

**I FEEL
SLOVENIA**

NATURE PARKS
SLOVENIA

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www.slovenia.info

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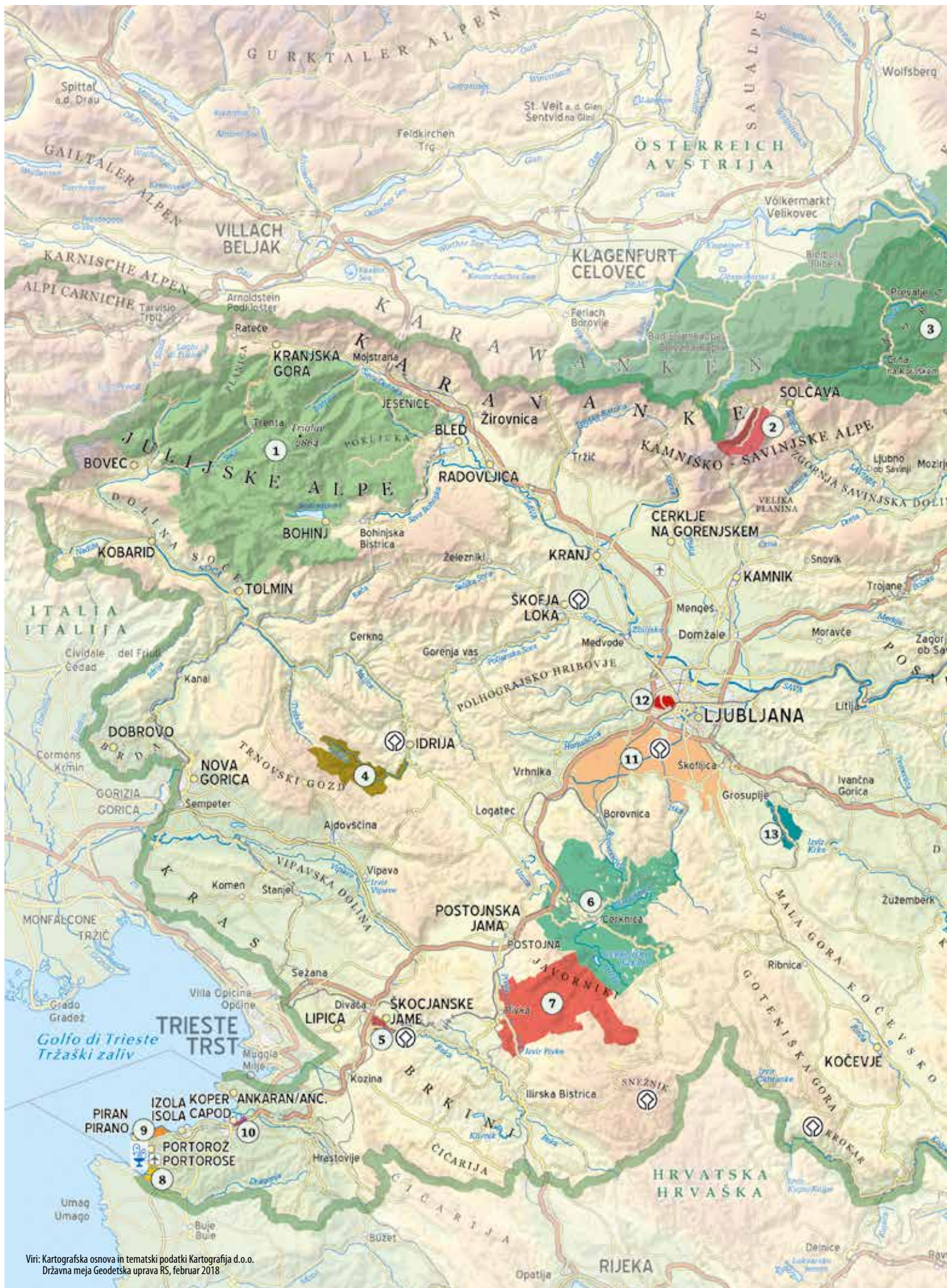




Ljubljana Marsh

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UNESCO - Heritage of Humanity

Slovenian Natural Spas





GREEN. EVERYWHERE!

From the Alps to the Mediterranean, from the Pannonian plain to the Karst, Slovenia's green wonders await you.

The very first country to be named a Global Green Destination has 48 large protected natural areas and nature parks, 52 nature reserves and 1217 natural monuments. Slovenia's amazing geographical diversity allows you to experience its abundant biodiversity.

In Alpine Slovenia, in addition to the unspoiled nature and the mountains, you will encounter the Earth's geological history and globally significant mining heritage. In Mediterranean Slovenia, in addition to the beautiful seaside you will encounter wetlands birdlife and the secrets of the subterranean Karst. In Pannonian Slovenia you will be soothed by therapeutic spas and mineral water and the countryside's unique heritage. The well-

preserved natural environment of Central Slovenia beckons right from the outskirts of the capital, Ljubljana, and features virgin forests included on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.

The development of tourism in Slovenia adheres to the principles of sustainable development and coexistence with nature. This can be seen in the nature parks and protected natural areas that are featured in this publication. They are managed so that your experiences in them will be both eco-friendly and genuine. Let them be your starting points for discovering green Slovenia and its many other sustainable green destinations and cultural attractions.



Zajamniki mountain pasture



Bled



ALPINE SLOVENIA



From the country's highest mountains to its oldest hills,



Alpine Slovenia is full of surprises. The Julian Alps, the Kamnik-Savinja Alps, the Karavanke and Pohorje preserve the natural and cultural treasures of green Slovenia's mountain and hill country. In addition to Triglav National Park, a geopark and numerous protected areas, Alpine Slovenia offers limitless possibilities for outdoor recreation.

Try the maintained and well-marked hiking trails and bike paths. Challenge yourself with water sports. Visit the Nordic Centre in Planica and enjoy snow in summer! Go skiing at Kranjska Gora, Kanin, Vogel, Rogla and Pohorje. Enjoy active holidays in the Soča Valley. Explore the area of Bled and Bohinj, which are part of the Alpine Pearls network of holiday destinations with eco-friendly mobility.

Visit the historical towns of Gorenjska, such as Kranj with its canyon that runs through the centre of town, and lovely Radovljica with its beekeeping tradition. Explore the Path of Peace in Bovec, Kobarid and Tolmin in the Posoče region.

Discover the green destinations of the regions. In Koroška, where you can go down into the Peca Underworld and visit the fascinating towns of Slovenj Gradec and Radlje ob Dravi. In the Pohorje region visit Maribor, which features the world's oldest grapevine, and the Zreče spa at the Rogla mountain resort. Other areas that proudly bear the title of green destination include Solčava and the Logar Valley, Cerklno and the Franja Partisan Hospital, and Kranjska Gora.



- › TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK
- › LOGAR VALLEY NATURE PARK
- › KARAVANKE UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK

www.tnp.si

Slovenia's only national park

is dedicated to the preservation of an area of unspoiled nature in the Alps. It is named for Mt Triglav, Slovenia's highest mountain and the symbol of the nation. It runs over the highest peaks of the Julian Alps, along ridges, mountain faces, deep-cut valleys, canyons, whitewater rivers, forests, mountain meadows and scree fields, high-mountain karst and glacial lakes. It features Slovenia's largest permanent lake, deepest cave, the source of Slovenia's longest river, Slovenia's highest levels of precipitation and place with the lowest recorded temperature. One of the oldest national parks in Europe, it is a part of UNESCO's first MAB biosphere reserve in Slovenia and the Natura 2000 network.



840 km² surface area · **10.000** animal and plant species · **19** endemic plant species · **163** bird species · **36** protected mammal species · **2864 m** high Triglav is Slovenia's highest mountain · first designated as a park **1924**



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Julians Alps
Biosphere Reserve since 2003
Man and the Biosphere Programme



Organizacija Združenih
narodov za izobraževanje,
znanost in kulturo

Julijske Alpe
Biosferno območje od leta 2003
Program Človek in biosfera

Don't-miss experiences

> **Wander along the park's well-marked and maintained trails.** The **Triglavsko Bistrica Trail** starts at the Slovenian Alpine Museum in Mojstrana and leads to the Peričnik Falls and the north face of Triglav. The **Soča Trail**, which leads to Bovec, begins at the source of the emerald-green Soča River. The circular **Goreljek nature trail** leads along peat bogs and the forest-covered Pokljuka plateau.

> **Stare into the depths of the gorges.** The **Mostnice Gorges** are up to 20 metres deep in places! At the park's lowest eleva-

tion lie the sheer walls and pools of the Tolmin Gorges.

> **Go walking in a picturesque Alpine valley.** Walk from the Nordic Centre in Planica, where the ski jumps are, to Tamar, where you will find one of the most breathtaking views of the Julian Alps.

> **Explore the exhibitions at the info centres.** **Dom Trenta** features a multivision presentation of the park, a film installation about forests, an 8-screen video installation on the Soča River and

the Trenta Valley Museum with an ethnological heritage collection. The **TNP Centre in Bohinj** features an exhibition about the lake, a "room with a view" and the Bohinj House. The **Triglavsko Roža Info Centre in Bled** features the Paradise below Triglav exhibition and a multimedia installation.

> **Treat yourself to Alpine specialties.** Taste the local Tolminc, Bovški and Mohant cheeses, and typical dishes such as *Tolminska frika* frittatas and *Kobariški štruklji* strudels.



Lower Martuljek Falls



Mountain pasture Planina Za skalo



Alpine pastures

Events

- > The **International Wildflower Festival**, held in Bohinj in May, enthralls nature lovers every year.
- > The **Trenta Fair**, held in July, combines the ethnological heritage with an organic farmers market.
- > The **Hiking Festival** and the **Bohinj Hiking Days**, held in September, feature guided excursions.



Lake Bohinj



Soča River



A view of Škrlatica Mt



Mountaineer's lunch on the Krstenica mountain pasture



Triglav rose (*Potentilla nitida*)



Alpine sea holly (*Eryngium alpinum*)



Ibexes

LOGAR VALLEY NATURE PARK

www.logarska-dolina.si

The Solčava Panoramic Road

affords the most beautiful views of the Logar Valley, which sits like a natural amphitheatre of vibrant green meadows and forests in the middle of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps. It provides a backdrop of sheer cliffs where chamois frolic among the Alpine wildflowers. There are no towns in the valley, just a few farms on which people have lived for centuries off of traditional agricultural activities, and for the past hundred and fifty years also from sustainable tourism. In addition to an authentic experience of nature, the Logar Valley and its surroundings also offer numerous leisure time opportunities. The Solčava panoramic road offers the finest views of the valley and the surrounding mountains



24.3 km² surface area • **7** natural monuments
• **35** natural attractions • **7 km** of nature trails
in the Logar Valley • **1** Fairy-Tale Forest outdoor
education park



Don't-miss experiences

The Logar Valley and the Solčava region are an attractive tourist destination offering countless adventures for both curious individuals and active families. The park has two sections of trail which are accessible by people with limited mobility.

- > **Experience the beauty of water.** Visit Rinka Falls, at 105 metres among the highest waterfalls in Slovenia, the Brložniški Falls and Palenk Falls. Discover the karstic Črna spring. Hike up to the glacially deposited boulders.
- > **Step into a fairy-tale.** The Fairy-Tale Forest covers an area of 20,000 m².
- > **Visit old cottage industry home-steads:** charcoal hut, Logarski kot Alpine dairy farm and Logarjeva kašča granary.

> **Breathe in the Alps.** Look for rare Alpine wildflowers such as the *Cypripedium calceolus* lady's-slipper, the Carniolan lily, Zois' bellflower and the Kamnik orchid.

> **Preserve your memories.** Take a photo among the trees which adorn any memorable view of the valley. Discover the enormous larch above the Klemenča Jama mountain pasture, the Logar linden and Plesnik's elm.

> **Enjoy active holidays.** Hire guides for mountain hikes and cycling tours. The area offers opportunities for walking, hiking, climbing, running, horse riding, archery, cycling, carriage rides and hayrides, snowshoeing, tour skiing, ice climbing, sledging and horse-drawn sleigh rides.



Sheep herding on Strelovec



The trail to the Klemenča Jama mountain pasture

Events

> The **Hiking Festival of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps** in June features various outdoor activities.

> The **Solčava Days Festival** in July combines ethnological heritage and fun for all ages.

> The **Bicka Sheep Wool Festival** in September features products made of wool from the indigenous sheep of the Jezersko-Solčava region.



Rinka Falls

KARAVANKE UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

www.geopark.si

Secrets written in stone

between the two-thousand metre peaks of Peca and Košuta reveal the exceptional geological features of the area along the border between Slovenia and Austria in the cross-border Karavanke/Karawanken Geopark. Owing to the exceptional geological history of the area of today's Karavanke Geopark, you can find numerous types of rock, the rare and exceptional minerals wulfenite and dravite, and Carnian crinoid fossils. The wonderful natural environment and cultural heritage offer unforgettable experiences. The Geopark guides can help you learn about the amazing world of fossils which tell of an ancient sea, detect the traces of volcanic activity, discover the secrets of the caves or take a walk along the Periadriatic Seam, a fault zone which was created by the collision of the Adriatic and Eurasian tectonic plates.



1067 km² surface area • **14** Slovenian and Austrian municipalities • **48** registered geosites • **14** Geopark localities • **1200 km** of themed hiking trails • **1000 km** of mountain biking trails and cycling paths

* member of the European and Global Geoparks networks since 2013

* UNESCO Global Geopark since 2015

GEOPARKKARAVANKE

Secrets written in stone



Don't-miss experiences

The park, with its wide range of tourism opportunities and exceptional natural environment, including the Najevska lipa lime-tree, the largest linden in Slovenia, lies on both sides of the border. Come discover the attractions of the border region!

> **Get ready for an adventure in the mineshafts.** You can visit the Peca Underworld mine and museum in Mežica by riding in on the mine train and explore the mineshafts on foot, by bicycle or even by kayak!



Topla Valley

> **Cross the border on a mountain bike.**

The cross-border Peca/Petzen Mountain Bike Park offers numerous routes, including excellent singletrack at the Single Trail Park in Jamnica and a downhill from Peca/Petzen on the longest flow trail in Europe.

> **Experience rafting on the Drava.** Cruise down the river the way they once used to transport timber.

> **Become a member of Klub 24.** Hike the K-24 Koroška Mountain Challenge, an 80-kilometre-long route leading over the



Kayaking in the Peca Underworld

five highest peaks in the area of Črna na Koroškem in under 24 hours.

> **Visit one of the most picturesque mountain valleys in Slovenia.** The Topla Nature Park together with the surface of Mt Peca is an exceptional natural and cultural landscape.

> **Climb up Smrekovec,** the remains of a former submarine volcano that erupted around 28 million years ago. Due to its unique bedrock geology it is now a true outdoor classroom, as well as a geo-information point.

> **Travel through time.** Walk along the underground paths through the Obir caves, where you will discover the amazing world of dripstones and the mysterious underground pool that were originally discovered by miners searching for lead ore.

Events

> The **Castles of King Matjaž** in January is a fun team competition building snow castles.

> The **GEOfestival**, held in May and June, features events that will give you a special insight into the region's geological heritage.

> The **Black Hole Bike Festival** in July is an internationally renowned and popular mountain biking festival.



View of the Drava River



The descent into the Peca Underworld





Postojna Cave

MEDITERRANEAN & KARST SLOVENIA

The natural attributes of Slovenian Istria and the Karst,



Lipizzaners, Lipica

the area that gave its name to all the karst phenomena around the world, are home to numerous superlatives. For instance, the most-visited karst cave in Europe: the Postojna Cave, with its famous cave train and “human fish”. Predjama Castle is the largest cave castle in the world, Lipica is the oldest Lipizzaner stud farm, and the Sečovlje Saltpans are the northernmost working saltpans on the Adriatic. The Škocjan Caves, which feature a gigantic underground canyon, are a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the coastal wetlands are important European habitats for numerous bird species.

A full fifth of the Slovenian coast is protected. Numerous opportunities for

health and well-being lie amongst its natural beauty. Visit medieval Piran and cosmopolitan Portorož. Wend your way down from the hills of Slovenian Istria to the fishing town of Izola, the Venetian flavour of Koper, and Ankaran with the unspoiled nature of the Debeli Rtič cape. Savour the cuisine of Slovenian Istria. Visit Štanjel and discover the cultural heritage of the Karst. Let yourself be enchanted by the vineyards and cellars of Goriška Brda, an EDEN European destination of excellence. Explore green destinations like the Vipava Valley and Nova Gorica – a city which is committed to the sustainable development of tourism.



Piran



- › ŠKOCJAN CAVES REGIONAL PARK
- › NOTRANJSKA REGIONAL PARK
- › THE SEASONAL LAKES OF PIVKA NATURE PARK
- › SEČOVLJE SALINA NATURE PARK
- › STRUNJAN NATURE PARK
- › ŠKOCJANSKI ZATOK NATURE RESERVE

ŠKOCJAN CAVES REGIONAL PARK

www.park-skocjanske-jame.si

This UNESCO World Heritage Site with one of the largest underground canyons in Europe

in addition to its labyrinth of subterranean waterways, passages, halls and chasms with dripstones of all shapes and sizes, also includes the typical karst landscape on the surface as a protected area. The characteristic karstic phenomena such as sinkholes, caves, chasms and collapse dolines are interwoven with the region's unique architectural heritage. The existence of a Bronze Age ritual and gift-giving area and prehistorical archaeological finds show us that the area has fascinated people since time immemorial. Enter the caves or visit the Big Valley and Little Collapse Doline (Mala dolina) natural monuments!



4.01 km² surface area • **1986** listed on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites • **52** natural assets • **223 m** deepest point in the cave • **7 km** cave passages • **26** waterfalls in the cave



Park *Škocjanske jame*,
Slovenija



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS



NATURA 2000



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization
Organizacija Združenih
narodov za izobraževanje,
znanost in kulturo



Skocjan Caves
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 1986

Škocjanske jame
vpisane na seznam svetovne
dediščine leta 1986



SLOVENIA
GREEN
PARK

Don't-miss experiences

You can stop at the park for a short visit or stay for a few days and really get to know the Karst – the area that gave its name to all the karst phenomena around the world. Start at the Park Information Centre, where you will also find an exhibition on the history of the discovery of the Škocjan Caves.

> **Choose between several different tours of the Škocjan Caves.** One-and-a-half hour guided tours through the underground canyon with experienced guides are available every day of the year. From spring to autumn you can tour the part of the cave with the ponor below the village of Škocjan with its collapse dolines.

> **Marvel at the uniqueness of the classic Karst on the surface.** On the circular Škocjan nature trail, you can use the signboards or a booklet to discover karstic phenomena, flora and fauna, and the region's natural and cultural heritage.

> **Visit the museum collections in the village of Škocjan.** J'kopinov skedenj (Jakopin's Shed) contains an ethnological collection, the natural science centre at the Delez Homestead houses a biological, geological and archaeological collection, and Jurjev skedenj (Yuri's Shed) features occasional exhibitions.

> **Keep an eye on the architecture.** Some of the most striking examples of rural architecture in this part of the Karst include the slate roof of the Betanc Homestead, the courtyard at the V'ncek Household and the thatch-roofed J'kopinov skedenj.

> **Create your own event.** The Pr'Nanetovh Homestead, a cultural monument of national importance, is a business and conference centre suitable for small conferences, seminars, meetings, workshops, exhibitions and other events.

Events

> The **Walk Along the Reka Ponor** in April and other events in Škocjan are organised by the local tourism board.

> **Škocjan Caves Park Day – Belajtnga** is a holiday on which a part of the trail is lit using old-fashioned methods.

> In June and July, the **Škocjanfest**, organised by the local tourism board, attracts theatre troupes and choirs to the park.

> **Festival of the Karst Commons** – a festival of natural sciences and heritage tourism which runs throughout the year.



The Murmuring Cave (Šumeća jama)



The Big Collapse Doline (Velika dolina)

NOTRANJSKA REGIONAL PARK

www.notranjski-park.si

The vicinity of the intermittent Lake Cerknica,

whose surface area when flooded covers nearly 29 km², making it Slovenia's largest lake, is an area that features mountain tops with breathtaking views, colourful meadows, natural bridges, a mystical underground world, crystal clear streams and magical forests. The park is home to everything from the tiniest snails to the mightiest bears. The mix of diverse landscapes, people living in harmony with nature and the numerous karst phenomena, both on the surface and underground, have attracted scientists and nature lovers for centuries. When they get here, they discover both highly diverse flora and fauna and a highly diverse geological and cultural heritage.



222 km² surface area • **276** bird species
• **40** orchid species • **9** different Natura 2000 areas • central region of large predator habitat
• **404** natural attractions of national importance, of which **297** are caves • **1000** higher plant species, of which **3** are endemic • **125** different butterfly species observed



**NOTRANJSKI
REGIJSKI PARK**



Don't-miss experiences

> **Discover the surprises of Lake Cerknica.** One of Europe's largest intermittent lakes is Slovenia's largest lake when flooded, but disappears during the dry season. At one point you can go rowing and fishing, and a few months later you can walk along the bottom and mow the grass.

> **Visit the live model of the intermittent lake.** You will find it at the Jerzerski Hram cultural-information and experiential centre and Lake Cerknica Museum in the village of Dolenje Jezero.

> **Discover Rakov Škocjan.** In a valley created by the collapse of the roof of a karst cave, the main attractions include the Large Natural Bridge and the cave air beneath the Small Natural Bridge.

> **Explore a cave with underground lakes.** Križna Jama (Cross Cave) is world-renowned for its underground lakes and the finding of the bones of a cave bear. Longer tours of the cave involve travelling by boat!

> **Please observe the wildlife responsibly.** A full 75 percent of all of the bird species recorded in Slovenia have been observed within the park. Guided bird-watching tours are available. Notranjska is also home to large predators. In the company of a guide, you can observe and photograph brown bear in their natural environment from a hunting platform.

> **Take a different walk every day.** You can enjoy the nature trails in Rakov Škocjan and Menišija and the Beekeeping educational trail, or walk along Lake Cerknica and along the mountain paths that lead up Slivnica, Špička and Javornik.

> **Try your hand at traditional trades.** At the Heritage House, an education centre for intangible heritage, you can take guided tours and workshops, and try your hand at linen making, blacksmithing, distillation and making dugout boats.



Brown bear

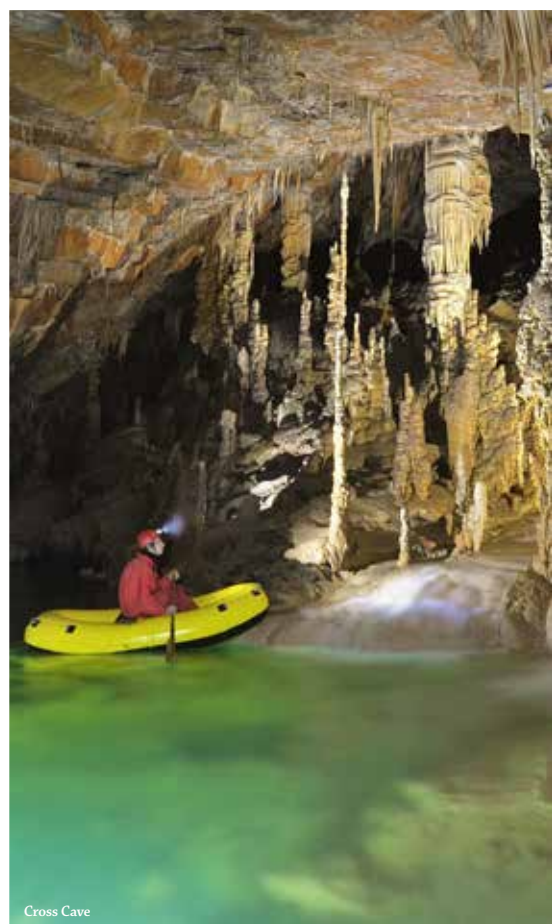
Events

> The **Carnival Celebrations ("Pust") in Cerknica** in February or March in addition to the characteristic local masks also feature Slovenia's largest fools' holiday.

> The **Notranjska Park Days** at Lake Cerknica in May feature local associations, craftsmen, farms and other participants.



Rakov Škocjan



Cross Cave

THE SEASONAL LAKES OF PIVKA NATURE PARK

www.pivskajezera.si

*This ring of
intermittent
lakes, unique
in Europe,*

is filled with water from the mysterious karst underworld. During times of heavy rainfall, seventeen different lakes appear below the ridges of the Javorniki hills! The largest of them is Palško jezero Lake, which is the size of 300 football pitches when full. The longest-lasting is Petelinjsko jezero Lake, which holds its water for a full nine months. The Pivka River, which can be seen winding its way slowly across the landscape only when the water table is high, created the famous Postojna Cave not far away. The Pivka Lakes are best seen just after heavy rainfalls during the spring or autumn. When they drain, the dry depressions become idyllic flower gardens filled with birdsong.



140 km² surface area • **106** butterfly species
• **24** endangered butterfly species • **133** bird species
• **116** endangered bird species

*Seasonal Lakes
of Pivka*
NATURE PARK



Don't-miss experiences

here are a lot of beautiful things to experience in the municipality with the largest number of lakes in Slovenia, both during high water and during the dry season. There are plenty of places to explore and photograph, and wonderful views to discover.

> **Turn a special millwheel and learn how the lake appears.** You can do this at the Ecomuseum of the Seasonal Lakes of Pivka, which also has models of ecosystems such as wet grasslands and dry meadows, shrubland, forests and caves.

> **Visit Petelinjsko jezero Lake and Palško jezero Lake.** Come when the lakes are full and visit again when they're empty. In the late spring and summer the lake beds turn into fragrant fields of flowers thrumming with butterflies.

> **Get a photo of a bear.** Several large carnivores live within the park borders: bears, wolves and lynx. Wolves and lynx are cautious and elusive, while bears can be photographed in the company of a guide.

> **Hike to the top of Sveta Trojica/Holy Trinity Peak with Martin Krpan.** A botanically interesting area near a town famous for a Slovene literary hero with superhuman strength affords a wonderful view all the way from the seaside to Triglav, Slovenia's highest mountain.

Events

> At **Shepherd's Day in Pivka** in May, an interesting theme connected with sheep herding is prepared every year, and local products and produce are sold.

> At the **Tastes of the Pivka Lakes** in September, visitors enjoy typical dishes from the villages within the park.



The Pivka lakes



Grazing by the lakeside



Discover the park by bike

SEČOVLJE SALINA NATURE PARK

www.kpss.si

Harvesting salt by hand

using methods that are more than 700 years old is one of the most attractive features of the salt pans, which together with the nearby salt pans in Strunjan are amongst the last in the Mediterranean that preserve traditional salt making skills. This ancient method of salt production has enabled the development of unique habitats within and around the salt ponds. The saltpan ecosystem is home to rare, endangered and indigenous plant and animal species. The salt pans are listed as a wetland bird habitat on the list of wetlands of international importance. The park features a unique natural and cultural landscape, educational trails and the Museum of Salt Making.



- **7 km²** surface area • **300** bird species
- **7 km** cycling paths • **3 km** nature trails
- **2 km** educational trails with electric train

Kpss

Krajski park Sečoveljske soline
Parco Naturale delle Saline di Siccola



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS



NATURA 2000

Don't-miss experiences

At the park where the manual salt harvesting tradition is preserved, the southern part of the salt pans is particularly attractive, as it is a great place for bird watching among the broad halophyte meadows and abandoned saltpan huts. The sea water brings them food along the saltpan channels and into the salt ponds, and the unique meeting place of land and sea is an important nesting site for numerous bird species.

> **Go bird watching.** More than 300 bird species have been recorded in the park, and learning about them from an expert birder is a great experience in any season.

> **Take a guided tour.** Take a guided tour with an experienced guide. On your walk you will learn interesting details about the park and the salt making tradition.

> **Be your own guide.** Use the mobile app Nexto and take a self-guided tour along the marked trails. At the individual points of interest you will be able to learn about the cultural and natural heritage.

> **Visit the Museum of Salt Making.** Near the buildings that were once home to salt making families and in which the salt was stored, you can see a display on how salt was harvested in medieval times. You can get to the museum by taking the M/V Solinarka, the electric train, by bike or on foot.

> **Treat yourself to thalassotherapy.** At the Lepa Vida Thalasso Spa you can enjoy traditional thalassotherapy with natural healing agents such as saltpan mud and brine in the unique natural environment of the salt pans.

Events

> On **World Wetlands Day** in February the park offers free entry and free guided tours. Free entry and free guided tours are also offered on **European Day of Parks** in March.

> The **Salt Making Festival** in August is the festive end of the salt-making season, and is held on St Bartholomew's Day (24 August).

Birds in the salt pans



Traditional salt making



Discover the salt pans by electric train



STRUNJAN NATURE PARK

www.parkstrunjan.si

In the shelter of an 80-metre tall flysch cliff

lies the longest stretch of undeveloped coastline in the Gulf of Trieste, which includes Slovenia's loveliest salt bay with a gravel bank and rich underwater life. The Strunjan peninsula above this unique part of the Slovenian coast is an area with a characteristic cultural landscape with terraces and drystone walls and the northernmost still-operating saltpans in the Mediterranean and Slovenia's only saltwater lagoon. The sub-Mediterranean deciduous forest reaches all the way to the sea, and is home to numerous characteristic Mediterranean plants. The park thus reveals itself in images that were both created and affected by the sea. Visit the attractions of this naturally preserved piece of the Slovenian coastline.



4.3 km² surface area • **12** natural attractions
• **80 m** tall flysch cliff • saltwater lagoon
• **700** year old saltpans



Javni zavod Krajinski park Strunjan
Istituto pubblico Parco naturale Strugnano
Public Institute Landscape Park Strunjan



Don't-miss experiences

A tour of the picturesque and characteristic sub-Mediterranean landscape is just the beginning of what you can discover at the Strunjan Nature Park. Pick up a map at the visitor centre for a self-guided tour or reserve a place on a guided tour.

> **Take a walk on the educational trail.**

The more than five-kilometre-long circular Strunjan trail with views of the sea is equipped with information boards and rest areas with benches, and leads to fifteen information points within the park. As part of a guided tour, visitors can also walk on a botanical, geographic and geological educational trail.

> **View the sheer walls of the tallest flysch cliff in the Adriatic.** Get to know the geological characteristics of flysch up close on the four-kilometre-long naturally preserved coastline.

> **Visit the Stjuža lagoon and the 700-year-old salt pans with their unique ecological conditions.** Start at the visitor centre in the renovated salt-maker's house, where the park's exhibition on the sea and a film about the park can be seen.

> **Learn about maritime flora and fauna.** Holy Cross Bay, also called Moon Bay, contains beds of seagrasses, which are home to the rare marine bivalve *Pinna nobilis* and the long-snouted seahorse.



Events

> The **Saltmakers' Holiday** in April is a popular time for guided tours of the Strunjan salt pans.

> The **Artichoke Holiday** in May and the **Persimmon Holiday** in November offer the finest Strunjan specialities.

> The **Procession of Boats** is in honour of Mary of Strunjan, who is brought by sea from the church in Piran to the church in Strunjan (14 August).



ŠKOCJANSKI ZATOK NATURE RESERVE

www.skocjanski-zatok.org

Slovenia's largest brackish wetland

was created at the point where the sea and the land meet, where the Rižana and Badaševica rivers have flowed into the sea since time immemorial. More than 60 percent of all bird species recorded in Slovenia have been seen here! The bay is one of Slovenia's most important nesting sites for herons, egrets, water rails, great reed warblers, Eurasian reed warblers, common terns and black-winged stilt. After the revival of grazing Podolian cattle and Camargue horses, the reserve has seen the return of cattle egrets, as well as dung beetles and scarab beetles. The reserve is characterised by silty and sandy mudflats in which halophytes – plants which are adapted to growing in salty substrates – thrive.



1.2 km² surface area • **249** bird species
• **22** halophyte species

ŠKOCJANSKI
ZATOK
nature reserve



Don't-miss experiences

Škocjan Bay is the final proof that the town of Koper was once an island. You can see further evidence of it at the exhibition "Koper and Škocjanski zatok through the ages", which is on display in the main observation tower. You can start a guided or self-guided tour from the visitor centre and discover this unusual world where fresh river water and saline seawater meet.

> **Climb up the observation tower, and lower yourself into the underwater world.** The multi-storey observation tower allows you to see the entire reserve, and the basement opens onto a view into the underwater world of the marsh.

> **Walk the circular nature trail with a guide.** On a guided tour you will get to know about freshwater marshes with wet meadows and open water areas, surrounded by reedbeds and thermophilic shrubs, and the brackish lagoon with its nesting islands, brackish ponds and mudflats.



Bird watching

Events

> **Go Bird watching.** Škocjanski zatok is a nesting site, wintering site and migratory resting site of European importance for numerous bird species. Observatories – wooden screening walls with slots for observing and taking photographs – are located at the best viewing spots along nature trail. The observatories also provide a view into the mysterious world of the marsh.

> **Ride a Camargue horse.** There are many

opportunities to ride the horses that the reserve uses to maintain the vegetation.

> The **Open House** in March offers guided tours, ringing demonstrations and various workshops, presentations and other activities.

> **Slovenian Parks Week** in May includes guided tours of the reserve.

> The **October bird count** is held as part of the EuroBirdwatch (EBW).



Little egrets among the halophytes



Zužemberk on the Krka River



Krvavec





Ljubljana by bike

LJUBLJANA & CENTRAL SLOVENIA

Few capital cities on Earth are as bedecked by nature,



Velika Planina



UNESCO Krokar Primeval Forest

as Ljubljana. The European Green Capital 2016 is directly connected to the Ljubljana marshes, in which prehistoric pile dwellings that are listed on the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites were found near the town of Ig. Therefore, due to both its liveliness and its position in the very centre of the country, Ljubljana is the most popular spot from which to explore Slovenia.

The joys of the sub-Alpine countryside, at places like Krvavec and Velika Planina, lie just a stone's throw from the Slovenian capital. On your way south you can visit the virgin forests of Kočevje, such as the Krokar Primeval Forest, an area of primeval beech forests which is listed on the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites together with the Snežnik-Ždrecle Reserve.

This heritage also includes Idrija with its famous mercury mine and Škofja Loka, with its unique Passion Play. In Idrija, in addition to the mining industry that marked the town's development, you will find wonderful original lacemaking and many natural attrac-

tions in the area. The Škofja Loka area features two mountain ranges and three valleys, and in town you will find handmade and other creative goods. The lovely medieval town of Kamnik, which is inseparably connected with the sheep herding plateau of Velika Planina, is also worth visiting.

While exploring the towns of Central Slovenia you could spend all day wandering around the interesting streets and enjoying the culinary delights, visiting the towns' museums and galleries, or cycling around the area or taking a walk in a botanical garden or arboretum.

The capital Ljubljana, medieval Kamnik and the mining town of Idrija are committed to the development of sustainable tourism and are listed among Slovenia's green destinations. Those who are looking for sustainable tourism will find the right environment in Kočevje, one of Slovenia's most primeval and unspoiled regions, and in Bela Krajina with the warm Kolpa River.



- › LJUBLJANA MARSH NATURE PARK
- › TIVOLI, ROŽNIK AND ŠIŠENSKI HRIB NATURE PARK
- › RADENSKO POLJE NATURE PARK
- › LAHINJA NATURE PARK
- › KOLPA NATURE PARK
- › UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK IDRİJA

LJUBLJANA MARSH NATURE PARK

www.ljubljanskobarje.si

*The marshy plain
at the doorstep to
the capital,*

*is an endless mosaic of meadows,
fields, drainage channels and hedges.
It is inseparably connected with the
Ljubljanica, the historical and legendary
river that was once the navigation
route for traders travelling between
the Roman towns of Nauportus and
Emona. The wetlands between Ljubljana,
Vrhnika, Ig and Škofljica are full of
flying birds and butterflies, the croaking
of frogs and stories from the times of
the pile dwellings – the prehistorical
stilt houses that once sat at the edge of
the former lake. The wetlands soil has
preserved exceptional archaeological
finds for millennia, such as a 5150-year-
old wheel – the oldest wheel with an axle
ever found!*



135 km² surface area • around **5000 km**
drainage channels • **27 km** educational
trails • more than **100** nesting bird species
• **89** butterfly species • **48** dragonfly species
• **51 m** deep chasm in Jezero pri Podpeči
• **1** World Heritage designation as a Prehistoric
Pile Dwelling around the Alps • **5150** years – the
age of the oldest wheel with axle ever found



Ljubljansko barje
KRAJINSKI PARK



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Prehistoric pile dwellings
around the Alps
World Heritage since 2011

Don't-miss experiences

Climb a natural observation tower. Hike up the hill of St Anne above the Ljubljana Marsh, which affords the loveliest view of the mosaic of meadows, hedges, channels and forest stands.

> **Go hiking on the Marsh Springs Nature Trail.** It will lead you to the springs, of which the greatest number are found at the point where the marsh soils meet the gravel deposits of the Iška River.

> **Follow the river with three faces.** The River Iška Meander Nature Trail – is best suited for cycling and leads through the wild Iški Vintgar gorge, along the fertile Iška alluvial fan and the marshy Ljubljana Marsh wetlands.

> **Listen to the countless voices of nature.** On the Corncrake Nature Trail you will learn about the biological diversity of the extensive wet meadows.

> **Learn about life on the floodplain.** The Bevke Nature Trail features interesting stories on the drying out of the Ljubljana Marsh, the village laundry, the old miller's path, the Podpeč quarry and many more.

> **Explore the exhibition, exhibit space and museum.** The River Ljubljanica exhibition space in Vrhnika presents the life of the river, from prehistoric times up to the

present, the permanent exhibition on the stilt house dwellers on the big lake in Ig presents the first permanent inhabitants in this part of Europe, and the Technical Museum of Slovenia in Bistra features excellent collections, and is directly adjacent to the famous sources of the Bistra River.

> **Visit one of Slovenia's most interesting churches.** In the village of Črna vas, the famous Slovene architect Jože Plečnik designed one of the most original houses of worship of the 20th century.



Common Grasshopper-warbler

Events

> The **My River Celebrates** event in March is a celebration of the Ljubljana River with music and water-themed workshops.

> The **Hike on the Ljubljana Marsh** in May is a guided hike which reveals hidden natural treasures.

> **Stilt House Dwellers Day** in August with its various workshops presents the lifestyle of the stilt house dwellers on the Ljubljana Marsh.



Snake's head fritillaries



Lake Podpeč

TIVOLI, ROŽNIK AND ŠIŠENSKI HRIB NATURE PARK

www.kp-trsh.si

This natural haven in the middle of the nation's capital

is exceptional in both European and global terms. This habitat for protected and endangered animal and plant species lies just a few minutes from the centre of town. The majority of the park is covered with beech, oak, spruce and Scots pine forests. The park contains more than 400 plant species and 68 nesting bird species. Its well-preserved biodiversity is the consequence of planned protection of the area since the end of the 19th century. Part of the protected area is also Ljubljana's largest city park, which was laid out in 1933 according to the plans of the famous architect Jože Plečnik.



460 ha surface area • **17** natural attractions
• **70** percent forest cover • **400** plant species
• **14 km** footpaths



KRAJINSKI PARK
**Tivoli, Rožnik
in Šišenski hrib**

Don't-miss experiences

This nature park offers encounters with the natural world in the middle of the Slovenian capital. Its proximity and well-ordered layout make it a perfect place for leisurely walks, checking out the nature trails, and visiting exhibitions, museum collections and events.

> **Take a walk in Tivoli Park**, Ljubljana's largest park, with its ancient tree-lined avenues, rose gardens, monuments, fountains, ponds and statues. The broad Jakopič Promenade is an outdoor exhibition space.

> **Get to know your tree species** on the Jesenko forest education trail. A full different 30 tree species are presented over less than 3 kilometres of trail.

> **See the European false stitchwort.** The place where it was first found sits adjacent to an outdoor classroom, which is also designed to accommodate blind and vision-impaired visitors.

> **Climb up Rožnik**, a popular walk for Ljubljana residents and the venue for the annual May Day bonfire.

> **Visit the Zoo.** The zoo sits at the foot of Rožnik and has 6.5 km of footpaths. It presents the animals in as natural an environment as possible and shows the importance of non-living things to living creatures and the relationships among different species.

> **Get active in Mostec**, a popular recreational area and event venue. It also includes a ski-jumping centre at which summer ski-jumping competitions are held.

> **Check out the castles.** Tivoli Castle houses the International Graphic Arts Centre, and the Museum of Recent History is located in Cekin Castle.



Events

> Every other year, Tivoli Castle hosts an internationally renowned **Biennial of Graphic Arts**.

> The summertime **Library Under the Treetops** at Tivoli Pond is an imaginative way to spend your free time in Ljubljana.

> The awards ceremony for the **Kresnik Award** for the Slovenian novel of the year held in June includes the lighting of a bonfire on Rožnik.



RADENSKO POLJE NATURE PARK

www.radenskopolje.si

Three separate systems of sinking streams

create the uniqueness of the smallest of Slovenia's distinct karst poljes. The polje, which is 1.2 kilometres wide at its widest part and just 400 metres at its narrowest, features karst springs, ponors, an intermittent lake, and estavelles, which work as springs during the rainy season and as ponors in the dry season. The changeable water conditions create different habitat types with interesting plant and animal species. The isolated Kopanj hill in the middle of Radensko polje is the finest example of a hum (the remains of a former higher formation) in Slovenia. The lake that forms on Radensko polje after heavy rains empties out in a few weeks.



15 km² surface area • **34** natural attractions
• **3** habitat types • **3** separate systems of karst sinking streams



Don't-miss experiences

Radensko polje offers numerous experiences of the natural and cultural heritage and the local customs and habits. In addition to the various Dolenjska karst phenomena, you can also see habitats such as marshy meadows, standing and running surface and underground water and underground caves. The park's paths lead to the area's attractions.

> **Go for a walk, a run or a bike ride.** On your recreational trip along the well-maintained and marked trails you will find information boards by the main attractions: at karstic phenomena, watercourses and

bodies, various meadows, marshes and bogs, and underground caves.

> **Begin your exploration at the Grajski vrt Boštanj Inn.** The Castle Garden Inn is the starting point for the half-hour Blagaj circular trail to the ruins of Boštanj Castle and the longer three-hour path from the inn to the Novljan estavelle and back.

> **Climb up Kopanj hill.** A one-hour path from the village of Velika Račna leads up this interesting inselberg, or isolated hill, which sits like an island in the middle of the karst polje.

Events

> Discover the beauties of Radensko polje in February at the **Prešeren Procession** from Grosuplje to Kopanj.

> In March you can help transport frogs from their winter hibernation sites to water during the **Spring Amphibian Rescue**.

> In May on European Day of Parks take part in the **Springtime Hike on Radensko Polje**.



A karst ponor



Siberian iris



Radensko polje and Kopanj hill

LAHINJA NATURE PARK

www.belakrajina.si

The biodiversity of flooded meadows,

low-lying marshes, grasslands, wet depressions and floodplains and the features specific to the shallow Bela Krajina karst invite you to visit the area along the winding course of the Lahinja River. The area around the source of the Lahinja River, protected as the Lahinjski Lugi Nature Reserve, is home to rare animal and plant species. The large bog called Nerajski lugi is a botanical treasure trove which gives the impression of a lake at high water. There are small nucleated settlements on the rises and terraces at the edge of the park. Archaeological finds bear witness to life in this area dating back to prehistorical times. Pusti Gradec is one of the rare preserved prehistorical settlements in Europe. At the bend in the river near Pusti Gradec, Klepec's Mill and the single-bladed 'Venetian' sawmill remind us of days gone by.



2.6 km² surface area • **11** natural attractions



Don't-miss experiences

The park contains 7 specially protected natural monuments, 2 nature reserves and 8 cultural monuments. A circular trail leads around the park, with information boards and signboards.

> **Hire a guide.** The park offers various guided tours. You can discover the habitats of numerous aquatic and riparian animal and plant species, including the European pond turtle, otters and numerous bird species.

> **Go canoeing on the river.** Get to know the park from a different aspect by taking a canoe on the Lahinja River. The river, the Nerajčica stream and the other tributaries with their winding curves and the Okno spring all feature dense vegetation both on the banks and in the water.

> **Admire the Bela Krajina karst.** You can see karst depressions, flooded caves, shallow karst, a natural stone bridge, karst springs, and the entrance into the Djud (Zjot) karst ponor.

> **Get to know the past.** The park lies in an area of prehistorical settlements with Early Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age finds and remains from antiquity. The settlement of Pusti Gradec and the Hallstatt burial mound in Veliki Nerajec are of particular importance.



Canoeing on the Lahinja River

Events

> **Visit characteristic houses and crafts shops.** The information centre in Veliki Nerajec is located in a 200-year-old house with a preserved open-hearth kitchen. There are also two wooden houses in the village that were once given to newlyweds on prosperous properties. Pottery wares are on display at the Vera Vardjan gallery of cottage crafts. The local architecture is exemplified by the rural All Saints Church with its characteristic bell-gable in the village of Pusti Gradec.

> The **Hike on the Župančič Trail** in June leads from Dragatuš to Vinica.

> The **Mowing of Nerajski Lugi** in July brings to life the traditional techniques of mowing and raking which are important for the preservation of the cultural landscape.

> In August the **Industrial Hemp and Buckwheat Day** pays homage to these plants long associated with human culture.



Green pastures

KOLPA NATURE PARK

www.kp-kolpa.si

Slovenia's warmest river

will surprise you at every step. It's character changes from a wild mountain stream to a lazy flatland river. The Kolpa is the heart of the park and the characteristic Bela Krajina landscape, covered in ferns, white birches and junipers. It is characterised by stands of white birch with a rich and varied network of flora and fauna, and features more than 70 natural attractions and 16 natural monuments. In addition to its rich architectural heritage of old manor houses, churches, chapels and workshops, the remains of 16 grist mills and sawmills lie along the river. The cultural wealth of the Kolpa region is also reflected in its preserved intangible cultural heritage – songs, dances and customs.



4,331 ha surface area • more than **70** natural attractions • **42** cultural monuments



KOLPA
KRAJINSKI PARK



Don't-miss experiences

You can start learning about the nature, culture, history and the various ethnic groups of the inhabitants of Bela Krajina at the Šokčev dvor information point in Žuniči. Follow the themed hiking and cycling trails and enjoy activities in the unique landscape.

> **Choose the footpath that most interests you.** The Miller's Path leads from Damelj to Vinica, and will show you the grain milling and timber milling tradition along the Kolpa. The Fairgrounds Path from Vinica to Žuniči preserves the tradition of the old market paths. The Castle Trail leads from Šokčev dvor in Žuniči to the castle in Pobrežje and past Kuzma's Mill to the final information point in Dragoši. The Market Path around the Old Square leads through part of the Poljana Valley. The Župančič Path connects two nature parks: Lahinja and Kolpa.

> **Go cycling along the Kolpa.** Three interesting cycling paths lead through the park: the Poljana, Župančič and Damelj cycling paths.

> **Become familiar with the local specialties.** Visit well-preserved farmsteads,

mills and sawmills and demonstrations of traditional crafts at farms in Adlešiči, Damelj, Rim, Vrhovci, Žuniči and elsewhere. You can also visit an area of prehistoric settlement with archaeological finds from the area of Vinica, Zilje and Radenci.

> **Relax in the river.** In addition to getting to know the Kolpa and life in and around it, you can enjoy activities like swimming, fishing, canoeing and rafting.



Events

> The **summer events on the Kolpa** in June and July include swimming and boating, a bonfire celebration and flax pulling.

> The **At Home in the Kolpa Valley** event in August combines the various activities of the associations in the Kolpa region.

> The **Open House** on the anniversary of the establishment of the park in September offers visitors various amenities.



UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK IDRIJA

www.geopark-idrija.si

Mercury and the mining tradition, inseparably connected with the area's natural diversity and the cultural tradition.

Idrija, with its picturesque environs at the meeting point of the Dinaric Alps and the Alps, offers numerous opportunities for exploring and relaxing. Descend into the depths of the world's second-largest mercury mine in history in terms of the amount of mercury won, or go to the Zgornja Idrija Nature Park and admire the "klavže" – water barriers known as the "Slovenian pyramids" – from the mining times. The usually tranquil Wild Lake lives up to its name after heavy rain-falls, and the observant eye will notice geological and botanical treasures, such as the Carniolan primrose, which only grows in certain parts of Slovenia. The numerous peaks above the karstified plateaus offer unforgettable views. The view into the valley along the Idrija fault, which can even be seen in satellite images, is unique. The area's turbulent geological history and centuries of mining are complemented by the softness and fineness of Idrija lace, an important part of Slovenia's cultural heritage.



2015 Geopark Idrija becomes the UNESCO Global Geopark Idrija • **2012** entry of mercury heritage in the UNESCO World Heritage List • **294 km²** surface area • **22** themed cycling and hiking trails • **55 m** long – Slovenia's shortest river • **13.6 m** diameter of the largest wooden water wheel in Europe



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Heritage of Mercury.
• **Atmadén and Idrija**
• **inscribed on the World**
• **Heritage List in 2012**

Don't-miss experiences



In Slovenia's most geologically well-researched area you can observe the fossilised tracks of a predecessor to the dinosaurs or learn about the life of the miners. You can admire the Slovenian pyramids or the mysterious waters of karstic Wild Lake. You certainly won't be bored!

> **Enjoy mysterious Wild Lake.** After visiting the Zgornja Idrijca Nature Park with its natural beach, go explore Wild Lake. Divers have reached a depth of 160 metres in the siphon in the lake bottom.

> **Discover the heritage of mercury.** Go down Anthony's Shaft and then visit the smelting shop with a demonstration of the winning of the unusual metal. Tour a miner's house with the particular elements of Idrijan architecture.

> **Feel the softness of Idrijan lace.** Bobbin masters made lace by hand in the characteristic Idrijan style.

> **Visit the museum collections at the Gewerkenegg Castle.** You will get an insight into five centuries of the mercury mine and original Idrijan lace.

> **Learn about Idrija's technological heritage.** Visit Kamšt – the mine pump with the largest wooden water wheel in Europe.

> **Sample Idrija's culinary specialities.** Idrijan *žlikrofi* ravioli, granted protected status by the EU, are the shape of Napoleon's hat, and you will love *zelševka* cake, *smukavc* stew, *štruklji* dumplings, *ocvirkovca* pork crackling cake and the bitter spirit called *geruš*.

> **Explore the area on foot or by bike.** In addition to the themed trails in the Geopark Idrija, you can visit the Vojsko Plateau, the Gačnik Gorge and the pleasant towns in the Idrijan countryside.

Events



> **European Geoparks Week** in May and June helps visitors understand the geological heritage.

> The **Idrija Lace Festival** in June features handmade lace masterpieces.

> The **Idrijan Žlikrofi Festival** in August offers the culinary delights of the trademark protected local characteristic dish.





Vineyards in Jeruzalem





Ferry on the Mura

THERMAL PANNONIAN SLOVENIA

The thermal mineral waters of the spas



Ptuj Castle

spring up from below the surface of the ancient Pannonian Sea. Moravske Toplice, Radenci, Lendava, Ptuj, Dobrna, Laško, Rogaška Slatina, Olimje, Čatež, Dolenjske Toplice, Šmarješke Toplice – these are just a few of the towns in Pannonian Slovenia whose range of curative and wellness treatments fulfil the promise of healthy, green and active holidays.

The curative waters of the plains are bordered by sunlit vineyard hills, and in between lie scattered towns with unique traditions and thousand-year old cultures. Ptuj, which is famous for its local ethnological customs and events such as the famous Kurent Festival, has a special place among them. At the other end of Pannonian Slovenia is Novo Mesto, which lies on the Krka River and is marked by the heritage of the former amber trading route and exceptional archaeological finds.

There are castles to explore throughout the region, such as Grad Castle in Goričko, Slovenia's largest castle, Celje

Castle, the home of the famous Counts of Celje, and the castles of the Posavje region, including Kostanjevica na Krki, Podsreda, Rajhenburg near Krško, Sevnica and Brežice. You can have a different experience of the countryside in the vineyard cottages in the Ljutomer-Ormož hills, Haloze and Prlekija. The wine-growing Podravje region boasts of sunny hillsides which rank among the top 4 percent of the best wine-growing sites on Earth! You can also discover the attractions of wine country and hospitable vineyard cottages in the Dolenjska region, in the vicinity of Novo Mesto, home of the unique Slovenian Cviček wine.

On your way to discover excellent water and wine you will also discover green destinations such as: Celje, the centre of the Celje region, Žalec, which lies among the hops fields and also has a unique beer fountain, and Velenje, Slovenia's youngest city, with its rich mining tradition.



Vinarium Tower, Lendava



- › KOZJANSKO REGIONAL PARK
- › GORIČKO NATURE PARK
- › ORMOŽ BASINS NATURE RESERVE

KOZJANSKO REGIONAL PARK

www.kozjanski-park.si

Orchards with old varieties of apples and pears,

beech forests and rolling meadows make up one of the largest protected areas in Slovenia. This is the home of rare and endangered birds such as the Eurasian wryneck, grey-headed woodpecker, red-backed shrike, redstart, black woodpecker, European honey buzzard and more. Beavers and otters have returned to the Bistrica and Sotla Rivers. In a landscape of plants such as the Eranthis hyemalis buttercup, Daphne blagayana, Cypripedium calceolus lady's-slipper, Carniolan and Turk's cap lilies and Moehringia bavarica sandwort, you can find endangered beetle species such as stag beetles, Morimus funereus and Rosalia longicorn.

The lush biodiversity is interspersed with great castles, ancient churches and pilgrimage sites, medieval market towns and the characteristic farms of the Kozjansko region with their carefully tended fields.



206 km² surface area • **78** natural attractions
• **70 km** footpaths • **102** apple varieties • **60** pear varieties • **44** orchid varieties • **1200** butterfly species • **62** grasshopper species • **20** species of waxcap fungi • **50** pairs of bee-eaters



Kozjanski
park



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organizacija Združenih
narodov za izobraževanje,
znanost in kulturo



Kozjansko & Obsotelje
Biosphere Reserve since 2010
Man and the Biosphere Programme

Kozjansko & Obsotelje
Biosferno območje od leta 2010
Program Človek in biosfera



Don't-miss experiences

The best way to learn about the natural and cultural characteristics of the Kozjansko Regional Park is with a guide. Reserve a spot and the tour will be adapted to your wishes and needs. Self-guided tours start in Podsreda or at the park information centre at the castle.

> **Discover the lushness of the meadow orchards.** The orchard in Gradišče pri Podsredi is a collection of traditional and indigenous apple and pear varieties which are resistant to disease and pests. You can enjoy watching and listening to the birds and learning about solitary bees, ladybirds and earwigs in the bug hotels.

> **Feast your eyes on the upland dry meadows.** Sustainable farming has preserved the exceptional biodiversity and habitats of orchids, numerous butterflies and meadow waxcap fungi. Due to the co-

lourful blooms, the meadows are at their most beautiful from May to August, while the colourful meadow waxcap fungi can be seen in October.

> **Wander around the Podsreda market.** In addition to the park's administrative offices, the medieval town square features Levstik's Mill and the Slovenian-Bavarian House, which also offers accommodations. See the orchard-keeper's throne and the plant-based wastewater treatment plant. Go walking on Podsreda's footpaths. Or check out the beavers in the Bistrica River!

> **Visit Podsreda Castle,** which features exhibitions, a medieval kitchen and the Kozjansko Park information centre. The walk from the market to the castle takes 40 minutes. The maintained footpath leads through a beech forest.



Flowering orchards

Events

> The **Organic Food Festival** in June presents the finest organic produce and products from organic farmers and food producers.

> The **Kozjansko Apple Holiday** in October is the main fair and cultural and social event in the park, with a wide selection of local products.



Soča River

GORIČKO NATURE PARK

www.park-goricko.org

A mosaic of meadows, fields, orchards, vineyards and hamlets

creates the unmistakable and picturesque cultural landscape of the Goričko region. The characteristic low hills are interspersed with wide stream valleys with winding roads leading to numerous monuments of natural and cultural heritage. The Goričko Nature Park is the Slovenian part of the Goričko-Raab-Őrség Trilateral Park together with Austria and Hungary and is the habitat of numerous endangered European plant and animal species. In the springtime you can hear the characteristic calls of the hoopoe and the Eurasian scops owl in the meadow orchards, while in the early summer the wet meadows are carpeted in the yellow of the lemon daylilies. The area is marked by the resourceful use of natural materials in connection with traditional crafts such as pottery and thatching.



462 km² surface area • **44** natural attractions
• **39** Natura 2000 qualifying species • **281**
items of cultural heritage • **100 km** marked
hiking trails • **300 km** marked cycling paths •
179 bird species • **102** butterfly species • **13**
amphibian species • **70** inns and wine cellars

KRAJINSKI PARK
GORIČKO



Don't-miss experiences

When exploring the Goričko region you can learn about the area's natural and cultural features. The rich cultural heritage is reflected in the ruins of traditional buildings and architectural jewels dating from the Romanesque period to the 20th century.

> **Visit the largest Castle in Slovenia.** Legend has it that it has the same number of rooms as there are days in a year. Grad Castle offers tours of craft workshops and is a centre for the natural environment of the Goričko region. The best experience is undoubtedly spending a night in the castle chambers.

> **Explore the biodiversity of the cultural landscape.** More than one hundred butterfly species frolic amidst the calls of 170 different bird species, and the meadows are brimming with Siberian iris, lemon daylilies and meadow orchids.

> **Go bird watching at Lake Ledava and Lake Hodoš.** With a little luck you can also see otters and beavers. At Bukovnica Lake you can relax and recharge your batteries by Vid's Spring.

> **Discover the geological characteristics of the Goričko region.** They are presented at the Vulkanija Adventure Park and visible in the landscape and at the mineral water spring in Nuskova.



Hoopoe

> **Go stargazing,** as the sky in Goričko is dark and full of stars. On agreement, you can arrange to go to Markovci or Ivanovci to ponder the infinity of the universe.

> **Hike the Tromejnik, i.e. Tripoint.** Take the Tripath, which is part of the Pan-European Green Belt, which follows the line of the former Iron Curtain, to the place where Austria, Slovenia and Hungary meet. On your way up the educational trail offers information about the Goričko forests.

Events

> The **Trilateral Hike** in the spring is designed so that you can get to know Goričko and the neighbouring lands.

> The **Trilateral Bike Marathon** in September is a favourite of recreational bikers.

> The **Bazaar at Grad Castle** in October features culinary and craft products from the farmers and craftsmen of Goričko.



Cycling paths wind among the hills



Bukovnica Lake

ORMOŽ BASINS NATURE RESERVE

www.ptice.si

Slovenia's most important resting site for migrating birds

has a daily turnover of up to ten thousand birds! Slovenia's youngest nature reserve was established to protect the unique heritage of the lagoon of a former sugar factory. The former industrial area is now a wetland of exceptional international importance and lies entirely within a Natura 2000 area. The pools feature nesting islands, channels and canals. A system of sustainable grazing has been established for the water buffalo. The nature trail features observatories made from repurposed shipping containers.



- 6.7 km²** surface area • **220** bird species
- **10 000** daily turnover of migrating birds
- **6** pools • **4** observatories • **1.5 km** nature trails
- **12.8 km** fencing for grazing water buffaloes



Don't-miss experiences

Entrance to the Ormož Basins is free for individuals. Groups of more than 10 visitors can enter the reserve only if accompanied by a guide from the reserve's administrator, DOPPS - BirdLife Slovenia. The guides can help you identify lots of bird species!

Ferruginous ducks, gadwalls, little bitterns, western marsh harriers, water rails, spotted crane, black-winged stilts, redshanks, black-headed gulls, common terns, middle spotted woodpeckers, black woodpeckers and Savi's warblers nest in the wetlands, reed beds, rushes, meadows, flooded forests and bushes. The basins are a wintering site for Eurasian wigeon, common teal, garganey, northern lapwing, ruff, common snipe and wood sandpiper. Water buffalo graze among them. The Ormož Basins are also home to otters and rare beetles such as the *Cucujus cinnaberinus*, *Cybister lateralimarginalis*, the King

diving-beetle and *Hydrophilus piceus*. Rare plant species include the *Hottonia palustris* and the poison hemlock.

> **Discover the secrets of the wetlands!** Take a walk along the maintained educational trails equipped with interpretive signboards.

> **Use the bird-watching observatories** made using recycled materials. The observatories were designed to preserve the industrial spirit of the fully restored natural freshwater bog.

> **Get to know the water buffaloes.** The herd grazes here and prevents the bird habitat from becoming overgrown with grasses, shrubs and other plants.

> **Visit the reserve's garden with a pet park.** The reserve's garden features various environmentally-friendly practices that can be applied in any garden.

> **Touch the area.** A model of the area is provided for the blind and visually impaired.

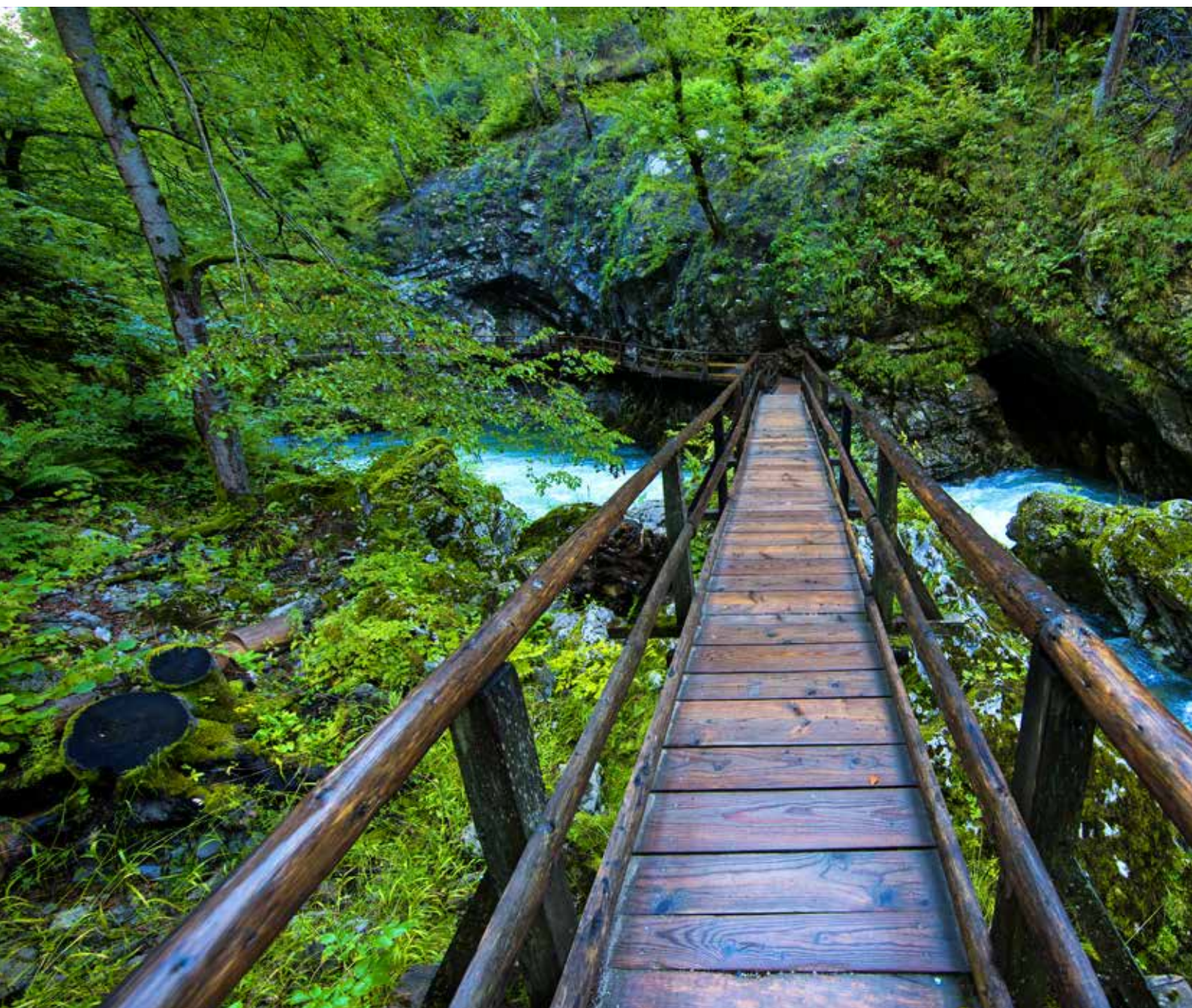


Water buffaloes



The Ormož Basins Nature Reserve

SLOVENIA'S NATURAL
AREAS ARE ACCESSIBLE
AND HOSPITABLE.
BE A CONSCIENTIOUS
GUEST.



The natural attributes of green Slovenia are worthy of respect at every step, not just in the protected natural areas. Nearly 60 percent of Slovenia's surface is forested, and virgin forest reserves lie just 60 kilometres from the capital. More than a third of the country is included in the European Union's Natura 2000 network of protected areas, and one fifth of the Slovenian coast is a protected area. More than 22 thousand animal and plant species make Slovenia one of the richest countries in Europe in terms of biodiversity. As you discover Slovenia's natural abundance, make sure you save it for the future generations.



Blejski Vintgar Gorge, Triglav National Park



PLEASE ACT LIKE A RESPECTFUL GUEST WHEN INSIDE THE HABITATS OF ENDANGERED ANIMAL AND PLANT SPECIES. PROTECT BOTH LIVING AND NON-LIVING NATURE.



COLLECT ONLY MEMORIES AND HUNT ONLY WITH YOUR CAMERA. DO NOT TOUCH THE PLANTS, ANIMALS AND ROCKS, AND DO NOT TAKE THEM WITH YOU.



STAY ON THE MARKED TRAILS AND ADHERE TO THE RULES OF THE INDIVIDUAL PARKS.



DO NOT DISTURB NATURE WITH MOTOR VEHICLES. DOGS MUST BE KEPT ON LEASH.



DO NOT LEAVE UNNECESSARY TRACES BEHIND YOU. TAKE ALL LITTER WITH YOU OR TO THE NEAREST CONTAINER.

THE STORY OF GREEN SLOVENIA



Be a part of the story of green Slovenia!

Choose sustainable forms of tourism and green experiences at businesses and destinations with the Slovenia Green label. This original Slovenian national certification system, which has received professional acclaim around the world, is based on international assessments of quality and sustainability. The green scheme of Slovenian tourism is part of a commitment to make Slovenia the first country on Earth with the title of Global Green Destination to become 100-percent green.

As you discover Slovenia's natural and other attributes, please act sustainably! Think about saving the planet. Experience a sustainable lifestyle and green tourism adventures wherever you see the Slovenia Green label proudly displayed. You will find places and areas involved in Slovenia's green certification system everywhere: in the cities and in the countryside, near Alpine peaks and the Adriatic Sea, on the Pannonian Plain and on the Karst.

SOURCES OF PRIDE IN THE STORY OF GREEN SLOVENIA

37 destinations awarded the title Slovenia Green Destination

22 accommodations providers awarded the title Slovenia Green Accommodation

3 parks awarded the title Slovenia Green Park

2 travel agencies awarded the title Slovenia Green Travel Agency

www.slovenia.info/sloveniagreen

Learn more about the Green Scheme of Slovenian Tourism

WHERE NATURE INSPIRES CULTURE



SLOVENIA CULTURE

Nature and culture are inseparably connected to sustainable tourism.

Slovenia, one of the greenest countries in the world, is a proud recipient of the World Legacy Award, conferred by National Geographic on the most sustainable destinations on the planet. Slovenia's natural and cultural attributes are a part of UNESCO's Heritage of Humanity. In planning the sustainable development of tourism, Slovenia pays particular attention to the interconnection of culture and nature.

The only country in Europe in which the Alps and the Mediterranean, the Pannonian Plain and the Karst all lie within accessible distances is both a crossroads of cultural influences and a land of great cultural originality. Learn about the treasures of its past and the inspirations of its present. Discover the country's art and architecture, ethnography and gastronomy, cultural history and modern festival character. As you are exploring Slovenia's natural attributes, save a little time for Slovenian arts and culture!

SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE CULTURE IN SLOVENIA

50,000+ year old Neanderthal whistle found in the Divje Babe cave

5,000+ year old wooden wheel with axle found in the Ljubljana Marsh

5 centuries old the world's oldest grapevine in Maribor

6 UNESCO listings of natural, cultural and intangible heritage

150+ castles

500 years since the printing of the first Slovenian books

500 years of operation of Slovenia's oldest mine in Idrija

50th year in Ljubljana since the birth of graphic arts icons and the festival tradition

50 years of uninterrupted creativity by master architect Jože Plečnik

5th year-long season of cultural events interspersed among the four seasons



Grad Snežnik

Slovenian Tourist Board

Dimičeva ulica 13, SI - 1000 Ljubljana

t +386 1 589 85 50

f +386 1 589 85 60

info@slovenia.info

www.slovenia.info

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