safe and Pealthy.

www.slovenia_info/standards



SLOVENIAN TOURIST BOARD

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