

The Big Useful Book of Magic Blue Getaway



your in-room guide to all our goodies

Magic Blue Getaway

Welcome to the Magic Blue Getaway apartment. I hope you'll enjoy your stay in Ljubljana and feel comfortable in our apartment. I will do my best to ensure that this will be a wonderful and memorable visit to Ljubljana for you.

About Your Host

My name is Marko and I'm an entrepreneur, published author and Internet marketer. Our family loves to travel and meet new people. In the past few years we've been lucky to make many new friends from all across the world. Some of them have never been to Ljubljana before so we frequently invited them to visit us. All of them left with big a smile, hence our decision to start hosting was an easy one 😊

A little information about myself: I'm fascinated by the power of the mind in both holding people back and driving them forward. I'm a "life-experimenter," writer, published author, husband, and father, in search of the extraordinary. After almost two decades in the corporate sector, I now teach how to connect, achieve healthy, fulfilling relationships, personal success and abundance. I love travelling, sailing, playing clarinet and electronic keyboards and I can't resist a glass of good red wine 😊



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The Apartment

The apartment is new, modern and fully furnished. It comes with FREE parking with a private access in an underground garage, right beneath the apartment. The apartment has a cozy private terrace, perfect for lazy morning breakfasts, lounging and dining.

Amenities:

- King size bed
- Sofa bed for additional two guests,
- Air-con
- Washer and Drier
- Dishwasher
- Hair Drier
- Free wireless Internet
- Free local phone calls so you book restaurants and day trips without roaming charges
- Smart TV, NETFLIX ready
- Fully equipped kitchen
- Clean towels and a complimentary shampoo & shower gel.
- Two bikes for an easy 5-minute ride to the bustling heritage part of the city
- FREE off-street parking in an underground garage

Getting to the Apartment

From Ljubljana Airport

Shuttle services

GoOpti Shuttle

W: <http://bit.ly/gooptidiscout>

GoOpti shuttle will cost you from 11 EUR to 15 EUR per person, depending from your time of arrival (rates subject to change). The portal works similar to Ryanair or EasyJet. The sooner you book, the lower the rate.

Please note: When you book your first ride, you'll receive a special *5 EUR DISCOUNT* using the link above.

MNJ Private Shuttle

T: International: +386 40 771 771. Local call: 040 771 771.

E: info@mnj.si. W: www.mnj.si/en

MNJ shuttle will cost you 35-45 EUR for up to three persons one way (rates subject to change).

Taxi

From Ljubljana Airport it takes 20-30 minutes by taxi. Since you can easily pay double or even triple the price if you take the first taxi you see at the airport premises, I strongly recommend booking one in advance.

City Taxi Ljubljana: International +386 70 900 900. Local: 070 900 900.

Best email them in advance and get a confirmation.

E: info@city-taxi.si W: <https://www.taxi-rondo.si/en/>

Public bus

There's a public bus operating between the Ljubljana airport and the main Ljubljana bus station. The journey takes around 45 minutes; the cost is around 4 Euros. You can buy your tickets directly from the driver. <http://www.ljubljana.info/airport/bus/>.

See next section how to get from the Ljubljana central bus station to our apartment.

From Ljubljana Central Bus / Railway Station

The main bus and railway station share the same location. Therefore, the same instructions apply for both. You can walk to the apartment (10 minutes).

Don't feel like walking or you're having lots of luggage with you?

There are plenty of taxis available right in front of the station. It will be a very short ride anyway as the apartment is only 800 m away. If you want the best deal, instead of taking the first taxi you see, order one. The ride will cost you just a couple of Euros.

TAXI LAGUNA: International +386 31 492 299. Local: 031 492 299

CITY TAXI: International +386 70 900 900. Local: 070 900 900.

Tell the operator to pick you up in front of the entrance to the main railway station (McDonalds) with a destination Njegoseva 19B (pron. N-Y-E-G-O-S-H-E-V-A 19 B).



By Car

I'm sure you have your own GPS system or navigation in your car or on your phone. Still, you might want to familiarize yourself with the easiest way to get to the apartment using the links on the next page.

By car from Italy (Venice/Trieste) via E61 motorway

<http://bit.ly/bycarfromitaly>

By car from Austria (Vienna) via E59 motorway

<http://bit.ly/bycarfromaustria>

By car from Germany (Salzburg/Austria) via A10 motorway

<http://bit.ly/bycarfromgermany>

By car from Croatia (Zagreb) via A2/E70 motorway

<http://bit.ly/bycarfromcroatia>

Please refer to the next section with instructions how to recognize the building and get to the apartment itself.

Recognizing the Building and Getting to the Apartment

After you turn right from Masarykova Street to Njegoševa Street you'll notice a new modern building with green tiles on your right.



Please follow the self check-in instructions that I sent you in a separate message!

Checking In

Check-in Time

Check-in is every day, from 2PM. I'm looking forward to personally meeting you and showing you around.

Self check-in is available upon request. Do let me know in advance if you plan to arrive very late in the night.

Early Check-in

If you plan to arrive before 2 PM, let me know about it in advance. You'll be able to drop off your luggage in our safe storage room, get the keys and head out to the city until 2 PM.

Checking Out

Check-out Time

I kindly ask that you checkout of the apartment before 11AM.

That's because the cleaning lady will arrive at that time. She needs the time to properly clean the apartment in preparation for other guests like you checking in. Let me know if this is going to be a problem and I will try to make arrangements that better suit your timeline.

Late Check-out

We usually have other guests arriving on the same day as the others are leaving. Still, if you have a late flight or bus or you simply want to spend some extra time in our beautiful city of Ljubljana you don't need to worry about your luggage. Upon your request, we will send you the instructions on how to drop off your luggage in our safe storage room, head out to the city, and where to pick up the spare keys so you can take your luggage out of the storage room.

Leaving the Keys

1. If you came by car, **first** take the car out of the garage and come back to apartment.
2. Leave the keys in the key box, mounted on the wall next to the apartment doors.

Check-out Checklist

Before you leave the house, please make sure to check the following:

- Check the wardrobe closet, drawers, and bathroom. Phone chargers left?!
- TURN OFF the air-conditioning unit if it's on (use HITACHI remote).
- TURN OFF the TV-set.
- TURN OFF any running water.
- Leave the dirty dishes, glasses etc.... in the sink of the kitchen. No need to wash them.
- Check the electrical stove if it's turned OFF.
- Close all the windows.
- Lock the doors and leave the keys in the key box.

Important Information

Host Contact Numbers

Marko (your host). Call +386 (0)41 699 021

Marijana (our cleaning lady living nearby): Call +386 (0)40 398 708

In a highly unusual scenario that I was hit by a falling brick on the street AND at the very same time my cleaning lady had an open heart surgery, then you can call my wife Natalia (Cell +386 40 620 703) or my parents. My parents live approx. 30 min away from the apartment. My mom is a true polyglot, so you will not have any problems communicating. She speaks fluently English, German, French, Italian and Spanish. Her cell phone number is: +386 (0)41 691 361. Please use this only if you have run out of above-mentioned options.

Emergency Numbers

I expect that your vacation is going to be a wonderful one and you'll be safe and sound during your stay in Ljubljana. Still, in case of emergency situation, here are the numbers you can use:

First Aid: Dial 112

Police: Dial 113

Please note: In case you need an urgent medical assistance, you can't be better located than this. The apartment is located only 200 m from the Central Emergency Rescue Center (in Slovenian language "Urgenca"), behind the Hofer grocery store. Dial the above mentioned number.

First Aid Kit

First aid kit is located **in the wardrobe closet in the hallway of the apartment.**

Lost Keys

Please take care of the keys. I know this is kind of self-obvious. I'm making this point because it's costly to make replicas of apartment's keys. Losing the keys of the apartment may result in additional charge of 50 EUR. We really want to avoid that.

In case you did lose the keys of the apartment, here's what you can do (**in that order**):

1. Call me (Marko-your host) at +386 41 699 021.
2. Call the cleaning lady Marijana at + 386 40 398 708.

Groceries & Bakery

There is a HOFER Supermarket right across the street where you can buy fresh bakery, food and drinks. Open Mon-Sat from 07.30 AM to 9 PM. Sundays are closed.

Central Market

Ljubljana's central market is located only 10 minutes walk (or 5 minutes by bike) from the apartment. It's famous for fresh Slovenian fruits and vegetables grown by local farmers.

At the covered part of the market, you can get dry-cured meat products, fresh meat, homemade bread baked in the wood-fired oven, homemade biscuits and other sweet baked goods, various kinds of homemade cheese, dried fruits and nuts, homemade olive and pumpkin seed oil and much more.

Pharmacy

It's located right behind the HOFER grocery store across the street. You can't miss it. Njegoševa Street 6K, Tel. +386 (0)1 2306 100. Open Mon-Sun 24/7.

Tap Water

There is no need to buy bottled water. The tap water in Ljubljana is perfectly clean. That's because of the vicinity of the Alps supplying Ljubljana with fresh water.

Food Delivery

Wolt: <https://wolt.com/en/svn/ljubljana>

Glovo: <https://glovoapp.com/si/en/ljubljana/>

For food delivery, use address Njegoseva 19b, Ljubljana. If you are asked for a phone, use your own cell phone or a **free phone number of the Magic Blue Getaway** apartment, 059 155 615.

Housekeeping

Noise

As this is an apartment building, you are kindly invited to keep the noise levels to a minimum after 10 PM.

Parties

You are welcome to have a visitor or two over for a few drinks, but please refrain from having parties in the apartment.

Pets

Please note, pets are not allowed in this apartment.

Shoes

Please take your shoes off when you enter the apartment (as it is hard to remove stains from the wooden floor). There's a shoe rack in the wardrobe closet where you can put your shoes. You can use **the slippers that are provided in the basket in the wardrobe closet** or use your own. Thank you!

Smoking

Smoking is not allowed in the apartment. However you can smoke on the terrace of the apartment outside. Please use the ashtray provided for your convenience.

Amenities

Air-conditioning

Especially on a hot summer day, you might want use the air conditioning unit. Use the white HITACHI remote control and adjust the temperature as you please.

IMPORTANT: Please turn OFF the air-con when you're leaving the apartment. Namely, the apartment building is new and very well insulated. Once air-con is turned ON it cools down the whole place very quickly hence there is no need to leaving the AC running while you're away.

Blankets and Extra Sheets

Extra blankets can be found in wardrobe closet in the hallway of the apartment and/or in the sofa bed. In case you need anything else, don't hesitate to contact me.

Bikes

Feel free to use the two bikes provided at the apartment. With bikes it's an easy 5-minute bike ride to Trubarjeva Street that marks the beginning of the old city and the heritage part of Ljubljana. In no time you'll be right at Prešeren Square with the magnificent Franciscan Church, the Triple Bridge, enjoying the smells and tastes of the Ljubljana's central market right across the river.

The bikes are stored in the storage room, next to the apartment on your right hand side. The storage room is marked with 'A1-Storage'. The keys to the storage room are provided on the (same) keychain as the apartment keys.

IMPORTANT: Ljubljana is known to be one of the safest capitals in the world. That being said, the few thieves that do operate prefer bikes to stealing wallets. Therefore, please follow these instructions closely:

- If you can, park the bikes so you can constantly have a good eye on them.
- Lock the bikes to a fixed object that can't be lifted.
- **Always run the chain through the rear wheel AND around the bike frame AND around a fixed object.**
- Locking the wheel only is like an open invitation to bike thieves!





Cupboards

In the cupboards you will find everything you need for cooking: pots, pans, silverware, utensils, etc. Feel free to use the spices, tea, coffee or whatever else you find in the

cupboards. For cleaning up after cooking, you can use cleaning supplies placed in the cupboard under the sink.

Cooktop Electric Stove

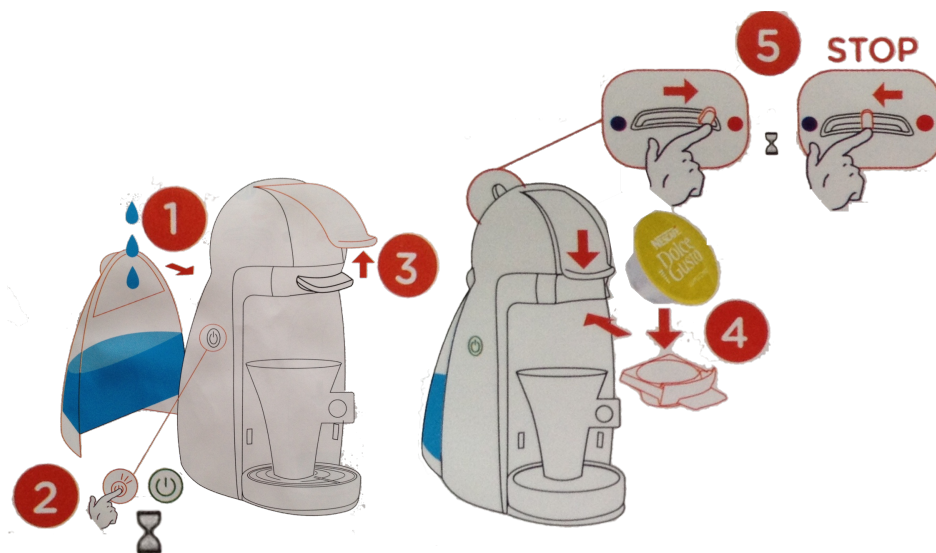
The kitchen has an electric cooktop stove.

- ① **Turn ON: Touch for 1 second**
-   **Select cooking zone**
-   **Increase / decrease temp.**
- ① **Turn OFF: Touch > 2 sec.**

When cooking, please always turn on the exhaust hood above the stove to prevent fire alarm from going off.

Coffee Machine

Is there any better way to start the day than with a smell of a freshly made coffee? To operate the coffee machine, do the following:



You will find the coffee capsules nearby the coffee machine.

1. Fill the water tank with fresh water.
2. Turn the machine ON and wait for the light on the power button turn green.
3. Place the cup onto the designated spot and open the hatch of the capsule tray.

4. Insert a coffee capsule into the capsule holding tray and close the hatch.
5. Put the top lever to the far right position. After 5-10 seconds the machine will start making your coffee.
6. When you're done, or you want to stop the machine, move the top lever back into the neutral position.

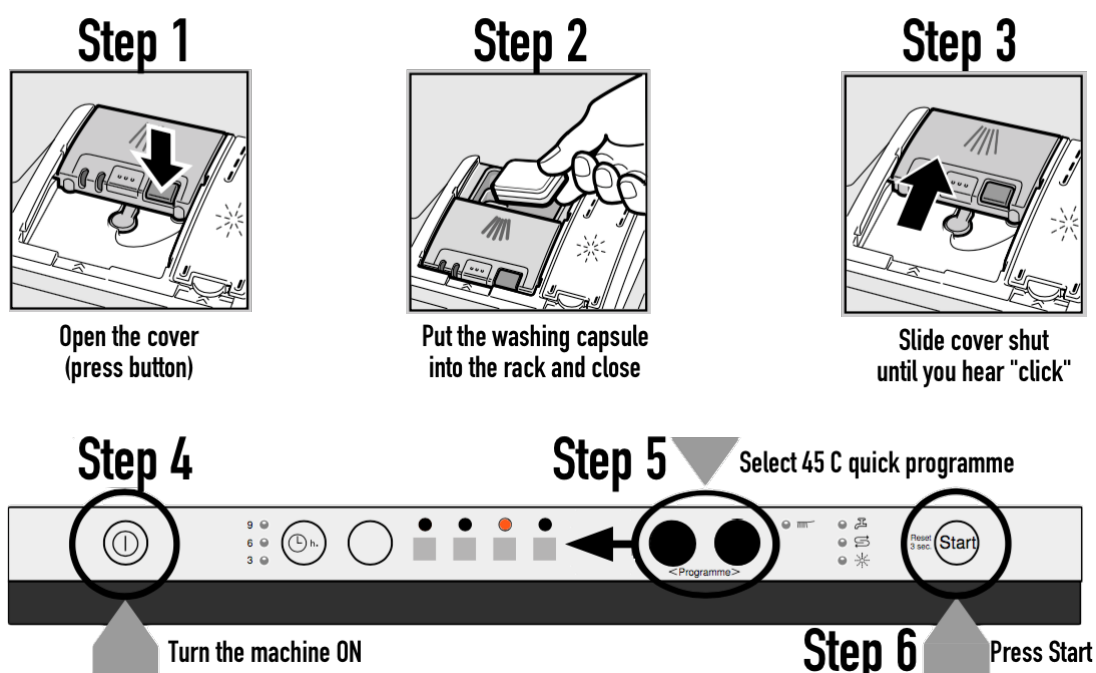
NEED MORE COFFEE CAPSULES? You can get them across the street. <https://cutt.ly/morecoffeecapsules>.

Electricity

If the electricity shuts off, open the small white electric closet in the hallway of the apartment (on the wall, on your left-hand, right when you enter the apartment). Inside the electric closet, you'll find the switches. They should all be turned upwards. This should get the electricity back again.

Dishwasher

If you have enough dishes feel free to use the dishwasher. If the machine is full, please run it before you check out. Washing capsules are stored under the kitchen sink.



Garbage

Garbage disposal bins are located in the cabinet under the sink. Extra bags for trash can be found under the sink next to the garbage bins.

The garbage containers outside are stored in special concrete compartments in front of the building right when you step outside the building. <https://cutt.ly/trashcontainers>.

Hair Dryer

There's a hair dryer in the apartment so you can save luggage space. The hair dryer can be found in the bathroom or in the wardrobe closet in the hallway of the apartment.

Heating

During winter the heating in the apartment is set to a standard room temperature of 22C during the day and 20C during the night for your comfortable sleeping. You can of course adjust the temperature as you please. The easiest way to do so is to use the valve controls on the radiators.

Hot Water

Hot water is available at all times because the apartment is connected to the Ljubljana's central heating & hot water system.

Keys

On the same keychain you will find the following keys:

- The keys of the apartment
- The remote control (little grey / black button) that opens the garage as well as all entrances to the apartment building (from the garage and from the outside)
- Storage room key (the room with the bikes next to the apartment)
- **For your convenience, both bike locks will have the same code as they key box.**

Upon leaving, don't forget to leave the keys in the key box mounted on the wall, next to the apartment. The instructions how to open/close the key box are placed on the shelf, under the TV.

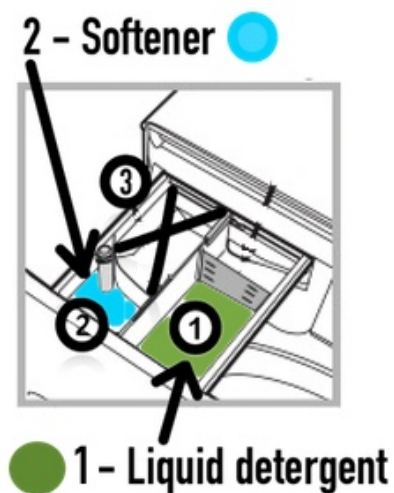
Laundry

If you've been on the trip for a while you might want to wash your clothes before continuing. No problem! This apartment comes with a washer/dryer machine.

To use the washer:

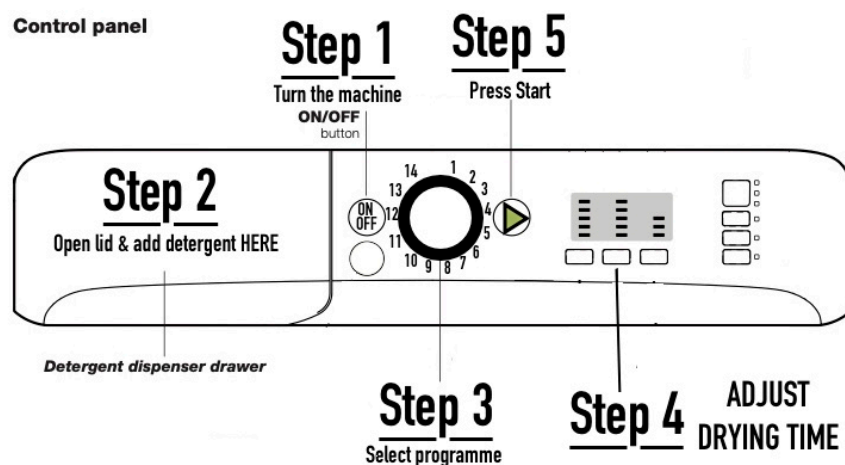
- Open the loading door.
- Place laundry items loosely into the machine.
- Push the loading door close until you hear the locking sound.
- **Add liquid detergent into the biggest wash compartment** marked with #1 (picture below). Optionally, add **softener** to the neighboring compartment (marked #2).

Detergent and softener are placed behind the washer / dryer machine in the bathroom. **Do NOT use the compartment #3.**



OPERATING THE WASHING AND DRYING MACHINE




- STEP 1: Turn ON the machine
- STEP 2: Add detergent into the compartment
- STEP 3: Select programme ([see next page](#))
- STEP 4: Adjust drying time
- STEP 5: Start cycle by pressing the START button



DRYING RACK

Weather permitting, you can use the clothes **drying rack** to dry your sensitive clothes on the fresh air on the terrace. You will find the drying rack in our private storage room, next to the apartment. The keys to the storage room are on the same keychain as the keys

to the apartment.

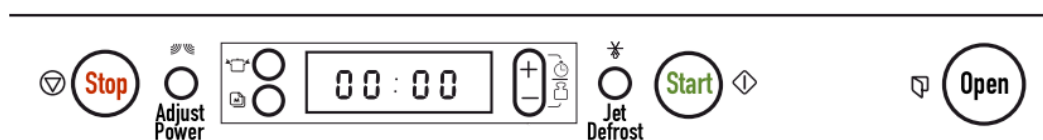
Wash cycles	Description of the wash cycle	Max. temp. (°C)	Max. speed (rpm)	Drying	Maximum load for drying (Kg)	Detergents		Maximum load for washing (Kg)	Duration of wash cycle
						Wash	Fabric softener		
Special									
1	Sport	30°	600	●	4	●	●	4	60'
2	Dark	30°	800	●	3	●	●	5	80'
3	Anti-odour (Cotton)	60°	1000	●	3,5	●	●	3,5	120'
3	Anti-odour (Synthetic)	40°	1000	●	3,5	●	●	3,5	105'
4	Delicate	30°	0	●	1	●	●	1	85'
5	Wool: for wool, cashmere, etc.	40°	800	●	2	●	●	2	95'
6	Rapid 30'	30°	800	●	3,5	●	●	3,5	30'
Standard									
7	White Cotton 90°: extremely soiled whites.	90°	1600	●	5	●	●	7	210'
8	 Cotton Standard 60° (1-2): heavily soiled whites and resistant colours.	60° (Max. 90°)	1600	●	5	●	●	7	175'
9	Synthetic: heavily soiled resistant colours.	60°	1000	●	4	●	●	4,5	125'
10	Coloured	40°	1600	●	5	●	●	7	115'
11	Eco Cotton 20°: lightly soiled whites and delicate colours.	20°	1600	●	5	●	●	7	185'
12	Eco Synthetic 20°	20°	1000	●	5	●	●	7	120'
Automatic									
13	Wash&Dry 45'	30°	1600	●	1	●	●	1	45'
14	AirFresh	-	-	●	1,5	-	-	-	30'
Partials									
	Rinse	-	1600	●	5	-	●	7	50'
	Spin + Drain	-	1600	●	5	-	-	7	10'

Steam Iron

Steam iron and the ironing board can be found in the wardrobe closet in the hallway of the apartment. Please don't use the steam iron without the ironing board. It also goes without saying, please make sure there's enough water in the steam iron. Lastly, please don't forget to TURN the steam iron OFF when you don't need it anymore.

Microwave

For most cases, just press the Start/Stop button.



Sofa Bed

The retractable sofa in the living room makes a comfortable bed for two additional guests. You'll find extra sheets and pillows in the sofa.

Smart LCD TV & NETFLIX

To watch the TV, do the following:

- Press the Power button on the TV remote (PHILIPS)
- Use the CH +/- on the D3 remote to change channels
- Use the Philips remote to adjust volume and turn the TV on/off.

You can also watch Netflix. Press the 'NETFLIX' button on the PHILIPS remote and sign in with your Netflix credentials. Don't forget to sign out when you leave the apartment permanently!

Toilet

The toilet has European / American plumbing. **Please flush your toilet paper and do not put the toilet paper in the garbage bin!**

In case you run out of toilet paper, you can find extra supplies in the wardrobe closet in the hallway when you enter the apartment.

Towels

There are plenty of towels left for you on the towels rack in the bathroom.

Vacuum Cleaner

Vacuum cleaner is stored in the storage room next to the apartment. The keys of the storage room are on the same keychain as the main keys of the apartment.

Wireless Internet (Wi-Fi)

Finally, the most important thing☺. Free wireless Internet is provided in the apartment for your convenience.

Network: A1

Password: passwordislong

In extremely rare cases when the Internet won't work, resetting the modem usually helps. The modem is located in the cabinet under the TV set. There's a switch at the back of the modem. Turn the switch off (or simply unplug it) for 10 seconds and then turn it on again. Wait for some time for the modem to synchronize back to the network and you should be good to go.

If, for some reason, this doesn't work, let me know about that first. If you desperately need the Internet right away, you can try two things. Try connecting your device to the city's WiFREE Ljubljana network. It's free for the duration of one hour. Alternatively, walk across the street to the 'Das Ist Walter' restaurant or the 'Bistro Up' and use their Wi-Fi.

Getting Around (Local Transportation)

Walking and Biking

Ljubljana is one of the safest capitals in the world. There are no stray dogs and the biggest vandals you will encounter during your stay will be the trees in autumn “throwing” their leaves on you. Feel free to walk or bike around the city even deep at night or in the early morning hours and worry about nothing! A couple of weeks ago my wife walked home at 2AM after she had the night with the girls (we live about 3 km from the city-center). That should tell you enough.

It will take you 10 minutes walk to the historical part of the town and 5 minutes by bike.

Public Transport

Urbana City Card

The Urbana city card is a no-contact smart card, allowing quick and convenient cash-free payment for rides on Ljubljana city buses. The Urbana card can also be used to pay for cable car rides (funicular) to the Ljubljana Castle and renting bikes using the “Bicikelj” bike sharing system.

You can purchase the URBANA at every post office, at so-called “Urbanomat” machines placed throughout the city. You can also buy the card at the main bus station and in the TIC (Tourist Information Centre) right next to the Triple Bridge at Prešeren Square.

NOTE: If you’re coming to Ljubljana by car, you can purchase the Urbana card at any bigger PETROL gas station within the city.

Public Bus

Even though the apartment is within walking distance to the heritage part of the city, you may want to use the bus. City bus “POLIKLINIKA” station is located approx. 200m further down the road on the Njegoševa Street. Use bus #9 on route to the central bus and railway station as well as to the city center. The buses leave every 10 minutes or so.

Taxi

If you don’t feel like walking or you just had a great dinner (see my recommendations in the “Eating and Drinking” section) and you want to get back to the apartment as fast as possible, taxi is will be a cheap option.

The apartment is very close to the city heart so you'll never spend more than a couple of euros to get to/from the apartment. But there's a caveat – you have to make a phone call and order one. Avoid taxis that are waiting for customers in front of hotels or main tourist hot spots because their rates can be considerably higher than normal.

Here are a couple of taxi services to call:

CITY TAXI: International +386 70 900 900. Local: 070 900 900

METRO TAXI: International: +386 31 371 909. Local: 031 371 909

TAXI LAGUNA: International +386 31 492 299. Local: 031 492 299

If you're using your cell phone, dial the international number. If you're using the free phone in the apartment dial local.

Need more than two bikes?

If you're a family and you need more than two bikes provided at the apartment, the cheapest and most convenient alternative is to use the "Bicikelj" bike sharing station nearby. It works like "Boris bikes" in London.

You can sign up and get your PIN here.

<https://cutt.ly/bicikelj>

The nearest bike sharing station is 300m from the apartment right down the Njegoševa Street (direction Old Town). See the map on page 7 of this guide.

The way to the nearest bike sharing station: <https://cutt.ly/bikesharingljubljan>

This is how the bike sharing station looks like: <https://cutt.ly/bikesharingstation>

Cost of the service:

First hour: free

Second hour: 1 €

Third hour: 2 €

Fourth and every further hour: 4 €

Payment: URBANA card

NOTE: Especially during spring and summer season, make sure to visit the "Bicikelj" bike sharing station a bit earlier in the morning. There are no more than 20 bikes available at each station so they may run out of bikes if you come too late.

Eating and Drinking

For your convenience, I have assembled a **list of restaurants and lounge bars that my wife and I frequently visit and therefore recommend**. After all, there is nothing better than advice from a local!

SPAJZA

Slovenian and international dishes
in a cozy courtyard

Gornji Trg 28

T +386 (0)1 425 3094

Google Maps: bit.ly/spajza

This restaurant, built in 1847, with aged timber floors and different rustic-styled rooms is located in one of the most picturesque and photogenic streets. **What do I recommend?** They have great seafood, (also try their sea food entrée called "Tris"), and there's a quiet and charming courtyard, open during the warmer season.



JULIJA

Mediterranean Cuisine in a Cozy Place

Stari Trg 9

T +386 (0)1 425 6463

Google Maps: bit.ly/julijaljubljana

Cozy charming ambience in the center of the old town.

What do I recommend? Octopus salad and seafood, homemade Istrian style pasta, risotto, veal with truffles, goulash with polenta, the steaks. Menu: bit.ly/julijamenu

STRELEC (Castle)

Traditional and International Cuisine
with a Stunning View

Ljubljana Castle

T +386 (0)31 687 648

Google Maps: bit.ly/strelecljubljana

This restaurant is one of our favorites of my wife and I. The restaurant was awarded "The Plate" award and is included in the Gault & Millau culinary guide. Breath-taking view from the terrace as the place is located at the top of the castle turret overlooking Ljubljana. the restaurant offers a unique menu created with the help of leading Slovenian ethnologist



Dr. Janez Bogataj. Walk uphill or go by funicular. **What do I recommend?** Four-course *degustation* menu. It's light and perfect for a romantic dinner. Tip: book ahead as there are limited number of tables on the terrace. During winter, book a window table.



SHAMBALA

Asian Fusion food with a Slovenian twist

Križevniška ul. 12

T: +386 (0)31 843 833

W: bit.ly/shambalarestaurant

Google Maps: bit.ly/shambalaljubljana

Menu: bit.ly/shambalamenu

A little hideaway right in the heart of the city. Covered inner yard and a secluded garden during summer. Prices are just a little higher than in other restaurants, but definitely worth it. **What do I recommend?**

Miso marinated "Black cod" filet with pineapple and snow peas. Chocolate soufflé with mango ice cream, passion fruit ice cream with almond cream, topped with coconut foam. Heavenly.

DRUGA VIOLINA

Slovenian Food with a Cause

Stari Trg 21

T. +386 (0) 820 52506

E. druga.violina@center-db.si

www.facebook.com/drugaviolina

Google Maps: bit.ly/drugaviolina



A small and cozy restaurant at a beautiful location right under the castle. Especially nice in the summer with the tables outside. Great Slovenian food! On top of that, this is a restaurant with a cause because you will be served by a team of young super-friendly men and women with various disabilities, from Downs Syndrome to physical difficulties. The daily menus change through the week and the prices are surprisingly low for that location. Advance booking recommended.



GOSTILNA NA GRADU

Slovenian Food on the Ljubljana Castle

Grajska planota 1

T. +386 (0) 820 51930

E. info@nagradu.si

Google Maps: bit.ly/gostilnanagradu

Menu: <https://bit.ly/nagradu>

This restaurant is located right in the inner yard of the Ljubljana castle. The smell you remember from your grandmother's bread oven

and fireplace is what motivated one of the co-owners Ana Roš (awarded the World's Best Female Chef 2017) to open this beautiful restaurant. The restaurant prides itself for using only for organically grown, healthy ingredients. Best olive and pumpkin seed oil, locally produced meat, fruit and vegetables from the market and wines from Slovenian wine cellars.

What do I recommend?

Kras jota soup, the Istra bobiči soup, the Prekmurje bograč stew, fried wings, Idrija žlikrofi dumplings, Primorje squid, roasted sardines.

5-6 KG

Gourmet Neapolitan Pizza, Lamb & Pork

Eipprova 17

Tel. +386 1 320 08 04

Google Maps: <https://bit.ly/5-6kg>

The pizzas are just amazing. The crust and sauce are fantastic. Good range of toppings and great beer. The service is excellent and the waiters are all super friendly and nice. But the restaurant is way beyond just a gourmet pizza place. Here you can taste a super yummy grilled lamb, delicious cutlet from the authentic Slovenian pork (called "Krškopoljec"), suckling pig shanks and grilled dry aged beef. **What do I recommend?** Pizza for sure. If you love pork or lamb, then definitely anything above-mentioned.



VALVASOR

Modern Mediterranean Cuisine

Stari Trg 7

T +386 (0)1 425 0455

<https://valvasor.net/en/>

Google Maps: bit.ly/valvasorljubljan

Menu: [http://bit.ly/menuvalvasor](https://bit.ly/menuvalvasor)

Perfect for special occasions. A modern restaurant

located within an old, arched tavern.

What do I recommend? Fresh tuna with tangerine foam, beefsteak with truffles.



DEŽELA OKUSOV ("A LAND OF FLAVORS")

Slovenian and International Cuisine

Gourmet Pizzeria. Best baby ribs in town.

Eipprova ulica 11, Ljubljana 1000 Slovenia

T. +386 1 283 92 88

Google Maps: <https://bit.ly/dezelaokusov>

This is an all around gluten free restaurant.

If you're craving for baby ribs you won't be disappointed! Perhaps, one of the best ribs my wife and I had so far. They are also known for gourmet pizzas.

Why do I recommend?

Besides gourmet pizzas, try baby back ribs with home made fries marinated in a house marinade and baked over an open fire. Or regional-style Black Angus with dark beer and mustard seed sauce. Or dry-aged Florentine steak (45 days) with vegetable and potatoes.

BISTRO LINDA

Seasonal dishes from around the world,
prepared with local ingredients

Borštnikov Trg 2

T. 041 720 614

Google Maps: <https://bit.ly/bistolinda>

Menu: <https://bit.ly/lindamenu>

This bistro is run by the chef Ryan Craig, owner of the Barge East restaurant in London. The sous chef is from Estonia who worked at Restaurant Atelje (1 Michelin star) for a year. Linda was named after the oldest linden tree (Linde, German) in Ljubljana, and after its beauty (lindo, Spanish). Noteworthy, they have a cocktail specialist so I recommend trying some of their signature drinks too. The Ambience inside is cozy and you can see the chefs working in the kitchen from your table. Personally I like the terrace under the big tree the most. It's just perfect for late morning brunch on sunny summer days or for a light dinner in the evenings.



What do I recommend?

Try the weekly three-course seafood lunch/dinner offer. You won't be disappointed.



ČOMPA

Steakhouse / Mediterranean

Trubarjeva c. 40

T. 040 799 334

Maps: <https://bit.ly/restaurantcompa>

Menu: <https://bit.ly/compamenu>

Čompa guys are professionals for grilled meat. They use only the meat that comes from Bloke or the Velika planina mountain pasture, that has been correctly hung for the first phase of maturing and long enough for the second, and only the best cuts. Čompa

is situated close to the old town centre in a Trubarjeva street with old-fashioned trade signboards, small snack bars, and plenty of locals sitting, relaxing, smiling and chatting. A great place for dinner. This small place very small so you better book well in advance. **What do I recommend?** Colt fillet with baked potatoes and black truffle salsa.

SORBARA

Mediterranean Barbecue

Gornji trg 28

T. 01 425 42 51

Google Maps: <https://bit.ly/sorbarasteak>

Menu: <https://bit.ly/sorbaramenu>



Situated at the same location as the Špajza restaurant (mentioned earlier), this restaurant is for you if you are lover of gentile, mouthwatering and juicy stake. **Why do I recommend?** Tenderloin stake or Australia black Angus ribeye steak. They also serve fish (even though not advertised). Amazing grilled octopus.



PIZZERIA VERACE

The Best Neapolitan pizza in town

Streliška ulica 22

T. 01 620 24 48

Google Maps: <https://bit.ly/veraceljubljana>

If you want to tell the only real Italian Neapolitan pizza in Ljubljana, this is it. Chef is Fabio Caruso, trained by one of the most distinguished pizza masters in Italy, Giovanni

Santarpia. The staff is super friendly and they have a nice selection of Italian wine and Slovenian craft beer. Pizzas are light on the stomach so you won't be thirsty for several hours after you ate it. **What do I recommend?** Try the Classic Margarita Buffala or Fior di latte and you won't be disappointed.

RAW PASTA

Raw pasta - Pasta Fresca Bar

Trubarjeva 43

T. 070 617 557

Maps: <https://bit.ly/rawpastaljubljana>

Menu: <https://bit.ly/rawpastamenu>

Unpretentious family business serving fresh pasta and flavourful sauces, run by Erika and Maxx. Erika and Maxx had a boutique restaurant in Milan Italy. After living and working in Ljubljana for a few years they opened the Raw Pasta Fresca Bar in October (2019). The menu is short, all dishes are very simple, however, they were all excellent. The carbonara is as it should be and the pasta is perfectly al dente. They only use fresh ingredients. Great value for money and



definitely a place to recommend. During the warmer season you can have your meal in the backyard of one of the most charming streets in Ljubljana, the Trubarjeva Street.

What do I recommend? Lasagna, Ravioli di Magro with butter, sage, Parmesan, and edible flowers. Tiramisu is great too!



PIZZERIA PARMA

Nostalgic Pizzeria

Trg Republike 2

+386 (01) 426 82 22

Google Maps: <https://bit.ly/parmalj>

This is a legendary and nostalgic place.

That's because it's the first pizzeria opened in Ljubljana. As such, it still operates an electric oven and the recipe hasn't changed for more

than 30 years. The pizzas are small (as they used to be in old times) but they are thicker and richer with ingredients.

What do I recommend? Well, the pizzas, of course! Order with an egg on top of the pizza and make sure you order the legendary blueberry juice together with your pizza.

UNION BREWERY PUB

Largest Brewery in Slovenia

Celovska 22

T: +386 (01) 471 73 35

<https://bit.ly/unionpublj>

Maps: <https://bit.ly/unionpublocation>

Great place locals and tourists like to hang out.

Located right across the Tivoli Park. Great selection of the finest local beers available.

What do I recommend? Unfiltered draft beer, original Carniolian sausages plate. NOTE: Especially on weekends, it's almost impossible to get a table if you don't book in advance! Book a table at the above-mentioned web address.



KLOBASARNA

Slovenian sausages

Ciril Metodov Trg 15

T: +386 (051) 605 017

www.klobasarna.si/en

Google Maps: bit.ly/klobasarna

Want to taste something unique and typical for Slovenia at affordable prices?

Well, then you should try the Carniolian sausage. Menu is simple: Sausage, the seasonal soup and rolled pastry.

What do I recommend? Authentic Slovenian sausages, top location, near the central market.

DAS IST WALTER

The Best Grilled Minced Meat in Town
Njegoševa 10 (right across the street of the apartment)

T: +386 (01) 430 5195

Google Maps: <https://bit.ly/walterljubljana>

If you heard about "čevapčiči" (grilled minced meat Balkan Way) you definitely have to try this place out.

Why do I recommend it?

Grilled minced meat obviously and relaxing atmosphere. Also, try their "Das Ist Walter" own dark beer and order an authentic Turkish coffee. The restaurant has a nice garden too. **Bonus: Right across the street of the apartment.** Menu: <http://bit.ly/menuwalter>



Quick Bites



POP'S PLACE

Gourmet Burger Bar in the Old Town

Cankarjevo nabrežje 3

T: +386 (0)590 42856

www.facebook.com/PopsPlaceBurgerBar

Google Maps: bit.ly/popsplace

Pop's place is ideal for a quick lunch or dinner. Their specialties are gourmet burgers

made with locally produced beef and a great selection of local craft beers. All the beef used in the preparation of Pop's Place's burgers is sourced locally, aged and cut in-house. The brioche buns are home baked and the burgers are sooo good. Some say they have the perfect bun to meat ratio. I agree. Relaxing atmosphere, reasonable prices, friendly and helpful service. House specials: gourmet burger, veggie burger, BBQ ribs, chicken sandwich, fish and chips, chicken wings, craft beers.

LARS & SVEN

Gourmet Burgers

Slovenska c. 25

T. +386 70 523 536

Google Maps: <https://bit.ly/larscenter>

Menu: <https://bit.ly/Larsmenu>

Burgers are made cooked to the order.



Selection of craft beer. Good location, right in the center of Ljubljana. **What do I recommend?** Sven Burger. It's made from 100% local Slovenian beef topped with home made sauce, bacon, caramelized onions, lettuce, tomato & Cheddar cheese. Served in their classic potato bun.

Breakfasts



KAVARNA ROG

Top place for lazy morning breakfasts

Close to our apartment!

Petkovškovo nabrežje 67

T. +386 59 155 280

Google Maps: <https://bit.ly/rogkavarna>

Menu: <https://bit.ly/rogmenu>

What do I recommend? Try Foie Gras Eggs Benedict, Chicken Club sandwich.

CAJNA HISA "CHA"

Yea house. Breakfast or Brunch

Stari Trg 3

T. +386 (0)1 252 7010

Maps: <https://bit.ly/ljubljanateahouse>

Cakes, ice creams, delicate sweets, natural juices, cocktails, sandwiches and salads.

Friendly waiters assist with your choice of the more unusual varieties of teas. **Why do**

I recommend it? Best selection of teas from all over the world. Try Curry Chicken sandwich!



LE PETIT CAFE

Lazy Breakfast & Cozy Chill Out Place

Trg francoske revolucije 4

T +386 (01) 251 25 75

Google Maps: <https://bit.ly/petitljubljana>

What do I recommend? Le Petit offers full breakfasts (American and English style, tricky to find in Ljubljana), as well as great sandwiches at good prices. What sets Le Petit apart is their signature drink, 'Bela Kava Le Petit', which is an enormous (and I mean enormous) white coffee, topped with loads of froth and cocoa powder, which mingles together in a chocolatey, mocha drink the size of a small swimming pool. Try Eggs Benedict or Truffle omelets.

Chill Out Places

CAFÉ DAKTARI

Chill Out and Relax Place

Krekov Trg 7

Tel. +396 (0) 590 55538

<http://www.daktari.si>

Google Maps: bit.ly/clubdaktari

If you're looking for a place to chill out and relax in Ljubljana, Daktari is the place to be.

It's located just below the castle hill, next to the funicular and it has such a lovely ambient. The interior is very cozy with sofas and bookshelves, it feels like you're in a living room. In the evenings they sometimes have live music. Good homemade sandwiches (try the avocado sandwich). There's also a nice outdoor sitting area and you can meet a lot of nice, open-minded people there. If you are a real ale drinker try the Human Fish, named after a creature living only in the [Postojna Caves](#).



CAFÉ ČOKL

The Best Coffee in Town

Krekov Trg 8

T. +386 (0)41 837 556

W. bit.ly/cafecoklweb Google Maps: bit.ly/cafecokl

On the way to the Ljubljana castle (right next to the Café Daktari) a must stop is Cafe Čokl. This is a quirky coffee shop with the best coffee in town.

Why do I recommend it? Beans are roasted on site and the barista is skilled to make the most delicious cappuccinos. Together with friendly service this is undoubtedly the most authentic coffee experience you can get in Ljubljana.

ICE CREAM & PASTRIES

FETICHE PATISSERIE

The Ice Cream Heaven

Cankarjevo nabrežje 25

T: +386 (0) 40 700 370

Google Maps: <https://bit.ly/fetichepatisserie>

Saturdays, my wife and I just can't resist stopping by at this place for a cup of their delicious ice cream. Whole milk and organically processed



cream from Bohinj hills. Ever heard of the black sesame, Gorgonzola with walnut or green tea ice cream? Try these and many more sophisticated flavors and you won't be sorry.



CAFÉ LOLITA

Home made desserts and ice cream

T. +386 (0)41 344 189

E. lolita@kaval-group.si

Google Maps: bit.ly/lolitaljubljana

Famous for their home-made desserts, mind-blowing cakes and killer chocolates made onsite.

Try Mangolita cake! Interestingly, the shop manager Ms. Draga Kepeš won the title of best

bartenders in the world with her cocktail LOLITA in the category 'After Dinner Competition 2016', which took place in Tokyo. The winning cocktail is made of Bacardi Gold rum, Mozart chocolate liqueur, vanilla liqueur, liqueur Finest Call, Piña Colada, caramel syrup, topped with a cream. Try it out!

Local Attractions

Ljubljana Old Town

Just take a walk and you'll fall in love with the city ☺. The whole inner part of the city is one big pedestrian zone. No cars.

One of our friends from California who stayed in Ljubljana for six weeks said this about Ljubljana old town: "Ljubljana Old Town feels like a giant living room! Nice and friendly people and feeling of safety. Cozy bars and restaurants, free Internet everywhere."

Check out yourself!

Triple Bridge

The Triple Bridge can also be called the Old Bridge since the first bridge on the same spot was mentioned as early as 1280 and named Spital Bridge. It was wooden and served as an entrance to the fortified medieval town of Ljubljana.

Today it provides an elegant entrance into the Old Town connecting the Prešeren Square with the Central Market on the other side of the river.



Prešeren Square with the Franciscan Church



The square's Prešeren Monument depicts the greatest Slovenian poet, France Prešeren (1800-1849), and the muse of poetry holding a spring of laurel above his head. The poet's statue is symbolically faced by the statue of Julija Primic, his great love, mounted on the facade of a building located across the square, in the Wolfova Street.

In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake of 1895 the square saw the building of several beautiful bourgeois palaces as well as refurbishments in the Art Nouveau style like for example the Hauptman House and the building of Urbanc House (today high end shopping mall Galleria Emporium), one of Ljubljana's most beautiful Art Nouveau buildings, which also housed the city's first department store.

The most prominent building on the Prešeren Square is the Franciscan church. The church we can see today was built between 1646 and 1660, built by the Augustinians, who lived inside until the end of the 18th century. Later the church was taken over by the Franciscans, after whom it got its name and color.

Time to Prešeren Square from apartment: 10 minutes walk, 5 minutes bike.

Central Market

Open every day, but Saturday mornings are just magical. Ljubljana's Central Market is more than just a place to shop for fresh groceries. Traditionally, it has always been a place for the locals to meet and enjoy themselves together. Even if you don't intend to

buy anything it's a remembering experience to just stroll along the stands with fresh local products, organic seasonal veggies and fruits offered by the farmers.



Enjoy the colors and fascinating smells of the freshly produced food brought in by Ljubljana farmers, not to mention fabulous architecture around. Fridays, from March to October, there is a open kitchen festival (Odprta Kuhna) taking place. Learn more in the *Local Activities* section in the continuation of this guide. Time to Central Market from apartment: 10 minutes walk, 5 minutes bike.

Ljubljana Castle

Ljubljana castle offers an outstanding view over the city, a romantic atmosphere and a place of numerous cultural events.

When in 1335 the Habsburgs took over the area of today's Slovenia, they demolished the fortress of the Spanheim family, which stood on the hill, and in the second half of the 15th century started building a new one that still stands today.

You will be surprised to find out that you don't have to pay anything to enter the castle courtyard, where you can relax by a cup of coffee, glass of wine, have light lunch or enjoy delicious chocolate cake.



There's a chapel and a viewing tower together with Virtual Castle, where you can see a documentary about the history of the castle in Slovene, English, German, French, Spanish, Russian, Croatian and Italian.

Guided tours of the castle are conducted every day.

More information and bookings : bit.ly/ljubljana castle, Email: info@ljubljanainfo.info

TIP ☺ In one of the castle towers (right next to the main gates) you'll find a restaurant STRELEC that I highly recommend. You will find breathtaking views over the whole city and delicious food (see section Eating & Drinking in this Guide).

How to get to the castle:

- Walk up from the central market or Gornji Trg (approx. 10-15 minutes uphill).
- The tourist train, which rides between the city center and Ljubljana Castle. It departs every hour right from the City Hall close to the Prešeren Square on the hour from 9:00, and from the castle hill every hour at 20 minutes past the hour. Price of return tickets: adult: 4,00 EUR, children: 3,00 EUR.
- Funicular (Krek Square, opposite the Central Market). Adults 13 EUR, children, students and seniors 9 EUR (prices subject to change).

Time to the castle from apartment: 10 minutes walk, 5 minutes bike to the Prešeren Square PLUS approx. 20-30 minutes to get up to the castle.

Funicular to the Ljubljana Castle

The idea to build a funicular railway that would connect the old town center to the Ljubljana Castle dates back more than a century.

Dr Ivan Hribar, the Mayor of Ljubljana (1896-1910), wrote in a letter to the Austro-Hungarian authorities of the time: "Because the view from the spaces in question (of the Ljubljana Castle) are charmingly beautiful, and because it would be good to make use of the current shady courtyard, if only we built an elevator with which one could reach the top for a mere ten Kreutzers or less, it would no doubt attract many visitors, particularly on summer evenings."



Well, he was right so the final project was taken up in 2005, and the first passengers were transported by funicular in late December 2006.

Tickets: Obtainable at the lower funicular station at Krek Square, opposite the Ljubljana Central Market.

Time to the funicular from the apartment: 10 minutes walk, 5 minutes bike to the lower funicular station.

Experiences at the Ljubljana Castle

Time Machine

In a little over an hour you'll experience something more than just a classic guided tour. The costumed representatives of each of the periods mentioned above will create a genuinely special atmosphere, which will be both instructive and entertaining.



It's held at the castle in English, German*, Italian*, French*, Spanish*, Russian*, Croatian* (languages marked with * are available with the use of an audio guide).

Learn more about this and other exciting experiences on the Ljubljana castle such as "Escape Castle", "Dinner at the Castle Vineyard", "Behind bars", the timetables and prices here: <https://www.ljubljanskigrad.si/en/experiences>

Ljubljana River and the Riverbank



Stretching along the Ljubljana river this is a great area to stroll, have a drink or meal in one of many cafes and restaurants. Just walk beside the Ljubljana River and enjoy the feeling. You will love the atmosphere!

You can take a boat ride too! Boat rides offer an opportunity to see Ljubljana and its numerous famous buildings and bridges from a different angle and get out of the city's hustle and bustle while actually staying in the very city center.

The boat departs from the Ribji Trg pier, located at the Cankarjevo Nabrežje riverbank in the immediate vicinity of the Triple Bridge (Tromostovje).

Cobbler's Bridge

The Cobble's Bridge is probably the oldest bridge of medieval Ljubljana. The old wooden bridge, which was probably partly a drawbridge, was set up in the 13th century. As shoemakers had their workshops by the bridge, it got the popular name the Cobbler's (or Shoemaker's) Bridge.



Time to Cobbler's bridge from Prešeren Square: 5 minutes walk, 1 minute by bike along the river bank.

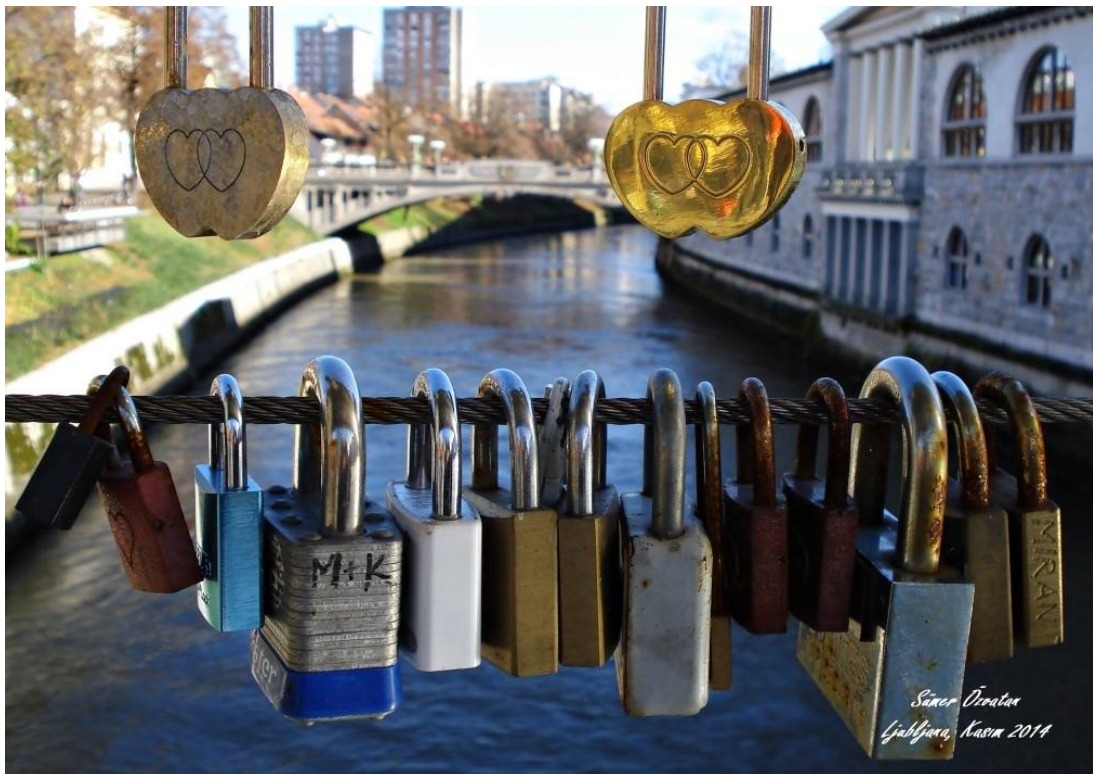
Town Hall & Town Square

The Town Hall is located at Town Square in the city center, close to Ljubljana Cathedral. The original building was built in 1484.



Outside the town hall stands a replica of the Baroque Robba Fountain, work of Francesco Robba. The original work, finished in 1751, is kept in the National Gallery (bit.ly/nationalgallerieslovenia).

Butcher's Bridge



Not so long after the opening of this bridge (similar to the former site on the Parisian bridge Pont des Arts, Ponte Milvio in Rome or at Mala Strana in Prague) people started to hang locks on it. Different kinds of padlocks of couples in love started appearing on its steel wires, symbolizing declarations of love.

Nebotičnik (the Skyscraper)

Nebotičnik was the first high building in Ljubljana that surpassed the Baroque silhouette of the bell towers. The slender skyscraper was built between 1928-1933 and has long been the highest building in Ljubljana.

Today it hosts a great rooftop cafe with a beautiful view over the Ljubljana and the Ljubljana castle. Great for a light lunch or a snack, drinks or some ice cream.



Time to Nebotičnik from the Prešeren Square: 5 minutes walk, 2 minutes bike.

Tivoli Park

Tivoli is where the people of Ljubljana who don't leave the city spend the weekend because a nice break from the city without actually leaving the city. Endless trails for walking or biking. There's a lake on the western side with a nice café. Frequently, exhibitions with large panel photos on one of the parks wide boulevard style walking paths are held. Loved by locals and tourists.



You can walk to the park right from the Old part of Ljubljana and it will take you just 10 minutes or so. Better so, use the bikes provided in the apartment and get a feeling for the greenest part of Ljubljana while enjoying the fresh air. Time to Tivoli from the Old Town: 10-15 minutes walk, 5 minutes bike.

Metelkova Mesto

If you are interested in alternative culture, then Metelkova Mesto is the place for you. Coincidentally, Metelkova is located just [100m from our apartment](#). Metelkova is an



internationally renowned alternative culture community in the center of Slovenia's capital that often draws comparisons to Copenhagen's Kristiania. The place was a military building but now full of squats, bars and venues. A self-declared 'Autonomous Culture Zone,' Metelkova Mesto occupies the former 'Fourth of July' military barracks originally commissioned by the Austro-Hungarian army back in 1882 and completed in 1911. Dedicated to organizing social and cultural activities for the public, Metelkova has a nonstop events schedule and

is arguably the best after-dark destination in Ljubljana for those looking to experience something wholly unique and unpredictable. Time from our apartment to Metelkova: 3 min walk (just across the small park).

Local Activities

FREE Walking Tour

All tours delivered by knowledgeable local guides trained to deliver quality, informative and entertaining tours (2-2.5 hours long). Free tours are provided in English only.

Open 7 Days a Week, 365 days a year. Starting at 11AM every day.

No Booking Required for groups smaller than 10.

Meeting Point: On the steps in front of the Franciscan church at Prešeren Square.

The guides wear yellow vests!

More info: www.ljubljanafreetour.com/

Cost: FREE of charge



For other languages, I recommend to book one of the many city tours provided in Italian, German, Spanish, Russian and Croatian language. Cost: 10-20 EUR per person.

Odprta Kuhna (Open Kitchen Food Market)



Loved and visited by locals and tourists, this is our family's favorite Friday's destination in Ljubljana. Odprta Kuhna (transl. "Open Kitchen") is essentially a food market where you can experience freshly cooked food prepared by different Slovenian chefs right there in front of you, on the market stalls. Of course, you can also taste the best Slovenian wines and beers and enjoy the feeling of a laid back atmosphere.

Want to get a feel for the atmosphere? Check out this VIDEO (with my wife and youngest son): bit.ly/odprtakuhna.

TIP: It can get a bit crowded in the evening, especially during summer. If you don't like crowds, I recommend visiting Odprta Kuhna earlier in the day. Grab a quick lunch or an early afternoon snack and you'll enjoy the feelings just the same.

Central Market, Fridays, 11AM - 9PM

In case of bad weather, the market may be cancelled.

Cost: FREE Admission

Ljubljana-Yum Foodie Tours

This is a personalized tour of the gourmet gems of Ljubljana. Iva and Alenka will take you on a yummy lecture around Ljubljana so you can taste its culinary delights through their suggestions. You will definitely feel like being on a gourmet spree with a very knowledgeable friend than a normal tour. Highly recommended.

Reservations of LjubljanaYum Foodie Tours:



T. +386 (0)40 298 589

W. <http://www.ljubljananjam.si>

Email: info@ljubljananjam.si

Cost: around 80 EUR per person (prices subject to change)

Use (or mention in your email) discount code 'MARKO1501' to get a **10% DISCOUNT!**

Ljubljana Bike Tour by Watermelon



Ljubljana is a small city and that's why it's perfect for exploring with on a bike. It's easier to leave the usual beaten tourist tracks and find amazing places, you cannot find in tourist guides, normally visited just by the locals.

Tours start at 9 AM (July, August) or 10 AM (April, May, June, September).

You can pick from a standard Ljubljana bike tour (4 hours), Short tour (2 hours), Cherry Blossom bike tour (only late March and early April), family bike tour or completely private tours.

W: <http://www.ljubljanabybike.com>

E: ljubljanabybike@gmail.com

T. +386 40 552 572, also reachable on WhatsApp and Viber (same number)

Use (or mention in your email) discount code 'MARKO1501' to get a **10% DISCOUNT!**

Stand-Up Paddle Tour in Ljubljana

Glide under the three bridges and wave to the city dragon



If like discovering places in non-traditional ways, here is something for you. During warmer season (May-Sept), you can book a stand-up paddle boarding (SUP) tour down the Ljubljanica River and check out the city center from another point of view. It doesn't

matter if you are experienced or not at all. SUP tours include introductory briefing on paddle boarding and step-by-step instructions, so paddling while standing up on a board is a breeze for beginners and experts alike.

The tour costs 35 EUR per person (rate subject to change) and includes:

- Introductory SUP course
- SUP equipment (Red Paddle Co SUP board, paddle, safety leash),
- 2 hour long SUP tour with ASI certified SUP instructors,
- Photo memories from the stand up paddle tour.

Apply promo voucher at their online booking form (or mention in your email) a discount code 'MARKO1501' and receive a **10% DISCOUNT!**

More info: <https://bit.ly/paddleljubljana>

Phone | WhatsApp | Viber:

+386 40 238 756 // +386 70 285 228 // +386 51 340 344

E: info@bananaway.si

Hiking to Rožnik Hill

Hiking in the Center of the City



Rising above the western end of the Tivoli Park are the series of small wooden hills grouped around the 390-m (1,285 ft.) high Rožnik hill, a popular destination for weekend walkers. There are numerous trails starting right within the Tivoli Park. All trails are very well marked and you can't get lost, as you will meet locals jogging or hiking up or down

the hill all the time. Depending from your pace, you can start feeling a little heartbeat but the reward is great. At the top there's a Church of Visitation and a legendary Gostilna Rožnik (Rožnik Inn), where Ivan Cankar, a famous Slovenian writer, lived between 1910 and 1917. In the cool shade of the oak trees you can have lunch or just a drink. There's a funny story about Ivan Cankar living in this place. The innkeeper's wife Stefanija Franzotova, was a childhood friend of Cankar's, and offered a writer free use of an attic room in the hope that his presence at the inn would bring in more sophisticated guests. The impoverished Cankar's appetite for free food and drink soon took its toll on his friendship with the innkeeper's family, and so the writer was eventually persuaded to move out. He was given the former barn, opposite the inn, which is now the Ivan Cankar Memorial Room (open to public). The room still preserves his writing desk and other possessions of the writer.

Time to Tivoli Park (from where you can hit any hiking trails to Rožnik) from our apartment: 25 minutes walk, 10 minutes by bike. Then, it will take approx. 30-45 minutes to reach the top, depending from your pace.

Fairy Tale December in Ljubljana



If you love Christmas markets, decorations and the smell of roasted chestnut, mulled wine and sweet aroma of festive pastries, you've got to visit Ljubljana in December. Festive events of the "Happy December" (as locals call it) reach their peak on the New Year's Eve, when open-air celebrations take place on all main city's squares.

Tourist Information Centre (TIC)



Book a guide, book day trips to other attractions in Slovenia or get directions.

Address: Adamič Lundrovo nabrezje 2 (Next to the Triple Bridge). T: +386 (0)1 306 1230,
E: tic@visitljubljana.si. W: www.visitljubljana.com/en/visitors/

Activities for Rainy Days

The purpose of this section is to offer you additional ideas for things to do in winter or rainy days.

Museum of Illusions



Are you brave enough to jump in an illusion created by the Vortex Tunnel, the first of such in this part of Europe? Vortex will drive you crazy and make you believe you're heavily struggling just to make a step forward through a rotating cylinder – on a surface so stable and flat! Deform the image of yourself in a Mirror Room, let yourself free in an Infinity room, and resist the laws of gravity and size ratio. These and many more illusions will deceive your eyes and entertain your mind. On top of that you can do as many photos as you wish!

Kongresni trg 13

+386 (0) 1 320 54 66

E: info@muzejiluzij.si

W: bit.ly/illusionsljubljana

Google Maps: <https://bit.ly/illusionslj>

Open MON-SUN 9AM – 10 PM.

MindMaze Escape Room

Be a detective!



Think about clues, signs, meanings.... and escape from the room of your choice. The Alchemist's Chamber as well as the Occupied Ljubljana Chamber are tricky and will without a doubt make you busy. A great way to spend an hour, especially in winter or rainy days.

Trubarjeva cesta 24

T. +386 (0)41 991 771

E. info@mindmaze.si. W. <http://mindmaze.si/en/about-us/>

Google Maps: <http://bit.ly/mindmazelj>

Museums

There are plenty of museums in Ljubljana to choose from. Below please find my personal recommendation for museums that I suggest visiting first (all links below are Google Maps links).

- Ethnographic Museum: <https://bit.ly/sloetno>, Metelkova 2
- City Museum Ljubljana: <https://bit.ly/museumljubljana>, Gosposka 15
- National Museum of Contemporary History <https://bit.ly/contempljubljana>, Celovška cesta 23 (Park Tivoli)

Wellness and Spa



Want to unwind a bit from sightseeing or just relax? Maybe get into a sauna or treat yourself with a pampering massage? Here's the selection of good wellness and spa areas that my wife and I recommend.

Spa v Mestu

Trubarjeva 45

10-15 min walk

T. +386 (0)51 367 907

E. tinka.opresnik@gmail.com

www.spavmestu.si/en

Google Maps: bit.ly/spavmestu

Sense Spa Center

Grand Hotel Union

Miklošičeva 3

T. +386 (0)30 388 388

E. sense@sense.si

www.sense.si/en

Google Maps: <https://bit.ly/ljsense>

Shopping

One of the great things about Ljubljana is the fact that you can shop the old-fashioned way: strolling the streets in the city center, ducking in and out of any number of high street stores, local brands and cute little boutiques.

The main shopping streets in the city centre are Mestni and Stari Trg at the base of Castle Hill, Trubarjeva, Wolfova Ulica and Miklošičeva on the opposite bank. There are also plenty of stores in the grid of streets between Slovenska cesta and the riverbank. Also, do not miss to check out the Galerija Emporium at the Prešeren Square.

If it's cold outside or you prefer shopping malls, head for BTC City! Besides a huge mall (City Park - bit.ly/cityparkljubljana) there are also a number of warehouse-like outlets stores, as well as a water park and entertainment city.



Getting to the City Park

You can get to BTC City by car, taxi (cost around 5 euro) or public bus.
Going by bus:

- When you walk out of the apartment, turn LEFT and walk up along Njegoševa Street for about 150m.
- At the crossroad, turn LEFT again and walk along Masarykova Street for an additional 150 m until you reach the public bus station.
- Take the bus #27 which will take you straight to the BTC City shopping area.

Recommended Day Trips from Ljubljana

Being in the very heart of Slovenia, Ljubljana is in an ideal starting point for day trips to Julian Alps, medieval castles and splendid caves that line the way to the Adriatic Sea. If you're not coming with your car, then it's perhaps best to take a public bus or join an organized day tour. Buses for most of the destinations are leaving every hour from the central bus station located only 10 min walk from the apartment.

All of the trips mentioned in the continuation can be done in half a day or one day, while using Ljubljana as your base. This will save you costs as well as time due to Ljubljana's central position.

Most probably you've already done your research and know exactly where to go. Still, here are a couple of my own recommendations.

NOTE: Watch this video of Rick Steves, 'The Best of Slovenia'. To my experience it's the most informative video online about the possible destinations for your day and half-day trips to Slovenia from Ljubljana.

[WATCH VIDEO: bit.ly/bestofslovenia](https://bit.ly/bestofslovenia)

Lake Bled



The mountain Lake Bled is the most well known Slovenian lake. With its picturesque island, Gothic pilgrimage church, and the Bled Castle, perched on a cliff directly above it's an ideal spot for an easy one-day trip.

There are various ways to take a trip across the lake or to the island. One of them includes a trip with the traditional boat made by locals that is only known at Bled – the Pletna boat. The origins of the Pletna boat go back to 1590, whilst its size allows safe transportation of 20 persons. You can also take a 5 km (3.5 miles) circling hike around the lake and enjoy the mountain fresh air and the lush green forests and views of the snow-peaked Alps. In the summer, there's a great beach under the castle so take your beachwear with you!

How to get there from Ljubljana?

By car: approx. 45 min ride, A2 motorway, exit Bled.

Regular bus: Buses are leaving every hour and the ride takes 1 hour and 20 minutes.

Timetable: bit.ly/busljubljanajana. Choose 'Ljubljana Bus Station' as your departure point.

Organized tours: <https://bit.ly/bled-bohinj-vintgar>

Vintgar Gorge



If you're going to Lake Bled, then visiting the Vintgar gorge is a must. The wooden path will lead you along rushing river Radovna through the picturesque gorge, which measures 1600m and ends with 26-metre waterfall.

How to get there from Ljubljana? By car: When you arrive to Bled (from the direction of motorway 'Ljubljana – Jesenice'), turn right towards Pokljuka at the traffic light. Follow the main road and in Spodnje Gorje village and turn right towards Vintgar. Park on the parking lot in front of a hut where admission fee is charged. More info (Earthtrekkers): <https://bit.ly/vintgargorge>. Organized tours: <https://bit.ly/bled-bohinj-vintgar>.

Bohinj Lake

Lake Bohinj, with steep mountains projecting straight up from the edges, is located in the Triglav National Park, and is even more serene and natural than Lake Bled.

There's a cable car to the top of Mount Vogel from where you'll have a stunning panoramic view of the surrounding Julian Alps and Mount Triglav (2.864 m / 9,400 ft.), the highest peak in Slovenia. It is also a good starting point for hiking trails, including the Bohinj cheese trail, which offers samples of the traditionally made cheese to hikers starting late June. Also, definitely go and visit the 70m Slap Savica (Savica waterfall). Word of caution: there are 400 steps before you come to the waterfall and of course the decrease back. But once you reach the waterfall though, the view is spectacular. If you're visiting the area from late Sept-Oct the flaming red and yellow colors of the surrounding forest offer an incredible background for your photos.



How to get there from Ljubljana?

By car: approx. A2 motorway, exit Bled, drive through Bled, follow directions for Bohinj.

Duration: 1h 15 minutes.

Regular bus from Ljubljana: every day. Duration: 2 hours.

Bus timetable: bit.ly/busljubljana

Organized tours: <https://bit.ly/bled-bohinj-vintgar>.

Postojnska jama (Postojna Caves)

Postojnska jama is the most visited cave in Europe and the only cave with a double-track railway in the world. It conceals one of the largest networks of caves in the world, with 23 km (14 miles) of underground passageways.

Watch this stunning video: bit.ly/postojnac.



A miniature train takes you through the first 7 km (4½ miles), to reveal a succession of well-lighted rock formations. This strange underground world is home of the snakelike "human fish" on view in an aquarium in the Great Hall. Eyeless and colorless because of countless millennia of life in total darkness, these amphibians can live for up to 60 years. Temperatures average 8°C (46°F) year-round, so bring a sweater, even in summer! Tour and opening times & tickets: <https://www.postojnska-jama.eu/en/tickets/>

How to get there from Ljubljana?

Best by car: approx. 45 minutes, take E61 motorway, EXIT Postojna, then follow signs.

By regular bus: leaves every 30-40 minutes. The ride takes about one hour.

Timetable: bit.ly/busljubljana

To book the right bus enter this in the drop down menu a departure from: LJUBLJANA BUS STATION, destination: POSTOJNA CAVE.

Organized tour: <https://bit.ly/postojna-cave>. Half day tour: <https://bit.ly/postojna-half>

Škocjanske jame (Škocjan Caves)



Because of their unique natural features and cultural heritage they have been on the UNESCO world heritage list since 1986, and in 1999 were put on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance as the world's largest underground wetlands.

Time table and prices: <http://bit.ly/skocjancaves>

How to get there from Ljubljana?

Best by car: A1 motorway, follow the signs for Koper, exit Divača, direction Škocjan.

More information:

T: +386 (0)5 7082 110

Piran (Pirano)



Piran (Pirano in Italian) is a picturesque medieval Venetian town at the tip of a narrow peninsula jutting into the Adriatic centered around the lovely Tartini Square and overlooked by an imposing and beautiful hilltop cathedral. Have a swim in the Adriatic Sea, then stroll along the charming medieval streets and finish off with a romantic lunch or dinner at one of the many restaurants at the seafront.

A few kilometers from Piran in one direction is Izola, which is another charming seaside town. A few kilometers in the other direction (towards Croatia) is Portorož, a cheerful town with all the trappings of a seaside resort.

How to get there from Ljubljana?

By car: approx. 90 minutes, A1 motorway, direction Koper, then follow the signs for Piran.

Regular bus: Buses leave four times a day and the ride takes approx. 2,5-3 hours.

Timetable: bit.ly/busljubljana

Organized tours: <https://bit.ly/lipica-piran>

TIP: if you plan to go to the Slovenian sea coast by car in July or August, start early (between 7.00 and 8.00) so you don't get stuck in heavy traffic. Avoid Fridays. That's because this is when many locals travel towards the sea coast to spend a weekend in the sun.

Soča Valley



In one of the most beautiful and unspoiled valleys in Europe, the Soča (pronounced So-cha) river springs from limestone mountains in the northwestern part of the Julian

Alps. Apart from its setting, what makes this river so amazing and memorable is its vivid emerald green color and gin clear water.

On the way there, you must visit Slap Kozjak (Kozjak Waterfall). Also, make sure you visit Kobarid and its famous WW1 Museum about one of the bloodiest fronts in existence of the mankind.

There are also many adrenaline driven (but safe) activities available such as rafting, zip lining, canyoning, kayaking, paragliding as well as cable car to the Mount Kanin overlooking the Alps. If you're eager to try out any of those activities, best to book here: <https://www.socrafting.si/eng/>.

How to get to Soča Valley?

By car: in the summer, forget the route that navigation usually recommends. Instead, follow this one.

Take A2 motorway and follow signs for Kranjska Gora. Then, take the road to Vršič pass, which is at 1.600 m above sea level. Stop there, enjoy the look and the fresh alpine air of the Julian Alps. Slowly decent into the Soča Valley, visit the Soča river springs, the Kozjak waterfall, town of Bovec (book some activity at least 2 days before), have lunch in Kobarid / Casa Franko. Follow signs for Nova Gorica (Gorizia in Italian) and head back to the A1 motorway towards Ljubljana. In winter (and generally in bad weather), take the highway towards Italy and visit Postojna Caves along the way.

TIP: Near Kobarid, there's **a restaurant called Hisa Franko**, home to Ms. Ana Rok, a holder of the prestigious award The World's Best Female Chef 2017, also featured in the [Chef's Table](#) on Netflix. **Book well in advance!** Be ware though, the prices for this culinary experience are on the higher side.



More information about Hisa Franko:

W: <https://www.hisafranko.com/en/>

Regular buses Ljubljana-Bovec: daily, at 11 AM and 5:50 PM. Duration of the trip is 4 hours. Timetable: bit.ly/busljubljana. See also my tip below.

TIP: If you only want to take a day trip and you don't intend to stay over night, I don't recommend taking the public bus. That's because it will take you 4 hours each way and you'll spend most of the day in the bus. In my opinion, best options is to go with your own car or hire one at <https://bit.ly/sixt-train-station>.

Sečovelje Saltworks

"Salt is the sea that could not return to the sky."



The Sečovelje saltworks are one of the very few in the world where the salt is still produced manually. More than 700 years old the saltworks have been protected as a nature park since 2001 and are listed by UNESCO as a marshland of international importance.

Dry salt is raked with wooden scrapers into heaps on slopes and then transported with little wagons to the storage. It's a tedious process but the salt is a true delicacy and well known to gourmets. You can enjoy guided tours around this beautiful park and learn more about the traditional way of salt producing as well as the local flora and fauna.

How to get to the Sečovelje saltworks? Best by car. Take A1 motorway via Koper / Izola (Isola). Continue direction Seča. If you have a navigation system in your car, enter address Seča 115, Portorož-Portorose. Alternatively, take a bus from Ljubljana to Portorož. Timetable: bit.ly/busljubljana, ride duration 3 hours.

TIP1: Beautiful bike trail from the saltworks to Piran and back Rent bikes in Portoroz (<http://bit.ly/rent-a-bike-portoroz>). Ask the agency to direct you to the start of the

'Parenzana bike trail' near the Portoroz Airport. Then, enjoy a truly wonderful ride from the Sečovlje saltworks, all along the Slovenian coast up to Piran and back. Have a lunch in Piran! It takes around 1 hour of biking each way. Here are some recommendations for lunch that my wife and I like.

Stara Gostilna

Savudrijska ulica 2, Piran

<https://stara-gostilna.com/wp/>

Google Maps: <https://bit.ly/staragostilna>

Neptun

Župančičeva 7, Piran

<https://bit.ly/neptunpiran>

Google Maps: <https://bit.ly/neptunlocation>

Venice



Did you know that Ljubljana is only two hours drive by car far from Venice? Did you know there are day trips to Venice available? Read more below.

Use Ljubljana as your starting point to experience the beauty and glory of Venice for yourself on a day trip from Ljubljana.
How to get to Venice from Ljubljana?

By Car: Take A1 (E70) motorway towards Koper, EXIT Trst/Trieste (you will see this from your car: bit.ly/exittrieste) and drive straight on until you reach the Slovenian-Italian border. Right after you've crossed the border take the motorway to Venezia and drive straight on for about 100 km (1 hour).

Fun Facts About Slovenia

Did you know, that...

- Slovenia is the only chicken-shaped country in the world.
- In Slovenia, there's a vineyard or winery on every 70 people.
- Nearly 2 million of Slovenes speak in 32 regional dialects.
- The Slovenian capital, Ljubljana, translates as "The Loved One".
- The official symbol of Ljubljana is the dragon which was said to have been slayed by Jason (of Jason and the Argonauts).
- The only Slovenian island is located right in the middle of Lake Bled. It hosts a church and if couples can marry there, the groom must carry the bride up [99 steps \(bit.ly/99steps\)](https://bit.ly/99steps).
- Slovenians love mountains. The first married couple to summit Everest was from Slovenia. Also, the Slovene Davor Karničar became the first person in the world to carry out the complete ski descent from the seven highest mountains in the world. On October 7, 2000 he was the first person ever to out a complete descent of Mount Everest just on a pair of skis - without ropes or rappels (bit.ly/7summitsdavo).
- The Slovene ultra-marathon swimmer Martin Strel was the first man to successfully [swim the Amazon and the Mississippi river \(https://bit.ly/borisstrel\)](https://bit.ly/borisstrel).
- [The oldest grape vine in the world \(bit.ly/oldestvine\)](https://bit.ly/oldestvine), whose age is estimated to be over 400 years, grows in Maribor. It still bears between 35 and 55 kilos of red grapes annually, from which wine is produced. The vine is also registered in the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest vine in the world.
- The world's largest ski jump is located in Planica, Slovenia (bit.ly/planicaskijump). It has been the site of 60 world record jumps.
- Laibach made news last year by being the first Western band to play a concert in North Korea to mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Korean peninsula from Japanese control. Here's the video from the concert in Pyongyang: <https://bit.ly/Laibachnorthkorea>.
- Forests cover half of Slovenia's total surface.

- The world-famous [Lipica](http://www.lipica.org/en/) stud farm (www.lipica.org/en/) is recognized as the oldest European stud farm continuously breeding one of the oldest cultural horse breeds-the famous Lipizzaner horses. It's in operation since it's founding in 1580. The Lipizzaner horses are known as a worldwide tourist attraction due to their beautiful white color, their almost incredible learning ability and their dancing skill!
- Slovenia has many quirky food festivals like Salt Makers Festival, Cabbage Festival, Chestnut Sunday and the Bean day to name just a few.
- Slovenia has more than 700 castles, one on every 3.000 people.
- "Na Golici" (in German: Trompeten-Echo, <https://bit.ly/nagoliciavsenik>) is the most played instrumental tune in the world. It was composed by Slavko Avsenik and performed by his Avsenik Brothers Ensemble. They are the most successful Slovenian musical band ever. They sold over 31 million albums worldwide.
- Perpetuum Jazzile is a Slovenian a capella musical group of 54 singers, best known for a 2009 cover of [Toto's "Africa" performance](#) video that has received more than 23 million YouTube views. Remember, it's just people's voices that recreated this great song! No instruments whatsoever! More info: www.perpetuumjazzile.si/en/.
- About 27.000 dancers simultaneously danced the Quadrille Dance as part of the annual Secondary School Graduates' Parade on 16 May 2008. The event entered the six editions of the Guinness Book of Records as a world record breaking synchronous dance. <https://bit.ly/quadrilledance>
- Jurij Vega, the famous Slovenian mathematician and physicist, set a world record for calculating pi to more than a hundred places in 1789. Today there is a crater on the moon – the Vega Crater – that is named after him. And not only that, he also has an asteroid named after him, which was discovered in 1997.
- Herbert von Karajan is widely considered one of the greatest conductors who ever lived. He led the Berlin Philharmonic for 35 years and his performances have sold more than 200 million albums. But few people know that the famous conductor had roots in Slovenia. His maternal grandfather was born in Mojstrana, a small village near the Julian Alps. By coincidence, the composer Hugo Wolf can also trace his mother's family back to the small town of Mojstrana. But unlike Wolf, von Karajan was born in Salzburg, Austria.
- Slovenia was the first country in Central Europe to elect a black mayor. Peter Bossman, from Ghana, was elected mayor of Piran in November 2010. He first came to Slovenia as a medical student in the 1970s but said he fell in love with the country that was "clean and green". After finishing his studies, he settled in Piran as a doctor, before moving into politics.

- Slovenian anthem – Zdravljica – is unusual, because instead of glorifying one single country as most of the anthems do it appeals to the unity of different nations. Suits perfectly to the era of globalization, although it was written in 1844. Listen to Slovenian anthem here (with English lyrics) bit.ly/sloveniananthem.
- The Slovenian language is the only EU official language, which has the Dual. It can be of course sweet and romantic when you say “midva” and everyone understands that you mean just your wife/girlfriend & yourself. At the same time, for foreigners it's one more source of sorrow while they're fighting with Slovenian grammar.