

Ljubljana

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pocket**

October - November 2015

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and more!

Slovenska Cesta

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new promenade

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Issue N°44



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[ljublana Castle](https://twitter.com/ljubljana_castle)

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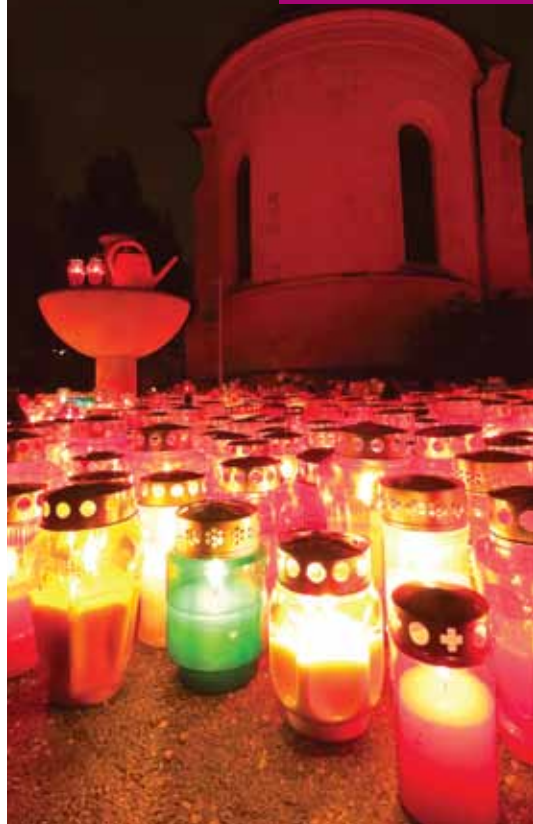
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Cemeteries across the country, including Ljubljana's Žale (pictured here), transform into seas of red lights in the days leading up to 1 November, which is known in Slovenia as the Day of Remembrance of the Dead, photo by Xseon / Shutterstock

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If you're visiting Ljubljana in the autumn months, then you can rest assured that there won't be any shortage of colourful leaves or fog during your stay

Foreword

Somehow yet another summer has already come to an end in Ljubljana far too soon. And while we do like to complain about the colder temperatures and shorter days, the beginning of autumn is in fact one of our favourite times of the year! After several hot lazy months, Ljubljana's students and holidaymakers have now all returned to town, and the city's vibrant buzz of work, study and social life can once again be felt after the summer's tourist rush.

The autumn season is also when some of the city's biggest events take place, such as the Ljubljana International Film Festival, where non-Slovene speakers can watch top international films with English subtitles, the Slovenian Wine Festival, where visitors can taste the best local wines in one of the city's grandest halls (and practice their Slovene by repeatedly saying 'Na zdravje!'), the Ljubljana Marathon, where more than 20,000 participants get up early on a Sunday morning to run 42.195km for 'fun', and Restaurant Week, when two dozen of Ljubljana's best restaurants offer special fixed menus for the same discounted price of only €15. This year also sees the launch of new major event, the first ever Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in Ljubljana. You can read all about these and more in our Culture & Events section starting on page 11. As always we welcome any and all feedback, be it on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+, Elio (it's a thing, look it up!) or even old-fashioned electronic mail.

COVER STORY

Earlier this year several blocks of the city's main street, Slovenska cesta, received a pedestrian friendly makeover, and are now endowed with extra-wide pavement, additional greenery and lots of café/restaurant seating, as well as being closed to vehicle traffic except for city buses.



inyourpocket

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Maps

Monolit d.o.o.

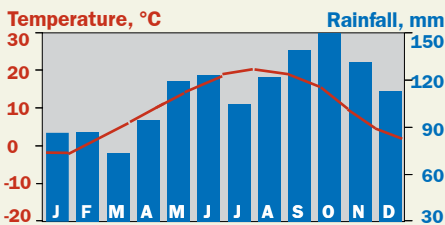
ABOUT IYP

We have been busy these past couple of months. Aside from launching a brand-new guide in Milan, Italy, we have also been applying the finishing touches to our new digital platform at inyourpocket.com. Radically redesigned and restructured to place the visitor at the heart of the cities we cover, our new website puts you in total control of our content on whatever desktop, laptop or mobile device you are using. Give it a go: it's the biggest digital leap forward we have ever taken and entrenches our position as a game-changing publisher in all formats.

To keep up with all that's new at *In Your Pocket*, follow us on *Facebook* (facebook.com/inyourpocket) or *Twitter* (twitter.com/inyourpocket).



CLIMATE



CRIME AND SAFETY

Ljubljana is one of the safest capital cities in the world, with the only prevalent crime being bicycle theft, which is unlikely to affect short-term visitors (which we've also avoided by adorning our bicycle with flowers). Nowhere in the city is unsafe to walk at any hour, although common sense says avoid going deep into Tivoli park in the middle of the night. Out-of-control cyclists and negligent drivers not paying attention to pedestrians are the only real threat to safety, as well as slow-to-react automatic doors that seem to be installed in shops across Ljubljana, although these only really cause embarrassment.

DRINKING

Alcohol can only be sold to people over 18, and sadly after 21:00 it cannot be bought in stores.

MONEY

Slovenia adopted the euro in January 2007. Euro coins come in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents, 1 and 2 euros, while banknotes come in 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 euros. The Slovenian side of the euro coins are decorated with among other things storks, Mount Triglav, Lippizaner horses and a Jože Plečnik design.

BASIC DATA

Population

Slovenia 2,048,951 (2011 estimate)

Ljubljana 280,140 (2011 estimate)

Area

20,273 square kilometres

Ethnic composition

Slovenian 83%, Former Yugoslav minorities 5.3%, Hungarian, Albanian, Roma, Italian and others 11.7%

Official languages

Slovenian, Italian, Hungarian

Local time

Central European (GMT + 1hr)

Longest river

Sava (221km in Slovenia)

Highest mountain

Triglav 2,864m.

Borders

Austria 318km, Italy 280km, Hungary 102km, Croatia 670km

SYMBOL KEY

Air conditioning	Credit cards accepted
Outside seating	Conference facilities
Child-friendly	Facilities for the disabled
Fitness centre	Guarded parking
LAN connection	Pet-friendly
Restaurant	Old town location
Sauna	Swimming pool
Fireplace	Wifi

ros, while banknotes come in 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 euros. The Slovenian side of the euro coins are decorated with among other things storks, Mount Triglav, Lippizaner horses and a Jože Plečnik design.

SMOKING

Cigarettes can only be purchased by people over 18. Slovenia recently banned smoking in public indoor places, except in special smoking areas in offices, hotels and bars.

TOILETS

Clean public toilets can be found at Dragon Bridge (07:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun), in the Plečnik Passageway west of Zvezda Park (07:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun) under Butcher's Bridge (07:00 - 23:00) and at Triple Bridge (07:00 - 21:00).

EXCHANGE RATES

€1 = US\$ 1.12 = UK£ 0.74 = CHF 1.10 = CNY 7.14 = ¥135
= дин 120 = руб 73.34 = ₩ 1336 (26 Sept 2015)

MARKET VALUES

Product	Price
McDonald's Big Mac Meal	€5.70
Slice of pizza	€ 1.80
Slice of burek	€ 2.00
Cup of coffee	€ 1.10
Bottle of name brand vodka	€ 12.50
Decent bottle of local wine	€ 3.50
Bottle of local beer in a shop	€ 1.10
Pint of beer in a pub	€ 2.70
Pack of cigarettes	€ 3.50
Single bus ride	€ 1.20
Movie ticket	€ 6.00
Litre of petrol	€ 1.24
Taxi ride across town	€ 5.00

More information available online
ljubljanainyourpocket.com

Arriving & Getting Around

Officially part of the Schengen zone since late 2007 and nearly completely surrounded by other Schengen-agreeing countries, entering Slovenia has never been easier. With a well-developed system of buses, trains and highways throughout the country, getting around is also fairly easy. The centre of Ljubljana is relatively small, meaning public transport is rarely, if ever, needed when in town.

URBANA CARD

In order to use Ljubljana's extensive public bus network, you must first purchase an Urbana Card. What is an Urbana card, we hear you cry? Available from the LPP office, tourist information centres and most of the kiosks and post offices in town, this little yellow card costs €2 and can store up to €50 of credit on it at any time. In order to top it up, you can do so at any of the spots mentioned above or at the excellently named Urbanomat machines, which are the green things next to most bus stops. These machines accept both cash and credit and debit cards. Once you've topped up your card, using it couldn't be easier. Simply get on the bus of your choice, touch the card to one of the green card readers at the entrance and €1.20 will be deducted from your card, €1.20 which allows for up to 90 minutes of travel including unlimited transfers. The Urbana works in much the same way as London's Oyster Card and Paris' Navigo Pass, at a fraction of the price of course. If you're only in town for a short visit, keep your receipt when purchasing and you can refund your card (to the tune of €2) when you leave.

ARRIVING IN LJUBLJANA

Arriving by plane

Well connected to the Balkans and most major European destinations, Ljubljana's cosy little Jože Pučnik Airport is 26km northwest of the city, near Brnik. With a buffet-style restaurant, free Wi-Fi for internet addicts, a couple of cafes, bank (with ATM), currency exchange (open 07:00 - 19:00) and post office (open 08:00 - 18:00, Sat 07:00 - 12:00, Sun closed), it is as small and efficient as Slovenia itself. Getting there takes about 30 minutes by taxi (€35-45) or shuttle (€5-8, schedule is coordinated with flights) and roughly twice as long by bus (€4.10, up to 16 per day between 05:00 - 20:00). Check the airport's website for a complete schedule. Tickets can be bought from the driver when boarding the bus. ► **Letališče Jožeta Pučnika, Zgornji Brnik 130a, tel +386 (0)4 20 610 00, info@lju-airport.si, www.lju-airport.si. Open 00:00-24:00**

Arriving by bus

Essentially a large caravan without any wheels, Ljubljana's central bus station couldn't be easier to use. Located directly in front of the main train station, there is little in the way of facilities for recent arrivals. For those leaving town, simply enter through one of the doors at either end, buy a ticket from one of the kiosks and away you go. Tickets

are purchased from inside the station at one of the numerous windows, with all the staff speaking decent English. The bus station operates many national routes as well as regular international services. ► **D/E-1, Trg Osvo bodilne Fronte 4, tel. +386 (0)1 234 46 00, fax +386 (0)1 234 46 01, narocanje@ap-ljubljana.si, www.ap-ljubljana.si/en. Open 05:00 - 22:30, Sat 05:00 - 22:00, Sun 05:30 - 22:30.**

Arriving by car

Driving to Ljubljana is a joy due to the good roads and excellent signposting. The city is circled by a ring road from where it's easy to get to the centre. Simply follow the parking signs for convenient places to leave your car near the city centre. Once in the city, it's best to walk the short distances rather than drive through the heavy traffic and narrow street. Also, if you're staying in Old Ljubljana be aware that it is largely a pedestrian only zone.

Arriving by train

Full of nice touches such as little conveyor belts for taking heavy bags up to the platforms, Ljubljana's reasonably central train station is just north of the main action. The main building has everything you need, including an ATM and press stand selling top-up cards (but alas no SIM cards) for prepaid SIM accounts. Left luggage is provided courtesy of 80 coin-operated lockers with instructions in English on platform N°1, with the toilets conveniently located next door. The centre of town is safely within walking distances, but there are also taxis outside for the weary. ► **E-1, Trg Osvo bodilne Fronte, tel. +386 (0)1291 33 32, potnik.info@slo-zeleznice.si, www.slo-zeleznice.si. Open 05:00 - 22:00.**

A WORD FROM OUR MAYOR

'For me, Ljubljana is the most beautiful city in the world - a capital unique for its special position in the heart of Slovenia. As a city with rich history and cultural heritage, it attracts more visitors every year from near and far. The most important ambassadors for Ljubljana are undoubtedly our residents, who immerse themselves in the mix of cultures and always ensure a touch of comfort and warmth with their openness, kindness and hospitality. Welcome to Ljubljana!'



Zoran Jančič
Mayor

More information online at
ljubljanainyourpocket.com

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Although most of Ljubljana's sights are within easy walking distance for even the most unfit and/or laziest of people (and you can trust us as we're proud card carrying members of both groups), there is a far-reaching and fairly efficient bus network for reaching attractions farther afield, such as the Zoo, BTC shopping centre or even distant Šmarna Gora, or for those interested in seeing what the city looks like outside the city centre.

KAVALIR

Primarily intended for use by the elderly and the mobility-impaired, these little green electric wizards can be hailed for free transport anywhere within the pedestrianized city centre. Carrying up to five passengers, the little monsters reach terrifying speeds of up to 25km p/h, so strap in tight. In all seriousness though, the electric free taxi is another example of Ljubljana's commitment to its ecological future. Two cars run in summer from 08:00 until 20:00.

CAR RENTAL

The speed limit is 50km/hr in built-up areas, 90-100km/hr on main roads, 130km/hr on highways. Cars must use headlights at all times and must have a spare wheel, warning triangle, spare lightbulb, first aid kit and, in winter, either snow chains or winter tyres. The alcohol limit is

0.05%, and EU residents should be aware that any fines and/or driving license points incurred whilst in Slovenia will theoretically follow you home. The traffic information centre has road webcams and maps of current traffic problems at www.promet.si.

CENTRAL RENT

With a newly opened office in Ljubljana, Central Rent are another great option for renting cars in Slovenia. This is no ordinary rental service however, as every step is taken to make sure your rental experience is as complete as possible. Whether it is the quality of the cars available, flexibility with the length of rental (short and long term is offered) or even delivering the car to you, renting an automobile has never been easier. ▶ Slovenska cesta 36, tel. +386 (0)40 21 60 84, +386 (0)5 904 32 14, info@centralrent.si, www.centralrent.si. Open - Available 24 hours.

ATET

▶ J-2, Devova 6a, tel. +386 (0)1 320 82 30, sales@atet.si, www.atet.si. Open 08:00 - 18:00, Sat, Sun 08:00 - 13:00.

AVANT

▶ L-1, Dunajska 140, tel. +386 (0)1 589 08 50, avantcarl@avantcar.si, www.nationalcar-slovenia.com. Open 08:00-18:00, Sat, Sun 08:00-14:00, Airport office tel. (04) 589 08 68, open 08:00 - 22:00.

BUDGET

▶ D-3, Miklošičeva 3 (Grand Hotel Union Executive), tel. +386 (0)14 21 73 40, info@budget.si, www.budget.si.

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Arriving & Getting Around

TAXIS

Ljubljana's taxis are safe, clean and generally reliable. The starting rate is usually between €0.80-1.50 with a per kilometre rate of €0.70-1.70, depending on the company, time of day and number of passenger. Ordering a taxi by phone will get you lower rates for longer distance trips.

TAXI RONDO

► tel. +386 (0)70 900 900, info@taxi-rondo.si, www.taxi-rondo.si.

LAGUNA TAXI

► tel. +386 (0)31 492 299, taxi.laguna@siol.net, www.taxi-laguna.com.

METRO TAXI

► tel. +386 (0)80 11 90, taxi@metroprevozi.net, www.metroprevozi.net/TaxiPrevozi.htm.

PARKING GARAGES

PH KAPITELJ

► E-3, Poljanski nasip 4, tel. +386 (0)1 360 36 48/+386 (0)51 366 510, phkapitelj@kranjska-id.com, www.parkiraj.si.

PH TRDINOVA

► D-2, Trdinova 9, tel. +386 (0)1 230 96 00/+386 (0)5 136 65 10, phtrdinova@kranjska-id.com, www.parkiraj.si.

PH MEKSIKO

► F-2, Njegošova 4, tel. +386 (0)1 600 40 38/+386 (0)51 366 510, phmekisiko@kranjska-id.com, www.parkiraj.si.

PH ŠENTPETER

► F-3, Zaloška 1, tel. +386 (0)1 430 59 02/+386 (0)5 136 65 10, phsentpeter@kranjska-id.com, www.parkiraj.si.

Open 00:00 - 24:00. From 07:00-19:00 €2 per hour, from 19:00-07:00 the first four hours are €1 per hour, while additional hours are €0.50. The daily rate is €32, while monthly fees are as low as €150.

A TICKET TO DRIVE

Slovenia requires all motor vehicles travelling on Slovenian highways to have a vinjeta (veen-yeh-tah) sticker. This system exists in lieu of tolls, and the vinjeta can be easily obtained at nearly all gas stations and kiosks. Yearly/monthly/weekly stickers are €110/30/15 for cars, €220/80/40 for larger vehicles (ie with a height of over 1.3m above the front axis) and €55/30/7.50 for motorcycles. Also be aware that border police will likely not remind you to purchase a vinjeta when entering the country, but are highly likely to issue you a steep fine when leaving if you've failed to do so. For more info check www.dars.si. ► www.dars.si.



BICIKE(LJ)

Ljubljana's bike hire scheme, known as bicikelJ, is a great way to get around the city. Some 20 stations with a total of 300 bikes are concentrated in centre of town, so don't try riding to Šmarna Gora or elsewhere on the outskirts. The trick is to make sure all your trips are under an hour, then all you'll need to pay is the ridiculously cheap registration fee of €1/week or €3/year. Registration must be done in advance with a major credit card on very user-friendly official website en.bicikelj.si, which is also conveniently in English.



AIRPORT TRANSFERS

GOOPTI

Voted Best Airport Shuttle by In Your Pocket readers for 2014, Slovenia-based GoOpti offer transfers to and from a number of airports in Slovenia and surrounding countries, including Ljubljana, Venice, Munich, Zagreb, Trieste and more, making transport to flights and back as stress-free as can be. With prices starting from as low as €2.20 (incredibly low considering the comfort in which you travel), professional drivers, an exemplary safety record and a truly novel online booking system, you can't go wrong with GoOpti. ► tel. +386 (0)1 320 45 30, info@goopti.com, www.goopti.com.

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Clockwise from top left: Catch a performance of the magical *Swan Lake* at Ljubljana's beautifully renovated Opera and Ballet; more than 20,000 people will be running through the streets (despite the fact that no one is chasing them) during the Ljubljana Marathon on 25 October; Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week comes to Ljubljana for the first time this October; and the wine begins flowing at the Ljubljana Wine Route on St Martin's Saturday.

The one-time home of the Austrian composer Gustav Mahler, Ljubljana continues to inspire, nurture and produce a wide and eclectic mix of creative individuals and groups. Whether it's the work of the Slovenian artists Richard Jakopič or Ivana Kobilca you're here to see, or if you simply want to watch the latest Hollywood film, Ljubljana provides everything you need and more besides. For more cultural information - including museums, art galleries and churches - take a look at the Sightseeing section of this guide. For a complete list of galleries, theatres and much more in town, head to our website for more information.

FESTIVALS

28.08 FRIDAY - 03.12 THURSDAY

31ST INTERNATIONAL BIENNIAL OF GRAPHIC ARTS

It's BIO time once again in Ljubljana, as the International Biennial of Graphic Arts enters its 31st edition and 60th anniversary. Established in 1965, the biennial is one of the most respected events of its kind on the continent and the undoubted artistic main event of the Ljubljana cultural calendar. This year the main thematic point of departure is 'Over you/you', a seemingly throwaway doodle from the corner of a drawing by German artist Martin Kippenberger. The main exhibition is curated by Nicola Lees, and many other exhibitions from previous BIO winners will be on show at various venues throughout the city. A full program is available for download from the official website. ► **International Centre of Graphic Arts**, Pod Turnom 3, tel. +386 (0)1 241 38 00, ili.sturm@mgcl-lj.si, www.mgcl-lj.si.

11.11 WEDNESDAY - 22.11 SUNDAY

LIFFE - LJUBLJANA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Known simply by its abbreviation LIFFe (pronounced LEEF-eh) to locals, the two-week festival is the undisputed highlight of the year for Slovene cinephiles and is guaranteed to offer a dizzying selection of films from around the world and across all genres. It's also the best chance during the year for non-Slovene speakers to see international films subtitled in English. Venues include Ljubljana's two main independent cinemas, Kinoteka and Kinodvor, Cankarjev Dom, the Kino Šiška Urban Cultural Centre and the Kolosej multiplex in BTC. The full programme of this year's event will be officially announced in mid-October, with tickets going on sale at the same time. It's always a good idea to buy them in advance as sold out screenings are not uncommon, and discounted sets of tickets can also be purchased online as well. ► **Cankarjev dom**, liffe@cd-cc.si, www.liffe.si.

19.11 THURSDAY - 20.11 FRIDAY

18TH SLOVENIAN WINE FESTIVAL

Slovenia's largest wine-related event has been promoting the culture of wine drinking for over a decade. Held at one of Ljubljana's most prestigious hotels, the event brings together diverse participants and attendees from the wine industry, media and interested consumers, and aims to both raise awareness of wine drinking - especially among younger people - and help facilitate business partnerships between producers, caterers and wholesalers as well as offer new opportunities for development of the wine business. See their website for registration information and current list of exhibitors. ► **Hotel Union**, info@slovenskifestivalvin.si, slovenskifestivalvin.si.

Culture and Events

28.11 SATURDAY - 06.12 SUNDAY

31ST GAY AND LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL

First held in 1984, the festival holds the dual distinction of being the oldest gay and lesbian film festival in all of Europe and the oldest international film festival of any kind in Slovenia. Organised by the ŠKUC Association, with financial support coming from the city of Ljubljana and the British Council among others, the festival receives submissions from around the world and its programme features films from gay and lesbian filmmakers as well as films related to GLBT themes and issues. ► **Slovenska Kinoteka, Miklošičeva 28, www.ljudmila.org/siqrd/fglf/**

SPECIAL EVENTS

15.10 THURSDAY - 17.10 SATURDAY

51ST INTERNATIONAL WINE FAIR

Ljubljana's longest running wine event has been getting bigger and better in recent years, with a varied official programme and a whole host of parallel events taking place throughout the city. Whether you enjoy the fine stuff or not, a wine fair is most definitely something to enjoy. Taking place over three days starting on October 15th, this fine culture event finds its home at the Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre. Slovenia is known as a country that produces excellent wines and plenty will be found at the fair, along with a plethora of great traditional cuisine. We'll see you there. ► **Dunajska 18, vino.ljubljana@gr-sejem.si, en.vinoljubljana.si**

16.10 FRIDAY - 25.10 SUNDAY

RESTAURANT WEEK

This October restaurants all over Slovenia, including two dozen in Ljubljana, will once again be participating in the largest nationwide culinary event of its kind. From 16-25 October special 3-course gourmet meals prepared by the very best Slovene chefs will be available for only €15, giving locals foodies and interested visitors the chance to taste Slovene cuisine at its finest without doing major damage to their wallet. Extensive details of the restaurants can be found on the official website (Slovene language only for now), and it's highly recommendable to make reservations well in advance, as the most popular restaurants (such as JB in Ljubljana) will have surely been fully booked before the event even begins. ► **Various Venues, tel. +386 (0)41 931 669, violeta.mencinger@gmail.com, www.tedenrestavracij.si**

25.10 SUNDAY

20TH INTERNATIONAL LJUBLJANA MARATHON

The Ljubljana Marathon has grown from less than 700 participants during its inaugural year back in 1996, to over 22,000 for last year's event won by the Kenyan Buschendich Ishimael in a record-tying time of 2 hours, 8 minutes and 25 seconds - or roughly six minutes slower than the current world record. This year's race will kick off at 10:30 on Sunday, 25 October, and will hopefully not see anywhere near the same level of unabashed, shameless cheating as that which apparently takes place at the head office of corporate sponsor Volkswagen (just joking Volkswagen! [but not really]). Registration is €40 and closes on 30 September. A separate 200m children's run

BUY TICKETS

EVENTIM

Online ticket sales for more than 3,000 events per year, including concerts, sports, and cultural events across Slovenia and Central Europe. Check the offer of events and buy tickets before you even arrive in Slovenia.

► **B-1, Celovška 25, tel. +386 (0)14 30 24 05, info@eventim.si, www.eventim.si/portal/en**

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

The helpful staff at Ljubljana's main tourist information centre can answer pretty much any question you have about the city, provide you with maps and countless other brochures, and also sell tickets for concerts, shows and various other events. ► **D-3, Adamič-Lundrovo Nabrežje 2, tel. +386 (0)13 06 12 15, tic@visitljubljana.si, www.visitljubljana.si. Open 08:00-21:00.**

for those five years and under is free to enter (and probably the only race we would personally have a chance of finishing!). ► **tel. +386 (0)1 234 80 00, www.ljubljanskimaratoni.si**

28.10 WEDNESDAY - 31.10 SATURDAY

MERCEDES-BENZ FASHION WEEK LJUBLJANA

This autumn Ljubljana adds its name to the fashion world map, as it hosts the city's premiere edition of Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week. First held in Australia in 1996, over the past two decades the brand has expanded its reach to include an internationally recognised series of fashion weeks across the globe, including stops in Miami, Berlin, Sydney, Istanbul and now Ljubljana. More than just a corporate sponsorship, there has always been a strong creative connection between one of the world's most prestigious luxury automotive brands and cutting edge fashion: design! From 28-31 October, more than a dozen Slovene and foreign fashion designers will be presenting their Spring/Summer 2016 collections in shows at Cankarjev Dom, which will be supplemented by a full programme of creative workshops, lectures, social events and much more. Going forward it is planned for Ljubljana to host two Mercedes-Benz Fashion weeks per year, one in autumn and another in spring, so attendees at this year's festivities will get a glimpse of what the future holds for Slovenia's fashion scene. ► **info@mbfashionweeklj.si, www.mbfashionweeklj.si**

07.11 SATURDAY

LJUBLJANA WINE ROUTE

On the Saturday nearest St Martin's Day each November the centre of Ljubljana is transformed into an orgy of wine producers, sellers, enthusiasts, interested locals and confused tourists. Most of the action takes place in the old town along the banks of the Ljubljanica and a few surrounding streets, with Slovenian wine and agricultural products sold - of even given away - from countless small wooden booths. You'll also be sure to hear plenty of traditional music and see many people dressed in traditional clothing and other costumes. ► **Ljubljana Old Town, info@radost.si, www.ljubljanskavinskapot.si**

EVENTS IN OCTOBER

- 3 – **Medieval Day** @ Old Town Streets
- 4 – **La Bohème** @ SNG Opera
- 5-15 – **City of Women** @ Various venues
- 9 – **Soft Moon** (post punk) @ Kino Šiška
- 10 – **Morrissey** @ Dvorana Tivoli
- 12 – **Diary of Anne Frank** @ SNG Opera
- 14 – **Apocalyptica** (metal) @ Kino Šiška
- 16 – **Odprta Kuhna** (culinary) @ Pogačarjev trg
- 16 – **Hellcats** (metal) @ Orto Bar
- 18 – **Lord of the Dance** @ Stožice Arena
- 18 – **Barcelona Gipsy Klezemer Orchestra** @ Kino Šiška
- 19 – **Diary of Anne Frank** @ SNG Opera
- 20 – **Homer: The Iliad** @ Cankarjev Dom
- 21 – **Darkstar** (electro) @ Kino Šiška
- 21 – **Back to the Future Day!**
- 22 – **H2O** (hardcore) @ Gala Hala
- 23 – **Odprta Kuhna** (culinary) @ Pogačarjev trg
- 23 – **Mama Mia!** @ Dvorana Tivoli
- 24 – **Čokoljana Chocolate Fair** @ Central Market
- 25 – **Ljubljana Marathon** @ City Centre
- 25 – **Perpetuum Jazzile** @ Cankarjev Dom
- 30 – **Odprta Kuhna** (culinary) @ Pogačarjev trg
- 30 – **HDD Olimpija v Red Bull Salzburg** (hockey) @ Dvorana Tivoli
- 31 – **Reformation Day** (work-free holiday)
- 31 – **Artish Art Fair** @ Kino Šiška
- 31 – **A Place to Bury Strangers** (noise rock) @ Orto Bar
- 31 – **Halloween Horror Marathon** @ Kinodvor

EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

- 1 – **Day of Remembrance of the Dead** (work-free holiday)
- 3 – **Žiga Murko Presents** (jazz) @ Cankarjev Dom
- 3-7 – **Meat of the Heart/Cacti** (ballet) @ SNG Opera
- 7 – **Ljubljana Wine Route** @ Old Town Streets
- 7 – **International Blackjazz Society** @ Kino Šiška
- 9 – **Brit Floyd** (cover band) @ Dvorana Tivoli
- 9 – **Vienna Symphony Orchestra** @ Cankarjev Dom
- 10 – **Michael Legrand: Symphony to the World of Film** @ Cankarjev Dom
- 12 – **Orpheus in the Underworld** @ SNG Opera
- 11-22 – **Ljubljana International Film Festival** @ Various venues
- 14 – **Jinx** (pop rock) @ Cvetličarna
- 15 – **Drummers of Burundi** @ Cankarjev Dom
- 17 – **Carmen** @ SNG Opera
- 17 – **Rob Mazurek** (jazz) @ Cankarjev Dom
- 19 – **Slovenian Wine Festival** @ Grand Hotel Union
- 20 – **HDD Olimpija v Bolzano** (hockey) @ Dvorana Tivoli
- 20 – **Rigoletto** @ SNG Opera
- 20 – **Hladno Pivo** (Balkan rock) @ Cvetličarna
- 23 – **Rudolf Maister Day** (public holiday)
- 24 – **Peer Gynt** (ballet) @ Cankarjev Dom
- 26 – **HDD Olimpija v EV Vienna** (hockey) @ Dvorana Tivoli
- 26 – **Lola Marsh + Daniel Vezoja** @ Kino Šiška
- 27-29 – **Swan Lake** @ SNG Opera
- 28-6 Dec – **Ljubljana Gay and Lesbian Film Festival** @ Various venues
- 1 Dec – **Editors** (rock) @ Kino Šiška
- 3 Dec – **Day of Culture** @ Various venues
- 5 Dec – **St Nicholas Procession** @ Old Town Streets
- 9 Dec – **Lockenhaus Festival** @ Slovenian Philharmonic



Check out Metelkova Mesto for a taste of Ljubljana's famed alternative culture scene, photo by Marika Bortolami see why. Photo by Dunja Wedam.

28.11 SATURDAY 21ST SILA CHARITY BAZAAR

As in previous years, the proceeds from this year's 22nd annual Slovenian International Ladies Association bazaar will go to help those less fortunate in Slovenia. SILA is a voluntary, non-governmental, non-political and non-profit organisation. Its aim is to encourage social, cultural and educational exchanges and to foster a mutual understanding amongst its members. While they expect that over 40 countries will be represented at this year's bazaar, the success of the event depends upon the public's generosity, and SILA gladly accepts any financial donations and also welcomes products or services. ▶ D-1, Gospodarsko Razstavišče, Dunajska 18, info@sil.si, www.sila.si. Admission free.

EXHIBITIONS

18.06 THURSDAY - 01.11 SUNDAY A CENTURY OF THE POSTER

We see them everywhere on a daily basis but this frequency has led to us paying less and less attention to the things. The exhibition named 'A Century of the Poster' gives the art form some much needed attention, as the development of the poster as a form of mass media is covered. Come and learn about the evolution of poster design in the country, as well as seeing some of the most iconic posters from Slovenia in the 20th century. ▶ Museum of Architecture and Design, Pot na Fužine 2. Open 10:00-18:00. Closed Mon, Sun.

24.06 WEDNESDAY - 08.05 SUNDAY PROJECT WATER

In keeping with Ljubljana's drive towards Green Capital of Europe status in 2016, Project Water was unveiled towards the end of June. A project with numerous outlets, four main themes run throughout, as knowledge is espoused through a number of water-related artefacts (including a rather impres-

sive wooden boat). Project Water will also spread out into the public spaces, a legacy that will prevail long after the end of the exhibition, as Ljubljana's water and drinking fountains, along with her bridges and the embankments of the Ljubljanica, come into focus. A whole host of extras including installations, exhibitions and special museum water bottles will accompany the project. ▶ Various Venues, www.mgml.si.

CINEMAS

Foreign films are screened in the original language with Slovenian subtitles, except for children's films which are usually dubbed. Aside from the largest blockbusters, films tend to open with significant lag with respect to larger markets, so don't be surprised to see posters advertising something released months earlier in your own country. Tickets cost €5-6.

KINO BEŽIGRAD

▶ L-3, Linhartova 11, tel. +386 (0)83 807 068, info@kino-bezigrad.si, www.kino-bezigrad.si.

KINODVOR

▶ D-2, Kolodvorska 13, tel. +386 (0)1 239 22 17, info@kinodvor.org, www.kinodvor.org.

KINO KOMUNA

▶ Cankarjeva 1, tel. +386 (0)1 241 8400, www.kolosej.si.

KOLOSEJ

▶ M-3, Šmartinska 152, tel. +386 (0)15 20 55 00, www.kolosej.si.

SLOVENSKA KINOTEKA

▶ D-2, Miklošičeva 28, tel. +386 (0)1 43 42 524, www.kinoteka.si.

CONCERT HALLS

CENTRE STOŽICE

▶ L-1, Vojkova Cesta.

GALA HALA

▶ F-1, Masarykova 24, tel. +386 (0)1 43 17 063, drustvo.kapa@gmail.com, www.galahala.com.

KRIŽANKE

▶ C-4, Trg Francoske Revolucije 1, tel. +386 (0)12 41 60 26.

OPERA & BALLETT LJUBLJANA

▶ B/C-3, Župančičeva 1, tel. +386 (0)1 241 17 66/+386 (0)31 69 66 00, blagajna@opera.si, www.opera.si.

SLOVENIAN PHILHARMONIC (SLOVENSKA FILHARMONIJA)

▶ C-4, Kongresni Trg 10, tel. +386 (0)1 241 08 00, info@filharmonija.si, www.filharmonija.si.

CULTURAL CENTRES

KINO ŠIŠKA (URBAN CULTURAL CENTRE)

After nearly a year of renovation, one of the city's most iconic cinemas reopened its doors in 2009 as an urban cultural centre featuring several state-of-the-art performance halls and exhibition spaces. Dedicated to promoting contemporary music, theatre, dance and experimental events, it already attracts big-name regional and

international artists, and is scheduled to hosts around 200 events per year. Most concerts are held in its largest multi-purpose hall, dubbed 'the Cathedral', which can fit over 932 people. Check out their English language website for more info and a full schedule of events. ► K-3, Trg Prekomorskih Brigad 3, tel. +386 (0)30 310 100, info@kinosiska.si, www.kinosiska.si. [Facebook icon] [Twitter icon] [Instagram icon] [YouTube icon]

METELKOVA MESTO (ALTERNATIVE CULTURE CENTRE)

Ljubljana's famous artists' colony hosts a number of clubs, most of which play thrash style music to a dreadlocked black-clad audience of all ages. Unfortunately little of the website is in English so it would be a case of try it and see, but what we can say for sure is that it provides a refreshing and alternative alternative to the dance music found in most other clubs and attracts a crowd who probably care more that you're 'cool' as in non-judgmental than 'cool' as in what you're wearing and how you sip your drink. Well worth checking-out both for itself and for the philosophy behind the whole set-up. ► F-1/2, Masarykova 24, www.metelkovamesto.org.

GALLERIES

These are some of the city's more established smaller galleries - most of which have art available for purchase. For info on larger galleries and museums please refer to the Sightseeing section, and for many more venues head to our website.

BEARTANGEL

This little gallery on Gornji trg in Ljubljana's old town is the peaceful sanctuary of local artist Božidar A. Kolerič, who paints under the moniker of BeArtAngel. Kolerič has spent his life exploring creativity and life energy, ideals conveyed in this latest endeavours. These world-renowned paintings are said to represent unseen energies and can give a helping hand in achieving inner peace. Such lofty artistic ideals might be a little confusing, but Božidar himself is on hand to happily explain the meaning behind the project. Handmade crystal water bottles are also available to purchase here, with a wide selection of crystals and other accessories on offer. Check the website for more information. ► D-4, Gornji Trg 19, tel. +386 (0)41 764 352, beartangel@gmail.com, www.beartangel.si. Open 10:00-12:00, 16:00-20:00, Sat 10:00-14:00. Closed Sun.

AKSIOMA PROJECT SPACE

► D/E-2, Komenskega 18, tel. +386 (0)590 54 360/+386 (0)590 17 010, projectspace@aksioma.org, www.aksioma.org. Open 12:00-18:00. Closed Mon, Sat, Sun.

GALERIJA FOTOGRAFIJA

► D-4, Mestni Trg 11/I, tel. +386 (0)1 25 11 529, info@galerijafotografija.si, www.galerijafotografija.si. Open 12:00-19:00, Sat 10:00-14:00. Closed Mon, Sun.

JAKOPIČ GALERIJA

► C-4, Slovenska 9, tel. +386 (0)1 24 12 500, info@mestnimuzej.si, www.mestnimuzej.si. Open 10:00-18:00. Closed Mon.

MESTNA GALERIJA (CITY GALLERY)

► D-3/4, Mestni Trg 5, tel. +386 (0)1 241 17 70, mestna.galerija-lj@siol.net, www.mestna-galerija.si. Open 11:00-19:00, Sun 11:00-15:00. Closed Mon.

ŠKUC GALLERY

► D-4, Stari Trg 21, tel./fax +386 (0)1421 31 40, galerija.skuc@guest.arnes.si, www.galerija.skuc-drustvo.si. Open 12:00-20:00. Closed Mon.

TOBAČNA 001

► A-4, Tobačna 1, tel. +386 (0)1 24 12 500, info@mgml.si, www.mgml.si. Open 11:00-19:00. Closed Mon, Sat, Sun.

VŽIGALICA GALERIJA

► C-4, Trg Francoske Revolucije 7, info@mgml.si, www.mgml.si. Open 11:00-18:00. Closed Mon.

THEATRES

MLADINSKO THEATRE (MLADINSKO)

Often referred to as a laboratory for artists to develop and create, Mladinsko Theatre has been active for well over 50 years and shows no sign of slowing down. Known for working with stage directors who aren't afraid to push boundaries and explore the avant-garde, its current season flies under the title of 'Who Are Our Heroes?', with productions exploring the concept of heroism in the modern age. ► E-1, Vilharjeva 11, tel. +386 (0)1 425 33 12, info@mladinsko-gl.si, en.mladinsko.com. Main box office at Trg Francoske Revolucije 5 is open Mon-Fri 12:00-17:30, Sat 10:00-13:00.

GLEDALIŠČE GLEJ

► C-4, Gregorčičeva 3, tel. +386 (0)1 251 66 79, info@glej.si, www.glej.si.

PUPPET THEATRE (LUTKOVNO GLEDALIŠČE)

► D/E-3, Krekov Trg 2, tel. +386 (0)1300 09 70, www.lgl.si. The box office is open Monday to Friday from 16:00 to 18:00, Saturday from 10:00 to 12:00, and during the hour prior to each performance.

STARA MESTNA ELEKTRARNA - ELEKTRO LJUBLJANA

► E-2, Slomskova 18, tel. +386 (0)51 269 906, info@bunker.si, www.bunker.si.





Ljubljana will be the Green Capital of Europe for 2016, and it is easy to see why. Photo by Dunja Wedam.

In June of 2014 Ljubljana was awarded the prize of being the Green Capital of Europe in 2016, beating out Oslo, Umea, Nijmegen and Essen to the prize. The panel was particularly impressed by the progress Ljubljana has made towards its green vision over the past decade and its commitment to sustainable living. The award is given to the city most committed to improving the urban environment, the city that has a well-established record of achieving high environmental standards and is truly committed to ambitious goals for future environmental improvement. We're biased of course, but we do think the jury made the correct decision.

Our Ljubljana has a truly green soul, goes above and beyond to increase awareness of environmental issues and has reinvented the old core of its city centre to become an oasis for pedestrians and cyclists. The awards continued to roll in for Ljubljana in April 2015 when the city was awarded the Tourism for Tomorrow award by the World Travel and Tourism Council, a prestigious award for the most sustainable travel destination.

Even the most cursory stroll through Ljubljana will make one aware of the green spaces. This is even true smack bang in the centre, as Ljubljana Castle and the greener-than-green Castle Hill tower over everyday life here. Trees and greenery surround the Ljubljanica river embankments, designed by the late great Jože Plečnik. Ljubljana is also home to one of the oldest botanical gardens in Europe as well as four nature parks, the most known of which is Tivoli Park. Walking and cycling

paths traverse the city and the city area is also home to a vast array of fountains with excellent drinking water. As environmental awareness continues to grow and grow, we're proud to live in a city at the forefront of improving it throughout the continent. Here's to Ljubljana, the Green Capital of Europe for 2016!

WHY LJUBLJANA?

Whilst it may be obvious to us why Ljubljana deserves the title of Green Capital of Europe, there are of course specific reasons as to why this prestigious award was given to our town. There were 12 reasons in particular, with impressive development made in the following specific areas; Climate Change, Local Transport, Green Urban Areas, Nature and Biodiversity, Quality of Local Ambient Air, Quality of Acoustic Environment, Waste Production and Management, Water Consumption, Waste Water Management, Environmental Innovation and Sustainable Employment, Energy Efficiency and Environmental Management. Now we can take a deep breath.

In the past few years, Ljubljana has implemented a number of initiatives aimed at improving the green nature of the city. In 2010 the Urbana card was introduced, making the use of public transport easier and more efficient. To accentuate this, the old city centre has been closed off to traffic and has become something of a haven for cyclists and pedestrians.

GREEN AIMS

As with any great project, there are a number of key areas in which the city of Ljubljana plans to make great strides as part of its Vision 2025 plan. Winning the award for Green Capital of Europe is one thing, but the city can't rest on its laurels in the slightest. Here's a brief overview of the aims of Vision 2025.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AIMS

Ask most people what 'Being Green' means to them, and aside from the many comical replies you'll surely get a number of comments regarding energy efficiency, so it comes as no surprise that a Sustainable Action Plan is in place for Ljubljana. High on the agenda is the substitution of environmentally less friendly fossil fuels with more acceptable alternatives, the city aims to reduce energy use in all areas of consumption, to create the ideal energy efficient city. The fundamental objectives are to create a 25% share of renewable energy in final energy consumption, as well as making a 20% improvement in energy efficiency. The plan aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by around 20%. The key aim of all of this is to reduce CO2 emissions by some 30%.

NATURE & BIODIVERSITY AIMS

Ljubljana's nature and biodiversity is one of her most charming characteristics, and a program for the protection of this is in place with completion aimed for 2018. Protection really is the key word here, as natural features of the area will be guarded. We aren't talking about anyone being chained to any trees, more protection through legislation and common sense. Degraded ecosystems will also see new life pumped into them. For more information on Ljubljana's wonderful biodiversity, head to www.ljubljanskobarje.si.

SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY PLAN

The Sustainable Mobility Plan emphasises the promotion of sustainable forms of mobility and the restriction of private motorised transport. The key aim is to improve the distribution of mobility by increasing walking by 20%, cycling by 40% and bus journeys by 50%, all the while reducing car journeys by 20%. By 2020, the hope is that transport distribution will be 1/3 public transport, 1/3 non-motorised mobility and 1/3 private vehicles.

PRESERVATION OF NATURAL WATER SOURCES

First of all we have the continued improvement of the water supply system monitoring. Along with this comes the installation of more energy-efficient water pumping facilities, as well as the optimisation of the water supply system-operating mode under improved operating conditions. The people of Ljubljana will also continue to

be informed about the use of modern environmentally friendly solutions in the field of water supply and waste water/rainwater drainage. The protection of water in general is of high importance over the next five years.

So how about the long-term objectives? The speeding up of repairs to the water supply network take up a good chunk of this, taking into account technical criteria for the planning and implementation of repairs. Continual education is also important, as people are informed more and more about the importance of long term conservation of natural water sources. The security of drinking water supplies will be improved by researching and protecting new and reserve water sources.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AIMS

Who doesn't love waste management? Well, like or not, it plays a big part of the aims of the Vision 2020 plans. The main aims in this area are the upgrading of the waste collection system, the upgrading of the Regional Waste Management Centre (RCERO), reduction of the share of waste left on landfill to less than 15% of total waste and the reduction of total waste by more than 3% annually.

WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT AIMS

Phase III of the construction of the Ljubljana Central Treatment Plant dominates this area of the vision. One of the largest environmental projects in the city, it aims to ensure efficient use of the capacities of the facilities as well as greater energy self-sufficiency of the plant. The urban waste-water discharge systems in the neighbouring municipalities of Medvode and Vodic will be upgraded by the end of 2015, leading to the construction of the CO connection channel in Ljubljana proper. This channel, running from Brod to Sneberje, will enable the connection of the neighbouring municipalities to the central sewerage system in Ljubljana itself. The idea is that greater access to the sewerage system will mean improved management, and the construction of this 10.5km long channel is estimated at €13.5m.




Restaurants



Ljubljana's local culinary specialties include, clockwise from top left, ričet (a thick stew), štruklji (rolled dumplings with savoury or sweet fillings), Kranjska klobasa and deep-fried frog legs, photos by Tormo Jeseničnik / Tourism Ljubljana

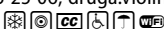
SLOVENIAN

AROMA

Located in the city's oldest house, dating from 1528, has already become a popular choice for visitors to Ljubljana. Aroma has a diverse menu offering traditional Slovene dishes as well as almost anything else you might fancy - from steaks and pizzas to salads and desserts - as well as a good selection of quality Slovene wines. Breakfast specials look good too. Almost as hard as choosing what to order is deciding whether to sit inside under the beautiful vaulted ceilings or outside in prime position beside the Ljubljanica river. ► D-3, Ribji Trg 2, tel. +386 (0)31 30 70 30, www.aroma-ljubljana.si. Open 08:00-24:00. 



DRUGA VIOLINA

Druga violina specialises in good locally grown produce, a simple short menu of Slovene classics and a top location in the city's old town, but there's a twist in the tale with the 'other violin' (as the English translation of the name goes). It's actually a project for people with disabilities, who produce much of the food on a farmland near Ljubljana and also work as waiting staff in the restaurant itself. Come and see what it's all about, while enjoying one of the fresh local dishes either in the rustic dining room or on the delightful cobbled pavement outside, voted Best Restaurant Summer Terrace 2014 by In Your Pocket readers. ► D-4, Stari trg 21, tel. +386 (0)82 05 25 06, druga.violina@center-db.si. Open 08:00-24:00. 

GOSTILNA GORJANC

With over two centuries of tradition (it was officially opened for business in 1813), Gorjanc is one of the longest running traditional Slovenian restaurants around Ljubljana, but at the same time it's also one of the newest, as it underwent extensive restoration and modernisation at the same time the G Design Hotel was built next door. Along with the standard hearty Slovenian fare, such as blood sausages and sauerkraut with pork fat cracklings, the menu makes room for various refined fish, pastas, salads and other gourmet dishes. On weekdays there are lunch specials on offer that can be seen in advance on its website. ► H-5, Tržaška 330, tel. +386 (0)1 423 11 11, info@gdesignhotel.si, www.gdesignhotel.si. Open 11:00-22:00, Sun 11:00-17:00. 

GOSTILNA NA GRADU

Decidedly upmarket in appearance and service, the prices are surprisingly modest - especially given the truly unique location and dining experience that goes along with it. Na Gradu's award-winning chefs pride themselves on the expert preparation of Slovenia's diverse range of traditional dishes, which have been developed over the centuries in the country's 24 separate gastronomic regions, with nearly all of the ingredients being locally produced. ► D-4, Grajska Planota 1, tel. +386 (0)8 205 19 30/+386 (0)31 301 777, tanja@nagradu.si, www.nagradu.si. Open 10:00-24:00, Sun 10:00-18:00. (€3.50-14). 


GOSTILNA POD VRBO

This traditional Slovenian gostilna is located in one of Ljubljana's oldest neighbourhoods, just metres from the former home of famed architect Jože Plečnik. On sunny days the name Pod Vrbo (under the willows) takes on a literal meaning with tables out in the garden, while in winter you can cosy up beside the fire. The kitchen turns out excellent Slovenian and Mediterranean dishes - some served in traditional copper pots and earthenware bowls - whilst the daily menus and seasonal specials, like homemade chestnut gnocchi with porcini mushrooms, are a great value.

► K-4, Zihierlova 36, tel. +386 (0)1 280 88 92/+386 (0)41 712 806, www.podvrbo.si. Open 11:00-22:00, Sat 12:00-22:00, Sun open by prior arrangement. ☑ ☒

GÜJŽINA

Voted by our readers as the best Slovenian restaurant in Ljubljana for 2013, Gūžina offers traditional cuisine from the region of Prekmurje, which is situated in the far northeastern corner of the country and heavily influenced by neighbouring Hungary, Austria and Croatia. One of the most typical dishes is the award-winning bograč, a thick meaty stew that comes served in a large copper kettle, while the multi-layered cake known as gibanica is easily the best in the city and an absolute must for dessert. Check the chalkboard or ask your waiter for the daily specials. ► D-4, Mestni Trg 19, tel. +386 (0)8 380 64 46, info@prekmurska-gostilna.si, www.prekmurska-gostilna.si. Open 08:00-24:00.

☑ ☒ ☓ ☑ ☒



Kuhinja Krušič

BEST HORSE STEAK IN TOWN



Bezenškova 11, 1000 Ljubljana
T: 01/544-61-41, Mon-Fri: 8h-16h

KUHINJA KRUSIČ

Aside from the Euro, nothing has stirred up more disagreement amongst Europeans in recent years than horse meat - Slovenia being one of the countries where people largely have no problem with horses finding their way onto kitchen tables. Like-minded visitors in Ljubljana will thus surely want to add the family-run Krušič to their itinerary. Operating a butchery for over a century, it's one of the country's top suppliers of horse meat, which also dominates the menu in various different forms at the restaurant on the same premises. Various appetisers, stews, cured meats and of course steaks from horse are on offer here, all of which can be enjoyed in the charming little dining room or taken away. ► L-3, Bezenškova 11, tel. +386 (0)1 544 61 41, kuhinja.krusic@gmail.com, www.mesarstvo-krusic.si. Open 08:00-16:00. Closed Sat, Sun. ☑ ☒

SLOVENIAN KITCHEN and PIZZA

SLOVENSKA KUHINJA IN PIZZERIJA



SLOVENIAN DISHES



PIZZA

10:00-24:00

Sun
Sat
Fri
Thu
Wed
Tue
Mon

OPEN 7 days a week

ADDRESS:
Ribičji trg 2
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenija

www.aroma-ljubljana.si

TASTE SLOVENIA

Tel: 031 30 70 30

E-naslov: aroma-ljubljana@gmail.com

Aroma
RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA









HIŠA KULINARIKE MANNA

Set in a colourful little house on one of Ljubljana's pretti-
est (and most overlooked) streets, Manna offers a divine
selection of contemporary Slovene cuisine for breakfast,
lunch and dinner. Meals are complimented with some tasty
homemade desserts and large choice of both Slovene and
foreign wines, as well as a sophisticated selection of spir-
its (aged rums, cognacs and whiskeys) and cigars for after
dinner. A large garden and terrace in the back is open all
year, and many people come here to enjoy a coffee, sweets
or light snack. ► C/D-5, Eipprova 1a, tel. +386 (0)5 992 23
08, info@kulinarika-manna.si, www.restaurant-manna.com. Open 12:00-23:00, Sun 12:00-21:00, Holidays 08:00-
22:00. (€5-20).        

PRI ŠKOFU

Hidden down a small side street in Krakovo, Pri Škofu is a long-time favourite of local university students who like to enjoy a proper homecooked meal from time to time. The €8 lunch specials come in large portions and are a great town, with most herbs and vegetables coming from neighbourhood gardens or the countryside just outside Ljubljana. It's also possible to order à la carte, and an English-speaking waitress will gladly inform you of what seasonal specialties are available. There's a wide selection of Slovene wines, as well as beers that you can't find anywhere else in town.

► C-5, Rečna 8, tel. +386 (0)1 426 45 08, mizapriškofu@gmail.com. Open 10:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 24:00. Closed Mon. €€      

NEW

MEDITERRANEO

This rustic themed restaurant in the centre of the old town, opposite the cathedral, is a perfect place to take a break from sightseeing and taste some authentic flavours of Ljubljana. Much of Mediterraneo's menu is devoted to traditional Slovene cuisine, as well as reinterpreted local classics, like the signature dish - the Ljubljana cannonball, a decadent dish of crumbed chicken stuffed with prosciutto, peanuts and kajmak (a rich fresh cheese). As the restaurant's name suggests, Mediterranean influences also feature prominently, particularly in the great selection of cold starters and seasonal lunch specials. Mediterraneo also offer good coffee, light breakfasts, fairly priced wines and friendly service. ► D-3, Ciril Metodov Trg 16, tel. +386 (0)64 226 777. Open 08:00 - 23:00.      

ŠPAJZA

An exceedingly classy affair with chunky, creaking wooden floors, a number of different rustic-feel rooms to eat in, an extensive menu of Slovenian and international dishes, and an antique silver cash register in the entrance. Located on one of the old town's quaintest most photogenic streets, it's popular with many people including business professionals, tourists and couples. During the summer months they have one of the most romantic courtyards in Ljubljana. ► D-5, Gornji Trg 28, tel. +386 (0)1 425 30 94, info@spajza-lj.si, www.spajza-restaurant.si. Open 12:00-23:00, Sun 12:00-22:00. (€7.50-15)     



Ljubljana from the Ljubljanica Flavours fit for a Knight by Chef Igor Jagodic of 'The Archer' restaurant at Ljubljana Castle




Unforgettable romantic culinary indulgence at the Ljubljanica river. 5 course menu with wine accompaniment - Slovenian and foreign winemakers, welcome drink, two hours panoramic tour with Boat Ljubljana and live music.

www.kaval-group.si
tina.kirn@kaval-group.si



Restaurants

STRELEC

Perched high up in the archer's tower, Ljubljana castle's new restaurant overlooks the city from a grand position. A combination of the Roman Emona, Medieval and modern in terms of both cuisine and ambiance, the menu was created with the help of top ethnology professor Dr Janez Bogataj. Historically reminiscent dishes of slick gourmet modernity are crafted with ingredients from Ljubljana's famed market by the star of the show: Igor Jagodic. Recognised as one of the top three chefs in Slovenia, he was previously at the renowned Vila Bled, and now takes care of the sublime offerings at Strelec. ► D-4, Grajska Planota 1, tel. +386 (0)31 687 648, strelec@kaval-group.si, www.kaval-group.si. Open 11:00-22:00, Fri, Sat 11:00-23:00, Sun 11:00-17:00.   

ASIAN







MIN8NIM

Our Slovene friends who have lived in China assure us that this is the best Chinese place in town, so don't be dissuaded by its humble appearances. Famous for boasting the first Chinese cook in Slovenia, this Hong Kong family-run canteen-style Chinese establishment specialises in fast and delicious, one-wok meals delivered to your table in less than eight minutes, all for under €5, not including drinks. ► Kolodvorska 20, tel. +386 (0) 231 21 68. Open 11:00-23:00. (€5.50-8).



Shambala provides some of the finest Asian cuisine in the city

SHAMBALA

Not only does Shambala's kitchen turn out some of the best (and spiciest) Asian cuisine in Slovenia, but the tranquil, almost meditative, ambience of the place allows you to enjoy your meal in a state of perfect relaxation - with some of the best service in town thrown in as an added benefit. During the warmer months, diners can also take advantage of the pleasant little garden that is tucked away in one of the buildings' inner courtyards. Situated down a narrow alleyway off Breg, this hidden gem is definitely worth finding. ► C-4, Križevniška 12, tel. +386 (0)1 426 30 14/+386 (0)31 843 833, info@shambala.si, www.shambala.si. Open 12:00-24:00. Closed Sun. (€3.50-9.50).      

SUSHIMAMA

The first - and for a long time only - Japanese restaurant in Slovenia, the small and intimate Sushimama's interesting little touches beyond the actual food include a subscription to *Wallpaper* magazine and the brave act of putting the head Japanese sushi chef Hiroki Ishikawa on display as he works in the restaurant. The extensive menu features every Japanese favourite from soups to noodle soups, a number of delicate rice and noodle-based dishes to of course the sushi itself. Complimented by an extensive list of cocktails and wines, the restaurant is marking its territory as the first and finest of its kind. ► C/D-3, **Wolfova 12**, tel. +386 (0)40 70 20 70, www.sushimama.si. Open 11:00-23:00. Closed Sun. (€11-24).      

TOKYO PIKNIK

Despite what the name may suggest, Tokyo Piknik offers a whole range of Asian cuisine as well as more recognisable Western dishes. With plenty of outdoor seating by the river, it represents another excellent option for a casual afternoon lunch or an atmospheric evening meal, another string to Ljubljana's growing bow of Asian food. It also happens to be the only real ramen bar in Slovenia, and all the noodles you will gorge on are completely hand-made. Regardless of the time of day, the desserts are wonderful, both the taste and the aesthetics. ► D-4, Cankarjevo Nabrežje 25, tel. +386 (0)30 60 88 08, romeo.plus@siol.net, www.tokyopiknik.com. Open 09:00-24:00.   

BALKAN

GOSTILNA ČAD

When you ask locals to name their favourite Balkan restaurant in Ljubljana, Čad is one of the most frequently heard answers. Situated by Rožnik Hill around corner from Tivoli Park, it's also the longest-running restaurant of its kind in town, and guests can dine in the shady garden surrounded by nature or in the rustic homey interior. Specialising in spit and grilled dishes, the beefsteaks, grilled peppers and ražnjići skewers all come highly recommended. ► J-3, Cesta Na Rožnik 18, tel. +386 (0)1 251 34 46, info@gostilnacad.si, www.gostilnacad.si. Open 11:00-23:00. (€5-15).





Gostilna Čad



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phone +386 (0)1 251 34 46
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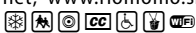


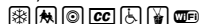
GOSTILNA DUBOČICA

Located in the Moste neighbourhood of Ljubljana a short walk, drive or bike ride east of the hospital, once you cross the railway tracks it's easy to think you've arrived in some quaint countryside village. The restaurant itself is housed in a more than century-old house, and was one of the first places in Ljubljana that served authentic home-cooked Serbian cuisine. Be sure to try at least one dish off the mouth-watering (and meat-heavy) House Specialities menu - you won't be disappointed. ▶ L-4, Zaloška 31, tel. +386 (0)1 542 37 77/+386 (0)51 606 080, portal@siol.net, www.dubocica.si. Open Sun-Thurs 11:00-23:00, Fri & Sat 11:00-01:00. (€3-20). 



GOSTILNICA RIO-MOMO

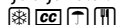
Situated between the central post office and Kongresni Trg on the city's main thoroughfare, we've never found the exterior to be the most inviting but once you get inside it's actually quite warm and cosy. The thick leather covers on the menus portend the ample selection of grilled meat dishes within, although vegetarians have a handful of a pastas and salads to choose from as well. On your way in don't forget to check the table outside for flyers entitling you to a free glass of wine. ▶ C-3, Slovenska 28, tel. +386 (0)31 751 751/+386 (0)14 25 32 26, portal@siol.net, www.riomomo.si. Open 11:00-23:00. (€6-19). 



BUFFET

MENZA CELOVŠKA 166

Located on the main road northwest out of town, Menza (Slovene for canteen) offers up cheap week-day self-service lunches. There's a rotating selection of soups, hearty stews, grilled meats and varied sides as well as a salad bar. It's no culinary destination, but it's hard to complain about lunches costing €4 or less and free parking. ▶ J-2, Celovška 166, tel. +386 (0)31 637 828, menza.lj@gmail.com, www.menza-ljubljana.si. Open 7:00 - 15:00. Closed Sat, Sun.



BUREK


AJDA

Open around the clock, you can rest assured that Ajda will always be there to satisfy your fast food needs, be it at three in the afternoon, three in the morning or any other time. In their sit-down restaurant opposite the main train and bus stations, you can tuck into a selection of Balkan-style grilled dishes, such as čevapčići and pljeskavica, as well as savoury burek pies and kebabs, or just grab a slice of pizza on the go. If you're nearer the city centre, there's a second non-stop outlet hidden below the Ajdovščina building. ▶ D-1, Trg Osvojudilne Fronte 13, tel. +386 (0)1 439 14 40, www.okrepcevalnicaajda.si. Open 00:00-24:00. 



Restaurants

NOBEL BUREK

A small kiosk close to the train and bus stations churning out steaming hot burek as well as pizza for those who like to do their fine dining in the street. Excellent value, excellent burek. ▶ D-2, Miklošičeva 30, tel. +386 (0)12 32 33 92. Open 24hrs. (€2). 


OLIMPIJA

Not one of our personal favourites, but judging by the crowds milling about outside around the clock we're in the minority. It was also the runaway winner of our online poll. The servings are huge and always hot, with four varieties of pie to choose from: cheese, meat, apple and pizza - the latter being the overwhelming favourite among customers. Just around the corner from Bavarski Dvor. ▶ D-2, Slovenska 58. Open 00:00-24:00

INDIAN

NAMASTÉ

Set along the beautifully redeveloped Breg riverside walk in the old town, Namasté is the longest running Indian restaurant in all of Slovenia, and offers one of Ljubljana's most romantic dining experiences of any flavour - with soft yellow hued lighting, hand-painted walls and a relaxed cosy atmosphere. The house specialties are dishes from the Rajasthan and Punjab regions, which are prepared individually with spices directly imported from the subcontinent and can be ordered mild to extra hot. Sometimes we like to stop by just to savour a cup of spicy masala chai. ▶ C/D-4,

Breg 8, tel. +386 (0)14 25 01 59 fax +386 (0)1 236 20 27, info@restavracija-namaste.si, www.restavracija-namaste.si. Open 11:00-24:00, Sun 11:00-22:00. (€5-21). 

CURRY LIFE FIGOVEC

From the same people who have brought the city its fine annual curry festival, the dishes on offer at Curry Life Figovec are as close to traditional curry as can be, with award-winning chefs flown in from all over the world. The proud tradition of Gostilna Figovec hasn't been forgotten however, as many traditional Slovene dishes also find themselves on the menu and homemade ice cream and pastries make it difficult to skip dessert. Sitting outside on the terrace adjacent to a large park shaded by centuries-old trees makes for a lovely dining experience. ▶ C-2, Gosposvetska 1, tel. +386 (0)41 82 50 01, info@currylife-figovec.si, www.currylife-figovec.si. Open 11:00 - 23:00, Sun 11:00-17:00. 

INTERNATIONAL

CAFÉ ROMEO

Red leather seating with some very strange lighting indeed and the pinkest walls you ever did see, makes Romeo easy to spot along the narrow cobbled streets of the old town. A great place for good value Mexican and fusion food for all the family during lunchtime or, later on, for a buzzy little cocktail adventure with the great and the good of the city. They also happen to make some of the best crepes in town. ▶ D-4, Stari Trg 6, tel. +386 (0)1 426 90 11, romeo.plus@siol.net, www.caferomeo.si. Open 10:00-01:00. 

NEW

DEŽELA OKUSOV

Sitting amongst the restaurants and bars along Eipprova in Trnovo, there is a lot to like about this gastropub. Dežela Okusov has a meaty menu of Slovenian and international dishes, with grilled and smoked meats a speciality, such as 12hr slow cooked pulled pork poutine. It's ideal pub food, pairing perfectly with the good selection of Slovenian and imported beers on offer. The cosy interior and hearty food will warm up customers up in winter, whilst on a nice day the street terrace is the place to be. Unusual for Slovenia, Dežela Okusov also roasts its own coffee. ▶ C-5, Eipprova 11, tel. +386 (0)1 283 92 88, info@dezela-okusov.si. Open 10:00 - 01:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 01:00. 

FANY & MARY

Fany & Mary have a name and logo that hints at something über trendy, in fact it's much more a down to earth family friendly type of place with good service, fair prices and generous portions you won't hear us complaining about. Occupying prime promenade real estate in front of Mesarski Most (Butcher's bridge) it is a great outdoor dining spot whilst inside is a cosier affair. Fany & Mary's menu features a range of international classics including pizzas, salads and some very tasty burgers, which pair perfectly with the fine selection of beers on offer. ▶ D-3, Petkovškovo Nabrežje 19, tel. +386 (0)8 383 89 26. Open 08:00 - 23:45. 



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PASTA
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SEAFOOD
GRILLED
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SAT., SUN.: 11.00 - 23.00
ŽELEZNA CESTA 12
01 432 01 94, www.svetilnik.eu

HARFA

It may be a bit out of the way, but Harfa is one of Ljubljana's finest restaurants and well worth seeking out. Chef Boštjan Pavli masterfully balances flavours using stunningly fresh produce to create delicious dishes, such as garlic soup with lobster and scallops and homemade chanterelle ravioli. On offer are two styles of dining, casual lunch menus as well as more refined four-course business lunches; menus change daily and feature fish, meat and vegetarian options, as well as a fine a la carte offer. Complementing the food are great desserts (made fresh daily) as well as a fantastic wine list, whilst the service is also excellent. ► J-5, Koprska 98, tel. +386 (0)1 423 24 11/+386 (0)41 858 033, info@harfa-restavracija.si, www.harfa-restavracija.si. Open . Closed Sat, Sun, Open 10:30-17:00 and in the evenings by prior arrangement. Closed Sat-Sun.   



JB

Firmly entrenched as one of the best restaurants in town, this fine dining experience comes courtesy of founder and head chef JANEZ BRATOVŽ (hence the name). Located in one of Jože Plečnik's more imposing secessionist-style buildings, JB attracts a mix of well-to-do locals and visiting businessmen - guaranteeing you the chance to eavesdrop on conversations in a variety of languages. The menu is comprised entirely of seasonal specialities and changes daily, with exotic offerings such as bear meat appearing from time to time. The only downside is the price, easily topping €50 per person for a proper meal with wine. ► D-1, Miklošičeva 17, tel. +386 (0)1 433 13 58/+386 (0)1 474 72 19, janez.bratovz@siol.net, www.jb-slo.com. Open 12:00-23:00, Sat 18:00-23:00. Closed Sun.   

NEW

KAVARNA TISKARNA

Set amidst industrial buildings and a carpark, Kavarna Tiskarna have transformed a space that was in danger of urban decay into a cool all-day hang out spot, the centre piece of which is an expansive covered terrace. Locals drop by for coffee and toasties in the morning, take advantage of tasty reasonably priced food at lunchtime, whilst it's a nice place for a drink in the evening with a solid selection of craft beers and excellent bar food including some of the best burgers and smoked/grilled meats in town. Live music and DJs often feature at night, though parties tend to wrap up early. ► L-2, Dunajska 123, tel. +386 (0)70 553 531, kavarna.tiskarna@gmail.com. Open Mon, Tue, Wed 07:00 - 22:00, Thu, Fri 07:00 - 23:00, Sat 09:00 - 23:00, Sun 09:00 - 22:00. 





MARLEY & ME

Acres of stripped pine, friendly professional service and one of the best kitchen smells in the city, this intimate bistro-type restaurant comes highly recommended. Standouts from the small yet varied menu include the large and tasty salads, delicious pastas, traditional Slovenian food and some truly memorable meat and fish dishes. Be warned though, the place is immensely popular, and waiting for a table during the day is a common occurrence. ► **D-4, Stari Trg 9**, tel. +386 (0)8 380 66 10/+386 (0)40 564 188, info@marleyandme.si, www.marleyandme.si. Open 11:00-23:00. (€3-22) €€.




MOST

As soon as you arrive to this restaurant you'll notice a framed food quality award next to the door. That gives a hint of what this restaurant has in store for you. It's fairly obvious that a lot of thought went into the décor of this place. The pictures had wooden frames that had deliberately not been polished. Underneath them there was beautiful handwriting on the walls. It all gave the place a very rustic and cosy ambience. Even the music was soothing. Very romantic. The cutlery hanging from the lamps marred the effect a bit, but that's really nitpicking. The best part was, of course, the food. Simply exquisite and very well decorated. It's great. ► **D-3, Petkovskovo Nabrežje 21, tel. +386 (0)12 32 81 83, most@t.net, www.restavracija-most.si** Open 11:00-23:00.    

PANINOTEKA +


Still bearing the name from its previous incarnation as Ljubljana's most famous sandwich shop, Paninoteka is now a full-fledged modern restaurant and café. The à la carte selection leans towards the Italian, with homemade gnocchi and ravioli standing out, as well as some truly succulent steaks and meal-sized fresh salads among our personal favourites. Constantly changing daily lunch specials are a good value, while the legendary soup and sandwiches are of course still available for both dining in and taking away. The warm cosy atmosphere and central old town location is also conducive to dropping in for an evening drink or dessert. ► C/D-4, Jurčičev Trg 3, tel. +386 (0)41 256 714. Open Mon-Thurs 08:00-23:00, Fri 08:00-24:00, Sat 09:00-24:00 and Sun 09:00-22:00. Sandwiches €3.10-3.80. Main dishes €7.50-18.60.    

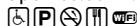
PROMENADA

Just steps from Prešeren Square, Promenada restaurant (and the café of the same name next-door) occupies a prime riverside location with great drinking and eating options. The menu features a fine selection of Slovenian wines complemented by spiced Balkan grills, hearty Slovenian fare and delicate seafood dishes, while the restaurant's wood-fired oven doesn't just provide a cosy atmosphere, from it emerge some very tasty pizzas. ► D-4, Petkovškovo Nabrežje 9, tel. +386 (0)8 383 10 82, info@restavracija-promenada.si, www.restavracija-promenada.si. Open 12:00-24:00.    

Restaurants

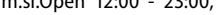
SLON

Officially one of the best restaurants in the city (they have an award to prove it), the eatery at the Best Western Slon is well worth your time. The central location, the delightfully simple - mainly Mediterranean - menu and the outstanding service all help to make it special. Try and bag one of the tables overlooking the lounge: among the most sought-after in the city. ► C-3, Slovenska 34, tel. +386 (0)1 470 11 00, sales@hotelslon.com, www.hotelslon.com.
Open 08:00-24:00, Sun 11:30-24:00. 



SMREKARJEV HRAM

Another of Ljubljana's upscale eateries, Smrekarjev Hram features a menu with a wide selection and a long wine list. Make sure you leave room for a main and a dessert, where you can select from a range of fish or meat dishes such as grilled sea bass or beef in goose liver sauce, finishing off with raspberry pie or baked fig with vanilla ice-cream. The elegant interior of Smrekarjev Hram is offset by the funky multi-colored straw sculptures which add a touch of fun to somewhere with more than a touch of class. It also has excellent daily lunch specials on offer, with soup from €3 and lunches starting from €6.50. ► **Nazorjeva 2, tel. +386 (0)1 308 1907, smrekarjev.hram@union-hotels.eu, www.smrekarjevhram.si** Open 12:00 – 23:00, Sat-Sun 18:00 – 23:00



ITALIAN

BUF

Located on the edge of town and catering to everyday working locals, the Italian inspired Buf has a loyal following for its generous portions and reasonable prices - a student menu is also on offer. The menu features pizzas, pastas, grilled meats and salads as well as classic desserts like pancakes and tiramisu. Located just off the ring road at Lesnica-Brdo it's not too tricky to get to if you have a car. ► I-4, Cesta na Bokalce 40, tel. +386 (0)51 686 207, www.buf.si.
 si. Open 8:00 - 22:00. Closed Sun. ❄️ 🚶 🚗 🇪🇺 🇸🇮

GOSTILNA KATRCA

This century-old inn has a long history of serving excellent food and we're very happy to say the revamped Katrca, now a gastropub with beer garden, continues

to turn out great value, delicious fare. The regular menu features excellent pasta dishes, an impressive selection of grilled meats and Belgium style mussels along with other tasty drinking snacks. Katrca cares as much about beer as they do about food with a state of the art draught beer system and excellent range of craft and traditional brews. ►J-3, Rožna Dolina 1/26a, tel. +386 (0)1 422 88 40, gostilna.katrc@gmail.com, www.katrc.si. Open 08:00 - 23:30, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 22:00. (€4.50-22.5).

LATIN AMERICAN

CANTINA MEXICANA

Fun on two floors in one of the city's most popular courtyards, Cantina Mexicana is positively aglow with bright colours, strange sculptures, grass growing on the ceiling and some nice lighting tricks behind the long ground-floor bar. The food is classic Tex-Mex as you'd expect, and appears to be fairly popular. If nothing else, this is one of the quirkiest and silliest places in the city centre and even if you're not hungry is well worth a visit for a drink or two. ► C-3, Knafjev Prehod 2, tel. +386 (0)1 426 93 25, kantina.meksikana@gmail.com, www.cantina.si. Open 10:00-01:00, Wed, Thu 10:00-02:00, Fri, Sat 10:00-03:00. In summer time Mon, Tue and Sun 09:00-01:00. (€4.90-16.90).        

NEWLY REOPENED

MEXICO MEDITERRA PLACE

A few bus stops from the city centre, Mexico Mediterrea Place (or just Mexico M Place for short) turns out a familiar assortment of Mexican fare, including burritos, chimichangas and quesadillas in a half-dozen varieties each, as well as several Mexican-style steak and chicken dishes. For those feeling less adventure, the menu also has a selection of pastas, risottos and salads, and even a few pizzas. If you're attending a concert at Kino Šiška next door, it's a great place to grab a snack (nachos, taquitos, fried jalapeños) and a cocktail or two before the show - during good weather the upstairs terrace is great for watching the urban scenery pass by below. ► **K-3, Celovška 111, tel. +386 (0)1 500 99 47, www.mehiskarestavracija.si** Open 10:00-23:00, Sat 11:00 - 23:00, Sun 11:00 - 21:00 ☼ cc



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MEDITERRANEAN

ALLEGRIA

Tucked away in a courtyard behind a large terrace, this long-running Ljubljana eatery prepares exemplary Mediterranean cuisine, with an emphasis on dishes from Slovenia's coastal regions. Seasonal specials are regularly offered, and the entire menu is naturally complimented by an excellent wine list. The steaks and homemade gnocchi are among our favourite dishes, but for something really unique try the Kraški risotto, which is made using Jamar sir (a cheese aged in a cave 70m underground). ▶ C-3, Nazorjeva 8, tel. +386 (0)1 426 74 02, info@allegria.si, www.allegria.si. Open 11:00-23:00, Sat 12:00-22:00, Sun 12:00-17:00. (€7-19).

PR'NONI

Just outside the ring road in Vič, Ošterija Pr' Noni is an elegant oasis set beside a stream offering one of Ljubljana's most delightful dining experiences. Pr' Noni's popularity (pays to book ahead) also rests on its delicious Mediterranean cuisine featuring excellent seasonal ingredients, fresh local seafood and perfectly grilled meats as well as one of Ljubljana's best wine lists. Despite its incredibly classy feel, the service is friendly and it's refreshingly unpretentious, offering actually very good value menus - especially, the early light lunches (malice in Slovene), more substantial 3-5 course lunch menus and traditional weekend lunches. ▶ Cesta v Gorice 1, tel. +386 (0)1 242 58 20, nona@copia.si. Open 10:30-22:00, Sat 12:00-22:00, Sun 12:00-17:00.

TABAR

This ultra-modern new concept restaurant and bar combines Slovenian-style tapas with an excellent selection of wines from some of the country's top producers. The menu has a strong Mediterranean influence, featuring everything from tender prosciutto and salami to roasted octopus and baked shrimp - all prepared with fresh local ingredients in an open kitchen, where you can watch the magic happen if you're lucky enough to find an open seat. For those adverse to making decisions, there are three- and five-course tasting menus selected by the chef (our preferred option), while many patrons simply drop in to sample a few glasses of wine. ▶ D-3, Ribji Trg 6, tel. +386 (0)31 764 063, info@tabar.si, www.tabar.si. Open Mon, Tue, Wed 10:00-24:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 10:00-01:00. Closed Sun.

PIZZA

FOCULUS

Magnificently decorated once you're through the slightly out of place automatic doors, with autumn leaves painted on the vaulted ceilings and red, yellow and orange plates built into the roof of the large wood-fired pizza oven. The large and busy Foculus specialises in 66 varieties of pizza, including 20 for vegetarians and eight with seafood. The salads are also particularly good. The place can get rather hectic in the evenings, so don't be surprised if you have to wait a few minutes for a table. ▶ C-4, Gregorčičeva 3, tel. +386 (0)1 421 92 95, foculus@siol.net, www.picerija.net/foculus.htm. Open 11:00-24:00. (€5.70-8.40).

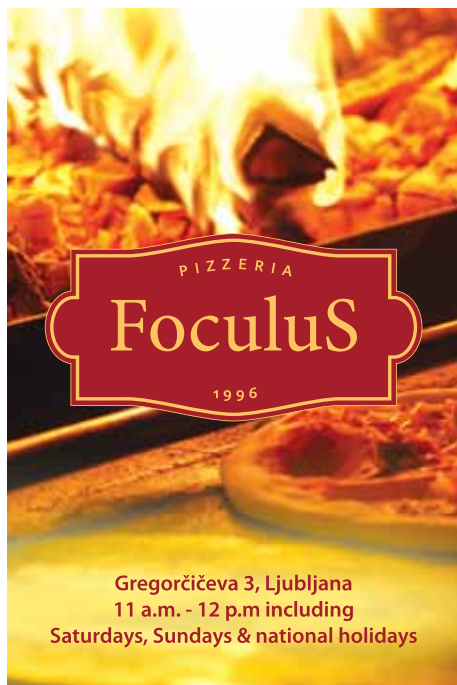
PARMA

A quirky little one, this. As well as a couple of ordinary tables, most dining here is done at the large bar from where the food is cooked and served. Find an empty stool, make your order and away you go. And while you're waiting for your pizza to arrive, take a look at the large photographs on the wall of the construction of the area you're eating in. Find it hidden away down the stairs and on the right at the southern end of Maxi Market. ▶ B/C-4, Trg Republike 2, tel. +386 (0)1 426 82 22, foculus@siol.net, www.picerija.net/parma.htm. Open 10:00-21:00, Sat 11:00-16:00. Closed Sun. (€3.90-6.20).

PIZZERIA OSMICA

Located on the pedestrian street that runs parallel to Čopova, Osmica is essentially the pizza annex of the longer-running Allegria in the courtyard around the corner. The menu boasts over two dozen pizzas, and several choice of salad, lasagna and tortillas are also on offer in the comfortable rustic setting - think lots of wood and exposed stone with an open kitchen. We stop by for lunch or grab a pizza to go on the way home quite often, but if we were forced to choose a favourite it'd have to be the Tar-tufo, which comes heaped with prosciutto, salami, parmesan and of course truffle oil. ▶ C-3, Nazorjeva 8, tel. +386 (0)1 426 58 72, info@osmica.si, www.osmica.si. Open 11:00-23:00, Sat 12:00-22:00, Sun 12:00-17:00. (€5.50-8.30).

Restaurants



PIZZERIA
Foculus
1996

Gregorčičeva 3, Ljubljana
11 a.m. - 12 p.m including
Saturdays, Sundays & national holidays



PARMA
1973
prima pizzeria

Trg republike 2
(Maximarket), Ljubljana
Mon - Fri: 10:00 - 21:00
Saturday: 10:00 - 16:00

**LEGENDARY
PIZZAS AND SALADS**

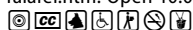
PIZZERIA SVETILNIK

Ljubljana has no shortage of pizzerias, and Svetilnik manages to stand out from the pack by virtue of the sheer range of options on offer. The lighthouse façade gives away the English translation of the name, and with over 50 different pizzas available there truly is something for everyone. A wide variety of pasta, meat and fish dishes are also found, as well as varied daily menus and alcohol-heavy 'party boats' for the celebratory. Svetilnik also offers food delivery throughout the city. ► E-1, Železna Cesta 12, tel. +386 (0)59 92 60 92/+386 (0)51 67 13 00, info@svetilnik.eu, www.svetilnik.eu. Bar 07:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun & Holidays 11:00 - 23:00. Kitchen 10:30 - 23:00, Sat, Sun & Holidays 11:00 - 23:00.

QUICK EATS

FALAFEL

A tiny little place churning out delicious falafel-based delicacies plus the usual array of pizzas and burgers. An excellent choice for vegetarians on the move, expect long queues during the busy lunchtime period. ► E-3, Trubarjeva 40, /+386 (0)41 64 01 66, www.alja-shaar.com/falafel.htm. Open 10:00-24:00, Sun 13:00-22:00. (€1-7).



HOT HORSE

A true Ljubljana institution, a stop at Hot Horse is a must for all first-time and returning visitors. The legendary horseburger is not only an original Slovenian creation, but is also healthy, low in fat and rich in protein and iron, and the menu now boasts a wider variety than ever before, including wraps, steaks and hot dogs, all of which come with your choice of toppings and condiments. Hot Horse was also twice selected by our readers as the Best Fast Food restaurant in Ljubljana. Visit their large modern kiosk near the arena in Tivoli Park, or their other outlets in BTC and Rudnik near Rutar.

► B-2, Tivoli Park, tel. +386 (0)1 521 14 27, master@hot-horse.si, www.hot-horse.si. Open 09:00-06:00.



KLOBASARNA

It's not often you find a restaurant where the menu consists largely of one item, but when the famed Kranjska Klobasa is the dish in question then that's really all you need. Taking its name from the city of Kranj, this hearty sausage was at the centre of so-called 'klobasa wars' between Slovenia and Austria (and later Croatia) over the rights to the EU-protected name. History and politics aside, this trendy takeaway opposite the Cathedral is the best place to taste what all the ado is about. They also serve the traditional Slovene dishes jota and ričet, hearty stews that go great with the famed sausage. ► D-3, Ciril-Metodov 15, tel. +386 (0)51 605 017, klobasarna@gmail.com, www.klobasarna.si. Open 10:00-23:00, Sun 10:00-15:00.



SURF'N'FRIES

We recently began noticing people carrying around boxes of fries (or chips as we would say) in the city centre, and it turns out that this place is the culprit. We're still not sure where the 'surf' part of the name comes in (as seafood is not on the menu), but they do offer heaping portions of fries prepared in a variety of ways and accompanied by a selection of sauces, as well as some deep fried chicken dishes to satisfy the non-vegetarians. Open late, because everything fried tastes better after a night of drinking. ► C-3, Plečníkov Trg. Open 06:00-04:00, Sat 08:00-04:00, Sun 16:00-24:00. €2.10-4.50.

STEAKHOUSES

ARGENTINO

The journey out to BTC is well worth the effort, for Argentino really needs to be experienced to be believed. Huge and based on a classic Argentinean hacienda on two levels with further seating outside, the interior designer had a great time thinking this one up. Featuring vast paintings, enormous mirrors, video projectors, a fabulous bar and an even lovelier open kitchen, which turns out a dizzying array of mouth-watering Latin American dishes including some of the best steaks in Ljubljana. There's also an excellent wine cellar with some 130 different Argentinean wines. ► **M-3, Smartinka 152 (BTC), tel. +386 (0)1 523 36 30, info@argentino.si, www.argentino.si.** Open 09:00-23:00, Fri-Sat 09:00-24:00, Sun and holidays 12:00-17:00. (€5.20-45).

NEW

KRALJ ŽARA

In the appropriately named Kralj Žara (Slovene for 'king of the grill'), Ljubljana has a temple for meat lovers. Occupying a great spot on Trubarjeva ulica with an outdoor terrace, indoor courtyard and cellar like dining room, Kralj Žara is an American inspired smoke and steak house. The reasonably priced menu features perhaps Ljubljana's best steaks, burgers and smoked meats as well as classic American sides like coleslaw, barbecue beans and amazingly crunchy onion rings. Just make sure to leave room for the excellent apple pie. Great local wines and craft beers are also available. ► E-3, Trubarjeva 52, tel. +386 (0)1 232 09 90, restaurant@kraljzara.si, restaurant.kraljzara.si. Open 11:00 - 23:00. Closed Sun. ☎ 📶








TURKISH

HIŠA TURŠKE KULINARIKE YILDIZ HAN

Set on the ground floor a beautiful century-old villa just behind castle hill, the city's only Turkish restaurant is just a few minutes' walk from the old town, yet is still something of an undiscovered gem for most residents and tourists alike. Decorated in traditional Turkish style, with low tables and cushy seating, carpets on the walls and Atatürk above



the door, as impressive as it all looks, the food still manages to exceed expectations. An already lengthy menu is supplemented with regional specialties on a regular basis, and complimented with a surprisingly good selection of Turkish wines. At the weekends diners are treated to bellydancing shows, and a resident fortune-teller is often on hand to read what your coffee grounds tell about your future. It's always a good idea to book ahead. ► E-5, Karlovská 19, tel. +386 (0)1 426 57 17, yildiz@iol.net, www.yildiz-han.com. Open 11:00-24:00. Closed Sun.

VEGETARIAN

BAZILIKA BISTRO

A Mecca for lovers of fresh, healthy, organic foods, Bazilika is located in a beautiful high-ceilinged space in the city centre opposite the Presidential Palace and just around the corner from the Academy of Fine Arts. While countless proprietors claim to use only fresh locally-sourced ingredients, Bazilika actually posts photos of daily visits to local farmers, markets and gardens to their social media pages, assuring patrons that the various sandwiches, sweet and savoury pies, salads, soups, smoothies and other vegetarian and vegan-friendly treats that they turn out are as authentic as they are delectable. Daily 3-course lunch specials are written on the roll of brown recycled paper behind the counter. ► B-4, Prešernova 15, tel. +386 (0)1 244 62 75, druzina@bazilika.si, www.bazilika.si. Open 07:00-23:00. Closed Sat. Sun.      

VEGAN

LOVING HUT

The world's fastest growing (and perhaps only) international vegan fast food chain, Loving Hut has finally opened an outlet in the city centre two years after setting up a takeaway stand in Mestni Log. Located opposite the main bus and train station, stepping inside this oasis of peacefulness and serenity makes us feel healthier and more relaxed before we even order. Offering an assortment of vegan dishes, including surprisingly delicious kebabs, burgers and Wiener schnitzel, Loving Hut is an attractive alternative to the usual fast food options found in these parts - even for non-vegans like us. ► D-1, Trg Osvo bodilne Fronte 14, tel. +386 (0)68 126 970, lovinghutljubljana@gmail.com, www.lovinghut.si. Open 07:30-22:30. Sat 10:00-22:30. Sun 10:00-21:00.

Restaurants

NYAMA

Prepare to have your preconceptions blown straight out of the water. Newly opened on Streliška, Nyama is the first (but surely not the last) gourmet vegan restaurant in Ljubljana. Regardless of dietary demands, we can all agree that good food is good food, and Nyama will certainly have you making similar noises to its name. Seasonal dishes and local ingredients are all the rage, and Nyama reaches the holy trinity of tasting good, feeling good and doing good.

► E-4, Streliška 22, tel. +386 (0)59 04 72 80, info@nyama.si, nyama.si. Open 10:00 - 23:00. Closed Sun. ☎️ 📧 📱 📺 📺

WORLD CUISINE

SKUHNA

A truly unique culinary and social venture, Skuhna is the result of a joint-effort by two Slovene non-profits to help better integrate the country's vibrant migrant community, while at the same time offering locals the opportunity to experience diverse foods and cultures from around the world. The project initially provided training for several full-time chefs, who now organise an ongoing programme of lunches, dinners, workshops and catering services from their full-time restaurant on Trubarjeva ulica. A full calendar of upcoming events, daily menus and lots of other info can be found on the

official website and Facebook page. ► E-3, Trubarjeva 56, tel. +386 (0)41 339 978, skuhna@skuhna.si, www.skuhna.si. Open 11:30 - 17:00, Thu, Fri 11:30 - 22:00, Sat 12:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun. ☎️ 📧 📱 📺 📺

AROUND LJUBLJANA

If you're looking to get out of town and enjoy a traditional home-cooked meal in the countryside - and we highly suggest that you do - the restaurants listed below are a great place to start!

GOSTILNA MIHOVEC

Only a short drive from Ljubljana, this family-run restaurant with more than a century and a half of tradition offers an unbeatable combination of excellent modern Slovene cuisine and genuine rural hospitality. Most of the ingredients are not only organic and locally-sourced, but come from the family's own farm or from their neighbours, a fact which led to Mihovec being one of the original members recognised under the Gostilna Slovenia brand. There is often live traditional music in the evenings, while we usually stop by for a long lunch at the weekends whenever we have the time. ► Zgornje Pirniče 54, Medvode, tel. +386 (0)1 362 30 60/+386 (0)31 684 434, gostilna.mihovec@siol.net, www.mihovec.com. Open Wed, Thu 12:00-23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00-01:00, Sun 11:00-18:00. Closed Mon, Tue. ☎️ 📧 📱 📺 📺



Proud winners of our Best Lunch Break poll for 2015, Bazilika Bistro is a vegetarian's wonderland

BAZILIKA SHOP & CAFE





Right next to the courthouse and in one the busiest areas of Ljubljana, this café is one of the closest things you'll find to an oasis in the city. As soon as you enter, you feel how you leave the bustle and noise of the city behind and are welcomed by very soothing music and décor. A great place to come and study, use your laptop or just surf the net. Try the excellent coffee and sandwiches. Great service too. ► D-2, Miklošičeva 22, tel. +386 (0)41 530 539, druzina@bazilika.si, www.bazilika.si. Open 07:00-18:00. Closed Sat. Sun. ☼ ☼ ☼ ☼ ☼

BLEF BAR #2

Whilst it may not have the cool factor of other places on Petkovškovo Nabrežje, this might actually work in Blef Bar #2's favour. It has a legitimate old school charm, not old school as in 'this has been created to seem old school', but the real type. The outdoor seating stretches to the river, making it another fine spot to stop for a coffee, beer or even an ice cream. Plus, don't tell anyone we said it, but they might just serve the best Americano on the street. ► D-3, Petkovškovo Nabrežje 25, tel. +386 (0) 1 430 04 00. Open 07:00-24:00. Fri. Sat 07:00-01:00. Sun 09:00-24:00.

ČOKL

Coffee nerds this is the café for you in Ljubljana. Sandwiched amongst the cafes and bars on Krekov Trg (besides the funicular) Čokl has just a few tables on a

pleasant terrace with even fewer tables inside though we've never had a problem getting a seat - the coffee nerd population of Ljubljana is smaller than Brooklyn's we assume. The folks at Čokl take their coffee seriously - order an espresso and it often comes with a lecture on the bean's origins - and given the chance the friendly proprietor of Čokl will have you sampling pour-overs, syphons and cold-brews. They also have cold drinks, teas and beer. ► D/E-3, Krekov trg 8, tel. +386 (0)41 83 75 56, cafecokl.si. Open 07:00-23:00, Sat 09:00-23:00, Sun 09:00-20:00.    

NEWLY REOPENED
ČOLNARNA

Set beside a pond in the south west part of Tivoli Park, this popular café is a calm oasis walking distance from the city centre. Open all day, Colnarna offers something for everyone. Relax with a coffee and muffin in the morning, grab a sandwich for lunch or indulge in a delicious sweet treat for afternoon tea. Especially well-suited for families and children, nearby are outdoor play areas, there's a kid's corner inside and Colnarna has ice cream - the ultimate treat (bribe). Not just for families, it's also a romantic spot to catch the sunset with a cocktail and look out for the regular live music nights. ► **A-3, 27th of April 2a (Tivoli Park), tel. +386 (0)70 350 524, colnarna2015@gmail.com. Open 08:00-24:00 in summer, 08:00-21:00 in winter.**

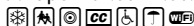
FLANCAT

This trendy little café bar is the yet another addition to the Petkovškovo promenade, one of Ljubljana's favourite drinking spots. Flancat is not alone in offering a pleasant riverside setting with the castle as a backdrop, though it stands out from the crowd with a solid drinks list featuring quality Slovenian wines and good beers including draught Weihenstephaner - very tasty beer from the world's oldest brewery. A great selection of cocktails is available as well as Flancat's speciality and namesake sweet - a delicate Slovenian pastry which goes fabulously with coffee. ▶ D-3, Petkovškovo Nabrežje 23, flancat@siol.net. Open 08:00-23:00.



KAVARNA ROG

Kavarna Rog is one of our favourite cafés around - and not only because it's a 30-second walk from our flat. Located along the Ljubljana below the old Rog bicycle factory, the café is one of the few places in town where you can find a proper breakfast, and the lengthy menu of gourmet soups, sandwiches, salads and desserts (not to mention wines) makes it a popular lunchtime stop. It stays open late as well, and the dark and moody modern interior is perhaps best suited for a drink than anything else. ▶ F-3, Petkovškovo Nabrežje 67, tel. +386 (0)1 6200 260, info@kavarna-rog.si, www.kavarna-rog.si. Open 07:00-24:00. (€3-9). Holidays 08:00-24:00.



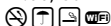
LE PETIT CAFÉ

Close your eyes, and try to imagine a café called Le Petit that happens to be sitting on a square named after the French Revolution. Le Petit café will match your imaginings and then some. Our first thought was adorable, but there is so much more to it than this. An excellent choice for breakfast or an afternoon coffee, Parisian chic abounds with added elegance and grace, whether you choose to sit outside or in the none-more-romantic inside. ▶ C-4, Trg Francoske Revolucije 4, tel. +386 (0)1 251 25 75/+386 (0)51 605 400, info@lepetit.si, www.lepetit.si. Open 07:30-01:00.



LOLITA

With absurdly high ceilings, exposed brick walls, great views through huge plate glass windows and super comfortable seating, this riverside café leaves little to be desired - the place even smells great thanks to bouquets of fresh cut flowers at the entrance. Delectable-looking cakes are displayed in specially-built cases, and gourmet chocolates and teas are also on sale. We didn't think Ljubljana had room for any more cafés, but Lolita proved us wrong. ▶ D-3, Cankarjevo Nabrežje 1, tel. +386 (0)5 901 62 99/+386 (0)41 344 189, lolita@kaval-group.si, www.kaval-group.si. Open Mon-Thur 08:00-22:00, Fri-Sat 08:00-23:00 and Sun 09:00-21:00, Summer: Mon-Sun 9:00-24:00.



SLOVENSKA HIŠA

Slovenska Hiša is exactly what it says on the tin: a 100% Slovenian menu is found, covering beers, cocktails, liqueurs and a wide variety of meat and cheese plates, as well as some traditional dishes like štruklji and Kranjska klobasa. The interior resembles a market (albeit a market with minimalist illustrations scribbled on the walls and ceiling), but in warmer months most will choose the delightful riverside terrace to sit and enjoy a refreshing, inventive cocktail (served in jars no less), while watching the world pass by. ▶ Cankarjevo Nabrežje 13, tel. +386 (0)83 899 811, info@slovenskahisa.com, www.slovenskahisa.com. Open 08:00-01:00, Fri, Sat 08:00-03:00.



ŠPICA

The latest effort from the fabled Kaval Group, Špica is guaranteed to become a true summer favourite in Ljubljana. Situated at the Špica itself, where the Ljubljana divides before entering the city, it is tailor made for lounging on the riverside with a cold drink watching the days go by. The modern bar does a great line in refreshing cocktails, which go together almost too well with the scenery. Don't be surprised to see spontaneous dancing on the terraces as well. ▶ Gruberjevo nabrežje, tel. +386 (0)51 36 86 58, spica@kaval-group.si, www.kaval-group.si. Open 08:00-24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00-01:00.



Named the best cake
at Sweet Istria, the largest
international festival
of desserts and sweets
in Slovenia.



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Pâtisserie

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COFFEE & CAKES

ČOKOLADNI ATELJE DOBNIK

Adjoined to the wonderful chocolate shop of the same name, Čokoladnica Atelje Dobnik is a bright modern café with a great range of Lavazza coffees and teapigs tea. What sets it apart from the rest however is the truly inspiring quality of the sweet stuff on offer. We all love chocolate, and Dobnik's output truly is second to none. With over 20 years experience of perfecting the art of chocolate production as well as receiving the sign of Ljubljana quality in 2010, there is no better place for a sweet treat to compliment your morning coffee. ▶ C-3, Trg Republike 1, tel. +386 (0)1 425 31 41, info@cokoladniatelje.si, www.cokoladniatelje.si. Open 09:00-21:00, Sat 08:00-15:00. Closed Sun. ☎️ 📷 📱 📺 📺 📺

FETICHE PATISSERIE

Ljubljana is full of good ice cream options, and Fetiche Patisserie on Cankarjevo nabrežje is without doubt one of the best. An impressively wide selection is enhanced by the dedication to natural and genuine flavour. You'll find nothing less than 100 per cent fruit here. Fetiche also possesses a mouth-watering array of sweets that are as good as impossible to resist. Indulge yourself, there's no such thing as a bad time for ice cream. Fetiche also finds itself frequently on the right side of awards, this year winning a first prize at the International Fair of Tastes. ▶ D-4, Cankarjevo Nabrežje 25, tel. +386 (0)40 70 03 70, www.fetichepatisserie.com. Open 09:00-01:00.

TORTA LJUBLJANA

This takeaway cake shop in the Plečnik Arcade has much more to it than meets the eye. To begin with its eponymous Ljubljana Cake is the only sweet we know of in town that comes with its own creation myth, which involves a fickle lord living in Ljubljana Castle, a beautiful daughter waiting to be wed, and a plucky local chef who concocts the perfect recipe. The retro-style cake has been recreated using only typical Slovenian ingredients (including gluten free 100% buckwheat flour) and can be purchased in several sizes, all of which come in custom designed reusable packaging. The cakes can now also be found at Kavarna SEM, Nebotičnik and Bar Kofi Plac at BTC. ▶ D-3, Adamič-Lundrovo Nabrežje 1, tel. +386 (0)30 300 618/+386 (0)41 272 433, info@tortaljubljana.si. Open 08:00-16:00, Sun 09:00 - 14:00.

COFFEE & ICE CREAM

CACAO

Boasting an unbeatable location just steps from Ljubljana's famed Prešernov Trg, Cacao is the city's top destination for ice cream lovers - overwhelmingly voted as having the best ice cream in town in each and every In Your Pocket Best of Summertime competition to date. It's large tree-shaded terrace along the banks of the Ljubljanica also gets top marks for atmosphere, while the laid-back chocolate brown interior is a great place to chill out with a



You're never far from your next caffeine fix in Ljubljana, photo by Flavio Takemoto

mouthwatering slice of gourmet cake or freshly prepared fruit smoothie. One of our, and seemingly everyone else's, favourites. ▶ D-3, Petkovškovo Nabrežje 3, tel. +386 (0)1 430 17 71, info@cacao.si, www.cacao.si. Open 08:00-22:00, Summertime 08:00 - 24:00. ☎️ 📷 📱 📺 📺 📺

GELATERIA ROMANTIKA

Using only the freshest of ingredients sourced locally and from around the world, Gelateria Romantika is offering handcrafted homemade gelato based on old-world Italian recipes. There are many other strings to Romantika's bow, and at this centrally located gelateria you can enjoy classic or typical Slovenian flavours of gelato that perfectly combine with freshly made hot Belgian waffles. Add a cup of hot chocolate or coffee and you may have found yourself a new favourite dessert. ▶ C-4, Dvorni Trg 1, tel. +386 (0)40 97 85 66, info@gelateria-romantika.si, www.gelateria-romantika.si. Open 11:30 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 10:30 - 24:00, Sun 10:30-22:00. ☎️ 📷 📱 📺 📺



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NAMASTE - Indian restaurant
Breg 8, 1000 Ljubljana

T: +386(0)1 425 0159
E: info@restavracija-namaste.si
W: www.restavracija-namaste.si

Namasté
INDUSKA RESTAVRACIJA
नमस्ते

BEST MOUSSE CAKES IN TOWN

2

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ČOKOLADNI ATELJE DOBNIK

Trg Republike 1
1000 Ljubljana

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www.cokoladniatelje.si
info@cokoladniatelje.si

3



KLOBASARNA



typical slovenian sausage

www.klobasarna.si

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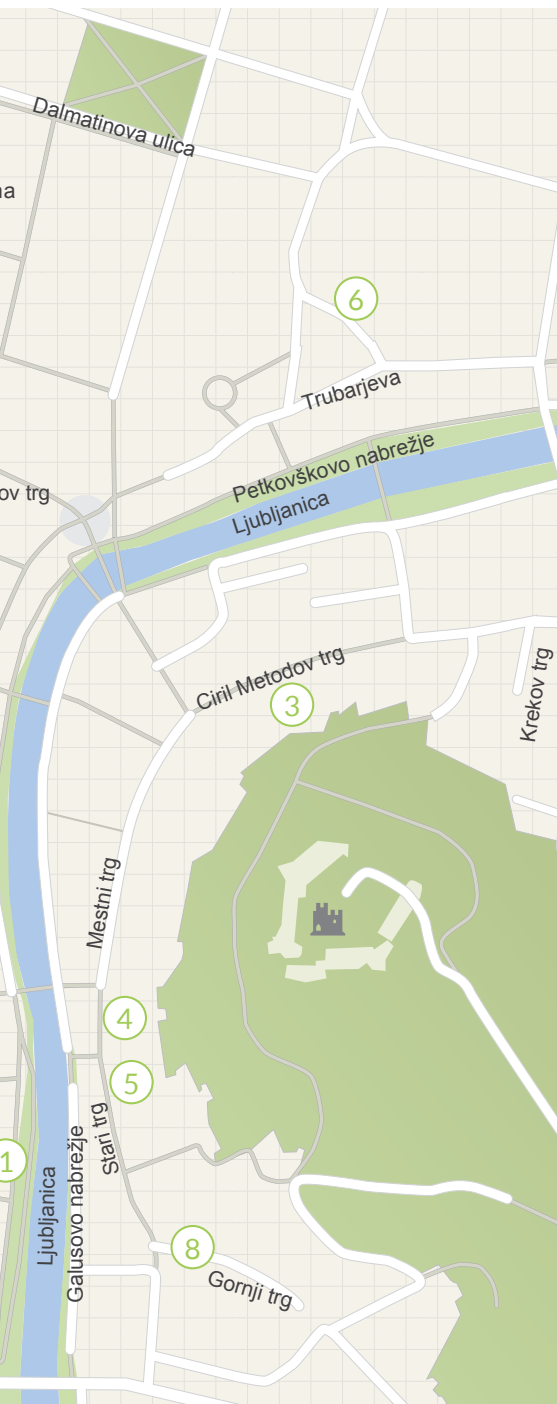
Pivovarna Popen't
SPECIAL BEER SHOP

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zapopent@hotmail.com, www.zapopent.si

page 51 Open 11:00-20:00, Sunday closed





5

Excellent choice for lunch or dinner in one of the nicest streets of old town. We are small and simple yet excellent, just for you. Find out yourself

Marley & Me

page 25

Restaurant Marley & Me,
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Open: 11a.m. – 11p.m.

Phone: +386 8 380 66 10
Mail: rutar.matej@gmail.com
www.marleyandme.si

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Outdoor, Camping and Climbing equipment shop

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www.annapura.si Krakovski nasip 4

8



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www.antiqhotel.eu +386 1 42 13 560



There is very likely a connection between Ljubljana's vibrant party scene and the fact that it's home to some 60,000 students, photo by Tadej Mulej

BARS

AS APERITIVO

Now housed in slick ultra-modern premises that have been the recipient of numerous design awards, this long-running lounge bar is almost as much of a Ljubljana institution as its namesake restaurant next door. A top destination for the business set, Aperitivo is definitely one of the city's more glamorous settings in which to grab a drink, the whole place turning into a large open-air terrace during the warmer months. Live DJs keep the party going most nights, while the Italian head bartender prepares some masterful creations for thirsty patrons. Find it in a secluded courtyard just off of Prešernov Trg. ▶ C-3, Čopova 5 (Knafljev Prehod), tel. +386 (0) 1 425 88 22, gostilna.as@siol.net, www.gostilnaas.si. Open 10:00-01:00. 

CENTRALNA POSTAJA

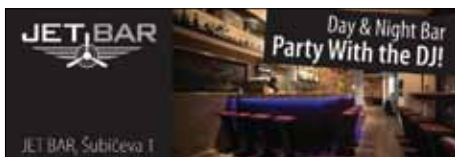
Centralna Postaja, aka 'central station', brings a bit of big city style to Ljubljana - with its trendy pared back décor and hip vibe you may feel like you're in London or New York. Designed as an all-day hangout Centralna has affordable offerings from morning to late including all-you-can-eat breakfasts (only €3.50) and international classics: pastas, pizzas and some of Ljubljana's best burgers (or sliders actually). At night the place turns into a full-on lounge bar, with house DJs often providing the soundtrack. ▶ D-3, Trubarjeva 23, +386 (0) 41 889 882, mismo@centralna-postaja.com, www.centralnapostaja.com. 

FÉTICHE


A dark and moody, space-age cocktail bar on two levels complete with everything a cocktail bar should possess. Sit in the company of the beautiful people and gaze in wonder at the vast model pictures, retro furniture and the obligatory huge mirror ball. The cocktail menu is perhaps the largest in town, and all are made using only premium spirits and fresh fruit. There's outside seating near the river too, and a French style patisserie next door. ▶ D-3, Cankarjevo Nabrežje 25, tel. +386 (0) 40 70 03 70, www.fetich.si. Open 09:00-01:00. 

JET BAR

We're not entirely sure how, but newly opened Jet Bar has managed to put together an interior with a very clear theme that manages to be subtle at the very same time. As the name would suggest all things aviation is celebrated, with the propeller-esque fans a particularly nice touch. Beers, coffees, cocktails and more are on offer, as well as pleasant outdoor seating perfect for the day and plenty of dance space for the nights. ▶ Šubičeva ulica 1, tel. +386 (0) 8 381 16 20. Open 07:00 - 04:00, Sun 16:00 - 24:00.




KLUB DAKTARI

Sharing its name with the Swahili word for doctor, we're not sure if there's a connection, but the place always cures us of any bad mood we're in. Located next to several other bars near the entrance to the funicular railway, Daktari reopened in 2012 after more than a year of renovations – a labour of love from the sociable owners, who are usually on hand chatting with customers. The bar exudes an old-time ambience and charm that is a rarity these days: restored antique furniture, shelves full of books, a player piano in the corner and a stage that is occasionally used for live music sets, jam sessions, theatre, cabaret and an eclectic mix of other cultural events. ► D-3, Krekov Trg 7, tel. +386 (0)64 166 212, info@daktari.si, www.daktari.si. Open 08:00-01:00, Sun 09:00-24:00. 

PRITILJE

It might be a café, a bar, a cultural centre, a comic book shop or a live music venue, but in truth Pritilje is all this and more and then some too. The events schedule is packed with cutting edge creativity, the drinks list goes above and beyond the standard fare and the coffee is good enough to make it one of our most frequented spots in town. Add a perfect location next to the town hall, a comic book store full of a dizzying array of titles (the only shop of its type in the city centre), cute window seating and social values befitting the age we live in and we're slowly running out of superlatives for Pritilje. ► D-4, Mestni trg 2, tel. +386 (0)40 20 46 93, prtilcije@gmail.com, www.pritilcije.si. Open 09:00-01:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 09:00-03:00.

ROLLBAR-KARTING BTC

Another reason to visit the huge BTC complex is this extraordinary place. Taking the gimmick of the race-car-theme-drinking-hole to its logical conclusion, this subterranean boozery not only comes complete with enough racing paraphernalia to start your very own F1 museum, it's actually got a go-kart racing circuit. There are no drink-driving laws here, just a bunch of electric go-carts and a hangar-size space to wiggle them through. Not quite as tame as it sounds, these go-carts when running on full power have a top speed of 120km/h, restricted for obvious reasons here to a more sensible albeit still stupidly fast 65km/h. ► M-2, Šmartinska 152 (BTC Hala 18), tel. +386 (0)1 585 25 70/+386 (0)51 603 333, info@indoor-karting.com, www.indoor-karting.com. Open 07:30-23:00, Fri 07:30-24:00, Sat 08:00-24:00, Sun 08:00-22:00. 

SOMBRERO BAR

Located out in the suburb of Fužine, Sombrero sits next to the highway and has an interior that one would expect from a bar with such a name. The walls are positively covered in photographs of Native Americans, sombreros and other North American paraphernalia. Beers, coffee and snacks are on offer, with cigars also available to purchase. It is the cocktails that provide the spark, with an interesting array available that go further than what is usually on offer. Let the kids run wild in the large playground, and treat yourself to a 'Barbados'. ► Nove Fužine 49, tel. +386 (0)41 57 63 92, peter.sombrero@gmail.com. Open 06:00 - 24:00.



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


Nove Fužine 49 1000 Ljubljana

Open 6:00 - 2:00, Sundays/Holidays 7:00 - 2:00.





Nightlife

TOZD




A favourite destination for Ljubljana's cool crowd from seemingly the day it opened (if not even earlier), TOZD's carefully crafted interior boasts brick walls, red leather benches, original photography from contemporary Slovene artists, a number of fixed-gear bikes, and a bar designed to resemble a kitchen counter. There's also a large library of books (including many in English) to keep you busy on rainy days, whilst sampling gourmet coffee or something from the impressive wine list. On nice days take a seat outside under some giant trees along a quieter stretch of the Ljubljana river. ► D-4, Galusovo Nabrežje 27, tel. +386 (0)40 699 453. Open 08:30-24:00.    

CLUBS

CIRKUS

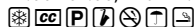
Set on the premises of the former arthouse cinema Kinoklub Vič, Cirkus is one of the more popular clubs in Ljubljana - with lots of themed nights, live DJs and photo albums posted to their Facebook page the morning after parties (ie beware of the man with camera if you don't want your drunk face making the rounds on social media!). Located just at the edge of the city centre opposite the old tobacco factory, it's easy walking distance from most central hotels and hostels, and usually attracts a youthful student crowd. ► B-4, Trg Mladinskih Delovnih Brigad 7, tel. +386 (0)51 631 631/+386 (0)41 777 747, info@cirkusklub.si, www.cirkusklub.si. Open 22:00-05:00    

KLUB K4

Twice voted the best club in Ljubljana by In Your Pocket readers, if you're staying in a hotel in this part of town and your bed starts bouncing across the room in the middle of the night, the chances are the culprit can be found inside Klub K4. A very student-oriented club indeed, it's hot and sweaty and the DJs play some of the weirdest, hardest stuff in the country. Brilliant stuff. Klub K4 also offers Roza (Pink) Party nights for the gay community. Check out their Facebook page or website for detailed programme info. ► B-2, Kersnikova 4, tel. +386 (0)40 212 292, info@klubk4.org, www.klubk4.org. Open Wed 23:00-04:00, Thu 21:00-01:00, Fri, Sat 23:00-06:00.    

ORTO BAR

A combined bar and live music venue dedicated to the glorious and mostly unpretentious world of rock music, filled nightly with a well-behaved crowd in leather jackets etc, drinking the night away and taking advantage of one of the few regular live music venues in the city. The bar is worth visiting on its own. Long and thin, there's a line of old turning ventilators along one wall, giving the place a futuristic, Mad Max feel. ► E-1, Grablovičeva 1, tel. +386 (0)1 232 16 74, info@orto-bar.com, www.orto-bar.com. Open Tue-Wed 21:00-01:00, Thur 21:00-04:00, Fri-Sat 21:00-05:00.



PLAC 33/45

Ljubljana was crying out for another nightlife venue and hallelujah it has one in Plac 33/45. It's quickly become the club of choice for some of Ljubljana's hippest folk, regularly hosting quality DJs from Slovenia and abroad. There is a lot to like about Plac 33/45 with its fun parties, consistently cool vibes and solid drinks selection, plus it's conveniently located smack in the centre of town. ► C-2/3, Nazorjeva 6a, tel. +386 (0)41 319 358, jan@plac3345.com. Open 23:00-05:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Sun.

PUBS

CORNER PUB

Being British, we do love ourselves a traditional 'pub' style environment, and Corner Pub in Tržaška certainly fits the bill. With 18 years of tradition behind it, more than 40 different beers on offer and live sports events on the projector, we only have good things to say. The coffee is pretty good too, put together by professionally trained baristas. ► A-4, Tržaška cesta 19, tel. +386 (0)1 425 58 01, cornerpub97@gmail.com. Open 06:30-02:00, Sat 08:00-02:00, Sun 09:00-02:00.

CUTTY SARK











One of the most popular bars in the city and frequented by all manner of locals and expats, Cutty Sark provides two dark bars and a summer terrace, childish art on the walls, model ships and the world's biggest chewing gum machine. Featuring a good selection of local and inter-





national beer, find it bursting with interesting specimens most evenings. ▶ B-3, Knafjev Prehod 1, tel. +386 (0)83 859 144, +386 (0)51 686 209, info@cuttysarkpub.si, www.cuttysarkpub.si. Open 08:00 - 03:00, Sun-Tue 08:00 - 01:00.          

PARLAMENT PUB

Knowing neither whether it's a café or a bar, this peculiar oddity with its books on the shelves, shady characters and (you've guessed it) students is nonetheless a popular stop for the heavy drinking younger crowd. Known for cheap beer and cocktails (with three of the latter had for the price of two), and lively international parties almost every night, it's a great place to both start or end an evening out. The entrance and terrace are at the back side of the building on Plečnikov Trg. ▶ C-3, Šubičeva 1, tel. +386 (0)1 251 32 43. Open 06:00-04:00, Sun 16:00-24:00.          











PATRICK'S IRISH PUB

Ljubljana's quintessential Irish pub is popular with locals, expats and tourists alike, and over the years we've personally spent many a night entertaining visitors, watching sports on the big screen and generally drinking too much here. They've got a huge selection of beer, with some 90 varieties to choose from, and often host events such as live Irish music concerts, pub quizzes and beer tastings. Find it down a small cobbled alleyway just off Trubarjeva Ulica. ▶ D-3, Prečna 6, tel. +386 (0)1 230 17 68/+386(0) 41 581 333, info@irishpub-ljubljana.si, www.irishpub-ljubljana.si. Open 17:00-01:00, Mon, Sun 17:00-24:00.          

PIVNICA UNION





It may have taken 150 years, but the wait was most certainly worth it. One of the 'Big Two' of Slovenian beer, Union's newly opened pub is a welcome addition to the brewery complex. Located in the former workers canteen it retains this workingman's feel, wrapped in a modern coating. All of Union's beers are available on tap, including the unfiltered version and a newly conceived specialty beer conjured up by the brewing wizards. Something must be eaten to soak up the beer of course, and beer-friendly food is available for the cause. ▶ Celovška 22, tel. +386 (0)1 471 72 17, info@pivo-union.si, www.pivnica-union.si. Open 11:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 01:00, Sun 12:00 - 17:00.

SIR WILLIAM'S PUB

An all together classier affair than most other pubs in town, Sir William's clientele is largely a reflection of its location in the city centre between the national courthouse and Radio Television Slovenia, as well as several business hotels. Boasting one of the largest beer selections in Slovenia, there are over 130 different varieties to choose from, and the country's best craft beer, Human Fish, is always on tap. The atmosphere is generally warm and laid-back, with patrons chatting to the staff about beer or watching something on the big screen TV. Follow their Facebook page for info about beer tastings and other events. ▶ D-2, Tavčarjeva 8a, tel. +386 (0)5 99 44 825, sirwilliamspub@gmail.com, sirwilliamspub.webs.com. Open Mon-Fri 08:00-01:00, Sat 10:00-14:00 and 19:00-01:00, Sun 17:00-24:00.          






WINE BARS

DVORNI BAR

Perennial winners of our Best Wine Bar poll, this large L-shaped adventure is a pleasant café during the day and the city's trendiest wine bar by night. There's a swanky jazzy area at one end for more wine-oriented patrons, while the other side is a little more geared towards the restaurant crowd, with tapas and lunch specials on offer. With upwards of 100 varieties of wine in stock it's a great place to sample local vintages if you don't have time to trek out to one of Slovenia's wine growing regions. ▶ B-3, Dvorni Trg 2, tel. +386 (0)1 251 12 57, info@dvornibar.net, www.dvornibar.net. Open 08:00-01:00, Sun 09:00-24:00. (€4.50-15).          

ADULT ENTERTAINMENT

HARD CORE CLUB

With a name like that you can't help but smile and get in a taxi and head here. The concept is simple: outstanding erotic entertainment provided by professionals in a safe environment for groups of lads of all ages and backgrounds. Nobody pesters you to buy them extortionate 'lady drinks', there is always something worth watching on stage, and entrance is free. Drinks are reasonably priced - even the erotic ones - and the girls who perform here are on the whole of a far higher phwoar category than elsewhere. ▶ G-3, Dolgi Most 4, tel. +386 (0)41 71 66 12, info@hardcoreclub.si, www.hardcoreclub.si. Open 17:00-05:00, Fri 17:00-07:00, Sat 21:00-05:00. Closed Sun.     





The city sees its best sunsets during the autumn and winter months, photo by Scott Wong / Shutterstock

Ljubljana Castle is arguably the main attraction for visitors to the city, but all that lies beneath it from the Old Town to Ljubljana's multitude of museums and galleries are more than worthy of further investigation. The extraordinary combination of treats, from the architecture of Jože Plečnik's to the historic atmosphere of the Old Town to the occasional blast-to-the-past burst of retro-Yugoslav city planning all work together in harmony to create the most unique of cities.

BRIDGES

TROMOSTOVJE (TRIPLE BRIDGE)

Perhaps Ljubljana's most characteristic structure(s), the triple bridge is a curious merger of a 19th century road bridge (itself replacing a medieval wooden bridge), with two 1930s pedestrian bridges

designed by Plečnik, who took the opportunity to do up the whole ensemble with lamps and stone balustrades.

► D-3.

ZMAJSKI MOST (DRAGON BRIDGE)

Since it opened in 1901, Zmajski Most has been locked in a fierce competition with the castle and the conspicuously pink Franciscan Church for the title of Most Photographed Sight in Ljubljana. At any given moment during daylight hours (and only slightly less frequently at night) there is sure to be at least a person or two clicking away at one of the four large dragons guarding either side of the bridge or the smaller griffins that adorn the bottom of its eight lamp posts. Of course we're no exception, as

we still remember the fog shrouded photo we snapped on our first trip to the city way back in the forgotten days of analogue film. More recently some amateur artiste apparently felt that the mythical beasts were lacking a certain *je ne sais quoi* and took it upon themselves to add a smattering of red paint to their mouths and claws. The jury is still out on whether or not this is an improvement but it does amuse us whenever we walk past. ► E-3, Re-sljeva Cesta.

CEMETERIES

ŽALE CEMETERY (POKOPALIŠČE ŽALE)

Built on the site of a much earlier cemetery attached to the neighbouring (and still standing) Holy Cross Church, what's arguably Plečnik's Ljubljana masterpiece was completed in 1940. The grand arched entrance complete with stark white colonnades supposedly represents the gateway between the lands of the living and the dead. Between them and the cemetery itself are a series of peculiar buildings, chapels and monuments including the Žale funeral home. Architectural styles abound, reflecting Plečnik's vision of equality among religions. The cemetery itself, once you get there, is a pleasure to behold and is worthy of a good hour's stroll. The final resting place of many Slovenian greats including Plečnik himself, Žale also contains a small area given over to the Jewish population of the city. ► L/M-2, Med Hmeljniki 2, tel. +386 (0)1420 17 00, info@zale.si, www.zale.si. Open 07:00-19:00, April-September 07:00-21:00.

CHURCHES

CATHEDRAL (STOLNICA SV. NIKOLAJA)

With its classic twin towers and trademark single, weather-worn green dome, the city's cathedral, more properly known as St Nicholas' Church, encapsulates everything that is Ljubljana. Small and interesting, but not too exciting at first glance, a longer look at its history and finer details reveals its hidden charm and beauty. Built on the site of a much earlier church, the cathedral's main structure and appearance dates from the first half of the 18th century. Inside the Baroque masterpiece is a cavalcade of classic creams and golds, littered with extraordinarily detailed frescoes and possessing that calming feeling that only a great church can bring. ► D-3, Dolničarjeva 1, tel. +386 (0)1234 26 70, lj-stolnica@krc.si, lj-stolnica.krc.si.

FRANCISCAN CHURCH (FRANČIŠKANSKI SAMOSTAN)

Built in an instantly recognisable, mildly swirly Baroque fashion, Ljubljana's mid-16th-century Franciscan Church dominates Prešernov Trg like a big pink birthday cake. Part of a larger complex with an additional Franciscan monastery, if you're lucky enough to find the doors unlocked expect a few treats inside including Robba's 18th-century altar, some charming frescoes dating from 100 years or so later and a chapel notable for containing a cross designed by none other than Jože Plečnik. For those who don't appreciate the finer points of ecclesiastic architecture, the front steps do at least provide a nice place to sit and watch the world go by on a gloriously sunny day. ► D-3, Prešernov Trg 4, tel. +386 (0)1242 93 00.

MONUMENTS

FRANCE PREŠEREN

Slovenia's national poet France Prešeren (1800-1849) stands in the square named in his honour at the foot of the Triple Bridge. As well as offering an interesting visual treat, the monument also serves as a focal point for people meeting in the city. Erected in 1905, the large monolith is the work of the architect Maks Fabiani and sculptor Ivan Zajc and features the Muse of poetry holding a small laurel of bay leaves over his head as well as extracts from his writing around the base. ► D-3, Prešernov trg.

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

CITY MUSEUM (MESTNI MUZEJ LJUBLJANA)

A magnificent museum run by a team of historians who know how to show people a good time, showcasing Ljubljana in all its good and bad colours throughout history. Featuring both permanent and temporary exhibitions, this is the best place in town for a crash-course in city history. Find scale models of unfulfilled Plečnik creations, elaborate costumes, old photographs and much more besides. Check out the fabulous little website for upcoming exhibitions. ► C-4, Gosposka 15, tel. +386 (0)1241 25 00, info@mestnimuzej.si, www.mestnimuzej.si. Open 10:00-18:00, Thu 10:00-21:00. Closed Mon. Admission €4, students and children €2.50.

LJUBLJANA CASTLE



Perched on top of Castle Hill (Grajška planota) and dominating the city skyline to the south, Ljubljana's magnificent castle stands on the site of several former defensive buildings in a hilly area of land stretching away to the south of the old town. The current ensemble of buildings originates from necessary 16th-century reconstruction work following the earthquake of 1511, with several later additions.

The main points of interest for the visitor are the Outlook Tower (Razgledni Stolp), built in the 19th century and raised a further 1.2m by the government in 1982. The tower's Virtual Castle screens a 12-minute film showing an interesting and informative history of the castle.

On the same floor you find a small door that takes you to the top of the tower up some 100 red cast-iron steps, each individually decorated with an image of the tower and the city's dragon. A door at the top leads to a small viewing platform (not for the faint hearted) with wonderful views of the city.

A new and beautifully presented permanent Exhibition on Slovene History is now also open for visitors - see more info under Museums & Galleries. The castle also has a small art gallery featuring temporary exhibitions, a café, restaurant and souvenir shop. It's also a popular place for local weddings, and during the summer puts on concerts and, in July, hosts an outdoor cinema. To reach it, several small paths lead up from the old town, or take the funicular next to the Puppet Theatre and open market. ► Grajska Planota 1, +386 (0)306 42 93, info-center@ljublanskigrad.si, www.ljublanskigrad.si. Open 09:00 - 21:00. With funicular/without funicular - adults €10/7.50, students/children/seniors/groups €7/5.20, families €32/26. Funicular return/one way - adults €4/2.20, students/children/seniors/groups €3/1.50, families €26/19. Guided tour €6-10. Special discounts for families.



An autumn stroll in Tivoli, photo by A. Pavan / Tourism Ljubljana

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART (MUZEJ SODOBNE UMETNOSTI METELKOVA)

Along with the Slovene Ethnographic Museum and a branch of the National Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art rounds out Ljubljana's newly christened Museum Quarter located between Metelkova and Tabor in the centre of the city. Nearly two years of renovations has transformed the former administrative building into the city's most dynamic arts space, with rooms of all shapes and sizes situated around a vaulting central atrium. The museum is focussed on works from the 1960s to the present day, and boasts a permanent collection devoted to Eastern Europe's postwar avant garde movement, as well as a selection of works from its sister institution, the Museum of Modern Art. Definitely a must-see for art fans. ▶ F-2, Maistrova 3, info@mg-lj.si, www.mg-lj.si. Open 10:00-18:00. Closed Mon. Admission €5 adults, €2.50 students/pensioners, €3.50 groups.

NATIONAL GALLERY (NARODNA GALERIJA)

Inside Czech architect František Edmund Škabrout's fabulous late 19th-century neo-Renaissance masterpiece with an additional modern wing thrown on for good measure, this above-average gallery features the very best in Slovenian art from the 13th century up to the first half of the

20th century, including paintings by such notable artists as Ivan Grohar (1867-1911), Richard Jakopič (1869-1943) and Ivana Kobilca (1861-1926). The other permanent exhibition in the building focuses on European painting, and includes some really fine examples of the Renaissance-period Italian painting through to the more modernist work of the early 20th century. The gallery also contains a small gift shop, which has several good books and postcards.

▶ B/C-2, Prešernova 24, tel. +386 (0)1 241 54 18, info@ng-slo.si, www.ng-slo.si. Open 10:00-18:00. Closed Mon. Admission €3.5-7.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY HISTORY (MUZEJ NOVEJŠE ZGODOVINE SLOVENIJE)

If you needed a reason to visit Tivoli Park, it's here. This fascinating museum inside a wonderful 18th-century mansion presents the history of Slovenia from the period around the start of WWI until the Slovenian Presidency of the EU in 2008. Using a combination of well-presented exhibits including old photographs, clothing and household items the museum charts the often wobbly path of the nation through and between the two world wars and the difficult and truly fascinating post-war communist years. The building itself is worth seeing alone, being a marvelous combination of original Baroque and the interesting modernist work of the Slovenian architect Jurij Kobe, dating from 1991. ▶ B-1, Celovška 23, tel. +386 (0)1 300 96 10, uprava@muzej-nz.si, www.muzej-nz.si. Open 10:00-18:00. Closed Mon, Open Tues - Sun 10:00-18:00. Closed Mon. Admission €3.50 for adults, €2.50 for children, €8 family.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SLOVENIA (NARODNI MUZEJ)

Found lurking inside another of the city's fine, late 19th-century neo-Renaissance buildings complete with fine painted ceilings and elaborate sculptures on the stairs, this is the oldest museum in country, founded way back in 1821. Permanent archaeological displays proudly show off Slovenia's unique past, including the world's oldest musical instrument (a 60,000 year old Neanderthal flute) and the famous situla from Vače. The museum's collection now spreads to another location in Ljubljana's museum quarter in Metelkova. ▶ B-3, Muzejska 1, tel. +386 (0)12 41 44 00, info@nms.si, www.nms.si. Open 10:00-18:00, Thu 10:00-20:00. Admission €4-8.5.

SLOVENE ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM (ETNOGRAFSKI MUZEJ)

The Slovene Ethnographic Museum (SEM) - a museum "about people, for people", prides itself as being the link between the past and the present, between our own and other cultures, between nature and civilisation. A central museum of ethnology, a museum of dialogue, open, active and hospitable with dedicated public services. The museum is located in a new urban cultural centre of Ljubljana known as part of former military barracks of the Metelkova area, which have undergone complete restoration, and in the future will form the centre of Lju-

bljana's arts scene. Through two permanent exhibitions, diverse annual temporary exhibitions and other events - Slovene, European and non-European - SEM presents and reports on the traditional culture of Slovenia and other cultures of the world in creative and imaginative ways. Find the entrance in the large square at the back of the building. ► **F-2, Metelkova 2, tel. +386 (0)1 300 87 00, etnomuz@etno-muzej.si, www.etno-muzej.si.** Open 10:00-18:00. Closed Mon. Admission €4.50/2.50 (adults/students). Free admission the first Sunday of the month.

UNION BREWERY MUSEUM

Established in 1986, the Union Brewery museum is one of the largest brewing museums in Europe. Carefully arranged in the attic of the old malt-house in the old brewery yard, the museum showcases the proud history of union, now stretching to 150 years, as well as the history of brewing itself. Insights into transportation of beer, inn keeping, bottles and labelling and much more are also a part of the tour, as well as a visit to the production facilities and the possibility of tasting some fine Union beer at the climax. Unfortunately the museum doesn't have standard opening hours (for now, at least), meaning individuals can have a guided tour at 17:00 every day (except Sunday). Groups must call ahead and make prior arrangements beforehand. ► **tel. +386 (0)1 471 73 40, info@pivo-union.si, www.pivo-union.si.** Open . Closed Sun.

PARKS & GARDENS

TIVOLI PARK

Tivoli is where the people of Ljubljana who don't leave the city spend the weekend. Laid out in 1813 as a place for the general health and recreation of the city's population, at some five square kilometres, Ljubljana's gargantuan bucolic lung - literally two streets west of the city centre - is so packed with good things to see and do that it's almost worth visiting the Slovenian capital just to come here.

Set amidst rolling hills, Tivoli Park is a pleasant mixture of lawns (picnics encouraged: something of a shock in this part of the world), pastures, wooded areas and fun adventure playgrounds for the kids (who will love the mini-golf best of all). The best way to enjoy the park is by bike, and bicycles are available for rent from various points throughout the park during the summer. You will need to leave ID as a guarantee you will bring the bike back.

As well as its reputation as the top nature spot in the area, Tivoli Park also houses a number of cultural sights including the International Centre of Graphic Arts in the glorious 17th century Tivoljski Grad (Tivoli Mansion), the Museum of Modern History and, in the park's far southwestern reaches, in an area designated as a nature reserve, the city's half-decent zoo. Also look out for the monument to Primoz Trubar at the entrance to the park. Truboz was an early force in Slovene literature and the creation of a Slovene national identity. ► **A/B-2.**

ARCHEOLOGICAL PARKS



A mosaic from the Early Christian Centre

In 14 AD Jesus was in the middle of his awkward teenage years, Tiberius became the 2nd emperor of the Roman Empire upon the death of his stepfather Augustus, widespread famine hit China forcing many people to turn to cannibalism, and the Romans founded a permanent civilian settlement along a picturesque river in the shadow of the Alps called Emona, which of course would later grow into a quaint little world capital called Ljubljana.

In addition to lending its name to various 21st century establishments (see hotel Emonec, restaurant Emonska Klet and the Emona train to Vienna), this early Roman settlement left its mark on - or rather under - modern Ljubljana in the form of well-preserved ruins located within the city's original 435m by 523m ground plan. Of all the remnants that this early civilisation left behind, three separate sites have been extensively excavated and opened to the public: the Emonan House, an early Christian centre and the Roman walls - all of which are comprise the City Museum of Ljubljana's archeological parks.

SQUARES

PREŠERNOV TRG (PREŠEREN SQUARE)

Formally a meeting place for several roads in front of one of the old entrance gates to the city, and a public square since Ljubljana's original defensive walls were torn down in the middle of the 19th century, this is one of the city's most important landmarks. Named after Slovenia's national poet France Prešeren (German, Franz Prescheren, 1800-1849), it's both a popular meeting place (notably under the large statue of the man after whom the square is named) and a site for concerts and events during the summer. The charming little public space is ringed by a number of interesting sights including the magnificent Art Nouveau façade of the Urbanc House, an extraordinary piece of early 20th-century flamboyance and site of the soon to be reopened Centromerur department store. ► **D-3.**

LJUBLJANA ZOO



Much like Ljubljana itself, and even Slovenia as a whole, the Ljubljana Zoo succeeds in fitting a lot of interesting, entertaining and educational sights all in one small easily manageable package. While it can't compete with some of the much larger and better known zoos in Europe in terms of scale, there's an equally diverse range of animals, and perhaps an even more innovative programme of activities, including at least a few things that we guarantee you won't find anywhere else.

Located to the west of the city centre, and surrounded by the natural forests at the edge of Rožnik hill, the zoo is easily reached by public transport (bus 18), taxi (€3-4) or on foot (25-35 minutes). Thanks to its position it stays refreshing cool here during the summer months, and is completely insulated from the noise and commotion of the city throughout the year. ► **I-3, Večna Pot 70, +386 (0)1 244 21 88, info@zoo.si, www.zoo.si. Admission €8 for adults, €6.5 student/seniors, €4.50-5.50 children, €2 persons with disabilities, €2 dogs. Free for children under 2. Open 09:00 - 17:00/16:00 in Oct/Nov.**

TOURS

The Tourist Information Centre should be your first stop if you're interested in any kind of city tour. They offer a variety of scheduled tours for individuals, and can arrange even more for groups with a bit of advanced notice. Prices and itineraries are also clearly listed on their site, so you'll know exactly what you're getting. Almost every hotel in the city offers guided tours of one sort or another as well. Some are good, others just a way of making money. You should be able to spot the scams without too much difficulty.

LJUBLJANANJAM

Within the world of travel and tourism, one thing that seems to be constant is a love of good food. It has often

been said that the best way to experience a culture is through the taste buds, and Iva and her Ljubljananjam Foodwalks are here to make sure nobody misses out whilst in town. Devoted to lovers of good food, be they local or foreign, Ljubljananjam organises gourmet food and drink walks through downtown Ljubljana, customised to the tastes and budgets of those taking the walk and always kept personal and intimate. Discover local independent businesses, homemade food from high-end gourmet to comfort food, from craft beer to wine, and get all wrapped up in the stories along the way. For more information head to the website, which is choc-full of information, interviews, food blogs and much more. ► **tel. +386 (0)41 878 959, info@ljubljananjam.si, www.ljubljananjam.si.**

ROUNABOUT TRAVEL

Travel agencies may be cropping up everywhere in the modern day, but we've not come across any more concise and professional than the good folk at Roundabout. With an impressive selection of both public and private tours, as well as off-cruise options and jaunts into neighbouring countries, only the pickiest of people would struggle to find something to float their boat here. Head to the website for a complete list of tours available. ► **Pot Draga Jakopiča 6, tel. +386 (0) 51 601 601/+386 (0)41 78 61 68, info@roundabout.si, www.roundabout.si/.**

SLOCALLY.COM

In much the same way that the Slow Food movement revolutionised the way people view the experience of enjoying a good meal, the cleverly named Slocally.com aims to promote a wider movement of Slow Tourism in Slovenia, and offers dozens of unique activities for visitors to participate in - from tasting locally produced foods and wines on family-run farms to experiencing traditional local events and fairs to taking part in a diverse variety of hands-on workshops. We're not exaggerating when we say that there's likely no better or more convenient way to get to know Slovenia. Detailed descriptions and clearly indicated prices can be found on the very informative website, and the passionate creator of the project, Vesna Velišček, is always happy to answer any questions you may have. ► **Frankopanska 29, tel. +386 (0)41 432 488, booking@slocally.com, www.slocally.com.**

TIME MACHINE AT THE CASTLE

While it may be an often-claimed slogan, the Time Machine guided tour at Ljubljana Castle truly is a tour like no other. Follow the history of one of the biggest symbols of Ljubljana through six of its most important periods, from Roman Emona through to the 20th century. You are guided along each step by a different costumed character from each time, creating a unique atmosphere that we can't help but enjoy. Starting from the information point at the castle, the tour runs four times a day from June to

September. ▶ tel. +386 (0)1 232 99 94, virtualni-grad@ljubljanskigrad.si, www.ljubljanskigrad.si. Open Sat-Sun 11:00, 15:00. Admission: €10 (€12 with funicular), students/children/senior groups €7 (€8.40 with funicular), families €26 (€32 with funicular).

ACTIVITIES

ESCAPE ROOM ENIGMARIUM

On the face of it, getting locked into a room and having one hour to escape might not sound like a normal way to spend an afternoon, but then Escape Room Enigmariu isn't your normal activity. The first of its kind in town, three different uniquely themed rooms (all their own creation) throughout Ljubljana encourage teams to work together to decipher clues, complete challenges and eventually be set free, the culmination of quite simply one of the most fun activities in the city. No language expertise is needed, so take on a character and let your inner code breaker run wild. Head to the website for available times and booking information. ▶ Trdinova ulica 8, tel. +386 (0)31 33 44 88, info@escape-room.si, escape-room.si.

LAND OF ICE (LEDENA DEŽELA)

This winter at BTC (near the Atlantis Water Park), 60 tons of ice will be transformed into a winter wonderland. The theme of this year's Ledena Dežela, or Ice Land, is the middle ages and will bring together five Slovenian ice sculptors along with a Finnish and two Catalan artists, to create an ancient world hewn of ice, where visitors will encounter enchanted forests and clearings, gaze upon carved knights and dragons as well as traverse a frozen labyrinth. Ledena Dežela offers winter fun for the whole family as well as a chance to see the talented works of international ice carvers. Open from 13 November till 28 February. ▶ M-3, Šmartinska 152, tel. +386 (0)31 348 138, Info@ledene-skulpture.com, www.ledene-skulpture.com. Open 12:00 - 19:00, Thu, Fri 12:00 - 21:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 21:00. Adults €7, Children €5, Families €15.



LAND OF ICE

Stories from the middle age, captured in 60 tons of ice.

BTC / Atlantis Water Park Ljubljana

www.ledene-skulpture.com
INFO: +386 31 348 138



TOURIST INFORMATION

SLOVENIAN TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER (STIC)

Ljubljana's central tourist office is a bit larger and usually less crowded than the main branch located a few hundred metres away opposite Prešeren Square, and they also helpfully stock heaps of maps, brochures and general information for the entire country. Tickets for most events in and around town can be purchased, and the staff will gladly give you a run down of the various tours and excursions on offer. Bicycle rentals are also available for only €8 per day, and are a great way to see more of the city. ▶ C-3, Krekov Trg 10, tel. +386 (0)1 306 45 75, fax +386 (0)1 306 45 80, stic@visitljubljana.com, www.visitljubljana.com. Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat - Sun 09:00 - 17:00

LJUBLJANA TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE (TIC)

A small but extremely well equipped resource with plenty of maps, brochures galore in English, information about what's on in the city and a range of information on what to see and do in the region. They also organise tours, can help with accommodation, and should be one of your first ports of call when you arrive. Their website is one of the best we've seen in Central Europe and is well worth further investigation. Friendly, informative staff too.

▶ D-3, Adamič-Lundrovo Nabrežje 2, tel. +386 (0)13 06 12 15, fax +386 (0)13 06 12 04, tic@visitljubljana.si, www.visitljubljana.com. Open daily 08:00 - 19:00

URBANA LJUBLJANA TOURIST CARD



Rated as one of Europe's best city cards, Tourism Ljubljana's Urbana offers free admission to all of the city's main sights as well as free unlimited transport

LPP's extensive urban bus network. The card can be purchased at most hotels and all three of Ljubljana's Tourist Information Centres (on Adamič-Lundrovo Nabrežje, at the main train station and on Krekov Trg). Prices are €23/30/35 for 24/48/72 hours, and the card - which contains RFID chip - is activated upon its first use. Order online and save 10% of the regular price! ▶ www.visitljubljana.com. 24-hour card €23, 48-hour card €30, 72-hour card €35.



A visit to the Technical Museum of Slovenia is well worth the short trip to Vrhnika, photo by Urša Vodopivec

THE KEY ESCAPE ROOM

There aren't many escape rooms where you can say you've moved from the world of Leonardo Da Vinci to that of Sherlock Holmes, but The Key Escape Room gives you exactly that experience. A new twist on the much-loved escape room, an extra challenge is presented here in that two rooms must be escaped from with a 70-minute time limit. Through a variety of different challenges, each more inventive than the next, communication is the key. The challenges are tough but undeniably fun, making The Key Escape Room a guaranteed good time. It also happens to be just a thirty-second walk from Prešeren Square down the street named Trubarjeva. ► **Obrežna Steza 2, tel. +386 (0)30 23 23 23, info@thekey.si, www.thekey.si. Open 13:00 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 22:00.**

AROUND LJUBLJANA

TECHNICAL MUSEUM OF SLOVENIA (TEHNIŠKI MUZEJ SLOVENIJE)

It might not be the easiest to get to, but for the technically minded this museum 20km from Ljubljana in Bistra near Vrhnika is worth every step on the journey. The sheer variety of exhibitions on display is astounding; covering the history of printing in Slovenia, agriculture, fishing, hunting, forestry, woodwork, electricity, textiles and of course motor vehicles, there is something for everyone here. A new permanent exhibition focuses on the first century of motoring in the country, containing within the oldest preserved car in Slovenia, dating back to 1906. Sundays see children's workshops, Tesla's experiments, as well as demonstrations and much more, allowing children and adults alike the chance to truly feel the technological spirit of the past. ► **Bistra 6, 1353 Borovnica, tel. +386 (0)1 750 66 70, info@tms.si, www.tms.si. Open 08:00-16:00, Sat 09:00-17:00, Sun 10:00-18:00. Admission €2.40-4.5.**

SLOVENIA'S VOLCANO

VULKANIJA ADVENTURE PARK

Goričko castle happens to sit on a particularly fascinating spot, the site of the last volcanic eruption in Slovenia! This momentous occasion occurred some three million years ago, and the area is now home to an adventure and educational park, where Oli the Mole will help visitors unearth the ways of volcanoes, as well as taking a journey to its centre whilst searching for olivine crystals. Watch out for Ezo the Witch though, who is on the chase the entire time. Originally opened in 2013, the facilities have recently been renovated and expanded, with even more activities to participate in, such as volcanic games, 3D films with many special effects and a wonderful geological museum. Great fun for the whole family, as well as individuals and school groups. Located in the region of Prekmurje in the northeast corner of Slovenia, the park can easily be visited on a day trip excursion from Ljubljana, but with a wealth of sites and activities in the surrounding area and some of country's best food and friendliest people, it's well-worth considering a longer stay. ► **Grad 174, Grad, tel. +386 (0)2 553 10 00, info@vulkanija.si, www.vulkanija.si. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Nov-Apr 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Mondays. Adults €10, students €8, children 6-15 €7, families €25. Children under 5 free admission.**



ADVENTURE PARK

VULKANIJA

An unforgettable experience of a volcano in Goričko.

Reopening on October 2nd.

www.vulkanija.si

REGULAR LJUBLJANA CITY TOUR



The regular tour of Ljubljana, available daily, takes you on a walk through the historical city centre, giving you an opportunity to see its major sights.

The tour begins in front of the Town Hall and continues through the historical city centre, well known for its unique architectural appearance, which is the result of the legacy of the Baroque and Art Nouveau periods and, most notably, the work of the famous 20th century architect Jože Plečnik. You can choose between three versions of the tour, two ending at Ljubljana Castle and one with a tourist boat cruise along the river Ljubljanica.



Tour versions and schedule:

Guided city walk and funicular ride to Ljubljana Castle

- 1 October – 31 March: daily at 11:00
- 1 April – 30 September: daily at 10:00

Guided city walk and tourist boat cruise along the Ljubljanica

- 1 April – 30 September: daily at 14:00

Guided city walk and tourist road train ride to Ljubljana Castle

- 1 April – 30 September: daily at 17:00



Duration: Two hours.

Departure point: The square in front of the Town Hall.

Language options: Slovenian, English.

Prices

- €10.00 for adults
- €5.00 for children between four and 12 years old
- Free for children under four years old





Don't let a little rain stop you from browsing the countless shops that line the streets of Ljubljana's old town, photo by Mark Breen

In Ljubljana, you can still shop the old-fashioned way. Strolling the city streets, ducking in and out of the shops. The main shopping streets in the centre are Mestni and Stari Trg at the base of Castle Hill, and Wolfova Ulica and Miklošičeva on the opposite bank. For the mall experience, head out to BTC City, a couple of kilometres outside the city on the road to Maribor.

DEPARTMENT STORES

NAMA

Set in the heart of the city centre, just opposite the central post office, this modern department store offers several floors of clothing for men and women, with brands ranging from sporty to trendy to sophisticated. A large selection of household items can be found on the fourth floor and a supermarket stocked with an appetising variety of ready meals, salads, produce and other quick eats is in the basement, while the ground floor is where you will find cosmetics and accessories. ► C-3, Tomšičeva 2, tel. +386 (0)1 425 83 00, info@nama.si, www.nama.si. Open 09:00-20:00. Closed Sun.

FASHION

MARINA YACHTING

Ideally located on Novi Trg in Ljubljana's old town, Marina Yachting brings the fashions of the sea to the city. Using lightweight materials allowing for maximum comfort, the traditions of the sailors are respected at every turn as modern twists are developed creating clothes to be worn for every occasion. Nothing is rushed, and the care taken over each garment is obvious to all. The brand is constantly evolving, producing fashionable and classy attire with ease. ► C-4, Novi Trg 6, tel. +386 (0)1 425 1107, marina.yachting@amis.net, www.liliniroza.si. Open 09:00-19:30, Sat 09:00-17:00, Sun 10:00-14:00.

SOVEN NATURA

Being from the land of Britain, we are no strangers to the wonderful comfort of quality wool products. It is with great pleasure then that we are able to write about the only specialized shop in Slovenia solely for woollen products! Putting a modern fashionable spin on old Slovene traditions, all manner of garments are available at Soven. Socks, gloves, sweaters, jackets as well as sleeping bags and much more fill the shelves. Everything is organically produced as well, more often than not made by hand. ► Vodnikov Trg 4, tel. +386 (0)40 19 02 93/+386 (0)40 52 66 69, soven1@siol.net, www.soven.si. Open 09:00 - 17:00, Sat 09:00 - 15:00.

QUIKSILVER

The Ljubljana branch of the well-known international sporting apparel shop stocks a variety of fashionable casual and sportswear for both men and women, whether you are heading to the beach or the park. ► D-4, Mestni Trg 10, tel. +386 (0)1 251 10 73/+386 (0)51 222 069, boardridersclub.lj@gmail.com. Open 11:00-17:00.

XYZ PREMIUM FASHION STORE

Located in Citypark, XYZ are the coordinates for creating a completely new, authentic and fresh look, and a popular destination for Slovenia's fashion lovers and trendsetters. With more than 2000 square metres set across two floors, shoppers can find more than 50 of the world's most recognised fashion brands, such as Armani, BOSS, Burberry, Just Cavalli, Michael Kors and more. Next time you're in need of something new to wear, take the time to 'fashion' a short vacation in the company of the latest collections from your favourite designers. ► M-2, Šmartinska 152g (Citypark), tel. +386 (0)51 658 535, xyz.citypark@sportina.si, www.sportina.si. Open 09:00-21:00, Sat 08:00-21:00, Sun 09:00-15:00.

EYEWEAR

OPTIKA CLARUS

A leading name in the world of vision since 1992, Optika Clarus have offices all over the country set up to deal with any and all queries when it comes to the eyes. As glasses-wearers ourselves we're forever in debt to such shops, and Clarus doesn't let us down. So whether it is a new pair of frames, some fashionable sunglasses for the summer, contact lenses, sports glasses or even just a routine eye test, look no further. Wolfova 8, tel. +386 (0) 80 25 27, wolfova@clarus.si, www.clarus.si. Open 09:00-20:00, Sat 09:00-15:00, Sun 10:00-13:00.

SECOND HAND/VINTAGE

MOJE TVOJE

A unique concept shop, Moje Tvoje (or 'mine is yours') offers a great selection of reasonably priced vintage and second-hand clothing, as well as some original jewellery created by young Slovene designers. Just for good measure the place also doubles as gallery space for locals artists, with exhibitions changing every month or two. Find it down a small passageway off Mestni Trg not far from Town Hall. ► D-4, Mestni Trg 8, tel. +386 (0)40 127 973, mojetvoje-second-hand.si. Open 10:00-20:00, Sat 10:00-17:00, Sun 11:00-17:00.

SHOES

BOUTIQUE VODEB

Don't be fooled by the rather nondescript storefront here, Boutique Vodeb is a true Ljubljana institution and an enchanting throwback to the days when handcrafted quality and personalised service were the norm. Located just off Šuštarški Most (Cobbler's Bridge), behind and above the small heavily leather-scented ground-floor showroom is a bustling workshop dedicated to the fine art of custom-made footwear, where amongst the rolls of leather, shelves of moulds and workbenches of well-used sewing machines, you can still find the eldest member of the Vodeb family, who has been in the business for nearly seven decades. Custom-made shoes usually take up to a week to produce, but expedited orders are possible. ► C/D-4, Jurčičev Trg 3, tel. +386 (0)1 421 14 14, vodebov@gmail.com, www.boutiquevodeb.si. Open 09:00-18:00, Sat 09:00-12:00. Closed Sun.

GEOX

Stinky feet are among the least enjoyable things in the world, we're sure you'll agree. Thank our lucky stars for GEOX in that case. Founded in 1995, the Italian shoe company has invested heavily in innovation over the years, and as a result have revolutionised the shoe world by footwear made with breathable fabrics. We aren't scientists so the chemistry may go over our heads a little, but if it stops our feet from sweating we're all in. ► M-2, City Park, tel. +386 (0)1 810 95 31, geox.citypark@europart.trade.si, www.geox.com. Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 08:00 - 21:00, Sun 09:00 - 15:00.


DEHA[®]
FEELING FEMINE



DEHA SHOP, GOSPOSKA 5, LJUBLJANA
DEHA SHOP, POBREŠKA 18, MARIBOR
HALA 12 LJUBLJANA, ŠMARTINSKA 152, LJUBLJANA

Shopping

CRISTOBAL

This little shop, tucked away in the city centre is easy to miss, though local fashionistas flock here for stylish and top-quality shoes and accessories. Cristobal stock a wide range of predominately Italian designer shoes (men's also available), many of the labels you'll find nowhere else in Ljubljana - such as the stunning and uber trendy Clox (shoes cum time piece). Also on sale are a range of beautiful Knomo laptop bags and a select range of gorgeous jewellery some of which is designed locally. ▶ C-4, Židovska 5, tel. +386 (0)1 421 01 23, info@crisobal.si, www.crisobal.si. Open Mon-Fri 10:00-19:30, Sat 10:00-14:00. Closed Sun.

GIFTS & SOUVENIRS

Take a little something of Ljubljana home with you or for your family. Keep an eye out for products carefully made by local artists and designers often depicting the beauty of Ljubljana within paintings, crafts, embroidery, ornaments, photography, clothes and much more.

CASTLE EXPERIENCE2GO

As befitting its location, the Ljubljana Castle shop is choc-full of goodies closely associated with the castle itself, and the many stories that emanate from its history. Whether it's the silver jewellery, the many fashion accessories or even the fine array of tasty treats, it is all guaranteed to maintain the lovely memories of Ljubljana Castle for years to come. Essentially, you are purchasing stories as opposed to products, memories as opposed to goods, and that's fine by us. ▶ Ljubljanski Grad, tel. +386 (0)1 306 42 11, grajska.trgovina@ljubljangrad.si. Open Jan - Mar and Nov 10:00 - 18:00, Apr - May and Oct 09:00 - 20:00, June - Sept 09:00 - 21:00, Dec 10:00 - 19:00.

ČOKOLADNICA CUKRČEK

A charming, family-run business with four shops in the city, Čokoladnica Cukrček has been delighting adults and making children happily sick for a decade and a half. Among the many fine examples of chocolate for sale include special Ljubljana dragons in souvenir wooden boxes, fruit covered in chocolate and even chocolate flavoured with salt. In addition to the main location on Mestni Trg, you can find Cukrček in the Nebotičnik passageway, opposite Hotel Union and in Mercator Centre Šiška. ▶ D-3/4, Mestni Trg 11, tel. +386 (0)1 421 04 53, info@benedict.si, www.cukrcek.si. Open 09:00-20:00, Sun 10:00-19:00.

GALERIJA RUSTIKA

Featuring the largest selection of high-quality Slovenian handicraft products in the entire country, Rustika is indeed equal parts gallery and shop. Perusing the collection with the help of a knowledgeable staff member feels a bit like taking a guided tour through all of the many diverse re-

gions and cultures found within Slovenia's borders. Highlights include traditional beehive panels produced by an award-winning local artisan, world famous Idrija lace, and various different seasonal specialties. In addition to their beautiful premises just inside the gates of Ljubljana Castle, there's a second location near Tromostovje Bridge.

▶ D-4, Ljubljanski Grad, tel. +386 (0)1 251 17 18/+386 (0)31 38 32 47, www.galerijarustika.si. Open 10:00-18:00.

GALERIJA RUSTIKA

▶ D-3, Stritarjeva 9, tel. +386 (0)1 251 17 18/+386 (0)31 459 509, www.galerijarustika.si. Open 09:00-21:00, Sun 10:00-20:00.

NEW

KAMENCEK

This cute souvenir shop in the heart of Ljubljana's old town, near Shoemaker's Bridge, is the perfect place to pick up something special to remind you of Slovenia. Tucked away in the courtyard of one of the old city houses, Kamenček has a great collection of beautiful artefacts and handicrafts, all made by local designers and craftsmen. On sale are unique sculptures, including of Slovenia's famous human fish, ornate homewares and interesting jewellery as well as designer silk clothing, delicate Idrija lace and much more. The store's friendly owner is happy to tell the story behind each of Kamenček's quality products. ▶ D-4, Mestni Trg 13, tel. +386 (0)59 043 906, kamencek.kamencek@gmail.com, kamencek.weebly.com. Open 11:00 - 19:00, Sat 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Sun.

OLD TOWN SOUVENIRS

Situated directly between Prešeren Square and Dragon Bridge, you're guaranteed to pass by this well-stocked souvenir shop on any walking tour of Ljubljana. In addition to the usual assortment of souvenirs, from magnets and shot glasses to chocolate and schnapps (and of course all manner of dragons), they also offer uniquely designed high-quality t-shirts, which conveniently come in their own gift bag. If the weather is nice, you can even grab a beer or soda to drink along the riverside promenade while writing the obligatory postcards. ▶ D-3, Petkovškovo Nabrežje 27a, tel. +386 (0)1 620 0851, info@old-town.si. Open 09:00-19:00.

TRGOVINA IKA

Ika puts the creativity of local Slovene artists, designers and innovators in the forefront of its shelves, exhibiting a wonderful selection of products showcasing modern Slovene design. You can pick up great souvenirs here as a lot of the products represent the beauty of Ljubljana in artistic forms, or if you're looking for a unique garment, decorative product or piece of art, you've come to the right place. ▶ D-3, Ciril-Metodov Trg 13, tel. +386 (0)1 232 17 43, info@trgovinaika.si, www.trgovinaika.si. Open 10:00-19:30, Sat 09:00-18:00, Sun 10:00-14:00.

SHOPPING CENTRES

BTC CITY

The biggest thing of its kind in the country, the positively enormous BTC features not only some 450 shops selling everything you could possibly imagine, but also boasts restaurants galore, bars, a post office, multiplex cinema, indoor go-cart racing, a comedy theatre, billiards, volleyball courts, an enormous water park, conference facilities and its very own business district housing some of the best known local and international companies. There's free parking for more than 8,500 vehicles too, all just a couple of kilometres out of the centre of the city in the general direction of Maribor. ► M-3, Šmartinska 152, tel. +386 (0)1 585 22 22, info@btc.si, www.btc-city.com/lang/Eng. Open 09:00-20:00. Closed Sun.

SPORTS & RECREATION

ANNAPURNA

Located in Trnovo on the banks of the Ljubljanica, Annapurna is the place to stop before heading out into the mountaineering world. Whether you're spending a day or a week outdoors, it stocks all the necessary equipment from a range of outdoor clothing (including waterproof jackets made out of high quality materials) to boots and all sorts of gear. The folk working are super friendly as well, always on hand to give advice on trips and preparations. ► C/D-5, Krakovski Nasip 4, tel. +386 (0)1 426 34 28, info@annapurna.si, www.annapurna.si. Open 09:00-19:00, Sat 09:00-13:00. Closed Sun.

DEHA

'Deha' is the Turkish word for genius, and its safe to say you've got to have some smarts to walk away with the much-coveted Global Sport Style Award. Deha is an Italian company that has spread across much of Europe, producing clothes and accessories for dancing and various other sporting activities that take their cue from same world, as the emphasis is on the subtlety of movement and the sensuality within. All garments are made using the finest cottons, silks and tech fabrics of course. ► Gosposka ulica 5, tel. +386 (0)1 425 48 31/+386 (0)41 31 98 53, deha@eurosport-trade.si, www.deha.tv. Open 09:30 - 19:30, Sat 09:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun

WINE, SPIRITS & BEER

PIVOTEKA ZA POPEN'T

Za Popen't may be hidden away in a small courtyard off of Stari Trg, but it's selection of speciality beers is the largest in the country. At last count some 250 different beers from around the world were weighing down the shelves here, nearly all of which can be explained in detail by the friendly and knowledgeable owner or her staff. For those who don't know much about beers (like us), don't worry - simply tell them what kind of flavours you like and they will be able to find a beer for you to try! ► D-4, Stari Trg 5, tel. +386 (0)1 256 59 16, zapopent@hotmail.com, www.zapopent.si. Open 11:00-20:00. Closed Sun.



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SALON


KUSTER


We're pretty sure we've never been in a more elegant looking salon, and closer inspection reveals a host of stories and creative quirks. Jack Daniels bottles for spraying water (not bourbon), clocks made out of scissors and more, this is a creative ecological hairdressers if ever we've seen one. Head honcho Borut and his team know what they're doing too, and we guarantee you'll leave here more than satisfied with your do. If you're looking for some professional make up attention you can find that here too, with one of the most attentive and delightful artists we've ever met. ► **Hribarjevo nabrežje 15**, tel. +386 (0)30 22 12 99, info@bkuster.si. Open 09:00 - 20:00, Sat 09:00 - 13:00. Closed Sun.

MASSAGE

GEISHA BODY MASSAGE

This tourism lark can be fairly stressful from time to time, and whilst some people will do their relaxing at the bar or in the cafes, the prospect of body-to-body massage might float the boats of others. What is body-to-body massage you ask? Well, use your imagination. A skilled masseuse using her entire body to relieve tension? We're sold. Geisha also offers a whole range of different sensual massages, head to the website for full listings. ► **C-1, Parmova - Bežigrad**, tel. +386 (0)31 60 06 03, info@geisha.si, <http://geisha.si>. Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 14:00 - 21:00, Closed Sun.



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THAI SABAI

This Gay-friendly Thai massage studio is just north of the city centre, only a 5-minute walk from the main railway and bus stations. They provide a variety of traditional massages at competitive prices, and their excellent masseur is certified by the Thai Ministry of Public Health. Booking in advance is recommended, and more info and photos on their website. ► **D-1, Dunajska 9a**, tel. +386 (0)31 31 00 75, thaisabai.si.info@gmail.com, www.thaisabai.si. Open 10:00-22:00, Sat 10:00-20:00. Closed Sun.

DENTIST

ARTIDENT

If you happen to be in need of some dental attention whilst in Ljubljana, look no further than Artident. A family-run clinic in the Bežigrad district of town where impeccable English and affordable prices come together splendidly, head to the website for a full price list. ► **D-2, Dunajska cesta 129**, tel. +386 (0)40 60 79 87, info@artident.si, www.artident.si. Open 08:00 - 19:00, Fri 08:00 - 13:00, Closed Sat, Sun.

FITNESS

BIT SPORT CENTER

► **M-4, Litijska 57**, tel. +386 (0)15 48 00 55, hotel@bit-center.net, www.bit-center.net. Open 07:00 - 23:00.

FIT & FUN CENTER

► **D-2, Dalmatinova 2**, tel. +386 (0)1239 61 74, info@fit-funcenter.si, www.fit-funcenter.si. Open 06:30 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 22:00.

TIVOLI FITNESS

► **B-1, Celovška 25**, tel. +386 (0)13 00 37 55, www.sport-ljubljana.si. Open 06:00 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 20:00.

PLASTIC SURGERY

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SPAS

OXALIS WELLNESS

► **D-3, Miklošičeva 1, Grand Hotel Union**, tel. +386 (0)1 308 17 02, +386 (0)41 238 558, office@oxalis-wellness.com, www.oxalis-wellness.com. Open 07:00-22:00, Sun 07:00-13:00 & 15:00-22:00.

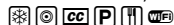


After spending a night at the award-winning Hotel Cubo, it's easy to understand why it's won so many awards

HOTELS OVER €170

CUBO

This boutique hotel has a great location right in the heart of the city opposite beautiful Kongresni Trg and Zvezda Park. In its couple short years Cubo has already won a host of awards for excellence, including our own IYP Best Business Hotel competition. Its 26 rooms are modern, elegant islands of tranquility, with gorgeous views of the castle and old town, and a friendly professional staff that is always eager to make your stay as comfortable and memorable as possible. The street-level restaurant serves equally praiseworthy cuisine, and is a popular spot for business lunches. ► C-4, Slovenska 15, tel. +386 (0)1 425 60 00fax +386 (0)1 425 60 20, reception@hotelcubo.com, www.hotelcubo.com. 26 rooms



GRAND HOTEL UNION BUSINESS

Attached to its sibling Executive hotel and sharing some but not all of the facilities on offer, accommodation comes in a choice of rooms and suites. Shared facilities include a grand total of 21 conference and banqueting rooms, secure parking and the pleasing fact that the best sights and leisure activities in the city are all close at hand. ► D-3, Miklošičeva 3, tel. +386 (0)1 308 1170, business@union-hotels.eu, www.union-hotels.eu. 133 rooms



HOTELS €100-170

ADORA

The latest addition to Gornji Trg's array of boutique hotels, the Adora has been instantly popular. It's appropriately cosy, housed in an old bourgeois residence, yet completely renovated with the essential modern comforts. From the light and airy reception (the ambience throughout in fact) you will wander through to the dining room where a self-service breakfast is served, then to the serene garden with lawn at the rear. A lift will take you to your floor and room, where the attractive teak furniture and subtle hint of colour will please most aesthetic palates. We found the location ideal, in the picturesque old town yet tucked away and quiet. ► Rožna ulica 7, tel. +386 (0) 82 05 72 40fax +386 (0) 82 05 72 41, info@adorahotel.si, www.adorahotel.si.




ANTIQ

A superb location in the heart of the old town with a host of rooms to suit all tastes and budgets. Featuring a welcoming little lobby with lots of nice feminine touches, the rooms have been given a distinctly boutique hotel feel, with huge wooden beds, patterned carpets, interesting paintings on the walls and some really smart pieces of furniture. Even the small budget economy rooms have been approached with a tasteful eye, whereas at the other end of the spectrum the superiors come with bags of space, lovely chandeliers and magnificent bathrooms. Room 13 on the other hand takes a different, more modernistic approach, with wooden floors and minimalist furniture. Antiq is also pet-friendly (the

Where to Stay

beasts stay for free) and has a whole host of things available for those travelling with children, cots, toys, games and the like. ▶ D-4, Gornji Trg 3, tel. +386 (0)1 421 35 60fax +386 (0)1 421 35 65, info@antihotel.eu, www.antihotel.eu. 16 rooms 

BEST WESTERN PREMIER HOTEL SLON

On the site of the oldest hotel in Ljubljana, the Slon is the best value stay in the city. For a very reasonable price you get a ton of luxury, from a pillow menu (yes, really) to sheets of only the purest cotton. The breakfast is a buffet affair of the highest quality; you should turn up early if you want to have time to taste everything. Add in a small fitness centre and sauna, free Wi-Fi, home entertainment centres in every room, tremendous service and a location in the very heart of the city, and you have one hell of a package. ▶ C-3, Slovenska 34, tel. +386 (0)1 470 11 00fax +386 (0)1 251 71 64, sales@hotelslon.com, www.hotelslon.com. Open 00:00-24:00. 168 rooms. 

CENTRAL

The classic three-star hotel experience, the Central is the little brother of the three Union hotels in the city. Geared up exceptionally well for the tourist market, the reception is crammed with the latest useful information about the city and surrounding region. There's a popular on-site bar and café, and the rooms feature everything you need for a good value stay right in the heart of the city centre. Excellent value accommodation indeed. ▶ D-2, Miklošičeva 9, tel. +386 (0)1 308 4300, central@union-hotels.eu, www.union-hotels.eu. 74 rooms 

FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON LJUBLJANA MONS

Mons is style personified, with an instant impression made on arrival by the elegant reception and bar area. Following a mantra based on honest, uncomplicated comfort and offering more than just an upmarket sleeping option, weekly BBQs throughout summer present a fusion of excellent Balkan and American food, all you can eat no less, which we're always in favour of. Mons is a part of the Starwood Preferred Guest program, the best (officially) loyalty program of its kind. A free shuttle ser-

vice to the centre of Ljubljana and back is also available. ▶ I-4, Pot Za Brdom 4, tel. +386 (0)1 470 27 00fax +386 (0)1 470 27 08, info@fourpointsljubljanamons.com, www.fourpointsljubljanamons.com. 114 rooms 

G DESIGN HOTEL

The exceedingly modern G Design may be one of Ljubljana's newest hotels, but it also boasts over two hundred years of tradition, as the still functioning (and beautifully restored) Gostilna Gorjanc restaurant has been serving travellers at the same location since the end of the 18th century. The large well-furnished rooms feature soft lighting and super comfortable beds, with panoramic views of Ljubljana castle in the distance. Well-equipped conference facilities and meeting rooms are available, and for a real treat you can dine 'in bed' at the unique G Super Club. The hotel is conveniently situated just off the Brezovica exit on the motorway, at the edge of the forest just a short drive south of the city centre. ▶ H-5, Tržaška 330, tel. +386 (0)1 200 91 00fax +386 (0)1 200 91 30, info@gdesignhotel.si, www.gdesignhotel.si. 22 rooms. 

LEV

Opened in 1964, Lev boasts a pedigree that has managed to entice notable celebrities, such as Agatha Christie, Kirk Douglas, Luciano Pavarotti, Bob Dylan and countless others. A glistening marble lobby serves as a fine overture to 173 high quality, air-conditioned rooms, ranging from singles to suites. All come complete with amenities every guest looks for, including complimentary wireless internet access. Hotel Lev offers also conference services and high-end Mediterranean cuisine, served in the award-winning à la carte Restaurant Pri Levu. ▶ C-2, Vošnjakova 1, tel. +386 (0)1 308 7000, lev@union-hotels.eu, www.union-hotels.eu. 

HOTELS €70-100


GARNI HOTEL AZUR

This small welcoming hotel takes a personal approach to guests' needs and accommodating their desires. Ideally situated near both the city centre and the motorway, it is also within walking distance of the city's largest green space, Tivoli Park. Rooms are individually decorated, and come with all the modern amenities standard in larger hotels. They also offer family rooms with extra space for little ones and small kitchens, and an on-site shop sells regional gourmet products. Perhaps best of all the rooms are located next to a great restaurant of the same name. ▶ J-4, Sattnerjeva 2, tel. +386 (0)59 333 600/+386 (0)40 636 205fax +386 (0)59 333 608, azur.ghbooking@gmail.com, www.garnihotelazur.si. 7 rooms. 

MEKSIKO

Situated within the University Medical Center, Hotel Meksiko is the most convenient accommodation option for both out-patients travelling from afar and visiting relatives,



and is also a fine choice for business travellers and ordinary tourists, as its position on Ljubljana's inner-ring road provides easy access to the rest of the city by car, as well as a short walking distance to the eastern edges of the old town and main tourist attractions. The hotel's 50 rooms are modernly equipped, and all feature modern amenities such as air-con, LCD TVs and free wireless internet. Parking is also available for guests. ► **F-2, Njegoševa 6k, tel. +386 (0)1 200 90 90, info@hotel-meksiko.si, www.hotel-meksiko.si.** 

PARK

The brightly coloured Hotel (and Hostel) Park conceals a number of good value standard, superior, family rooms and suites, all providing different amenities depending on the cost. All of the rooms in hotel come with en suite facilities, TV, telephone, hairdryer and WiFi, while the superior ones also include a LAN internet connection, air conditioning and mini-bar. However, for us the single most impressive highlight here are the outstanding views from the upper floors, which are some of the best in the city. There's a restaurant and bar as well, and a free internet connection in the lobby. Daytrips around Slovenia plus airport pick-up also available on request. ► **E-2/3, Tabor 9, tel. +386 (0)1 300 25 00, info@hotelpark.si, www.hotelpark.si. Open 00:00-24:00. 200 rooms** 

HOTELS UNDER €70

CENTER

This eight-room family-run affair is hard to beat in terms of location and price. The rooms are a bit on the Spartan side, but not without their own charm, owing in large part to the premises: a renovated 19th-century government building with high ceilings and splashes of exposed stonework. Run by the same people as Café Compañeros downstairs, there are often packages available - including free dinner and/or drinks - if you're staying at least two nights and inquire about them in advance. ► **C-2, Slovenska 51, tel. +386 (0)15 20 06 40, +386 (0)41 26 33 47, info@hotel-center.si, www.hotelcenter.si.** 

PRENOČIŠČA ŠIŠKA

Located on Celovska cesta, the main northwest road out of town, Prenočišča Šiška (try saying that 10 times fast, or even once!) is a budget hostel and hotel offering affordable basic accommodation, including for longer periods. Parking is available and there is a very good value canteen in the foyer of the building. The city is a short drive away, or else can be easily reached by bus. ► **J-2, Celovška 166, tel. +386 (0)31 637 828/+386 (0)1 514 16 07, info@prenocisca-siska.si, www.prenocisca-siska.si. €.**

HOSTELS

ADHOC HOSTEL

Despite the name, budget conscious travellers can rest assured that every aspect of this newly opened hostel has been thoroughly planned and executed - including

EDITOR'S PICK

TRESOR


Tresor is not only Ljubljana's largest hostel with 132 beds in 28 rooms, but it is also one of the best equipped and attractive budget accommodation options in the city. It's hard not to be impressed with the huge well-furnished rooms, ample bathroom facilities, two large common rooms, and a perfect location right in the city centre. It's also already earned top marks from guests on the most popular hostel booking sites, as well as an award for cleanliness. All this starting at €14 per night with breakfast, linens and towels included. ► **C-3, Čopova 38, tel. +386 (0)1 200 90 60, info@hostel-tresor.si, www.hostel-tresor.si.** 

all the small touches that backpackers are sure to appreciate, such as ample common space, plenty of showers and shelves for the top bunks. However, it's the unbeatable location in the heart of the old town just below the castle and only steps from all the major sites (and popular nightlife venues) that makes AdHoc a winner. A total of 92-beds are spread across several floors and a combination of dorms and private rooms. ► **Cankarjevo Nabrežje 27, tel. +386 (0)51 268 288, info@adhoc-hostel.com, www.adhoc-hostel.com.** 

CELICA

Ljubljana's legendary Celica hostel and surrounding buildings close to the bus and train stations and the city centre started life in the 19th century as an Austro-Hungarian military barracks. Once a prison, many of Celica's rooms have preserved their original character, providing a cheap and definitely quirky place to spend the night behind bars. Other rooms are also available as well as dormitories to sleep from four to 12 people. There's even a room for disabled guests, plus a huge range of other facilities such as kitchen, laundry, internet access, tourist information and bicycle hire. The hostel's café serves excellent value set lunches every day. ► **F-1/2, Metelkova ulica 8, tel. +386 (0)12 30 97 00, info@souhostel.com, www.hostelcelica.com. 29 rooms** 

HOSTEL VRBA

Located in the charming Trnovo district, Hostel Vrba is away from the crowds yet minutes' walk from the city centre and old town. Recently renovated the hostel provides a homely setting with 9 comfortable and tidy rooms spread over two floors with plenty of bathrooms to share as well as a spacious kitchen / dining / hang out area. Best of all its excellent value for money with friendly service, cheap room rates and free parking, plus the owners happen to run one of Ljubljana's best traditional restaurants just around the corner where guests can have culinary experiences at special hostel prices. ► **C-5, Gradaška 10, tel. +386 (64) 133555, info@hostelvrba.si, www.hostelvrba.com. 38 beds** 

Where to Stay



Cankarjevo nabrežje 27, SI-1000 Ljubljana

T: +386 51 268 288

E: info@ljubljanapartments.eu

W: www.ljubljanapartments.eu



APARTMENTS

KOLLMANN APARTMENTS

These beautifully renovated luxury apartments and rooms right in the centre of the old town are truly a sight to behold. The highlight of the smaller unit is the king-sized waterbed located in a loft bedroom separated from the living room below, while the larger apartment is absolutely huge, with two bedrooms, a full bathtub and a washing machine. Both apartments and one of the rooms have fully-equipped kitchenettes, while the larger of the apartments and both rooms also have great views of the Ljubljana and old town below. All units feature brand new LCD TVs and free internet. ▶ D-4, Cankarjevo Nabrežje 27, tel. +386 (0)51 268 288, info@ljubljanapartments.eu, www.ljubljanapartments.eu.

MARTASTUDIO

These three self-contained studios and one large 106m² apartment are reasonably priced alternatives to booking a hotel. All fitted with modern facilities, including kitchenettes, the family-run accommodation is just a short 15-minute walk from the city centre, or an even shorter bus ride from the stop just a few metres away (lines 1 and 6). A supermarket, restaurants and banks are all nearby, and airport pick-up can be arranged for little more than the cost of a bus. The entrance is in the same building as the shop Mavrica, look for the house in the courtyard with the red façade. ▶ J-4, Tržaška 24, tel. +386 (0)5 9020 452/+386 (0)41 874 400fax +386 (0)5 9060 012, info@martastudio.eu, www.martastudio.eu.

OLD TOWN ROOMS AND APARTMENTS

These newly opened rooms and apartments in a renovated house along the Ljubljana allow guests to both enjoy an authentic old town experience, while also having the comfort of modern accommodation - all just steps from Prešeren Square, Dragon Bridge and all the other sights in Ljubljana's medieval centre. All units are bright and airy with wooden furnishings, manually controlled air conditioning, and modern necessities such as large flat screen TVs and wireless internet. Set off Petkovškovo nabrežje through a common courtyard, those looking for peace in the very centre need look no further.

▶ D-3, Petkovškovo Nabrežje 27a, tel. +386 (0)1 620 0851, info@old-town.si, www.old-town.si.

AROUND LJUBLJANA

PENZION NA KLANCU

For those who'd like to avoid the bustle of the city centre, but still have easy access to sights and activities in Ljubljana, this 100 year-old but newly renovated guest house is perfectly situated in the town of Medvode some 11km from the capital. The spacious, smartly decorated rooms are complimented by an excellent restaurant, and the staff can recommend numerous activities and off the beaten path excursions in the surrounding countryside. ▶ Gorenjska 13, Medvode, tel. +386 (0)1 361 82 55/+386 (0)31 673 068, info@naklancu.com, www.naklancu.com. Open 07:00:22:00. 13 rooms

SLOVENSKA HIŠA VIDA

There are a multitude of adjectives we could use to describe Slovenska Hiša Vida, and to be honest we don't think they would do it justice. Sure, the rooms are pristine, splendidly modern and dripping with class, but to describe them as just the tip of the iceberg would be an understatement. This is a house of stories, whether it is the origins of Slavko Arsenik's 'Na Golici' (the most played instrumental song in the world no less) or the magical cellar painstakingly put together by a slightly mad 75-year-old Italian artist called Profa, every corner at the house reveals something more. The young group of staff will tell you more, making you feel perfectly at home in the process. ▶ Savlje 87, tel. +386 (0)40 47 54 26, jovic.mateja@gmail.com.

MartaStudio

Tržaška 24, 1000 Ljubljana

Apartment (6 - 8 people) available for long-term accommodation, from €80-100/per day.



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Stop off for a bite at Proteus Restaurant in Postojna after a long day exploring the sights

With less than 10,000 inhabitants Postojna is barely one of the 20 largest towns in Slovenia, but arguably none are more well-known throughout that world (including the capital Ljubljana) than this relatively nondescript settlement in the southwest of the country that wasn't even officially recognise until 1909. The reason of course it not so much the town itself, but the amazing network of karst caves that lie just below its surface. First opened to the public in 1819, the world-famous Postojna Cave is said to have attracted more than 35 million visitors over the past two centuries, with one of its first being Austro-Hungarian Emperor Francis I the year before it opened.

If this were not enough, Postojna is also blessed with another popular sight in its immediate vicinity, the magnificent Predjama Castle located some 11km to the northwest of the town centre. Built in the 13th century and partially situated under enormous natural stone arch, it's not only a fine castle in its own right, but also sits atop another tourist cave and is also associated with several fascinating legends.

While the vast majority of visitors come to Postojna just to see one or both of its star attractions, with three proper hotels and many other guesthouses and private accommodation options located in and around the town, it makes a good base for exploring parts of central Slovenia as well as the Karst region that extends towards the Adriatic Sea and Italy - Trieste actually being closer to Postojna than Ljubljana (35km and 54km away respectively).

RESTAURANTS

PROTEUS RESTAURANT

After a day spent exploring Postojna's famous cave and other sights, treat yourself to a first-class meal at the newly renovated Proteus. Set in a old house that is typical for the region, the restaurant combines the traditional and modern with homemade local cuisine served in an elegant interior. Tables are separated by curtains of fine white string, which are meant to resemble the geological formations found inside the cave, and the walls are decorated with works of acclaimed Slovene painter Leo Vilhar. ▶ Titov Trg 1, tel. +386 (0)8 161 0300, info@postojnska-jama.eu, www.postojnska-jama.eu.

AVIO PUB

Found just off the runway at Postojna's small recreational airport, there's a large garden out back where diners can watch the planes take off and land - many of which are taking visitors on panoramic flights. Despite the name, this place is a full-fledged pizzeria, steakhouse and wine bar, with pizzas coming crispy and hot from a wood-fired oven, steaks grilled to perfection and a wide selection of Slovene wine from the cellar. From Tuesday to Friday there are multi-course lunch specials starting from only €6. Of course the cosy wood-covered interior is very pub-like in appearance, and there are four types of draught beer on hand for those who are thirsty. ▶ Rakitnik 1a, Prestranek, tel. +386 (0)5 720 13 10, info@aviopub.si, www.aviopub.si. Open 10:00-23:00, Sat-Sun and holidays 11:00-23:00. Closed Mon. 🍷📶🚗🚶

KANTINA PIVKA

Maybe it is a sign that we do live in a more peaceful world that things such as this Military History Park and subsequent military canteen can be so very enjoyable. The park itself contains an extensive collection of all things military, including tank-artillery and various aircraft. The canteen gives you the chance to eat in a pseudo-military setting, although with much more enjoyable food and no chance of being sent off at a moments notice to get blown up. ▶ Kolodvorksa cesta 51, Pivka, tel. +386 (0)41 74 05 31, info@aviopub.si. Open 10:00 - 22:00. Closed Mon.

TOURS

SLOVENIA4SEASONS

Specialising in a whole variety of tours, excursions and more, Slovenia4Seasons is the brainchild of two young chaps from the Postojna area. Whether you are an individual looking for a highly personalised tour or a larger group looking for a private run around one of the many jaunts on offer, be sure to check their website for something that fits. They also do a good number of theme-based tours, such as cooking classes, cave exploration and more. Tours depart mainly from Ljubljana and Trieste. ▶ Rakitnik 1a, Prestranek, tel. +386 (0)40 38 78 87, info@slovenia4seasons.com, www.slovenia4seasons.com.

POSTOJNA CAVE

The largest cave in the karst region and most visited show cave in all of Europe, words on a page can hardly do justice to the majesty of Postojna. So far, more than 24 kilometres of galleries have been found, of which 5km are open to the public. All the same, a visit here still takes up much of a morning or an afternoon, as you make your way through the most spectacular parts of the cave, at first by a dinky little narrow-gauge train, and then on foot. There are no stairs or difficult climbs along the path to or inside the cave, so visitors with limited mobility should not have any difficulties. Highlights of the cave include the enormous stalactites and stalagmites, and the quite sensational concert hall, which can (and does) hold 10,000 people. The caves are also home to olms (or white salamanders), a blind amphibian endemic to the subterranean waters of caves of this part of Europe. ► **Open every day, all year. Oct at 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, Nov at 10:00, 12:00, 15:00**



All aboard the Postojna train!

POSTOJNA CAVE EXHIBITION PAVILION

Some 111 years in the making, the most famous show cave in the world finally has its own exhibition centre. The newest addition to the Postojna Cave Park, the pavilion contains the largest exhibition dedicated to the cave and the Karst phenomenon in general. Containing a variety of interactive presentations about the formation of the underground world and the development of cave tourism, the worldwide significance of the cave is clear for all to see when here. Tailor-made for those unfamiliar with caves and the Karst, the exhibition is particularly well set up for children who will be guided throughout the mass of information by the Olm and a Slendernecked beetle. Be sure to check out the Postojna Cave Wall of Fame as well.

VIVARIUM PROTEUS

Did you know that over 150 different species are found in Postojna Cave, many of which have adapted to the conditions of the cave so perfectly that to be taken outside of the underworld would mean certain death? Well, now you do, and the Vivarium Proteus (located just 50m inside the entrance to the cave) is the place to go to find out more. Postojna Cave is the cradle of a special form of biology known as speleobiology, a science that first came to prominence in 1831. The vivarium itself is made up of two sections, one for research and one for exhibition. Being the undisputed king of the underworld a lot of attention is paid to the Human Fish, but many other fascinating spe-



Postojna Cave has stalactites and stalagmites as far as the eye can see.

PREDJAMA CASTLE

Located some 10km north of Postojna is one of Europe's finest castles. Predjama Castle (or Predjamski grad, Höhlenburg Lueg and Castel Lueghi in Slovene, German and Italian respectively), was built in a Gothic style by the Patriarch of Aquileia sometime during the 13th century and first mentioned in the historical record in the year 1274. Perched under a natural archway 123m up a sheer cliff face and surrounded by a thick stone wall, throughout the centuries the castle has gained a well-deserved reputation for being virtually impregnable. Nowadays the castle is open to the public and serves as a museum. It has been completely restored to its original grandeur, and among other sites visitors can see the residential quarters, the chapel and of course the dungeon. It is also possible to see the legendary cave below the castle, although some climbing and a minimal level of fitness, especially for scaling the narrow 37m Erazem's Passage, is strongly encouraged if not required. ► **Open every day, all year. Oct: 10:00-17:00, Nov: 10:00 - 16:00**

Buses run from Ljubljana to Postojna every half hour from 05:30 until 23:00 (some of them stop in front of Postojna Cave).

For any more information regarding Postojna Cave Park, please use the following contacts; Jamska 30, Postojna, tel +386 (0)5 700 01 00, info@postojnska-jama.eu, www.postojnska-jama.eu.



Predjama Castle is one of Slovenia's most incredible sights. (all photos by Iztok Medja / Postojnska jama d.d)

EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

AUSTRALIA

► K/L-3, Železna 14, tel. +386 (0)1 234 8675, fax +386 (0)1 234 8676, austral.cons.sloven@siol.net. Open Mon, Thu 09:00-12:00, Wed 14:00-17:00, Closed Tue, Fri, Sat, Sun.

AUSTRIA

► B-3, Prešernova 23, tel. +386 (0)1479 07 00, fax +386 (0)1252 17 17, laibach-ob@bmeia.gv.at, www.bmeia.gv.at/laibach. Open, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu 8:30 - 12:00, Fri 8:30 - 11:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

► K-2, Kolarjeva 26, tel. +386 (0)1234 32 50, fax +386 (0)1234 32 61, ambihlju@siol.net

CANADA

► L-3, Linhartova cesta 49A, tel. +386 (0)1252 44 44, fax +386 (0)1252 33 33, canada.consul.ljubljana@siol.net. Open 08:00-12:00. Closed Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun.

CHINA

► L-3, Koblarjeva 3, tel. +386 (0)1420 28 55, fax +386 (0)1282 21 99, kitajsko.veleposlanistvo@siol.net. Open 08:00 - 11:00. Closed Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun.

CROATIA

► L-4, Gruberjevo Nabrežje 6, tel. +386 (0)1425 62 20, fax +386 (0)1425 81 06, vrhsl0@mvp.hr, www.si.mvp.hr. Open 09:00-13:00, Closed Sat, Sun.

FRANCE

► C-5, Barjanska 1, tel. +386 (0)1479 04 00, fax +386 (0)1425 04 10, contact@ambafrance-si.org, www.ambafrance-si.org. Open 08:30 - 12:30. Closed Sat, Sun.

GERMANY

► B-3, Prešernova 27, tel. +386 (0)1 479 03 00, fax +386 (0)1 425 08 99, germanembassy-slovenia@siol.net, www.laibach.diplo.de. Open, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu

REAL ESTATE



The most popular real estate agency in Ljubljana for foreigners, diplomats and local business people, Stoja has been operating in Slovenia since 1996, and specialises in both residential and commercial rental properties in the Slovene capital. They have a huge selection of houses, apartments and business premises, and will happily assist customers with all aspects of the rental process, as well as buying and selling property around the country.

► Dolenjska 242c, tel. +386 (0)1 28 00 860/+386 (0)41 652 141, fax +386 (0) 1 28 00 861, info@stoja-trade.si, www.rent-a-realestate.com.

DIPLOMATIC CORPORATE SERVICES

DIPLOMATIC CORPORATE SERVICES SLOVENIA

Operated by Stoja Real Estate, as the name suggests Diplomatic Corporate Services is a web portal and associated service agency that aims to provide foreigners (primarily from the diplomatic and business community) living and travelling in Ljubljana and elsewhere in Slovenia with all the relevant information they could possibly need - from hotel and restaurant recommendations to real estate services and medical care. Their dedicated multi-lingual team is only a phone call or email away, while their website also provides a wealth of information. ► Dolenjska 244c, tel. +386 (0)1 2800 860, info@dcs.si, www.dcs.si.



09:00 - 12:00, Fri 09:00 - 11:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

ITALY

► B-4, Snežniška 8, tel. +386 (0)1 426 21 94, fax +386 (0)1 425 33 02, archivio.lubiana@esteri.it. Open 09:00 - 11:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

MACEDONIA

► J-4, Rožna Dolina, Cesta IV/2, tel. +386 (0)1 421 00 21, fax +386 (0)1 421 00 23, makamb@siol.net. Open 10:00-13:00, Closed Sat, Sun.

MONTENEGRO

► F-2, Njegoševa 14, tel. +386 (0)1439 53 64, fax +386 (0)1439 53 60, embamon-lj@t-2.net. Open 10:00-13:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

NEW ZEALAND

► H-1, Verovškova 57, tel. +386 (0)1580 30 55, fax +386 (0)1568 10 86.

RUSSIA

► A-2, Tomšičeva 9, tel. +386 (0)1425 68 75, fax +386 (0)1425 68 78, ambrus.slo@siol.net, www.veleposlanistvorusije.mid.ru/. Open 08:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

SERBIA

► C-2, Slomškova 1, tel. +386 (0)1438 01 10, fax +386 (0)1434 26 88, amba.srbije.lju@siol.net, www.ambasadasrbije.si. Open 09:00-13:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

UK

► B-3, Trg Republike 3/4, tel. +386 (0)1 200 39 10, fax +386 (0)1 425 01 74, info@british-embassy.si, ukinslovenia.fco.gov.uk. Open 09:00 - 12:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

USA

► B-3, Prešernova 31, tel. +386 (0)1200 55 00, fax +386 (0)1200 55 55, usembassy@ljubljana.state.gov, slovenia.usembassy.gov. There is no opening hours, but you have to announce.



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IF THINGS GO WRONG

In the unlikely event that something goes wrong during your time in Ljubljana, the emergency number is 112 for fire, rescue, and ambulance and 113 for police. If possible, find someone who speaks Slovene to help you make the call since there is no guarantee of finding an English speaker on the other end. The nearest Casualty Unit (Emergency Room) to the city centre can be found at the University Medical Center, at Zaloška cesta 2, and emergency treatment is free for members of EU, EEA, and Switzerland.

MOBILE PHONES

VISITOR SIM

More so than ever, the modern tourist seemingly needs to be able to get online at a moment's notice, and we all know how expensive this can be when on holiday. Visitor SIM have stepped into this gap here in SLOVENIA to provide a tourist SIM card, allowing fast and easy access to the Internet through whatever smart device you may be using. There's no subscription fee and the whole thing is Pay As You Go, not to mention delivery on any chosen date to any address in Slovenia, making use of this whilst in the country something of a no-brainer. ► www.visitorsim.si

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► B/C-4, Gregorčičeva 11, tel. +386 (0)12 42 07 00, www.barsos.net

HEALTH CENTRE METELKOVA

► F-2, Metelkova 9, tel. +386 (0)1472 37 00, center@zd-lj.si, www.zd-lj.si

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UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTRE LJUBLJANA
 ► F/G-2, Zaloška 2, tel. +386 (0)1522 50 50, info@kclj.si, www.kclj.si

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LJUBLJANČEK - AIRPORT

If you need some last minute souvenirs at the airport, there are plenty to choose from at Ljubljank. This is also the place to get your Global Blue Tax refund for any shopping you've done during your stay that qualifies. ► **Brnik Airport**, tel. +386 (0)59 04 67 87, sayonara1@t-2.net, www.ljubljana-souvenirs.com. Open 06:00-18:00

BUSINESS

ABC ACCELERATOR

The first of its kind in South East Europe, ABC Accelerator is all about pushing new businesses and start-ups and making good ideas a reality. The focus is all on innovation, and it aims to establish this part of Europe as a hotbed of developed fresh concepts. ► **Šmartinska 152**, info@abc-accelerator.com, www.abc-accelerator.com

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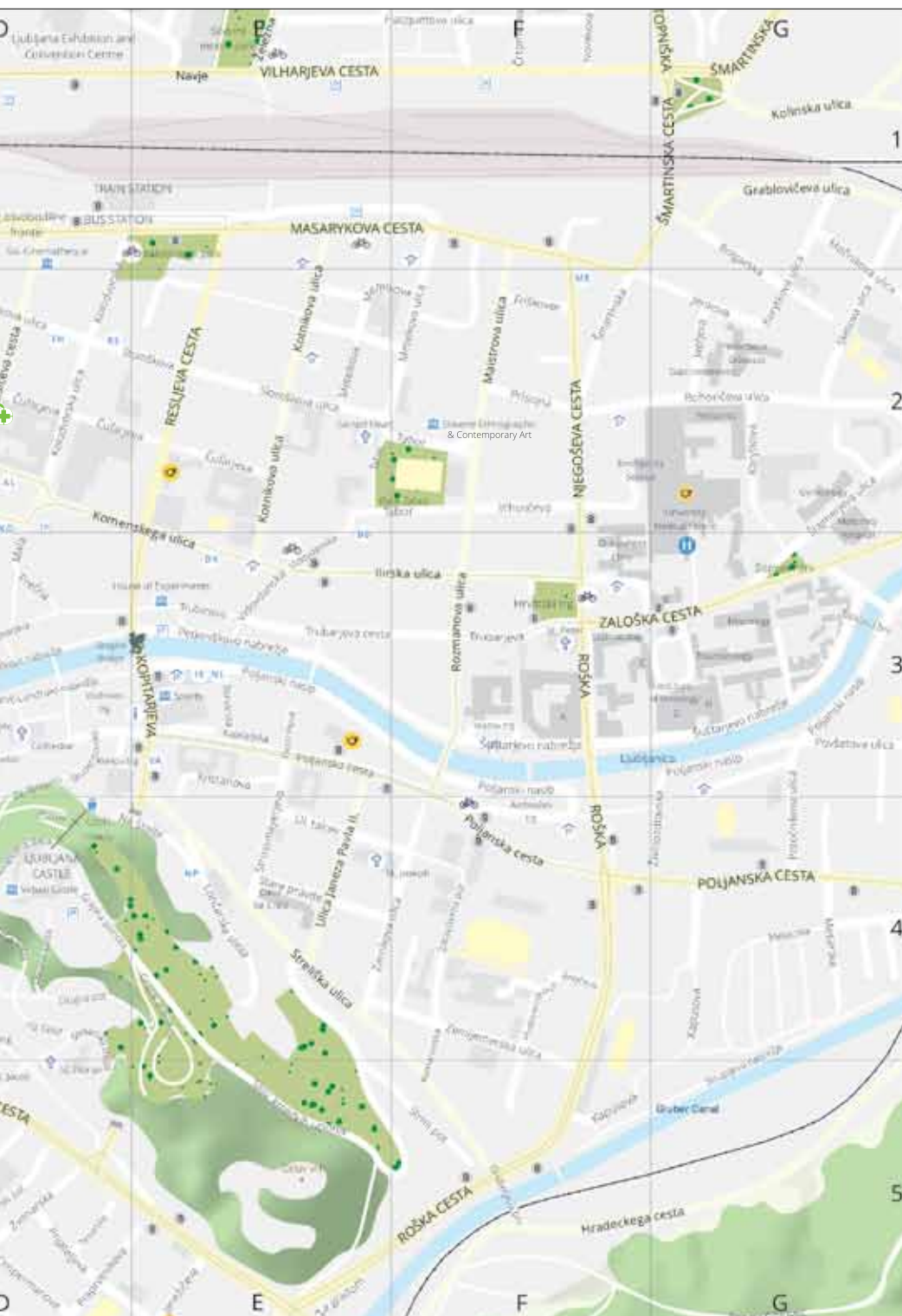


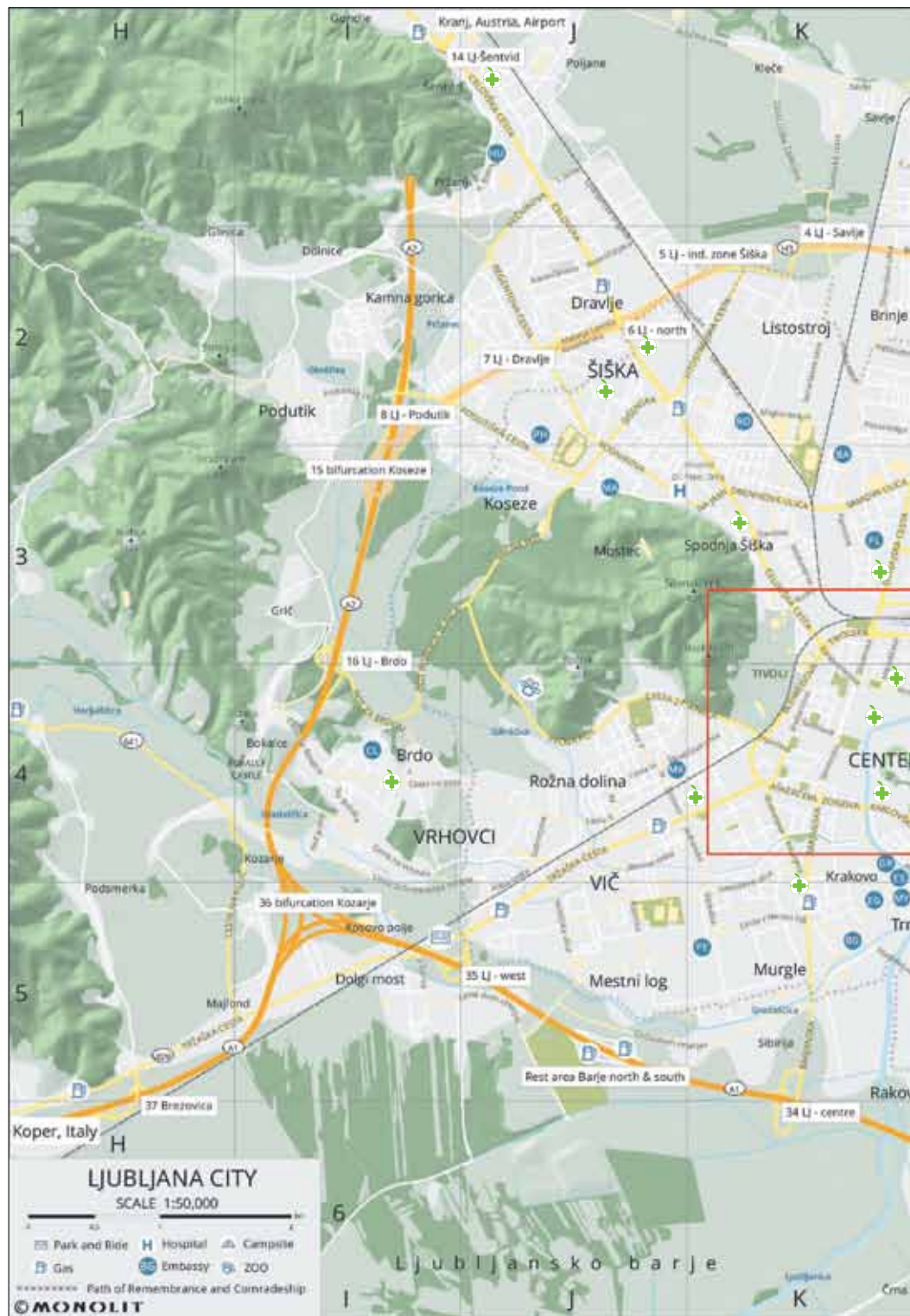
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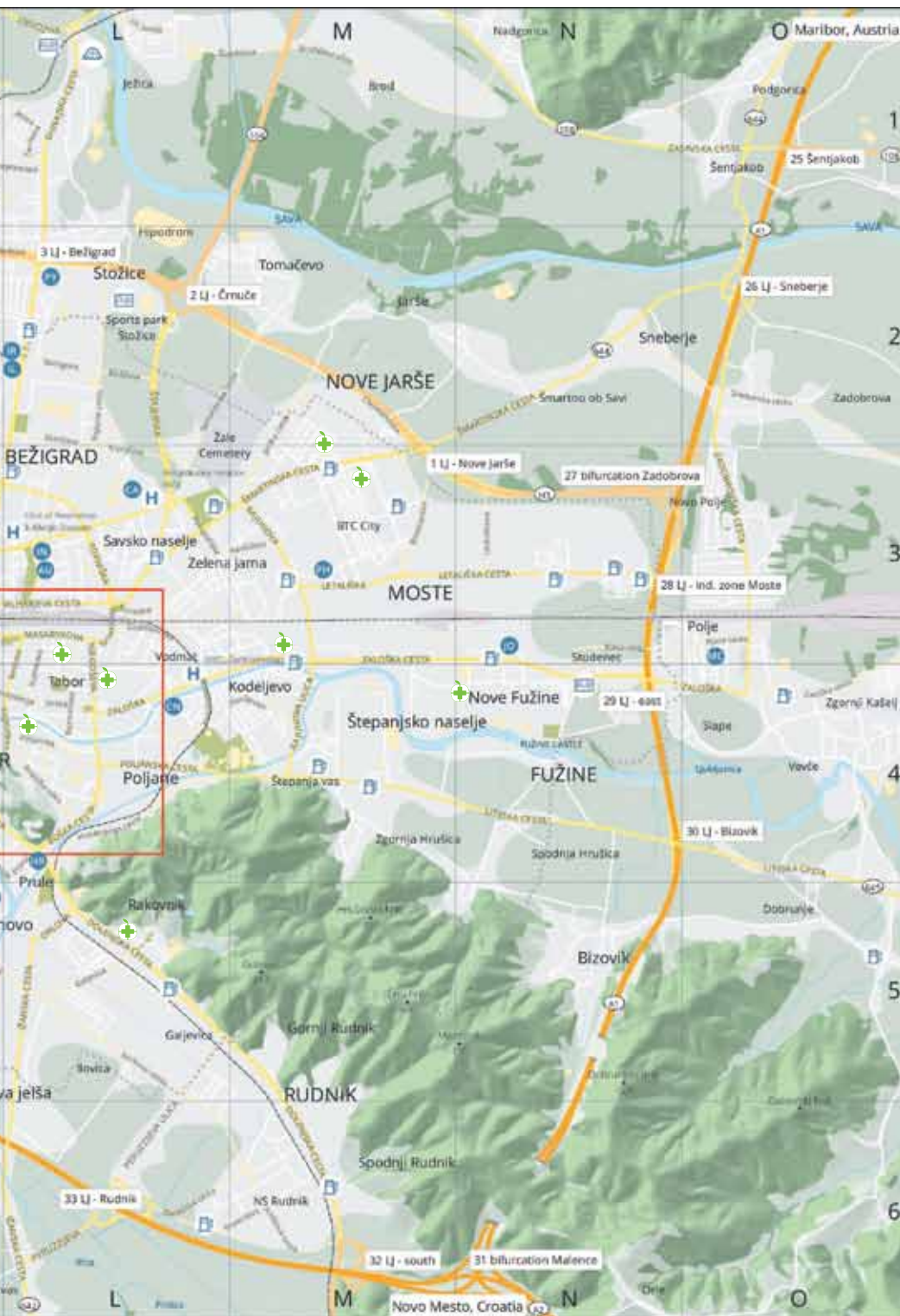
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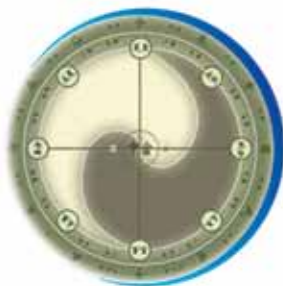








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