

Discovery Tour in The Best of Slovenia's Julian Alps

Trip style:

Destination:  Slovenia

Trip code: LBJ07-LEL12

Carbon Footprint:  571kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Discover Slovenia's outstanding scenery of crystal-clear lakes bordered by the craggy slopes of the Julian Alps. Staying in a hotel just a few hundred metres from the shore of beautiful Lake Bled, we'll take you on a guided tour of the area's natural and cultural highlights. The itinerary includes visits to several historic towns, the vibrant capital of Ljubljana, Bled Castle, Triglav National Park and the incredibly scenic Jasna Lake. This holiday will also give you a great insight into Slovenia's culture and perhaps also their surprisingly good wine.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Staying on the shores of Slovenia's beautiful Lake Bled
- Discovering one of Europe's greenest capitals, Ljubljana
- Visiting Triglav National Park
- An exhilarating cable car ride from Lake Bohinj
- Exploring Škocja Loka, one of the oldest settlements in Slovenia

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Guided sightseeing with experienced local HF Holidays Leaders
- HF Holidays Tour Manager
- Comfortable accommodation
- Half-board (breakfast and evening meal)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees (as per itinerary)
- Air-conditioned transport
- Return flights from the UK including hold baggage and airport transfers

TRIP SUITABILITY

Discovery holidays involve active sightseeing and you should expect to spend lots of time on your feet. Optional short walks of approximately 2½ miles allow you to stretch your legs and see the best of the local scenery.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Check-in at the hotel is available from 16:00. If you are a member you can arrive at the house from 14:00. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea at 16:30 and meet other guests.

Day 2: Lake Bled

Our base for the week is worth exploring in its own right. We'll take a stroll directly from the hotel along the lake path, visiting Bled Castle along the way. A ride across the lake in a pletna (traditional boat) brings us to Bled Island and the Church of Assumption which has become an icon for the area. Once we're back on the mainland, you can easily explore Bled at your own pace or visit Vintgar Gorge which is a short distance away by public transport.

Day 3: Ljubljana

Slovenia's capital can easily be explored on foot and we'll spend a full day here, visiting both the Old and New Towns as well as the Castle. The Old Town is home to many of the city's historic sights - not least the Castle and St Nicholas' Cathedral - and is connected to the New Town by a number of bridges. The New Town is home to a number of places of interest, such as the Orthodox Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius, the University Quarter and the striking Art Nouveau facade of the Cooperative Bank.

Day 4: Historic Slovenia

The towns of Skofja Loka, Kranj and Kropa are all wonderfully historic and today we will visit each of them on our magical 'history' tour! We can explore the warren of tightly-woven streets in Skofja Loka and take in the enchanting blend of Gothic and Renaissance architecture in Kranj, Slovenia's fourth-largest settlement. We also call in at Kropa, a blacksmith's village with evidence of its metalworking past scattered for all to see.

Day 5: Free Day

On our 7-night holidays, we allow one free day where there is no organised excursion. This is an ideal opportunity for you to relax, enjoy the hotel facilities or explore the area independently. Some options for your free day might include: Wellness Centre: The hotel has a wellness centre, located on the first floor. It offers concessionary rates to guests, details of which can be found in your room. Treatments include various types of massage, manicures, facials, sauna and a plunge pool. Cycle hire: The hotel has bikes for hire. Explore the quiet side roads and farming villages around Bled. Please book this at reception. Current rates are from €4 for an hour. Land train around Lake Bled: A land train follows the lakeside path. It leaves the town every 45 minutes from late April until mid-October; however it doesn't run in poor weather.

Day 6: Triglav National Park

We'll spend some time in and around Slovenia's National Park today. We visit Radovljica, one of the region's best-preserved old towns where we can find out more about the Slovenian folk tradition of bee keeping. We then journey into the National Park and to Lake Bohinj; here, we can enjoy the views from the lakeside before taking a cable car

to Vogel which, at 1,992m (6,306 feet), offers breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and valley below.

Day 7: Kranjska Gora and the Sava Valley

Today we discover the Upper Sava Valley which forms the geographical border between the Julian Alps and Karavanke Mountains. We'll discover more about the history of the area at the Russian Chapel on the Vrsic Pass before returning to spend time in the winter sports town of Kranjska Gora, pausing at the stunning Jasna Lake on the way. Later we'll visit a beautiful waterfall and the Slovenian Alpine Museum near Mojstrana.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Hotel Astoria - Julian Alps

The Hotel Astoria is a compact and stylish 3-star hotel and offers a great location for our holidays, with Bled town centre, the lake shore and castle all within walking distance. The comfortable en-suite bedrooms are decorated in a contemporary style and some rooms offer balconies. Facilities at the hotel include a wellness centre with sauna and spa pool, as well as a gym and bar with out door terrace.

Leading off the reception area there is a large and airy lounge and bar area with comfortable seating and tourist literature. To the other side the restaurant has fresh and modern decor, opening onto an attractive terrace area where guests can sit and enjoy the view with a coffee when the Café Astoria is open 8am-12pm / 5pm-10pm.

Complimentary wireless internet access is available in all public areas. There is a 24-hr reception service.

The hotel has a Wellness Centre open every day from 2pm until 9pm. There is a large variety of treatments offered at an additional charge and access to the gym is free to our guests.