



## Slovenia 2019

### Walking Via Alpina - Purple Route - Self Guided



#### **Moderate 8 days / 7 nights**

The north-western part of Slovenia displays unspoilt alpine scenery and many unique natural and historical sites. Situated by the Austrian border in the shadow of the Alps the small romantic village Jezersko marks the starting point for our tour. We begin with a lovely round trip to one of Slovenia's oldest alpine huts, located just above forest line. Following the valley of the Sava River we pass by wide meadows of alpine flowers dotted with famous Slovene hay-drying racks before reaching the village Preddvor. From here we walk mountain ridges and meads, valley floors, slowly descending from east to west. Our tour meanders through quiet valley of Draga, underneath ruins of ancient Kamen castle before reaching Begunje where we spend a night. Your last night is spent in Bled, a town overlooked by a medieval castle on the edge of a pristine lake, a truly magic place.

The tour is a collection of different grade walks; however, none of them has a climber's rate. It is meant for experienced walkers with proper equipment.

#### TOUR ITINERARY

##### **DAY 1 ARRIVAL TO JEZERSKO**

With its idyllic location in a basin between the towering Kamnik-Savinja Alps and Karawanke Mountains, on the border with Austria, the small romantic village of Jezersko will be the starting point for your hike. You will spend the next two nights here beside the lake.

(Accommodation: basic 3\* Hotel)

##### **DAY 2 JEZERSKO – CESKA KOCA** (around 7km/walk 5 hrs / descend and ascend 640 m)

A warm-up hike to Česka koča mountain hut. This short walk leads up to just above the tree line to one of the oldest alpine huts in Slovenia (100 years old), where you will be blessed with an outstanding view into the two parallel valleys. Your return route takes you past Shepherds Lake and back to Jezersko.

(Accommodation: 3\* Hotel)

**DAY 3            JEZERSKO – GOLI VRH** *(14 km/ 5-6 hrs / descend and ascend 700 m)*

Today you hike up the northern side of the Kamnik Alps' - Goli Vrh. A meadow and forest walk brings you to an amazing viewpoint above Jezersko valley. With one foot in Slovenia and the other in Austria you'll enjoy splendid view of Grintovec range arena. After returning back to hotel you will be transferred to the little town of Preddvor. (Accommodation: 3\* guesthouse).

**DAY 4            PREDDVOR- Jacobs Church – Hudi Borst - Preddvor***(6 hrs walk / ascend 850 m)*

Slightly more demanding yet wonderful, full of splendid vistas full hike. It begins with ascent up to St. Jacobs church, which in days of Turkish raids served as refugee fortress and shelter. Walk continues through deep fir / spruce forest and across steep, with alpine flowers covered hillsides to Hudicev borst, where at hut a picnic can be enjoyed. After a full days walk you can refresh in Crnjava Lake just before returning back to your hotel. (Accommodation: 3\* guest house).

**DAY 5            PREDDVOR–LJUBELJ -BEGUNJE** *(12.5km/4 hrs walk / descend 700 m, ascend 250 m)*

You will be taken by car to the starting point at Ljubelj, on the Austrian border. From here the trail leads through a short underground tunnel originally dug by merchants in order to reduce the travelling time between Carniola and Carinthia. As you emerge at the other side the trail then follows the old shepherd's route before entering the peaceful Draga Valley, which takes you on your final leg into the historic village of Begunje. Begunje is also the home town of the famous Slavko Avsenik / Oberkrainer band. 2 kms down the road are the ruins of Kamen Castle. (Accommodation: 4\* hotel)

**DAY 6            BEGUNJE – BLED** *(18.5 km/5 hrs walk / descend 300 m, ascend 275 m)*

After days of hill walking, the morning hike across upper Carniolan plain will be a welcome and relaxing change. The only slight ascent takes you to St. Catherin's church. Castle of Bled is already fully visible from here but to reach the town don't miss the short diversion through the stunning 1.6km Vintgar Gorge, carved 150m deep into the mountains by the Radovna River. (Accommodation: 4\* Hotel)

**DAY 7            POKLJUKA–USKOVNICA SADLE–LAKE BOHINJ** *(12km/5 hrs walk / ascend 200 m)*

Mountain, meadows & tree line walk.

Today you will be driven by car up to the Pokljuka Plateau from which you will begin your hike across mountain pastures and old farmhouses where you will come to a viewing point providing outstanding views into the Bohinj Valley. As you descend you can stop at the little historic village of Studor where you can visit the museum and see how people lived 150 years ago. Your final destination is Lake Bohinj, the jewel in the heart of the Triglav National Park, and the small settlement of Ribčev Laz (Fisherman's Pass). (Accommodation: 4\* Hotel)

**DAY 8            END OF TOUR OR EXTENSION OF STAY IN BOHINJ**

Please note that mentioned walking times take an average walker in account. These are net times (i.e. not including rests or lunch stops).

Tour can start any time from 18<sup>th</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019

€640.00 per person sharing

€130.00 Single room supplement

**What does the tour price include?**

- Accommodation in above mentioned hotels / boarding houses in a two bedded room with WC and shower on bed & breakfast basis
- Car transfers on day 3, 5 and 7
- Luggage transfer from hotel to hotel (1 piece per person)
- Information package including detailed route description with corresponding maps - in a form of a picture book (one per booking)
- Backup service (hotline) during the trip
- Welcome meeting upon arrival

**Supplements:**

€120.00 half board supplement – seven dinners in hotels

We can organize **additional nights** in Bled:

3\* Hotel per person/ night in standard double room – €65.00; single room €90.00; half board supplement €15.00.

Additional night in Bohinj in 4\* Hotel, per person/night, in a double room, B&B: €70.00; single room €90.00; half board supplement €15.00 (3-course dinner)

**Transfers (all prices per person, one way, 2 person minimum)**

From Ljubljana airport to Jezersko: €55.00 per person

Bohinj to Ljubljana airport €60.00 per person

Bohinj to Jezersko €65.00 per person

## 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.

**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

**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)

## 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 endeavour 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

Slovenia is well served by major airlines. Of the mainstream carriers, Slovene national airlines Adria Airways fly to Ljubljana airport twice daily from London. Easy Jet flies every day from London to Ljubljana. Ryanair serves Maribor in NE Slovenia. 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.

## Getting there...

Starting point of this trip is Jezersko in NW Slovenia, on the Slovene / Austrian border ([google maps](#)).

**By plane:** closest airport is Ljubljana (LJU). Several airlines serve it. From the airport you can travel to Jezersko by bus (change once in Kranj, takes about 2 hrs) or book our transfer (faster): 45 EUR per person, two person's minimum. Transfers need to be ordered when booking the trip.

**By train:** nearest railway station is in Kranj, but it is difficult to get from there to Jezersko. Honestly, it's better to take our transfer: 40 EUR per person, two person's minimum.

## 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!