

Pyrenean Group Holidays

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Guided hiking holiday in Slovenia The Juliana Trail and Triglev National Park 13 nights (9 nights half board, 4 nights B &B)

Introduction

Slovenia is a small country located in southern central Europe with a population of 2.1 million. Historically it has been part of many empires including Roman, Austro-Hungarian, Venetian and French. It formed part of Yugoslavia from 1945 until independence in 1991. Slovenia joined the European Union in 2004 and adopted the Euro currency in 2007. The country enjoys a high level of prosperity and stability.

The Triglev National Park lies on the western side of the country and the Juliana Trail, opened in 2019, makes a circuit of Slovenia's highest mountain, Triglev. The Juliana Trail includes several lesser known areas whilst including some must-see places like Bled with its lakeside castle and picture perfect island. The original 270 km, 16 day circular trail has been extended with the addition of a further 60 kms through the interesting Brda wine region.

Well, we are not doing all of that! We have selected what we think are the best bits of the trail and added in some extra hikes to get a taste of the higher mountains using local transport and a cable-car.



Trip highlights

- Experienced guide for the whole trip
- A mix of hiking days and some easy days to have time to explore local places of interest
- Attractive villages and great scenery
- Luggage transferred

Suitability

The trip is graded Moderate to Challenging. Some long days but generally well graded ascents and descents.

Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive at Ljubljana

Private rooms at the iconic Grand Union Hotel in the centre of Ljubljana.

Free day. Lots to visit in the capital of Slovenia!

Orientation meeting in the evening.

Evening meal at hotel restaurant

Day 2

Transfer to Kobarid

After breakfast, a transfer to Kobarid by private coach, about 2 hours. After leaving our bags at the hotel there is a lovely local walk crossing the Napoleon Bridge to the beautiful Kozak Waterfall which returns via the Kobarid Historic Trail taking in WW1 relics, the site of the old castle Tonocov and the Italian Ossuary opened by Benito Mussolini in 1938.

Afternoon exploring the town of Kobarid with a chance to visit the award winning museum.

6 miles/9 kms, 3 hours. Total ascent 900 ft/280 metres. Total descent 900 ft/280 met

Meals included: Breakfast

Evening meal at nearby restaurant (not included in holiday price)



View from the Napoleon Bridge

Day 3

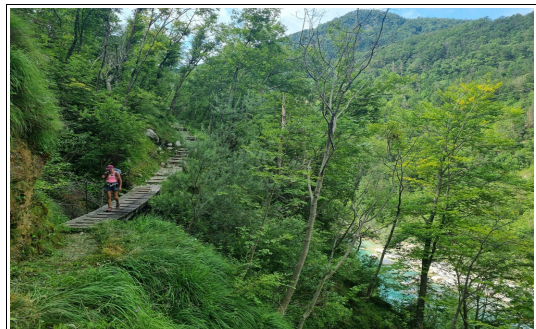
Kobarid to Bovec alongside the Soca river.

A delightful section of the Juliana Trail alongside the emerald green river with some short steep rocky paths in the morning and three swing bridges. The trail is easier in the afternoon and leads into the mountain town of Bovec where we spend the night.

14 miles/22 kms, 6 ½ hours. Total ascent 1450 ft/440 metres. Total descent 700 ft/220 metres

Meals included: Breakfast

Evening meal at nearby restaurant (not included in holiday price)



Ascending the Soca valley

Day 4

From the high pass of Vrsic a hike through the high mountains and down to Kranjska Gora

We take transport from Bovec up to the top of Slovenia's only true alpine road, the 1611m Vrsic pass. From here the trail climbs modestly through high alpine meadows with stunning views around each corner. Passing the Slatnica saddle (1815 m) the path descends pleasant grassy slopes and stands of old larch down to the Dom v Tamarju hut from where a service track descends gently down into the main valley and our destination of Kranjska Gora where we will spend two nights.

10 miles/16 kms, 5 hours. Total ascent 1000 ft/300 metres. Total descent 3600 ft/1100 metres

Meals included: Breakfast and evening meal



Descent from Vrsic pass

Day 5

A day off or a local walk at Kranjska Gora

Plenty of local walks around Kranjska Gora.

Meals included: Breakfast and evening meal

Day 6

A free morning at Kranjska Gora and afternoon exploring Radovljica

Transport will take us to our accommodation at Radovljica where a short walk takes us into one of the most beautiful towns on the Juliana Trail. The well preserved square is surrounded by 16th - 18th-century houses and the old part of the town is surrounded by the remains of a medieval defences which includes the only remaining town moat in Slovenia.

The 15th century church, the impressive 18th century Mansion housing museums and the nearby Gingerbread museum make Radovljica a place not to miss.

Evening meal at nearby restaurant (not included in holiday price)



Radovljica main street

Day 7

Radovljica to Bled

Bled is one of Slovenia's best known resorts with a fairy-tale combination of church, island, castle and lake against a mountain backdrop. What better way to get there than by foot taking in Mala Osojnica which has the best lake viewpoint of all.

Our route includes an interesting nature trail along the banks of the Sava river which passes a tufa spring and some easy tracks leading over the hills to Lake Bled and on to our accommodation.

11 miles/18 kms, 6 hours. Total ascent 1600 ft/500 metres. Total descent 1600 ft/500 metres

Meals included: Breakfast and evening meal



View from Mala Osojnica

Day 8

A day at Bled

Lots of things to do at Bled. Maybe a trip to visit the Vintgar Gorge or take a boat across the lake and visit the church or hike up to the castle. To be decided when there. Not included in the trip price.

Day 9

Hike from Krnica to Pokljuka

A short ride takes us to the start of the hike at the Pokljuka Gorge entrance. For an hour we ascend this fascinating limestone gorge with narrowing high walls, stone arches and a hanging wooden walkway leading through a narrow 1 metre wide gap! The trail continues onto the sprawling upland that is Pokljuka, an area which sees few hikers despite the proximity of Bled. The day finishes at a remote hotel with great views over the surrounding area.

9 miles/15 kms, 5 hours. Total ascent 2400 ft/730 metres. Total descent 650 ft/200 metres

Meals included: Breakfast and evening meal



Ascending the Pokljuka Gorge

Day 10

Hike from Pokljuka to Bohinjsko Lake at Ribcev Laz

A long and beautiful descent to the shores of the lake passing several villages and a stunning viewpoint overlooking the lake and surrounding mountains finishing at the lakeside village of Ribcev Laz.

14 miles/23 kms, 6 ½ hours. Total ascent 600 ft/170 metres. Total descent 3000 ft/900 metres

Meals included: Breakfast and evening meal



Church at Ribcev Laz

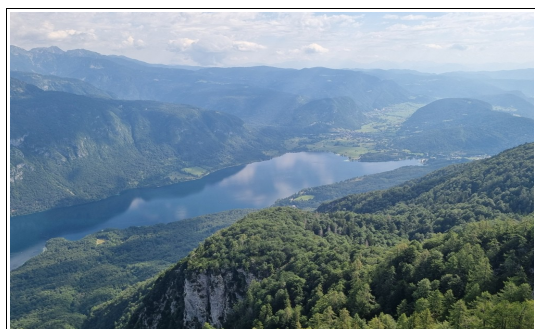
Day 11

A day at Ribcev Laz

A morning boat trip takes us across the lake from where a short walk takes us to the Vogel cable-car. This takes us up to 1650 m, well above the tree-line, and after a short chairlift ride there is a splendid walk to the summit of the Sija mountain followed by a gentle descent via the ski pistes back to the cable-car. After descending back to the lake side an hour's walk back to Ribcev Laz can be replaced by a short bus ride if necessary.

7½ miles/12 kms, 4 hours. Total ascent 1000 ft/300 metres. Total descent 1000 ft/300 metres

Meals included: Breakfast and evening meal



View from top of Vogel cable-car

Day 12

Transfer to the Brda region and hike to Smartno

A two hour ride takes us up to the Brda region where, near the small village of Lig, we pick up the Juliana Trail. We can visit the pilgrimage church of Marijino Celje before continuing along the ridge between the valleys of the Soca and Idrija with some easy walking to the medieval village of Smartno one of the prettiest village on the Juliana Trail.

11 miles/18 kms, 5 hours. Total ascent 800 ft/50 metres. Total descent 1900 ft/600 metres

Meals included: Breakfast

Evening meal at nearby restaurant (not included in holiday price)



Smartno

Day 13

Smartno to Solken

This last stage of the Juliana Trail is considered by author of the Cicerone guide to be one of its finest and includes a cliff-top path and unforgettable views. The Sabotin ridge formed the front line in 1916 during WW1 and there are many relics from that period. The trail passes the ruins of St Valentine's Church destroyed during heavy fighting. The trail then descends into the Soca valley to Solkan, the end of the route.

9 miles/15 kms, 5 hours. Total ascent 1600 ft/500 metres. Total descent 2100 ft/650 metres

Meals included: Breakfast and evening meal



View from the Sabotin ridge

Day 14

Transfer from Solkan to Ljubljana

After breakfast we have private transport arranged for the return to Ljubljana, about 1 ½ hours.

Accommodation

A mixture of hotels and small guest houses, all with private rooms and private bathrooms.

Baggage transfers

During the trip all baggage transfers will be arranged between accommodations. 1 bag per person.

Local transport

It is planned to use local transport on some days and the price of this is included in the holiday price. This includes mainly private hire minibuses or taxis.

What is not included

Evening meals on 4 days when we eat out at local restaurants
Lunches. It will be possible to buy food or packed lunches in all the villages/towns where we stay.
Medical & travel insurance.
Personal expenses including drinks at the hotel.
Entrance fees

What is included

Accommodation and meals as detailed above
Local transport as detailed above including boat trip and cable-car on Day 11.
All baggage transfers between hotels
Experienced guide for the whole trip

Insurance

It is essential that all the group members take out appropriate insurance to cover not only loss of property and travel disruptions but also the cost of cancellation or the cost of assistance, including repatriation, in the event of accident or illness.

Cancellation Policy

If you wish to cancel please let us know immediately in writing and the following cancellation charges apply:

<u>Days before departure</u>	<u>% of holiday cost</u>
More than 42 days	deposit only
42-29 days	30%
28-15 days	50%
14-8 days	70%
7 days or less	100%