



## Slovenia 2018

### Julian Alps - Self Guided



#### ***Strenuous 7 nights***

*Nestling under Austria's Southern Alps and warmed by Italy's Mediterranean sun, Slovenia is a small country with a big geography. Our picturesque walking tour starts in Kranjska Gora, a well-known winter sport village hosting yearly world cup slaloms. From here we hike through mountain pastures, valleys dotted with charming farmhouses and explore the Triglav National Park with its many World War 2 monuments. You make your way to Lake Bled, well known for many for its beautiful island church and alpine backdrop, where you spend two nights exploring the area. Our next destination is Slovenia's largest lake, Bohinj, with its crystal clear waters fed by the 70 metres Savica Waterfall. You spend a further two nights here so as to provide the option of walking all the way around the lake or perhaps enjoy a swim in its inviting waters!*

#### **TOUR ITINERARY**

##### **DAY 1. ARRIVAL IN BLED (501 mtrs).**

Arrival to Bled, a world famous town on the shore of a beautiful glacial lake, with its unique island church sitting proudly in the lake, and the castle perched high upon a cliff standing guard over the town (hotel 4\*).

##### **DAY 2. BLED – POKLJUKA HIGH PLATEAU (11 km, 620 ascend, 6 hrs walking).**

A short morning car transfer brings you to the starting point, on top of Pokljuka high plateau (1280 m) – starting point of many hiking trails in Julian Alps. The warming-up hike will lead you over mountain pastures and through dense fir forests to up to Lipanska Hut. A typical hikers' lunch can be taken there. The afternoon walk will bring you along a panoramic route (excellent views of Karawanke range, Pokljuka plateau, Krma valley and Bohinj Mountains) to biathlon centre of Pokljuka where you stay for the night (hotel 3\*).

### **DAY 3. POKLJUKA – PLANIKA HUT**

**(10,5 km, 1100 ascend, 7 hrs walking)**

After breakfast – off it goes to the heart of Triglav National Park and Julian Alps. The trail slowly ascends to Vodnikov Dom hut, where lunch and rest can be taken. Daily destination is Planika hut, right underneath Mt. Triglav – highest Slovene mountain (2864 m). Planika hut is an ideal starting point for a climb to Mt. Triglav, however, additional nights need to be booked there to accomplish this extra climb (the climb is partly a “via ferrata”, some alpine experience and a helmet is recommended). (Today your main luggage gets collected at Pokljuka hotel and is safely stored in our head office in Bled until you reach Bohinj at the end of the walk. You will not have access to it until then so make sure you have everything you need in your backpack). (Mountain hut accommodation).

### **DAY 4. PLANIKA HUT – KOČA PRI TRIGLAVSKIH JEZERIH**

**(11 km, 700 descend, 6 hrs walking).**

After a hearty breakfast you will start your walk across the Hribarice pass (2358m) in the direction of the Koča pri Triglavskih Jezerih hut. On your way to the hut you can stop and admire the beauty of one of the Triglav Park’s seven lakes, Zeleno Jezero (Green Lake), whose name is derived from the high algae content painting the lake a gorgeous lush green. As you continue on you will enjoy the beautiful view into the rest of the Dolina Triglavskih Jezer (The Valley of the Triglav Lakes). From the Koča pri Triglavski Jezerih hut it’s about a 3-hour hike to the Koča pri Savici hut where you will spend the night (Mountain hut accommodation).

### **DAY 5. KOČA PRI TRIGLAVSKIH JEZERIH – SAVICA WATERFALL HUT**

**(10 km, 1000 descend, 4,5 to 5,5 hrs).**

A long descend into the valley awaits you. During lunch break at Komna hut you will also enjoy great view of Bohinj Lake. The day will end with a short 20-minute walk to Savica Waterfall, which is one of the most famous and popular waterfalls in Slovenia. An alpine Karst spring flows to the top of the waterfall and then cascades 78 metres and subsequently feeds the mighty Lake Bohinj. (Your main luggage will await you here.) (Mountain hut accommodation).

### **DAY 6. SAVICA WATERFALL HUT - RIBČEV LAZ / BOHINJ VALLEY**

**(13 km, 100 m ascend, 4 to hrs).**

After breakfast, a relaxing walk along the northern shore of Bohinj Lake will bring you to Ribceev Laz village where where you can warm your blood with delicious home-made honey brandy and schnapps in the local bars. In summer months one can enjoy a swim in crystal clear water of Bohinj Lake. Alternatively, one can ascend Mt. Vogel with a cabin cable car. From top (1532 m) you'll be able to enjoy a perfect panoramic view of Julian Alps and area you walked previous days (hotel 4\*).

### **DAY 7. RIBČEV LAZ / BOHINJ VALLEY – LAKE BLEED.**

After breakfast you will be transferred to Lake Bled, a place that attracts visitors with its combination of natural wonders and unique culture and history. The surrounding region offers plenty of excellent hiking opportunities, including a walk to the stunning Vintgar Gorge. There is a 1600-metre long walk on a wooden walkway, which leads through the scenic gorge along the Radovna River to the Sum Waterfall. Heading east, following well-marked signs for Bled, you have about 1 km to the Church of St. Catherine. From here it’s about 4 kms back to Bled Lake. If you prefer a nice leisurely stroll on your final day, a hike around the lake takes about 1 hour. You can reach the famous island church on the lake by a special boat called “Pletna”, or visit Bled Castle and its museum inside. The museum hosts an interesting exhibition on the history of the castle. Your final night will be spent in a nice hotel overlooking the lake (hotel 4\*).

## DAY 8. DEPARTURE FROM BLEED.

The tour ends with a hearty breakfast, after which you are free to do as you please.

**Tour character:** Tour is suitable for fit walkers. It requires some basic experience in walking at high level mountains, narrow paths and a short section of ferrata type track. Not suitable for children under 15 years.

## 2018 DATES AND PRICES

**Tour can start any time from 7 July to 15 September 2018**

**€650.00 per person sharing**

**+€80.00 single supplement (only available in hotels, not available in mountain huts)**

### What does the tour price include?

- Accommodation: four nights in 3\* or 4\* hotels / three nights in mountain huts in dormitories; Bed & Breakfast.
- Transfers as per the itinerary on days 2 & 7
- Luggage transfer as mentioned above, between overnight addresses in hotels (during high altitude walks, from day 3 to day 5 you need to carry own clothing/personal items with you, your main luggage gets collected at Pokljuka hotel and is safely stored in our head office in Bled)
- Information package including detailed route description with corresponding maps in form of a picture book (one per room)
- Backup service (hotline) during the trip
- Welcome meeting upon arrival

### Supplements:

- €125 - Half board (7 dinners, not including drinks) – only in hotels, can not be booked in mountain huts.
- €35 (in double room, B&B) - Extra night in Planika Hut so you can climb Mt. Triglav (see Day 3 in the itinerary):

### Transfers (based on two people, one way cost)

- Ljubljana Airport to Bled €30 per person;
- Ljubljana City to Bled €35€ per person.

**Extras per person:** entrance fees; cable car ride to Vogel high plateau, lunches.

### We can organize additional nights in Bled:

3\* Hotel per person/ night in standard double room with breakfast – €65.00pps; single room €90.00; halfboard supplement €15.00.

## WHAT TO BRING

Your enjoyment of your walking holiday will be greatly helped by having the right gear. The following list should help you in planning your packing for your trip.

**Footwear:** Good footwear is vital for a happy walking holiday! We recommend waterproof, breathable, walking boots with good ankle support. Boots which are “broken in” (i.e. not brand new), teamed with **well fitting hiking socks** will keep your feet snug and dry and help to avoid blisters.

### Hiking Clothes

We recommend the “onion look” of layering clothing as the best protection against heat/cold:

- Base Layer –this layer should not retain moisture but transport it away from the skin (there are lots of “wick away” fabrics now on the market.
- Insulation layer – this layer should stop you from losing body heat – fleece is ideal
- Outer Layer – this layer should keep you dry even in a downpour! A **waterproof**, breathable jacket and over-trousers are as important as your comfy boots. You should bear in mind that clothing tends to lose its “waterproofness” over time so if you have had your gear for many years it might be time to treat yourself with a trip to an outdoor store!
- Walking trousers/ shorts (avoid denim)
- Warm hat and gloves for chilly mornings or high mountains
- Sun hat
- Walking stick/pole (a great help on uneven terrain)

**Daypack** - a small comfortable rucksack to carry the bits and pieces you will need during the day:

- Water bottle/flask
- Moleskin/plasters/”second skin” – ward off any impending blisters before they become a problem!
- Sun screen
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Mobile phone

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Accommodation

All rooms are with WC and shower/bath. We do reserve the right to change the accommodation around during the week, but we will always endeavor to provide a high standard.

**Money** - The unit of currency is the Euro (€), 100 cent = € 1.

### Travel Insurance

It is essential to take out holiday insurance to cover cancellation, personal accident, illness, or loss of possessions.

## Travel

Starting point of this trip is Bled in NW Slovenia .

Slovenia is well served by mayor airlines. Of the mainstream carriers, Slovene national airlines [Adria Airways](#) fly to Ljubljana airport daily from Munich and Frankfurt. Additionally they serve London (Luton), Amsterdam, Brussels and Copenhagen on a weekly basis.

[Easy Jet](#) flies daily from London to Ljubljana. [Ryanair](#) serves Klagenfurt and Graz (from London Stansted) in SE Austria plus Trieste in Italy (Birmingham, London, Barcelona, Valencia, Brussels and Bari) that are all very close to the starting points of our trips. [Wizzair](#) connects Ljubljana with London Stansted and Brussels Charleroi.

Airport of Ljubljana is 25 km from the centre. There are regular bus shuttle connections to the city but no trains are operating from there. If you need an airport transfer, please go [here](#).

### By train:

Ljubljana has a centrally located railway station. All trains from [Italy, Austria, Germany, Hungary and Croatia](#) stop here. Maribor also has a central stations – trains en route from Vienna / Graz to Zagreb and Ljubljana stop here.

**Lake Bled** has two railway stations: main station is called Lesce - Bled on Villach - Ljubljana line. It is 4 km from the centre of the town, but there are good bus connections. Other Lake Bled station is called Bled Jezero on mainline Jesenice - Trieste - this one is specially useful if you fly to Trieste (take a taxi from the airport to Monfalcone and then train via Gorizia / Nova Gorica to Bled. Contact us for details about this good connection).

Koper station is 1 km from the centre and port. Directly it is only connected with Ljubljana, for trains of other origins you may need to change at Divača railway station. Alternatively Trieste can be used with good connections from and to Venice. For train connections in detail, look [here](#).

### When is the best time to visit Slovenia?

Every season of year has its own charms in Slovenia. If you like blooming fruit trees, come and visit Western Slovenia in spring. Hot summers are coolest in Alpine valleys, along crystal clear rivers and deep forests.

Unforgettable autumn colours cover East Slovenian hills every September. Any time you choose to come - you're welcome