



SLOVENIA: HEAR THE AIR IN YOUR HAIR

GENERAL TOUR

10 DAYS

Slovenia is officially one of the greenest countries on the planet, leading the way in terms of sustainable tourism and the protection of cultural and natural heritage. This is also a country that embraces adventure and discovery in the natural world – from the mighty Julian Alps to the sparkling Mediterranean coastline.

And once you're done with riding and exploring you can indulge in our nutrient-rich waters and healing thermal spas, a tradition that dates back centuries. Slovenia is a country that prioritizes authentic travel experiences – come explore Europe's best-kept secret for yourself!

The tour is of a little bit of everything and is perfect for riders who are new to Slovenia and would like to discover the best that our country has to offer.

TOUR MAP





TOUR AT A GLANCE

TOUR DATE: On request

START: Rimske Toplice, Slovenia

FINISH: Ljubljana, Slovenia

FLY IN / FLY OUT: Ljubljana Airport (LJU)

COUNTRIES: 1 – Slovenia

DURATION: 10 days, 9 nights, 7 riding days

ROUTE: TOTAL DISTANCE: 1255 km – the entire route runs on excellent asphalt roads.

HIGHLIGHTS: Rimske Terme spa, Sevnica, Bizeljsko, Olimije, Rogaška Slatina, Ptuj, Jeruzalem, Murska Sobota, Maribor, Mežica, Logar Valley, Rinka fall, Lake Bled, Kranjska Gora, Vršič Mountain Pass, River Soča, Kobarid, Goriška Brda, Lipica Stud Farm, Škocjan Caves, Piran, Sečovlje Salt Pans, Predjama Castle, Kočevsko, Otočec, Bela Krajina, Ljubljana

AVERAGE MILEAGE/DAY: 150 – 200 km / 93 – 124 mi

ACCOMMODATION: 4* and 5*, best in the area

TOUR PROGRAM

Tour day by day	Distance
1 Arrival Rimske Toplice	
2 Rimske Toplice – Sevnica – Olimije – Rogaška Slatina – Ptuj – Jeruzalem	195 km
3 Jeruzalem – Murska Sobota – Maribor – Mežica	210 km
4 Logar Valley – Vransko – Bled	150 km
5 Bled – Kranjska Gora – Kobarid – Šmartno	160 km
6 Šmartno – Lipica – Piran	150 km
7 Piran – Loški Potok – Kočevska reka – Otočec	250 km
8 Otočec – Bela Krajina – Ljubljana	140 km
9 Ljubljana	
10 Ljubljana Departure	



TOUR DAY BY DAY

DAY 1: ARRIVAL RIMSKE TOPLICE

Slovenia is a land of healing waters. Its thermal and mineral springs are a source of health and well-being and for this reason we decided to start our tour in **Rimske Toplice**, in the Eastern part of Slovenia, which is well-known for exclusive thermal resorts. After a long flight you will have some time off to enjoy and relax in the beautiful spa resort **Rimske Terme**, the **oldest Slovenian thermal bathing area**.

The resort is located in an unspoiled green environment, right where Romans built hot and cold-water pools back in 39 A.D.! From that time on, people from all over the world kept coming in the area to enjoy the beneficial properties of its healing water. For a long time, the spa was only available to members of the upper class and to high military officers, only in the past few years the spa has become available to anyone who wishes to experience its healing effects.

An indoor and outdoor swimming pool with thermal water designed along the lines of the Roman baths, hot tubs and saunas will help you restore your energy and start this epic tour.

DAY 2: RIMSKE TOPLICE – SEVNICA – BIZELJSKO – ROGAŠKA SLATINA – PTUJ – JERUZALEM - KOG

After a healthy reinvigorating breakfast, we will start riding in direction of **Sevnica**, the **hometown** of **eClutch Tours** founder Rožle Verhovc and yeah, also Melania Trump, the **First Lady of the United States of America**. Sevnica, a town dominated by a medieval castle from the 12th Century and surrounded by forest-covered area and vineyards, is a combination of rich history, picturesque nature and modern feel. There we will have a first taste of delicious homemade delicacies, such as local salami.

We will then stop in the village **Bizeljsko** and visit a largely unknown peculiarity of this part of Slovenia. The **repnica Najger**, which is a man-made cave dug in silica sand and used in the past to store turnips, which were the main feed for livestock. When locals abandoned this type of storage around 1990, the winegrowers converted the caves into wine storages and wine tasting areas, because of the ideal temperature between 5-10°C and humidity up to 96%. Today around a dozen or so of these wine cellars are open for visitors.

The road will then lead us to **Jelenov Greben**, near **Olimije**, a **homestead farm** where deer, mouflons and fallows roam freely among the visitors. We will stop for lunch and try local cuisine from the Obsoteljsko-Kozjansko region, deer and mushroom specialties from this region.

After lunch we are heading North, towards **Rogaška Slatina**, the **oldest thermal health resort in Slovenia** with a 400-year tradition and incredible parks. This is also the source of the **Donat Mg** mineral water, the most magnesium-rich water in the world! Prepare your glass, we will try it directly from one of the sources. Stimulated, regenerated,



cleansed and rejuvenated we will ride on, towards **Ptuj**, the **oldest town in Slovenia** and enjoy the most beautiful view of the old town from the bridge over the river Drava. Besides being Slovenia's oldest town, Ptuj is also known for one of the **most colorful carnivals** in the world and the typical **Kurenti** masks are on the UNESCO list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

We will hop on our motorcycles and ride straight towards **Jeruzalem** where views over **mighty vineyards** will leave us breathless. Yes, in Slovenia we have Jeruzalem. According to a legend, the name was given to the place by famous crusaders who stopped here in 12th Century on their way to the Holy Land, because they found the region heavenly beautiful. After a short ride we will reach the final destination for today, the **Tourist Farm Hlebec**, which was recognized by Clutch experts as an extraordinary **must-visit location** and where friendly owners open their house and their heart to their guests.

DAY 3: VERŽEJ – EXPANO – MARIBOR – MEŽICA

After a delicious homemade breakfast, we will start riding towards **Veržej**, a small village located in the most Eastern part of Slovenia, a region called **Prekmurje**. There we will stop at the **Babičev mlin**, the only Pannonian **floating mill** left on the river Mura (in the 19th Century there were 69 of them). The mill is a unique monument of Slovenian cultural heritage of inestimable value. We will continue our journey to **Expano**, which is an exhibition pavilion where we will get to experience the region Prekmurje. We will now head back South and after a drive through the local roads of the Pannonian plain, we will reach **Maribor, Slovenian second largest city**. Did you know that here you can find the **World's oldest vine**? The vine has been growing its roots for over 400 years!

After the visit of Maribor, we will be on our way to a special adventure. We will reach **Mežica** and venture towards the now closed, zinc and lead mine, **one of the oldest mines in Europe** (dating all the way back to 1665). We will hop on mountain bikes and discover a path through the abandoned and mysterious mining tunnels under Mount Peca.

After this exciting experience it will be time to end the day in **Hiša Raduha** where you will spend a memorable night embraced by nature. Although the estate might look at first sight as completely ordinary, you will soon discover an **astounding ambient** waiting to be discovered. Hiša Raduha estate is a true oasis in the nature.

DAY 4: LOGAR VALLEY – VRANSKO – BLED

After a good sleep immerse in the quite nature, it will be time to head up North and explore the **Logar Valley**, a peaceful retreat deep within the heart of the **Kamnik - Savinja Alps**, surrounded by mountains over 2000m high. Meadows, forests and the magnificent roaring of the Rinka Fall will leave you speechless.

Next on the list is **The Grom Motorcycle Museum** in **Vransko**, with one of the world's largest and most diverse collections of old motorcycles. After learning about the history of motorcycles, we will be heading to the **AMZS (Auto-moto Association of Slovenia)**



Safe Driving Centre, Slovenia's most modern, purpose-built facility for carrying out safe driving exercises.

Scenic local roads will lead us towards the Alpine region of **Gorenjska**. Eager to try a traditional Slovenian lunch, we will stop at **Dvor Jezeršek**, a more than 240 years old estate in an idyllic location where tradition and modernity go hand in hand. The place is family run for over 30 years and the chef is Luka Jezeršek, Chef Master and judge in the show **MasterChef Slovenia**.

Passing villages with charming rustic architecture we will reach **Lake Bled** and at this point you will fully understand why it is known as "**the pearl of Slovenia**". Bled is one of the most recognisable iconic places in Slovenia, impressing visitors with its natural beauty. In the 19th Century the Swiss hydropathist, Arnold Rikli, discovered that the gentle climate, the lake and thermal waters are a source of good health and well-being. The town, already famous as the most beautiful health spa of the then Austrian empire, attracted the European aristocratic elite. After WWII, one of the most attractive state residences of the former regime (Vila Bled) was located in Bled. Many of the world's most important people thus enjoyed the beauties of Bled. And now the new age pilgrims have been discovering this town again.

Firstly, we will visit the mighty medieval **Bled Castle**, which dates back to 1004, there we will try the typical dessert, the delicious **Bled Cream Cake**, while enjoying the most beautiful view over lake Bled, its island, and the surrounding peaks. We will then take the typical wooden boat called "pletna", that will take us to **the island, the only one in Slovenia**. Once the island was the secret place of Slavic people to worship Živa, the goddess of love and fertility, and later the pilgrims established on the same place a roman catholic church dedicated to St. Mary.

Full of impressions, we will have dinner in **Vila Podvin**, part of the Podvin **estate from the 14th century**. Vila Podvin was altered from a horse stable into a restaurant. Today it is member of the prestigious **JRE group** (Association Jeunes Restaurateurs) and it is run by one of Slovenia's best chefs, Uroš Štefelin. You will get the chance to try traditional dishes transformed into culinary delights with modern techniques and creativity.

DAY 5: KRANJSKA GORA - VRŠIČ – SOČA VALLEY – KOBARID – GORIŠKA BRDA

From Bled we will ride to **Kranjska Gora**, an attractive mountain village and one of the best Slovenian ski resorts nestled in the Julian Alps. We will pass by **lake Jasna**, where you will be greeted by reflections of mountains in the crystal-clear lake water. The lake is situated just before the first road bends leading up to the **Pass Vršič**, with its 1611m, the highest mountain pass in Slovenia. Enjoy a thrilling riding experience with 50 exciting hairpins! Descending, we will reach the **Soča Valley**, which gets its name from the **river Soča**, which has a distinct emerald green color and is considered to be one of the most beautiful rivers in Europe. Here an adrenaline-charged adventure awaits you. **Rafting** in the Soča Valley is one of those active trips that simply must be ticked off your adventure list. Feel the adrenaline in exciting, but safe descents on rafts!

The mountainous landscape above the River Soča was also the scene of the largest mountain battle in history during World War I and after fun time, we will visit the multiple



award-winning museum, the **Museum of World War I** in **Kobarid**, where the story of WWI is best shown. Kobarid is also special due to an incredible number of world-class restaurants in such a small area, so after learning about history, we will take some time off and enjoy our lunch in **Hiša Polonka**, the perfect place to try typical dishes of the local tradition. You will have the chance to try dishes from the past that are now disappearing from daily life menus.

After lunch it will be time to start our journey South. Twisty roads will take us to **Goriška Brda**, a sun kissed region between the Alps and the Mediterranean. The hilly Brda landscape is speckled with villages, surrounded by the **greenery of vineyards** and orchards with roads, track and paths winding among them, a true feast for the eyes.

We will reach our stay for the tonight, the **Guesthouse Kabaj Morel**. The Kabaj winery was four times selected among **top 100 wineries in the world** by the elite American Magazine, Wine & Spirits. The specialty of the estate is wine made in Qvevri (large earthenware vessels used for the fermentation). Finally, it will be time to kick back and relax with a glass of lovely wine and get ready for a culinary extravaganza.

Day 6: KOBJEGLAVA – LIPICA – ŠKOCJAN CAVES – PIRAN

Leaving the fairytalelike villages behind, we will be able to observe the change in the landscape, as we will reach the Karst region. **The Karst** is a unique world - it is where water and soluble rocks make contact. This has seen the emergence of a magic world filled with underground caves, disappearing rivers and other karst phenomena. It's also a top culinary region, where prosciutto drying craft has been formed through many generations. Our first stop will be a boutique **family-owned prosciutto drying facility** in a town called **Kobjeglava**, where you will experience the story of tradition, learn about the seasoning and production of prosciutto and most important, also taste some of their best samples.

The scenic roads will lead us to **Lipica Stud Farm**, the home of the noble white **Lipizzaner horses**. Their original stud farm was established in the far 1580 and it is operating uninterrupted since then, for more than 400 years. It's the **oldest European stud farm** that has been breeding the same horses without interruption and will surely impresses you with its inhabitants and its stunning surprising landscape.

Our next Karst destination will be **Škocjan caves**, a unique natural phenomenon, listed as **UNESCO** site since 1986. We will venture on an unforgettable underground experience in the magnificent caves.

Hearing the air in our hair, we will ride South, towards the **Adriatic Sea** to another extraordinary experience. While sailing towards the unique "garden" in the middle of the sea, we will learn about a passionate and delicious story of **Fonda fish farm**, located in the protected area of the **Sečovelje Salt Pans Landscape Park**. Will you be brave enough to take a bite of a raw Fonda sea bass?

The day will end with a tour of the **most beautiful town of the Slovenian coast, Piran**. Narrow streets, old port, medieval walls, Venetian architecture and photogenic spots will definitely leave a great impression!



DAY 7: PREDJAMA CASTLE – KOČEVSKO – OTOČEC CASTLE

After enjoying the breathtaking morning sea breeze, we will start riding again towards the inland. Soon we will stop at **Predjama castle**, the **largest cave castle in the world**. The 800 years old medieval mysterious marvel has been perched in the middle of a 123m high cliff and when you will see it, you will have trouble believing your eyes.

The surprises on this tour are not over yet. We will reach the **Kočevsko** area, the mysterious woodland dominion of the brown bear. Together with the Krokar primeval forest, which is inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List, this region is known for a truly **mystical forest landscape**. Stopping at **Loški potok**, certainly one of those places where we can still feel the nature in its primordial form, we will meet the most majestic inhabitant of the forest, the brown bear. An experienced guide will explain us how and where they **observe bears**. Meeting a wild animal in its natural habitat would definitely be an **unforgettable experience!**

After this extraordinary presentation we will continue our adventure in the green forests of Kočevsko. We will be escorted through the part of the forest, which is still today a military area, to **Bunker Škrilj**, built during the Cold War and remained a **well-kept secret**, as the public didn't know about its existence until recently.

The exciting day will end in a more relax and luxurious way. You will feel like a king, as our next destination for the night will be **Otočec castle**. A gothic water castle built in the middle of shallow running waters of Krka river. In the heart of unspoilt scenery, the castle, which now operates as a **hotel**, offers luxurious rooms for the most discerning tastes.

DAY 8: BELA KRAJINA – LJUBLJANA

The tour is coming to an end but we still have time to explore another off the beaten tourist paths area of Slovenia. **Bela Krajina** is situated at the far Southeastern part of the country and it's a quiet and amazing **pristine area**, where you can still feel and observe the traditional way of life of the locals. The varied and unspoiled natural and cultural heritage of this region, will surprise you. The region is known for its linen embroidered with traditional motifs and Easter eggs – "pisanice" painted in a traditional way and "drsanke" - decorated using a special technique. You will have the change to have a go at traditional crafts.

We will leave behind the Southeast and ride towards the geographical center of Slovenia, the **capital city** of **Ljubljana**.

DAY 9: LJUBLJANA

The tour of Slovenia would not be complete, if we wouldn't explore the vibrant **Ljubljana**, the green capital of Europe 2016. The town by the river with picturesque bridges and a



lively marketplace is surrounded by parks and natural protected areas. A romantic walk around the fascinating streets will take you to another time.

Ljubljana is the **largest and most populous city of Slovenia**. This is where virtually everything of national importance begins, ends or is taking place. Slovenians like to say it is sufficiently large to contain everything that a capital should have, and small enough to preserve the individuality of its inhabitants. It is a city with a soul, featured by the Baroque Old Town which is nestled at the foot of Castle Hill, The Art Nouveau mansions as well as some of the masterpieces of the world-renowned architect Jože Plečnik.