



Slovenian Alpine Museum, Mojstrana



Prešeren's birthplace, Vrba



Kobarid Museum



Bled Castle



The Liznjek House, Kranjska Gora



Oplen House Museum, Bohinj



Dobrovo Castle, Brda



Church of the Holy Spirit, Javorca



Gingerbread Museum, Radovljica

HISTORY, CULTURE, FOLK TRADITIONS

Where are we from, who are we and where are we bound? Cultural events enrich the visitor in a unique way. They affect the soul in a different way from beautiful countryside, a good day out, a bold adventure.

You have to know the history of your country in order to be successful in the future. At every step we encounter cultural heritage created over centuries. So stop and marvel. The cultural landscape has marked the character of the population.

The Julian Alps are a natural and cultural monument. The area's most famous jewels are Bled Castle on its cliff above the lake, the medieval town centre of Radovljica with its imposing baroque mansion, Kamen Castle in Begunje, the mighty fortress of Kluže above the wild gorge of the Koritnica, Kobarid Museum with its account of the bloody Soča (Isonzo) Front and Tolmin Museum, the archaeological centre of western Slovenia.

Other attractions include Dobrovo, a Renaissance castle, and the Klet Brda winery, incorporating a viticulture and winemaking museum. The information centres of the Triglav National Park – Triglav Rose in Bled, Dom Trenta and the TNP Centre Bohinj – are well worth a visit.

Past and present meet in the Slovenian Alpine Museum in Mojstrana. A rich collection of museum pieces with a varied and colourful history, a great diversity of photographic and archive material and an extensive specialist library offer the visitor an insight into the scale and

importance of mountaineering activities in Slovenia.

There are many famous churches, among them the basilica dedicated to Mary, Help of Christians in Brezje, the church of St John the Baptist by Lake Bohinj, the church of the Assumption on Bled Island, the church of the Holy Spirit on Javorca, a hill overlooking the valley of the Tolminka, and the Russian chapel below Vršič pass. The Liznjek farmhouse in Kranjska Gora, Pocar Farm in Zgornja Radovna, the Kajžnk House in Rateče, the Brda House in Šmartno, Museum of Apiculture in Radovljica, the Iron Forging Museum in Kropa, the Alpine dairy farming museum and the Oplen House in Bohinj, the Alpine pastures high in the mountains, the Bovec house, the architecture of Breginj or the famous Studor hayracks are wonderful examples of folk know-how and tradition.



Bled Night event



International Wildflower Festival in Bohinj



Slavko Avsenik



Cow Ball, Bohinj



Traditional gathering at the Russian chapel Vršič



Chocolate Festival, Radovljica



Cherry Festival in Brda



8 February - Hike along the Žirovnica cultural heritage trail



Daffodil Festival, Jesenice

TRADITIONAL EVENTS

Events both big and small bring together local cuisine, crafts, music and of course the local people.

There are many traditional events that recall daily life in the Alpine region in days gone by, such as the Cow Ball and the Village Serenade, Village Day in Rateče, the Country Wedding in Bohinj, the medieval market in Radovljica, St George's Fair in Gorje and the Daffodil Festival in Jesenice. Memories are also

evoked by the traditional gathering at the Russian chapel below Vršič pass. The chapel was built in 1916 in memory of Russian prisoners of war. Each of the lakes – Lake Bled, Lake Bohinj and the reservoir at Most na Soči – has its own glittering summer night full of entertainment, lights and fireworks. Reflecting the development of sustainable tourism in Bohinj are the International Wildflower Festival. The Festival of Hiking and Fishing reflects the ideal conditions for these activities in the area. The Soča Valley also hosts an annual Hiking Festival in the autumn. In spring you can take part in the Hiking Festival in Brda, enjoy sweet cherries at the Cherry Festival or sample the young wines at one of the many St Martin's Day celebrations. A special place of honour in the Alpine scene belongs to popular folk music, with the famous ensemble of the Avsenik brothers at the forefront. There are also many other musical events: the Radovljica Festival, the Bled Festival, the Okarina world music festival, Potato Night in Bovec, MetalDays and other music

festivals at the confluence of the Soča and the Tolminka, the Bohinj Summer Music Festival, open-air concerts in Radovljica, the November Hit Parade in Bled (Oberkrainerfest), and outdoor parties during the FIS World Cup events in Kranjska Gora and Planica. This area is known for hosting several culinary festivals. Kobarid holds Jestival, the festival of traditional local dessert "kobariški štrukelj"; Frika Fest, the festival of Tolmin farms and frika dish, takes place in Tolmin, and the only chocolate festival in Slovenia is the Radovljica Chocolate Festival. Towns and villages come alive in winter with Christmas and New Year markets. Notable events include: Winter Fairy Tale in Bled with the Legend of the Sunken Bell, Fire Spectacle with the March of the Devils from Three Countries in Podkoren, Live Nativity Scene in the Ice Kingdom in Mojstrana. All of the above is simply a taste of the hundreds of events you can find on the calendar of every tourist information centre in the area.





Ski touring



Bled



Kanin



Ski school



Snow Park, Vogel

WINTER

We are a nation with a long skiing tradition.
 Skis even stand by our cradles.
 And we do not only use them to rush down hills.
 We also rejoice and fly. And get together. Get to know each other.
 Many people who meet on skis stay together all their lives.



Snowshoeing



Kranjska Gora



Winter hiking



Night tobogganing on the Mangart road



Cross-country skiing



Snow beach, Kranjska Gora



Skating



Elan Alpine Ski Museum, Begunje

Kranjska Gora, a World Cup venue, is Slovenia's best known resort for Alpine skiing and ski jumping (Planica). Bohinj has the Vogel and Senožeta ski centres (the former is the only ski centre in the Triglav National Park), with Soriška Planina not far away. Bovec offers skiing on Kanin, Slovenia's highest ski resort, which is connected to the Italian resort of Sella Nevea across the border. Bled has the small Straža ski area with a view

over Lake Bled. The adrenaline-hungry are well provided for in Kranjska Gora, where the Snow Park is a real challenge for snowboarders and skiers. It is the only snow park in Slovenia that is floodlit at night.

The best-known centre for cross-country skiing is Pokljuka, accessible from both Bled and Bohinj, while a trek on skis below the mighty rock faces into the Tamar Valley is a marvellous experience.

In Kranjska Gora (Tromeja) and Bovec (Mangart), tobogganing on snowy roads is becoming increasingly popular. The biggest adventure of all is ski touring high in the mountains – for safety reasons a mountain guide must always be present.



Enjoy in the views from the peaks of the Julians Alps stretching over three countries!



Kanin/Sella Nevea

JULIAN ALPS INTERNATIONAL SKI PASS

Skiing and winter fun with unbelievable views.

Ski in three countries, at fourteen ski resorts with more than 2600 km of regulated ski runs with only one JULIAN ALPS INTERNATIONAL SKI PASS.

Experience unforgettable skiing with a view of the **Adriatic Sea** and the highest peaks of the **Julian Alps**. Hidden gem ski resorts of the Julian Alps are ideal for those looking to escape the crowds and seeking a unique ski life. The resorts are suitable for beginners and experienced skiers.

Ski runs are often relatively quiet and provide more space for skiing, lift queues are shorter than in other more popular resorts.



View from Kanin of the Adriatic Sea



Kranjska Gora



Krvavec



Pokljuka



Relaxed time with friends



Cerkno



Bled – the ideal place for exploring the Julian Alps

- Discover ski resorts in three countries: **SLOVENIA, ITALY and AUSTRIA**
- **More than 260 km of ski runs**
- **At an altitude from 550 to 2294 metres**

Characterised by short airport transfers and short travel distances between resorts which enable you to explore more in less time!

The ski pass can be used at the following resorts:

- **Slovenia:** Kranjska Gora, Krvavec, Cerkno, Kanin/Sella Nevea, Soriška Planina
- **Italy:** Trbiž, Sella Nevea/Kanin, Zoncolan, Piancavallo, Forni di Sopra, Sauris
- **Austria:** 3Laendereck, Innerkrems, Goldeck

Book your holidays in pearl destinations of the Slovenian Julian Alps: Kranjska Gora, Bled, Bohinj, Soča Valley/Kanin, Jesenice, Žirovnica, Radovljica, Gorje and Brda.

Special offers can be found on: www.skijulianalps.com



Museum train on the Bohinj line

SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

The Julian Alps are becoming increasingly accessible by public transport. The public bus network is complemented in the summer months by special bus services to the area's main attractions. A train ride along the Bohinj line between Jesenice and Nova Gorica is a very special experience. Boat trips are available on Lake Bled and Lake Bohinj and on the reservoir at Most na Soči. Bicycles (and electric bicycles) may be hired in numerous locations.

THE HERITAGE TRAIN ON THE BOHINJ LINE

An unforgettable journey aboard a romantic steam train. Views of Lake Bled, the Alpine peaks above Bohinj and the emerald-green Soča.

CAR SHUTTLE TRAIN

The car shuttle train (Avtovlak) between Bohinjska Bistrica, Podbrdo and Most na Soči is the most comfortable way to get from the Gorenjska side (Bohinj) of the Julian Alps to the Primorska side (Tolmin), making it much easier to see the sights on both sides. Motorbikes, cars and campers are carried. We also recommend the service to cyclists since it saves them the difficult (though beautiful) climb over Soriška Planina (1,277 metres).

HOP-ON, HOP-OFF

In the summer months, the tourist shuttle bus connects Bled, Bohinj, Pokljuka, Radovljica, Begunje, Kropa, the villages in Brda region, as well as the outlying villages to the town of Kobarid. During the tourist season, Tolmin Gorges and Javorca Memorial Church, the two biggest attractions in the area of Tolmin, are reachable with public transport.



Boat trip by electric boat on Lake Bohinj



Car shuttle train



Hop-on, hop-off bus



Slot machines



Roulette

GAMES OF CHANCE

They say there's no such thing as chance. And it is no mere chance that the natural environment of the Julian Alps also offers opportunities for experiences of different types. In the contrasts offered by games of chance, you can find new forms of relaxation and amusement that will fill a rainy day or liven up evenings and nights.

Try your luck in popular entertainment centres, where as well as playing the slot machines and taking a seat at the gaming tables, you can eat and drink well, enjoy a dance spectacular or even take to the dance floor yourself. There are several places in Kranjska Gora itself where you can try your luck (at the Korona Casino & Hotel and the Larix Casino), or you can head to Bled or

Lesce in your hunt for fortune. If you're in the Soča valley, you can try your luck at Aurora Casino and Cabaret in Staro Selo near Kobarid. Visit the Venko Gaming Salon in Brda and try your luck with the slot machines or electronic roulette in a relaxed and hospitable atmosphere.



Bled



Alpine farmhouse, Zadnja Trenta



Glamping, Camping Bled

ACCOMMODATION

In the beginning was hospitality and every guest was welcome. Diligence and industry have built on this tradition, with the result that the visitor can feel perfectly at home – safe, comfortable and relaxed. But still in touch with the whole world.

Visitors to the Julian Alps can relax in a variety of different accommodation. Lovers of the great outdoors can choose camping or immerse themselves in rural life on a farm holiday. Other options include private rooms, apartments and guest houses and a wide range of hotels of different sizes.



Lake Bled

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Lake Bled with its little island, the castle and the town itself are a fairy-tale vision that never gets old. Full of generosity, sweetness and the beauty of nature.

You can swim, skate and row, or ring the bell in the little church on the island. You can enjoy the numerous events that take place in Bled, and walk or run around the lake. Bled's natural wonders have been given added lustre by the visits of crowned heads and great artists and the eminent physicians who founded the popular spa on the lake shore, not to mention the many young couples who have exchanged their vows here. Bled has been a member of the Alpine Pearls Association since 2008. Thanks to its location Bled is an excellent base for hiking expeditions (Vintgar Gorge, Pokljuka Hole, Cave below Babji Zob). It is also known around the world as a centre of business tourism.

CAPACITIES

The beginnings of tourism in Bled date back to 1855 when the Swiss hydrotherapist Arnold Rikli was one of the first people to recognise the value and benefits of Bled's climate and situation. Today guests can stay in hotels with three, four or five stars or in a range of guest houses, youth hostels, a campsite and private accommodation.

Bled is Slovenia's leading Alpine holiday resort. The lake with its island and church and the old castle above the town make Bled one of the most beautiful and romantic tourist destinations in the world. The beauty of the mountains is reflected in the surface of the lake. Visitors can enjoy sunshine, peace and fresh air in all seasons and ideal conditions are guaranteed for a pleasant break or an active holiday. Bled is popular with the business community, artists, athletes, researchers, sports enthusiasts, young and old – from all over the world. Its enchanting beauty means that visitors always want to return.



Bled island



Swan and cygnet



Traditional "pletna" boats



Horse-drawn carriage ride





Lake Bohinj



Savica Falls



Cow Ball in Bohinj



Relaxing in the midst of nature



A traditional Bohinj snack

BOHINJ

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In the heart of the Triglav National Park and the embrace of the Julian Alps, Slovenia's largest lake is surrounded by the towering mountain peaks of the Bohinj region. Among them are picturesque valleys and astonishing untouched Alpine pastures, where the old tradition of Alpine cheesemaking is still followed in coexistence with nature, as though the passing of time had a different meaning here. Tourists can enjoy many activities and experiences in this unspoilt environment all year round, in the company of friendly locals.

People have always got up early in Bohinj, setting off into the mountains when it is still dark and driving away tiredness with the help of the marvellous views. Once upon a time this was a question of survival. Today it is a matter of pleasures that only lovers of the mountains will understand. A boat ride across the lake, a cable car ride up to Vogel, a visit to the Savica Waterfall, a walk across the Devil's Bridge and through the gorges of the Mostnica to the valley

of Voje or around the lake; trekking through Bohinj's high Alpine pastures, exploring the great forests of Pokljuka, discovering local traditions in museums, and meeting the locals... All this fills your holiday with a special sense of tranquillity, when the silence of an evening below millions of stars and a feeling of inner peace bid you goodnight. The people of this area invite you to spend your holiday actively and without a car. Numerous sustainable mobility options are available in the Bohinj area, to help preserve and protect this pure environment.

In spring you can enjoy meadows bursting with wildflowers and try dishes made with wild plants; in summer you can visit the high pastures or bathe in a crystal-clear lake; in autumn you can dance with the locals and feast on žganci and local Bohinj cheese. In winter the landscape is covered by a white blanket of snow and offers countless opportunities for winter pleasures. Bohinj is a perfectly preserved jewel where modern visitors always find their own good side and a sense of inner peace that reflects the nature around them. Even Agatha Christie, to whom all human vices and weaknesses were an open book, admitted that Bohinj was simply too beautiful for murder. The nature and beauty of Bohinj are enough to seduce anyone and help them find a better personal path.

BOHINJ
TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK

Alpine
pearls
Holidays in Eco-Motion





The river Soča

SOČA VALLEY

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The Soča Valley, which links the towns of Bovec, Kobarid and Tolmin, was the first European Destination of Excellence (EDEN) in Slovenia. It offers visitors a rich blend of active, cultural and historical experiences in a stunning natural setting. The valley's main attraction is the emerald-green Soča, one of the most beautiful rivers in Europe. It is no coincidence that Walt Disney Pictures chose it as a location for *Prince Caspian*, the second part of the *Chronicles of Narnia* series.

The various tributaries of the **Soča** also flow into the valley, creating crystal-clear pools and waterfalls. Most notable among them are **Boka**, Slovenia's most majestic waterfall, and the mysterious **Kozjak**, trapped in its natural amphitheatre. One of the most popular natural sights in the valley are the deep and narrow **Tolmin Gorges**, carved into the living rock.

But the Soča Valley is not only for nature lovers: it is famous across Slovenia and beyond as an **important centre for outdoor activities**. The valley offers countless opportunities for sports and recreation: water sports (kayaking, rafting, canyoning), fishing, hiking, cycling, zip-line, parachuting and paragliding, flying, climbing; and in winter, family skiing, cross-country skiing, tobogganing and snow-shoeing.

Visitors can combine **active adventures** with discovering the **cultural heritage** that still lives in the Alpine pastures, on old farms, in traditional events and in the **local gastronomy**. The most distinctive local products, frequently found in the valley's cuisine, include honey and Bovec and Tolmin cheese. Sweet treats include *štruklji* from Kobarid and *krafi* from Bovec. This area of wonderful and **unspoilt nature** and cultural heritage in Slovenia's Alpine region is protected as part of the **Triglav National Park**. **The Soča (Isonzo) Front** is part of world history and, as we mark the centenary of the start of the First World War, an eloquent warning. Monuments from this period are linked together to form the Walk of Peace.



Hiking



Local dessert



Paragliding



Javorca



Kranjska Gora



The north face of Triglav



Zelenci, source of the Sava Dolinka



Lake Jasna



Peričnik Waterfall

KRANJSKA GORA

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The idyllic image of an Alpine village which has carried the fame of Slovene skiing around the world and is a popular destination for active holidays in summer or winter. The old village centre has developed into a genuine, picturesque jewel of tourism in the Gorenjska region.

Here, natural simplicity and worldly sophistication meet. The figure of Kekec personifies the quick wits of the people of Kranjska Gora. The skiing and ski jumping World Cup events testify to the excellence of their organisation and hospitality. The source of the Sava Dolinka river, which ends its journey in the Black Sea, is remarkable for its tranquillity. Kranjska Gora is a crossroads: towards the sea over the Vršič pass, past the Russian chapel and the Giantess; you can also head towards Italy via Podkoren or to Austria over the Korensko Sedlo.

Nearby is Planica with its flying heroes (ski jumpers) and tasty mushrooms which peep above ground in the moonlight. Since 1904 it has been an ideal place for relaxation or an active break.

Vivid experiences of the Julian Alps await you

in Kranjska Gora and the surrounding villages. Experiences you will want to try yourself. Enjoy the peaceful exploration of natural and cultural heritage and take advantage of a wide range of wellness facilities to discover the secrets of well-being. Whether you are here for business meetings or social gatherings, or to explore the mysterious past of the Upper Savinja Valley with your family, you will never be bored here. In both summer and winter Kranjska Gora is a destination that offers a wide range of active adventures. These include hiking on walking trails and mountain paths, Nordic walking and cycling – always popular with the young and young at heart.

For those thirsty for adrenaline, the Fun Bike Park offers plenty of thrills. Recreational cyclists can enjoy a ride to one of the area's farm tourism establishments or mountain huts. You can relax with a golf club or a flyfishing rod. Or you can take up the challenge of mountain climbing, ski across varied terrain, test your endurance in cross-country skiing, enjoy romantic tobogganing and ice skating, or set off on an adventurous ski tour.

A wide range of accommodation options are available. You can stay in hotels with three or four stars, numerous private rooms and apartments, guest houses, a campsite and mountain huts and lodges.



Radovljica

RADOVLJICA

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Close to Bled and between the Julian Alps and the Karavanke, discover the sweet treasures of "Radol'ca". Centuries-old towns and villages, excellent cuisine, traditions in beekeeping, iron forging and music. All in an environment offering unspoilt nature and charming encounters with the past.

Thanks to its Chocolate Festival and its beekeeping and gingerbread-making traditions, the medieval centre of Radovljica is known as Slovenia's sweetest town. Radovljica also has one of the best preserved old town centres in Slovenia. In it you will find beautifully preserved townhouses, a baroque mansion, restaurants, art galleries and museums. It also serves as a venue for numerous festivals, concerts and other events. Among the most popular tourist attractions are the Apiculture Museum and the gingerbread workshop, where visitors can watch traditional gingerbread hearts being made.

The town of Begunje na Gorenjskem lies on the sunny Radovljica plain beneath the ridges of the Karavanke. The town is the birthplace of the renowned musician Slavko Avsenik and the home of Slovene popular folk music. Other attractions include Kamen Castle, Katzenstein Castle and the Avsenik Museum. The village of Brezje, with its basilica dedicated to Mary, Help of Christians – the largest pilgrimage church in Slovenia – and Lesce with its sports airfield and the Gorenjska region's Beekeeping Education Centre can also be found nearby. Situated beneath the Jelovica plateau in the Lipnica Valley is the village of Kropa. Here the centuries-old tradition of iron-forging is evident in its heritage-protected centre, the Iron Forging Museum, the preserved forge and artistic forging. Radovljica and its surroundings also offer first-class local cuisine and a number of annual events such as the Festival of Chocolate (April), the Early Music Festival (August), the Avsenik Music Festival and a number of smaller events and concerts.



Apiculture Museum



Church of St. Peter above Begunje



Kropa



Beekeeping tradition



Šmartno, Brda



Cherries in Brda



Wine and cuisine



Villa Vipolže



Brda by e-bike

BRDA

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BRDA – LAND OF INVIGORATING MOMENTS

European Destination of Excellence
 2015 in Slovenia

THE SECRETS OF FAMOUS WINEMAKERS AND HEARTY GRANDMOTHERS

Welcome to the sunny and sweet side of the world! The soft Brda hills in south-west Slovenia are dotted with romantic villages, green vineyards, olive trees and orchards. The energy of sun and love creates **wine, sweet fruits, honey and olive oil**. Brda winemakers are renowned for producing **top-quality white and red wines** that are served in the best restaurants around the world. The predominant variety is the **local Rebula (Ribolla)**, gleaming in sunny shades of golden-yellow. Wineries serve **home-cured air-dried ham** and **local varieties of cheese**, while local restaurants and **farm stays** offer **authentic cuisine** and **fresh local delicacies** made using recipes that have been handed down over generations.

NOBLE TALES OF BRDA VILLAGES AND CASTLES

Noble tales abound in the Brda hill region.

Positioned as it is at the **crossroads of the Slavic, Romance and Germanic worlds**, this land of fruits and sunshine has had a turbulent and dramatic history. Long favoured by the nobility as a peaceful retreat, it boasts numerous **pearls of Slovenian cultural heritage** among its green hills. **Dobrovo Castle**, clearly visible from all directions, is a wonderful Renaissance edifice, while **Villa Vipolže** is the most beautiful Renaissance villa in Slovenia. The fortified **medieval village of Šmartno**, located in the geographical heart of Brda, attracts many visitors. With its romantic atmosphere and picturesque setting, it is considered **one of the most beautiful cultural monuments in Slovenia**.

GREEN AND ACTIVE HOLIDAYS IN BRDA

The land of invigorating moments invites you to enjoy active holidays in **hiking boots or on a bicycle**. Particularly in springtime when the landscape is covered in white and pink blossom. **Eight** very special **hiking trails** wind through the vineyards, orchards and olive groves. **The Alpe Adria Trail**, which crosses the **sunny Brda region on its way from Austria to the Gulf of Trieste**, is also very interesting, and the hilly countryside is criss-crossed by **280 km of cycling routes**.



Gorje

GORJE

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VINTGAR GORGE

One of the largest and most renowned natural sights in Gorje is without a doubt the Vintgar Gorge, cut into the rocks between Hom and Boršt. It was discovered in 1891 by photographer Benedikt Lergetporer and Gorje mayor and cartographer Jakob Žumer. It was first opened to tourists in 1893. The gorge is 1.6 km long, and graced by the magnificent luminous green Radovna river and its pools, waterfalls and rapids. The trail leads you over wooden bridges and galleries. It ends at a bridge overlooking the mighty 15-metre Šum Waterfall, one of the few river waterfalls in Slovenia.

BEEKEEPING EDUCATIONAL AND PANORAMIC PATH

The Beekeeping Path in the Gorje municipality runs through the central part of Gorje from beehive to beehive. It takes you along wonderful panoramic paths where, to the east, you can enjoy beautiful views towards the Karavanke mountain range, the mountain pastures of Kamnik, the Bled district and, beyond it, Radovljica, Kranj and the Ljubljana Basin. As you walk along the path you can discover the cultural and natural sights of the Gorje area and learn about local crafts.

POKLJUKA GORGE

The Pokljuka Gorge contains a variety of karst phenomena, natural bridges, cliffs and caves. In places the gorge narrows to just a few metres. The wider sections, containing lush vegetation, are known as "gardens". The walkways on the sides of the gorge were built by local people in 1930 and named after young Prince Andrew of Yugoslavia. The best-known cave, the "Pokljuka Hole", has two entrances and three natural windows. The old route to the meadows of Pokljuka and the plateau above runs through the gorge. The Pokljuka Gorge does not receive many visitors but it is nevertheless a sight well worth seeing.

THE POGLEJ "CHURCH"

A somewhat less well known sight in Gorje is the Poglej "Church" – a natural cave in which simple tools dating from as far back as the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods have been found. The cave is the oldest archaeological site in the area.



Vintgar Gorge



Beekeeping Educational and Panoramic Path



Pokljuka Gorge



The Poglej "Church"





Plavški Rovt – view over Jesenice



Jesenice



Stara Sava



Zoisov park



Mala Golica

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STEEL AND DAFFODILS

Art and history go hand in hand at an opera or the theatre, or even in the mighty old buildings at Stara Sava. The never-forgotten memories of the ironworks and their masters remind us of the steel and iron makers who hand-worked the iron ore and dedicated all their efforts to it. They lived with their masters, worked for them and bought bread from them. Steel made here was used to build the Eiffel Tower and the CERN accelerator, and some of it even sank along with the Titanic! Come and experience Stara Sava, where the most essential elements of an ironworks settlement have been preserved: the owner's mansion, church, workers' house, smelting furnace, millraces and mill. The architectural heritage is integrated into and presented in the museum and in cultural and tourist activity. The main square has been transformed into a venue for social events and attracts many visitors from Jesenice and the surrounding areas. This is where acquaintances and friends meet and where time just stands still...

MEN AND MOUNTAINS

Many years ago, probably in the 4th century, herdsmen in the Karavanke mountains chanced to take their cattle to the sunny side of the range. The pleasant location of the pastures and the belief that the mountains were rich in iron kept the shepherds from leaving. Some of them at least stayed forever. They cleared the forests to create land for farming. To survive. The first settlements emerged on the lower slopes of the Karavanke, below peaks such as Golica. This beautiful mountain, surrounded by smaller hills and mountains covered with shrubs and trees, is the most beautiful spot in the entire Karavanke range.

PRISTAVA AND ZOIS'S LEGACY

We live and will live on this land because we know that someone lived here before us. Their traces remain, so that our grandchildren will be able to explore them.

The Zois Park in the Karavanke is full of the traces of the past. The fossilised flora and fauna, cultural heritage, pine woods and forest educational trail, as well as the emerald green lake, the botanical garden named after the botanist Karl von Zois and the nearby meadow trails invite you to discover the shades of history.



Anton Janša commemorative apiary

ŽIROVNICA

Office for Tourism and Culture Žirovnica

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Žirovnica lies in the green valley below the Karavanke mountain range. The richness of its literary, beekeeping and archaeological heritage mean that the villages below Mount Stol are known as the “cradle of Slovenian culture and beekeeping”, and this region is well known for its hospitality and the beauty of its landscape.

EXPLORING THE CULTURAL HERITAGE

The prize-winning Žirovnica Cultural Heritage Trail invites you to actively explore tradition. The trail connects cultural and historic monuments in the villages below Stol in five core sites. These are the birth house of Matija Čop, the first Slovene linguist and librarian and one of the greatest European scholars of his time; the beehives of Anton Janša, the first beekeeping teacher at the School of Beekeeping in Vienna; the birth house of Fran Saleški Finžgar, a priest and scholar who left his mark on Slovene literature as a

writer of folk tales; the birth house of Janez Jalen, a writer and playwright who searched for inspiration in nature and the lives of simple people in their local environment; and the birth house of France Prešeren, Slovenia's greatest poet, who expressed his vision of equality and harmony among all nations in his most famous poem “Zdravljica”, adopted as the national anthem when Slovenia became independent.

GREEN ENERGY

Žirovnica municipality abounds in walking, hiking, cycling, mountain biking and riding trails, thus offering a multitude of options for recreation. The green valley of Završnica, where the Završnica Recreational Park is landscaped by the lake, is a popular starting point for hiking in the nearby mountains and visiting mountain huts. Valvasorjev Dom, a very popular hut among local mountaineers, is the most common starting point for the ascent of Stol (2,236 m), the highest peak in the Karavanke range, and the starting point for visiting Ajdna, an ancient archaeological site.



Wonderful panorama



Prešeren's birth house in Vrba



Finžgar's birthplace in Doslovče



Završnica Valley

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