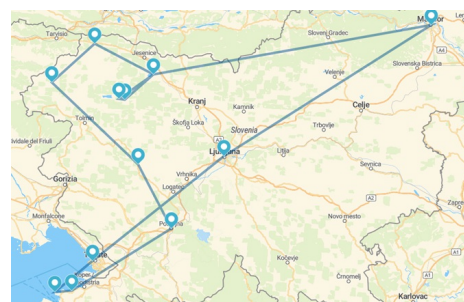




Slovenia and Italy, 9 Days · Tailor-made by car

Route through the Green Capital-city and the Julian Alps

From the Italian border city of Trieste, we'll set out a fascinating self-drive itinerary that will take us to the most emblematic places of the amazing country of Slovenia. Snuggled at the foot of the Julian Alps and lapped by the Mediterranean Sea, the so-called "green country" welcomes travellers with its stunning cultural heritage - fruit of its intense relationship with the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Republic of Venice - and sublime mountain landscapes dotted with must-visit hot springs and prestigious wellness centres. An unforgettable trip to the heart of Europe that fuses history, cuisine and excellent local wines with fairytale landscapes that are the perfect setting for adventurous travellers and outdoorsy types alike. Our route takes in romantic cities such as the capital Ljubljana and the ever-lively Maribor, two essential stops to unearth the soul of this country. And from the wine region, we'll venture into the stunning eco-universe of the Julian Alps, a privileged natural environment ideal for leisurely exploring in your rental car. You'll see rural paradises such as Bled and natural sites of great beauty such as the Triglav National Park, where you can visit places as magical as Lake Bohinj and the Savica Waterfall. And to discover the trenches of the Battles of the Isonzo (the Italian name for the River Soča), where thousands of soldiers from both sides perished during the Great War, you simply must visit the spine-chilling World War I Museum in Kobarid. We'll continue our journey by visiting the typical alpine village of Kranjska Gora and the lively Bovec, epicentre of hours of adventure and fun. And for those keen to explore the magnificent underground world of Slovenia, we recommend visiting world-famous sites such as the Idrija Mercury Mine, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO; the Škocjan Caves Regional Park, also UNESCO-listed; and the magnificent Postojna Cave. We'll round off the Green Capital and Julian Alps tour in the jaw-dropping towns of Piran and Izola; two of the most beautiful resorts on the Slovene Riviera and also known as the Tuscany of Slovenia.



NATURE

Departure date: Departures from July 2026 till June 2027

From: London

Travel details

● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - TRIESTE - LJUBLJANA

Flight departure from the city of origin to Trieste (Italy) and rental car pick-up. We'll then drive over to the neighbouring country of Slovenia, making our first stop in Ljubljana, located about 1 hour and 20 minutes away. (Note: When planning your day, bear in mind that the border crossing will add some more time to your journey. To drive on Slovenian motorways, you must display a so-called vignette (vinjeta, in Slovenian). Always make sure you have the vignette in place before using Slovenian motorways). And welcome to Ljubljana, European Green Capital 2016! Popularly known as "the City of Love and Dragons", Ljubljana is manageable, affordable, modern and laid-back. Here we'll savour some delicious cuisine and discover one of the most beautiful old towns in Europe. Take a leisurely stroll through this city crossed by the Ljubljanica River and explore its many charming attractions such as the Castle, the Cathedral of St. Nicholas, Preseren Square, the charismatic Bridge of the Shoemakers, churches and baroque houses, Tivoli park, and the Central Market... At night, soak up the genuine atmosphere in its bustling medieval squares located in the old quarter. Overnight stay in Ljubljana.

● DAY 2 · LJUBLJANA - MARIBOR

More time to enjoy this pocket-sized European capital. Its attractive cultural offerings (the city showcases works by young and talented artists at fascinating galleries and during cultural activities) and the impact that different historical eras and the great Slovenian architect Joze Plecnik have had on its streets give the city a unique atmosphere, a whole load of pleasant surprises and many comparisons with the beautiful Prague. More time to explore Slovenia now. Departure towards Maribor on the A1/E57. The second largest city in the country is famous for being home to the oldest vine in the world (more than 400 years old!), located in the very heart of its old town. Surrounded by photo-friendly hills dotted with vines, this pearl of the Štajerska region has secured its place on the global tourism map thanks to its natural beauty, its outstanding cultural legacy, its important wine-making tradition and its charming wineries. Make sure you savour Štajerska's famous white wines and exquisite culinary specialities! Maribor is also home to natural hot springs. Overnight stay in Maribor.

● DAY 3 · MARIBOR - BLEĐ

And from the wine region, we'll venture into the stunning "eco"-universe of the Julian Alps, ideal for leisurely exploring in your rental car. Heading west, we can make a slight detour into the beautiful Alpine valley of Logar, which invites you to stroll through its verdant meadows to the hidden waterfall. After a two-hour drive, you'll reach the rural haven of Bled, a beautiful resort town set among unspoilt nature and considered the gateway to the stunning Julian Alps. Its natural beauty will captivate even the most discerning travellers. A picture-postcard location famous for its glacial lake surrounded by mountains. Nestled at the foot of the Triglav (the country's highest mountain, with an elevation of 2,864 metres) its fairytale landscapes will make you forget about the madding crowd. We recommend a trip over to the small island in the lake (the only island in the whole of Slovenia) on the traditional wooden boats known as "pletna", propelled by stand-and-row oarsmen known as "pletnarj". After disembarking on the island, climb the ninety-nine stone steps that separate you from the Church of the Assumption of Mary, one of the most outstanding pilgrimage points of the sixteenth century and which today is one of the country's top tourist attractions. Local legend has it that ringing the bell three times will make your dreams come true (but you can only make a single wish!). Make sure you try it! Another highlight of the day is the magnificent 12th-century castle that houses an interesting museum and perches on a rock above the lake. (Note: You can find out about local attractions, sports and outdoor activities at the Tourist Information Office located in Bled). And to top it all off, marvel at the beautiful scenery from a typical "fijakerji" (horse-drawn carriage). Overnight stay in Bled.

● DAY 4 · BLED - TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK (LAKE BOHINJ - SAVICA WATERFALL) - BLED

Today, we'll get to know even more unique natural landscapes characterised by alpine beauty and unspoilt nature. We'll set out on a drive of barely one hundred kilometres that will take us through the striking Triglav National Park, one of the oldest in the country and the largest protected area in Slovenia. Nestled beside the borders of Italy and Austria, the park is a true paradise for lovers of hiking, mountaineering and outdoor activities. (Note: The breathtaking beauty of the winding road that climbs up to Triglav, characterised by its imposing rock faces, gives the place a certain air of mystery. The road over the pass was built by Russian prisoners of war in World War I. Today, the Russian Chapel stands in memory of those captured soldiers and those who died in the Great War. You can park the car on one of the bends of the road and visit this mist-enshrouded chapel surrounded by a stunning rural landscape).

Onward journey to the photo-friendly Lake Bohinj. Just a twenty-five-minute drive from Bled and tucked away in the heart of the Triglav National Park, this glacial lake is embraced by a sublime natural environment and the country's loftiest peaks. (Note: In summer, you can take part in water sports). On the western side of the lake, you'll find a safe and well-signposted path that will take you to the spectacular Savica Waterfall. To get some amazing photos, we suggest climbing the 975 metres on the cable car. Another of today's stops will be the Vintgar Gorge, which thanks to its exceptional beauty was developed for tourism in the 19th century. The gorge, around 1.6 metres deep, is criss-crossed by turquoise waters and dotted with wooden bridges and galleries from where you can admire waterfalls and pools. Perhaps one of its most emblematic images is the stone railway bridge built over the gorge. On the way back to Bled, we recommend trying one of the local treats, a "kremna rezina", a cream cake with typical puff pastry still prepared following the original recipe. Overnight stay in Bled.

● DAY 5 · BLED - VRŠIČ PASS - VALLEY OF THE RIVER SOČA - KRANJSKA GORA

Bidding farewell to the charming town of Bled, we'll head to Bovec along the winding road that carves through the mountains to the Vršič pass, an excellent viewpoint towering 1,600 metres above sea level and commanding breathtaking views of the Julian Alps. Don't miss the amazing mythological face of the 'Pagan Girl' created by rock fractures! Continuing towards Bovec, we'll arrive in the valley of the River Soča, famous for its stunning emerald colour and the gorges formed along its course. If you've seen 'The Chronicles of Narnia', the landscape will ring a bell, as this river was one of the locations for the film. In the picturesque Soča Valley, we'll get to experience the unmistakable Slovenian countryside. And then we'll arrive in Kranjska Gora, a typical Alpine resort with hotels and bars located at the foot of the ski resort. Here you can relax amid mountains with peaks that remain snow-capped until almost the summer months. A real oasis for sports and nature lovers. (Note: In the winter months, the ski slopes attract families and expert skiers alike. It's also a great place for cross-country skiing. In the warmer months, travellers from all over Europe come here to enjoy the fantastic hiking and cycling trails in the heart of Alpine valleys). At the end of the day, you can relax at the many wellness centres or join the locals in pubs that frequently stage live concerts. Overnight stay in Kranjska Gora.

● DAY 6 · KRANJSKA GORA - BOVEC - IDRİJA - POSTOJNA

Today, we'll follow the course the emerald river, discovering historical villages along the way. Bovec is particularly interesting for travellers who want to enjoy a few hours of adventure. Soak up the genuine atmosphere of this charming and lively mountain resort in the Julian Alps! The River Soča, which flows through the village, is perfect for rafting or canyoning. Nearby are the spectacular waterfalls of Boka and Virje. Make sure you see them! (Note: One of the best-known trekking routes in the area is the Walk of Peace, which reminds walkers about some of the bloodiest battles of World War I. The stretch from Bovec to Kluže Fortress will take you past the trenches of the Battles of the Isonzo (the Italian name for the River Soča), where thousands of soldiers from both sides perished during the Great War. You can learn all about the Isonzo Front at the World War I Museum in Kobarid. The museum has information in several languages). Your itinerary can then continue to Idrija, the oldest mining town in Slovenia and a world-leader in mercury extraction. We definitely recommend a visit to the fascinating Mercury Mine, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. (Note: The visit, which usually takes around 1 hour 30 minutes, showcases the world of mercury mining and its secrets. Admission not included). Above ground, Idrija boasts must-see attractions such as the Theresian building, Mestni Square, the Baroque Church of Saint Barbara, Gewerkenegg Castle... And after soaking up the town's charisma, the more adventurous of you can head out to the Geopark, located about three kilometres from the centre. We'll spend the rest of the day in another picturesque region, also known as the "Tuscany of Slovenia". Overnight stay in Postojna.

● DAY 7 · POSTOJNA - IZOLA - PIRAN

We recommend taking today to explore the magnificent underground world of Slovenia. You can choose between visiting the Škocjan Caves Regional Park, a UNESCO-listed site, or the magnificent Postojna Cave. The Škocjan Caves are formed by a network of cavities that stretch over six kilometres and to about two hundred metres in depth, creating spectacular caves, waterfalls and underground chambers, such as Martel's Chamber. Meanwhile, the Postojna Cave System is the largest and most-visited cave of the Classical Karst in Europe, with tours taking place on a train (tour not included). This can also be combined with the medieval Predjama Castle, perched within a cave on a vertical 123-metre high cliff. Mysterious refuge of the rebellious Erazem of Predjama, the castle has been named one of the ten most amazing in the whole world. We'll round off the day on the beautiful Slovenian coastline, where we'll discover amazing places such as Izola and Piran. Overnight stay in Piran.

● DAY 8 · PIRAN - TRIESTE

We'll wake up this morning in the gorgeous town of Piran. Perched on a headland on the so-called Slovene Riviera, Piran is one of the most popular towns on the coast. Its emblematic lighthouse, the Church of St. Clement and a string of elegant buildings evoke the quintessentially aristocratic side of Venice. Without a doubt, this is a seaside paradise that wouldn't go amiss in a fairytale. Its perfectly-preserved old town will undoubtedly be the scene of unforgettable moments. We recommend strolling around the walled area and savouring the delicious local cuisine in the square that owes its name to the violinist Giuseppe Tartini. And if you fancy some sea and sand, you can head down to Fiesa beach. Very central, this coastline is bristling with atmosphere in the summer months. (Note: On Fiesa beach, there are places where you can hire water sports and diving equipment). After lunch, we'll head back to the Italian town of Trieste. (Note: Piran lies some 37 kilometres from Trieste. This journey includes some tolls and a border crossing). Explore the main attractions of the beautiful border town of Trieste, close to both Austria and Slovenia, which has seen quite a few flags flying from its most emblematic landmarks over the years. The Romans, Byzantines and Venetians have all walked the streets of Trieste, as have countless Austrians, because the town was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire from the 14th century right up to 1914. Over the centuries, this town that flourished under the Habsburgs has seduced great artists and writers such as Thomas Mann and James Joyce. The history of Trieste, like that of many other border cities, is characterised by a wealth of influences. And you can discover these influences at its castle, in its Roman ruins, or in one of the Europe's largest squares with sea views... Today, the city is a model for coexistence between cultures. Must-sees include the bustling Piazza Unità d'Italia, a beautiful square dotted with grandiose palaces built during the 19th century; the Canal Grande and Piazza San Antonio Nuovo, a Venetian-style canal with the square and an Orthodox Serbian temple in the background; the city's Roman theatre; Mount San Giusto with the Castello di Miramare and the Cathedral... And to learn more about its cultural wealth, you can take a stroll around the Borgo Teresiano neighbourhood. Overnight stay in Trieste.

● DAY 9 · TRIESTE - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

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| ✓ Return flight. | ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Ljubljana. | ✓ Selected meal plan in Ljubljana. |
| ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Maribor. | ✓ Selected meal plan in Maribor. | ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Bled. |
| ✓ Selected meal plan in Bled. | ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Kranjska Gora. | |
| ✓ Selected meal plan in Kranjska Gora. | ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Postojna. | |
| ✓ Selected meal plan in Postojna. | ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Piran. | ✓ Selected meal plan in Piran. |

- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Trieste.
- ✓ Insolvency protection.

- ✓ Selected meal plan in Trieste.

- ✓ Rent-a-car.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Accommodation taxes in Ljubljana direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Accommodation taxes in Slovenia direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Possible toll charges.

Destinations Visited

Trieste



Ljubljana



Maribor



Bled



Bohinj



Savica



Kranjska Gora



Bovec



Idrija



Postojna



Izola



Piran



Important remarks

- - Driving in the Republic of Slovenia. Important: vignette required on motorways. To drive on Slovenian motorways, you must have a valid electronic vignette. Please note that rental cars do not always include this automatically, so it is essential to check with the company before starting your journey. If you are entering Slovenia from a neighbouring country, you must ensure that you have a valid vignette before using any section of motorway. Driving without one may result in financial penalties. Regulations, vignette types and conditions are subject to change, so we recommend that you always check the latest official information before travelling or confirm the details with the car hire company when you collect the vehicle.
- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far the possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.
- Please make sure you have a valid passport for this tour as we'll be crossing several international borders.
- You must give notice that you are going to cross the border while collecting the vehicle. Authorisation may be required to drive through certain countries or areas/states. Depending on the conditions set out in the rental contract and the company hired, you might be charged a surcharge payable at the destination office.