



# NATURE PARKS IN SLOVENIA

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I FEEL  
SLOVENIA





Slovenia is one of Europe's most diverse states for flora and fauna with one of the continent's best preserved natural environments. Having vast areas of pristine countryside constitutes a major advantage for Slovenian tourism, allowing its development potential to be heavily oriented towards visitor's desires for peaceful relaxation at close proximity to the natural world.

*Where natural beauty takes your breath away...*

For a relatively small area, Slovenia offers a unique mosaic of biological, geographical and cultural diversity, with dozens of major natural assets and items of significant European cultural heritage. Around 12,6% of Slovenia's territory is covered by protected natural areas, 36% of the territory is protected under Natura 2000, and almost 15,000 aspects of the country's nature have been awarded the status "valuable natural feature".

By managing our country's resources carefully we ensure that nature's treasures are preserved for future generations, that local population development is planned responsibly, and that all economic development is sustainable.





Lake in Velika dolina - Škocjan Caves

- |     |                                |     |   |     |   |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----|---|-----|---|
| 02_ | Introduction                   | 14_ | <b>NOTRANJSKA</b> Regional Park         | 26_ | <b>STRUNJAN</b> Landscape Park                |
| 04_ | Map NATURE PARKS IN SLOVENIA   | 16_ | <b>GORIČKO</b> Landscape Park           | 28_ | <b>LAHINJA</b> Landscape Park                 |
| 06_ | Nature parks in Slovenia       | 18_ | <b>KOLPA</b> Landscape Park             | 30_ | <b>ŠKOCJANSKI ZATOK</b> Nature Reserve        |
| 07_ | <b>TRIGLAV</b> National Park   | 20_ | <b>SEČOVLJE SALINA</b> Landscape Park   | 32_ | <b>RADENSKO POLJE</b> Landscape Park*         |
| 10_ | <b>ŠKOCJAN CAVES</b> Park      | 22_ | <b>LOGARSKA DOLINA</b> Landscape Park   | 34_ | <b>KAMNIK and SAVINJA ALPS</b> Regional Park* |
| 12_ | <b>KOZJANSKO</b> Regional Park | 24_ | <b>LJUBLJANSKO BARJE</b> Landscape Park |     |   |

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\*establishment under way





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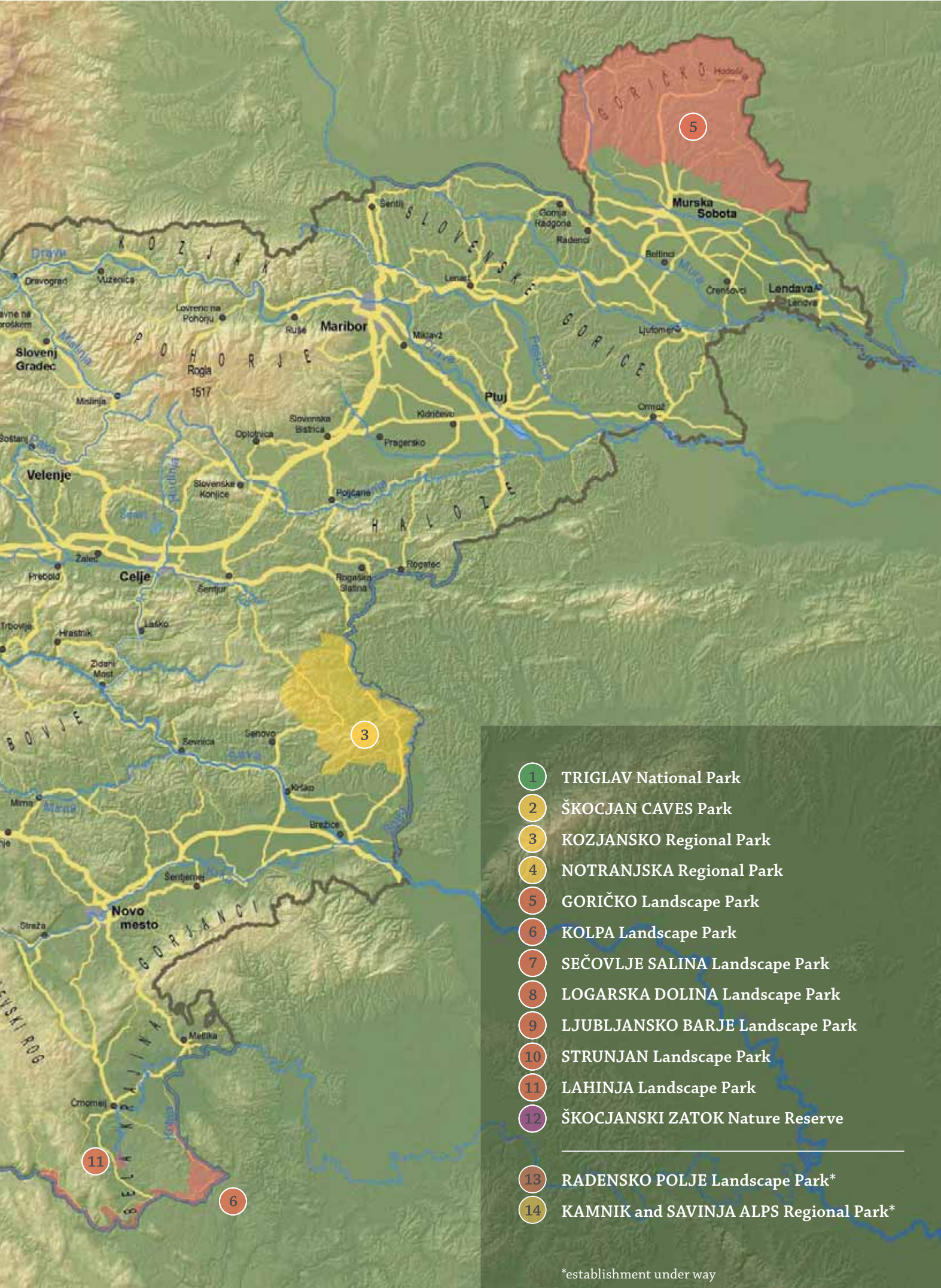
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13

14





- 1 TRIGLAV National Park
- 2 ŠKOCJAN CAVES Park
- 3 KOZJANSKO Regional Park
- 4 NOTRANJSKA Regional Park
- 5 GORIČKO Landscape Park
- 6 KOLPA Landscape Park
- 7 SEČOVLJE SALINA Landscape Park
- 8 LOGARSKA DOLINA Landscape Park
- 9 LJUBLJANSKO BARJE Landscape Park
- 10 STRUNJAN Landscape Park
- 11 LAHINJA Landscape Park
- 12 ŠKOCJANSKI ZATOK Nature Reserve

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- 13 RADENSKO POLJE Landscape Park\*
- 14 KAMNIK and SAVINJA ALPS Regional Park\*

\*establishment under way



# Nature Parks in Slovenia

Nature parks are those areas of Slovenia where the level of natural and cultural preservation is highest and consequently they form a key part of the nation's tourism infrastructure. Spending free time amongst unspoilt nature is on the rise in today's modern society. Nature parks offer the perfect setting for peace and relaxation; enjoying natural beauty, observing wildlife, experiencing unique landscapes, learning about local culture and history, participating in activities (from hiking to skiing and photography).

Slovenia's protected natural areas are divided into different categories according to the international IUCN categorization. The basic division is into large and small protected areas. Larger areas are those generally referred to as "nature parks". The following protected areas exist in Slovenia:

## Large protected areas or nature parks:

- 1 national park (IUCN: II/V)
- 3 regional parks (IUCN: V/II)
- 44 landscape parks (IUCN: V)

## Small protected areas:

- 52 nature reserves (IUCN: IV and I)
- 1217 natural monuments (IUCN: III)

Visitors to nature parks have various aids to help their experience including plentiful information available at information centers, on signs, on marked park trails, through guided tours etc. Hiking trails, cycle routes and wine-tourism roads offer links between natural beauty and cultural monuments and attract visitors in more specific ways.

For visitors who wish to get to know the most beautiful pockets of our nature parks more intimately, professionally guided tours are available from our park rangers. Numerous events, both traditional and modern, exhibitions, workshops and concerts, throughout the calendar will add to any tourist's overall experience. Our nature parks are suitable for many different types of holiday length (from daytrips to overnights to multi-day family excursions) and holiday variety (from cultural heritage to outdoor leisure to adventure sports).

Much of what's on offer is detailed in the present publication although for reasons of space it has not been possible to include everything. For further details in any specific area, please do not hesitate contact us.

*Enjoy our parks and the all the new experiences they bring you.*

*Editorial board*



Triglav National Park



Logarska dolina



Snakke's head Fritillary



# TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK

Where natural beauty takes your breath away



The troughs of the Soča river

## ABOUT THE PARK

**Location:** northwest Slovenia, near the borders with Austria and Italy; covers almost the entire area of the Slovenian part of the Julian Alps.

**Surface area:** 207,524 acres (839 km<sup>2</sup>)

**Establishment of the park:** 1924, expanded in 1981 and 2010

**Natural significance:** Valuable natural features: 1013, the entire park is an ecologically important area, Natura 2000 (SPA) site for 17 bird species, Natura 2000 (SCI) site for nine animal and five plant species and 23 habitat types.

**International significance:**

- European Diploma of Protected Areas 2004
- UNESCO – MAB biosphere reserve 2003

The Triglav National Park is the only national park in Slovenia and it protects an area of pristine nature within the Alps. The name itself comes from Triglav, Slovenia's highest mountain and an important national symbol that appears on the flag and elsewhere. Set amongst the spectacular peaks in the Julian Alps, the park is home to jagged ridges and vertical rock faces, deeply-carved valleys and hard-to-access gorges, stunning glacial lakes and dense forest, rolling carpets of alpine flowers and mountain patches of green grass – all combined with a lavish profusion of biodiversity.

### Management: Triglavski narodni park

Ljubljanska cesta 27, SI - 4260 Bled  
Phone: +386(0) 4 57 80 200, fax: +386(0) 4 578 02 01; email: [triglavski-narodni-park@tnp.gov.si](mailto:triglavski-narodni-park@tnp.gov.si), website: [www.tnp.si](http://www.tnp.si)

### Info center Triglavsko roža Bled

Ljubljanska cesta 27, SI - 4260 Bled  
Phone: +386(0) 4 5780 200, +386(0) 4 5780 205; fax: +386(0) 4 5780 201; email: [info.trb@tnp.gov.si](mailto:info.trb@tnp.gov.si)  
*Open: May to September, Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 AM to 6 PM; October to April, Tuesdays through Fridays, 12 PM to 4 PM and Saturdays and Sundays 10 AM to 6 PM*

### Info center Dom Trenta: Na Logu

Trenta, SI - 5232 Soča  
Phone and fax: +389(0) 5 388 93 30 (031 671 675)  
email: [dom-tnp.trenta@tnp.gov.si](mailto:dom-tnp.trenta@tnp.gov.si)  
*Open: May to October, 10 AM to 6 PM*

### Pocar Homestead in Zgornja Radovna

Zgornja Radovna 25, SI - 4281 Mojstrana  
Phone: +386(0) 4 5780 200, fax: +386(0) 4 5780 201  
email: [triglavski-narodni-park@tnp.gov.si](mailto:triglavski-narodni-park@tnp.gov.si)  
*Open: May 16 to June 24 and in September, Saturdays and Sundays, 11 AM to 6 PM; from June 25 to August 31, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 11 AM to 6 PM*  
*There is no charge to enter the park.*





On the Soča trail, Trenta

Apart from preserved natural and cultural landscape, the Triglav National Park is a space for research, education, leisure and experiencing nature. Mountain peaks, wild and deep gorges, the riches of the plant world, cultural landscape with mountain pastures and picturesque villages with their rich cultural heritage all invite you to visit.

### WORTH SEEING

- **The amazing alpine world.** North Face of Triglav, the second highest rock face in the Eastern Alps, numerous natural windows (one of the largest being Veliko okno in Prisank, Okno in Zadnji Prisank, Hornovo okno in Jalovec), Ajdovska deklica (pagan girl) – a stone face nature has carved in the north face of Prisank.
- **The diverse plant world,** remains of virgin forests, dwarf pines above the tree line, bogs at Pokljuka, alpine flowers and numerous plant species.
- **Multiple rivers,** in particular the emerald green Soča, considered by many the most beautiful river in the Alps; waterfalls and karst springs (Savica, Peričnik, Spodnji Martuljkov slap and Zgornji Martuljkov slap, Šum in Vintgar, waterfall of Ribnica, Nadiža in the Tamar valley, the spring of the Soča river, waterfalls in the valley of Koritnica, waterfalls under Planina Zapotok and numerous smaller waterfalls on tributaries of the Soča and Tolminka rivers), glacial lakes (Lake Bohinj), groups of alpine lakes (Triglavsko jezero, Kriški podi, Krn), etc.
- **Beautiful gorges and valleys,** e.g. “fossilized” Pokljuka gorge (trail from Krnica or Zatrnik, 2 to 3 hours), Tolminka troughs and Zadlaščice on the marked circuit trail from the parking area above Zatoľmin, can be combined with a visit to the village of Čadrg (1.5 hours), including visit to Čadrg, 3 hours), Martuljščica troughs, Martuljek waterfalls and Za Akom basin (starting from Gozd Martuljek, 4 hours), Vintgar gorge on the Radovna river, Mostnica troughs (starting from the parking area above Stara Fužina).
- **Natural assets,** e.g. Zelenci nature reserve (the spring of the Sava Dolinka river between Rateče and Podkoren), Goreljek peat bog (starting from Mrzli Studenec).
- **Picturesque pasture meadows,** e.g. Bohinj pasture meadows (starting from the parking area above Stara Fužina – Hudičev most – Mostnica troughs – mountain cabin at Voje – Voje gable – Planina Grintovica – Planina Krstenica – Planina Blato – Stara Fužina), sheep pastures Za Skalo (starting from Na skali village, Soča).
- **Visiting TNP info points,** e.g. Stari Tamar on the way to Vršič, and ascending from Vršič through Vratca to Slemenova špica (3 hours).
- **Cross-country skiing** on established tracks (Upper and Lower Bohinj valley, Zgornje Gorje, Zgornja Radovna, Gorjuše, Pokljuka, Gorjuše, Zgornja Radovna, Planica with Tamar, Trenta valley).
- **Historic Bohinj,** the villages of **Stara Fužina** and **Studor** with their museums (Alpine dairy museum and Oplen house) and hay-racks.



Mostnica river gorge

- **Architecture** – the typical Bohinj, Tolmin, Bovec-Trenta and Gornjesavska houses, shepherds’ settlements, picturesque churches of St. John and Holy Spirit on Lake Bohinj, memorial chapel on Javorca, Russian chapel under Vršič, fortresses Kluže in Predel.

Below are the principal marked park trails that guide visitors through many key points of interest in the park.

- **Triglavsko Bistrica trail in the Vrata valley** Experience one of the most beautiful glacial valleys in the Alps (starting from Mojstrana (at Ros), 4 to 5 hours).
- **Soča trail** combines exceptional natural beauty and typical cultural heritage, and extends from the Soča spring along the valley of Trenta and Soča to the border of the park at Kršovec, Kal Koritnica (starting from Soča spring, to Info centre in Trenta, 2 to 3 hours, entire trail length is 20 kilometers).



- **Pokljuka trail** through forests, alpine pastures and past many historic points of interest which connect into a thematic park trail (starting from Mrzli Studenec, 3 hour tour).
- **Goreljek peat bog education path** to learn about the uniqueness and significance of peat bogs, among most precious natural environments in Europe (starting from Goreljek, 1 hour).
- **Radovna bike trail.** Experience Radovna – the valley, the river and villages – on a bicycle, and get to know its natural and cultural peculiarities (starting from Krnica pri Zgornjih Gorjah, 2.5 to 3.5 hours of biking with stops at info points and visit to the Pocar Homestead (museum – 1 hour), undulating meadows and Gogala linden tree).

**REGULAR ANNUAL EVENTS**

- **18 May:** Museum Day: Open-door day at the Info centre Dom Trenta, Info centre Triglavsko roža Bled and Pocar Homestead in Zgornja Radovna.
- **24 May:** European Park Day: International Belar Natural Science Day – orienteering hike, tracking a system of hidden clues from the spring of the Soča River to the TNP Info center in Trenta (for elementary schools from the park region and from Austria, Italy and Croatia).

- **Second half of May:** Guided tour of the Pokljuka Education Trail (European Park Day and Forest Week program).
- **June:** Summer cultural evening at the Pocar Homestead.
- **Second half of July:** Trenta fair with accompanying events, Trenta International Music Forum for talented young musicians from around the world sponsored by the Vienna Philharmonic with two concluding concerts for strings.

**Periodic events:**

- **Friday afternoons in the park:** last Friday of the month from May to September – creative workshops in nature for the young (and the young at heart) where you will discover the secrets of the park.
- **Triglav farmer’s market and Brihta:** the Triglav farmer’s market is held every third Saturday of the month in front of the Triglavsko roža Bled Info Center between 10 AM and 12 PM, where farmers sell crops and products from the Triglav National Park and surrounding areas. At the same time, there is a children’s program called Brihta to discover, explore and learn about nature in creative-research workshops.
- **Wednesday evenings at the Triglavsko roža Bled Info Center:** every Wednesday at 7 PM – throughout the year: openings of visual arts and photo exhibitions, professional lectures

and film evenings on the subject of mountaineering, theatre performances by drama groups from the Triglav National Park and surrounding area.

- **Lectures and children’s workshops** (Malo središče TNP) at Triglavsko roža Bled Info Center, where adults can listen to lectures on protecting and conserving nature, while children create and play in educational workshops.
- **Presentations of the Triglav National Park in words and pictures,** the legend of the Goldenhorn, organization of creative workshops in schools, in the outdoors or in Info centres (as agreed).
- **Photography workshops for amateur photographers,** advice on how to best capture on film the natural, cultural and ethnological features of the park.



Chamois



Lake Bohinj



Alpine poppy



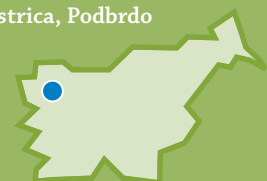
Julian Alps

**PARK ACCESS**

*Bus route from Ljubljana through Bled to Bohinjska Bistrica, Lake Bohinj and Zlatorog Hotel on the west shore of Lake Bohinj, to Jesenice and Mojstrana, Gozd – Martuljek, Kranjska Gora and Rateče. In summer, it’s possible to take a bus from Kranjska Gora across Vršič pass to Bovec. There are also bus routes to Tolmin, Kobarid and Bovec from Nova Gorica, Idrija and Ljubljana.*

*The train from Ljubljana will take you as far as the Lesce–Bled train station where you can continue your trip by local bus. There is also a train from Jesenice (connections to Ljubljana and Austria) that goes to Nova Gorica and back.*

*Finally there is a car-train which travels between Bohinjska Bistrica, Podbrdo and Most na Soči, with a dedicated space for bicycles.*







Mohorčič cave

# ŠKOCJAN CAVES PARK

Mysterious and magical underground world

The deepest and largest underground canyon in Europe, Škocjan is an enchanting underground network in the mysterious depths of the Karst plateau where the Reka River disappears. A symbol of underground Slovenia and consisting of a maze of tunnels, caverns and abysses, the caves are decorated with magnificent stalactites and stalagmites of many forms and sizes. The Karst landscape on the surface of the caves with all the common karst features, such as dolines, caves, shafts and deep collapse dolines is itself an archaeologically rich area; there was a Bronze Age sacrificial site nearby and many valuable prehistoric finds have been made locally.

**Management:** Javni zavod Park Škocjanske jame  
Škocjan 2, SI - 6215 Divača; Phone: +386 (0) 5 70 82 100, fax: +386 (0) 5 70 82 105; email: psj@psj.gov.si, www.park-skocjanske-jame.si

**Info Center**  
Matavun 12, SI - 6215 Divača; Phone: +386 (0) 5 70 82 110, fax: +386 (0) 5 70 82 111;

**Reservations:** Phone: +386 (0) 5 70 82 104, fax: +386 (0) 5 70 82 105; email: psj.info@psj.gov.si

*Open: Every day from 9 AM, Jan-Mar and Nov-Dec to 1 PM or 3 PM on Sundays and holidays, in April, May and October till 3:30 PM and Jun-Sept till 5 PM, cave viewings throughout the year from 10 AM (according to schedule). Škocjan Caves are open every day, during summer season (June-September) there are guided tours each hour, from 10 AM to 5 PM. During this time, you can also view museum collections which are freely accessible to all cave visitors.*

## ABOUT THE PARK

**Location:** southwest part of Slovenia, on the edge of the Karst

**Surface area:** 1,021 acres (4.13 km<sup>2</sup>)

**Establishment of the park:** 1996

**Natural significance:** Valuable natural features: 52, the entire park is an ecologically important area, part of the Natura 2000 (SPA) area, part of the Natura 2000 (SCI) area

**International significance:**

- UNESCO – World heritage 1986
- UNESCO – Ramsar site (underground karst wetland) 1999
- UNESCO – MAB karst biosphere reserve 2004



The Škocjan Caves reveal the majestic contact between the earthly and the otherworldly, which has inspired people throughout millennia, from prehistory to modern times. You can take a look at the underground realms of the Škocjan Caves or take a walk on the trail around the natural monuments of Velika dolina and Mala dolina, where information signs fully explain the features and characteristics of this unique geographical environment.

**WORTH SEEING**

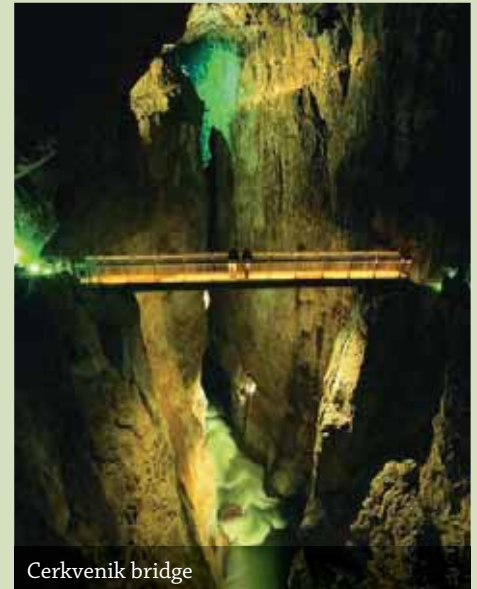
- **Škocjan Caves**, which can be seen every day throughout the year. The tour is guided and takes about an hour and a half.
- **Mahorčič and Marinič caves and Mala dolina** (newly opened from 2011).
- **Velika dolina** (a 163 m collapsed valley at the end of which the Reka River sinks into the caves), which in the summer season is combined with the a visit to the Škocjan Caves.
- **Microclimatic peculiarities** in the two collapsed valleys, Velika and Mala Dolina, with an unusual mixture of alpine flora.
- **A number of large collapsed dolines** with traces of former underground tributaries (Globočak, Sokolak, Lisičina etc.).

- The picturesque, 116m deep **Okroglica abyss** in the middle of the Škocjan village.
- A pastoral landscape of typical **submediterranean vegetation**.
- **Museum collections in Škocjan village** include the ethnographic collection in J'kopin Barn, a history of discovering Škocjan Caves in Jurjev Barn, and the biology, geology and archeology collection in the Natural History Centre.
- **Local villages** with typical Karst architectural features.
- Numerous **archeological sites**.

To further their learning about the Karst region and its unique features, visitors may like to take the Škocjan circuit education trail (medium difficulty), which leads them around the Velika and Mala valleys in the heart of the park in just over an hour and a half. Informational and educational signs outline the main characteristics of Karst phenomena, facts about local plant and animal life and the rich cultural heritage and history of these places. Guided excursions on the education trail are available to visitors, with prior arrangement, during the school year between Mondays and Fridays.

**REGULAR ANNUAL EVENTS**

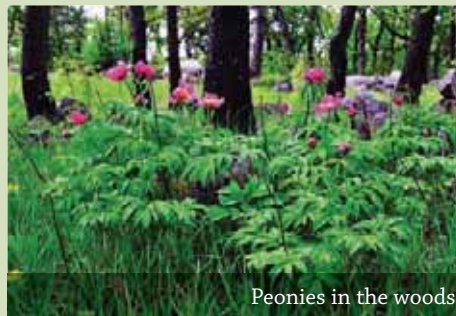
- April:** Hike along the swallet of the Reka River, organized by Škocjan Tourist Association.
- Last Sunday in May:** Day of Škocjan Caves Park – “Belajtna”.
- June:** Škocjanfest – festival of theatre groups and choirs, organized by Škocjan Tourist Association.
- July/August/September:** Creative workshops.



Cerkvenik bridge



J'kopin barn



Peonies in the woods



Bat



Villages of Škocjan, Betanja and Matavun

**PARK ACCESS**

The park is accessible in several ways. The simplest route is on the Ljubljana – Koper motorway, taking the exit to Divača and following road signs for Škocjanske jame for another 2 km. There is an exit for Škocjan off the regional road, and an info center sign in the village of Matavun. In Famlje on the Ribnica – Divača road, there is a sign for Park Škocjanske jame.

An increasing number of travelers come to Divača by train or bus then walk the marked trail through the village of Dolnje Ležeče to the info center in the park (request the trail map at the Divača train station). You can also choose to take advantage of the free bus connection Divača – Škocjan Caves.







Podstreda Castle



# KOZJANSKO REGIONAL PARK

A landscape of many faces

At the junction of the Alps and the Pannonian plain, nature and people have created a unique mosaic of flowering meadows, tall-tree orchards, vineyards, homesteads and paths leading to them. In this micro-region, a cultural landscape strewn with castles, monasteries and churches is intertwined with steep wooded slopes, hidden brooks and picturesque gorges.

**Management: Javni zavod Kozjanski park**

Podstreda 45, SI - 3257 Podstreda; Phone: +386 (0) 3 800 71 00, fax: +386 (0) 3 800 71 08; email: kozjanski-park@kp.gov.si  
www.kozjanski-park.si

**Info Center Podstreda**

Podstreda 45, SI - 3257 Podstreda; every day 8 AM to 4 PM.

**Podstreda Castle**

Every day 10 AM to 6 PM, except Monday, closed in winter. Expert guided tours per prior agreement available every day.

*There is no charge to enter the park.*

## ABOUT THE PARK

**Location:** Eastern Slovenia, west of the Sotla (a border river with Croatia)

**Surface area:** 50,904 acres (206 km<sup>2</sup>)

**Establishment of the park:** 1981

**Natural significance:** Valuable natural features: 89, almost the entire park is an ecologically important area, Natura 2000 (SPA) site for 12 bird species, Natura 2000 (SCI) site for 15 animal species and seven habitat types.

**International significance:**

- UNESCO – MAB biosphere reserve Kozjansko – Obsotelje, 2010





Unique harmony of the Kozjansko landscape providing visitors with inimitable impressions. The park will adapt to the wishes and interests of the public in organizing nature days or project days for students (elementary, high-school, university) as well as guided tours of medieval squares and castles, old mills, pilgrimage churches and tourist farms for pre-arranged groups.

**WORTH SEEING**

- **Wetlands along the Sotla**, the picturesque **Bistrica river gorge**, **Zelenjak gorge** and the **valley of Gruska**.
- **Dry meadows in Vetrnik and Oslica** with extremely diverse plant and animal species.
- **Nujčev hrast oak** in Gregovce, the stoutest common oak (*Quercus robur*) in Slovenia.
- Meadow tall-tree orchards.
- **Castles** – Podsreda Castle, Bizeljsko and Pišece Castles, Kunšperk Castle ruins, Olimje monastery complex (entrance fee).
- **Restored square** in Podsreda, Pilštanj square, pilgrimage point in Sveta gora, various churches and other religious landmarks.
- Preserved and restored **typical farmhouses** and outbuildings, “repnice”.



Winter aconite



Swallowtail



Dry meadows

There are around 50 km of marked and established trails throughout the park. These are described in detail in various guides and brochures for visitors - which also include recommended places of interest:

- **Hemma pilgrimage trail**, connecting locations related to the life of St. Hemma (before 995 – ca. 1045). The trail runs through Koroška, Štajerska, Dolenjska and Gorenjska, and is connected with a trail in Austria by the same name (Hemma Pilgerweg).
- **Podsreda Trail** (32 km, circuit) links natural and cultural points of interest around the medieval borough of Podsreda. There are three starting points for this trail: Podsreda market, Podsreda Castle and Trebče.
- **Pilštanj Trail** (4 km, circuit) connects the natural and cultural heritage of the medieval borough of Pilštanj with the viewpoint on the Vino gora hill.
- **Bistrica ob Sotli water education trail** (3 km) includes seven points detailing the function and energy-related uses of the



The Sotla river

**PARK ACCESS**

You can reach Kozjansko Park from Štajerska (turn off at Dramlje if coming from Ljubljana, or at Slovenska Bistrica if coming from Maribor) or Dolenjska (turn off at Krško or Brežice). To reach the park’s Info centre in Podsreda, which is 120km from Ljubljana, requires an additional 30-minute drive on regional roads beyond the respective turn-offs.



Bistrica River both in the past and today.

- **Geology education trail** (10 km, circuit) winds around the settlement and monastery of Olimje. Along with 21 information points that illustrate the geological history and features of Kozjansko, there are numerous natural and cultural points worth seeing.
- **Travnik–Vetrnik education trail** (2 km, circuit) winds around the highest peak of Vetrnik (709 m). Along with amazing views of the Kozjansko landscape, visitors will take in the dry meadow habitat. The best time to visit is in June and July when the meadows are in full bloom.
- Bizeljsko footpaths include the **Repnica trail** (from the Istenič wine cellar to the “repnice” area, 5 km), Vid trail (from “repnice” to Sv. Vid, 3 km), Castle trail (from the center of Bizeljsko to Bizeljsko Castle, 6.5 km) and Orešje trail (circuit, 5.7 km).
- **Slomšek trail** – begins in Bizeljsko in the southern section of the Kozjansko Park, runs across the entire park to Olimje (northernmost point of the park) and onwards to Slom pri Ponikvi.
- **European Footpath E7** enters the park at Križe (at the southwest of the park), crosses the Orlica mountains, descends from Svete gore into the valley of Bistrica, and leads hikers through the winegrowing hills to Olimje, where it exits the park.

**REGULAR ANNUAL EVENTS**

**January:** A walk through the snow-covered landscape, along frozen brooks, for inimitable impressions of the park.

**February:** The flowering of winter aconite and European cornel, pruning of tall apple trees, Valentine’s hike to Bohor.

**March:** Podsreda Castle, the most important royal castle in Slovenia, reopens its gate.

**April:** Easter creative workshops (making Easter sheaves, eggs); 22 April: Earth Day: a celebration which takes place in Podsreda in cooperation with local elementary schools

**18 May:** Museum day – free entrance to all Kozjansko Park facilities; 24 May: nature conservation exhibition, organized hikes, open door day.

**June/July/August:** Exhibitions at the Podsreda Castle, Musical Summer at the Podsreda Castle – seminars and concerts.

**Second weekend in October:** Kozjansko apple festival – a multi-day event with a professional seminar, ex tempore photography shows and a fair with a cultural and entertainment program.

**November/December:** Advent and Christmas creative workshops at the park administration building in Podsreda.





Intermittent Lake Cerknica

# NOTRANJSKA REGIONAL PARK

Great miracle of nature

This magical karst landscape, showing a different face for each season, is a haven of biological diversity due of the cyclical disappearance and re-emergence of Lake Cerknica, the largest intermittent lake in Europe. The highly preserved and exceptionally diverse natural habitats provide a paradise for various animal and bird species. Landscape characterized by traditional farming, and occasionally karst relief. The lake's recent history is an instructive guide to human folly; attempts to dry the marsh and close swallow holes to preserve the water all year round were hopeless.

**Management:** Javni zavod Notranjski regijski park  
Tabor 42, SI - 1380 Cerknica; Phone: +386 (0) 1 70 90 626, fax: +386 (0) 1 70 90 633;  
email: [info@notranjski-park.si](mailto:info@notranjski-park.si),  
website: [www.notranjski-park.si](http://www.notranjski-park.si)

*There is no charge to enter the park.*

## ABOUT THE PARK

**Location:** Southern part of central Slovenia, the center of Notranjska.

**Surface area:** 54,857 acres (222 km<sup>2</sup>)

**Establishment of the park:** 2002

**Natural significance:** Valuable natural features: 404, of which 297 are underground caves, the entire park is an ecologically important area, Natura 2000 (SPA) area for over 20 bird species, Natura 2000 (SCI) area

**International significance:**

- UNESCO – Ramsar site



NOTRANJSKI REGIJSKI PARK



Lake Cerknica is certainly unique. When the lake is filled with water, it's easy to spot as it extends over almost 30km<sup>2</sup> and is the largest lake in Slovenia. But at another time of the year you could also be standing in the lake and be completely unaware of it. That's when multi-coloured, flowering wet grasslands and amazing swallow holes are revealed. You can come here to watch birds, try your luck fishing, skate on frozen ice, witness the spectacular sunrise and much more.

**WORTH SEEING**

- Karst polje with an **intermittent lake** and picturesque **Karst phenomena**: boiling springs, estavelles, swallets and inflow caves, swallow holes, surface watercourses.
- Picturesque Karst collapse valley **Rakov Škocjan**, with Veliki and Mali natural bridges.
- Rich variety of **plant and bird species** (habitat for 250 bird types alone), amphibians, fish, invertebrates etc.
- **Picturesque landscapes** with traces of prehistoric and ancient settlers on slopes and hills around the lake, "toplarji" – characteristic double hay-drying racks, remains of linden and pear tree avenues.

Below are the marked park trails that allow visitors to learn about the many points of interest in the park.

- **Beekeeping education trail** on Lake Cerknica. Starting from Pretržje (between Dolnje jezero and Otok) at the beehouse of the Beekeepers Association of Cerknica. Circular trail, 250 m (1 hour), 13 descriptive signs. The trail is easy and suitable even for people who have trouble walking regardless of season. (Information: Beekeepers Association of Cerknica, Popkova 1, 1380 Cerknica, Phone: 041 657 297).
- **Rakov Škocjan natural science education trail** Mali (Small) natural bridge, ruins of St. Kancijan chapel at the Veliki (Large) natural bridge. One way trail, 3 km (3 hours) and return to starting point, 16 descriptive signs. (Information: Hotel Rakov Škocjan, 1380 Cerknica, phone: 01 709 74 70, email: kancijan@siol.net; and the Forest Service of Slovenia, Postojna Area Unit, Vojkova ulica 9, 6230 Postojna, phone: 05 700 06 10).
- **Menišija natural science education trail**. Circular trail, 3 km (3 hours), nine descriptive signs (Information: Menišija Tourist Association, Begunje 28, 1382 Begunje pri Cerknici, phone: 031 599 523).
- **Biking trails** inside the Notranjska Regional Park are well marked. (Information: Tourist and Information Center in Cerknica, Cesta 4. maja 51, 1380 Cerknica, phone: 01 709 36 36, email: tdrustvo@volja.net).

**REGULAR ANNUAL EVENTS**

- January:** Night hike to Mount Špička on closest Saturday to full moon in January.
- 27 April:** Ornithological outing to Lake Cerknica.
- 1 May:** Cross-country race to Mount Slivnica.
- First Saturday in June:** Cross-country race along Lake Cerknica.
- Second Saturday in September:** Rakov Škocjan cross-country race.

Every third Thursday of the month from October to April you can attend lectures on nature. The lectures start at 7 PM at the Jože Udovič Library in Cerknica.



Marsh gentian



View of the karst spring



Lake Cerknica



Brown bear



Swallow holes

**PARK ACCESS**

Notranjska Regional Park is accessible from the Ljubljana – Fernetiči motorway, exiting at Unec. Good bus connections only exist from Ljubljana. Buses stop in all villages surrounding Lake Cerknica. Train connections are very good - to see the Notranjska Regional Park disembark at Rakek station. One advantage of travelling by train is that you can bring a bicycle with you and, indeed, this station is a popular departure point for bike rides to Rakov Škocjan or Lake Cerknica.







Landscape in Motovilci



# GORIČKO LANDSCAPE PARK

The meeting point of three lands and cultures

Goričko is the Slovenian part of a tri-country cross-border park shared with Austria (Raab) and Hungary (Órség – Porabje). It is the natural habitat for a number of endangered and rare European flora and fauna. It offers a picturesque and cultural landscape of self-sufficient farming with a diverse field crops grown including pumpkins, buckwheat, spelt, rye, sunflower, wheat, corn and barley. In Gorička man's primal relationship to the soil and harmonic co-existence with nature is for all to see – it is a paradise for hikers and cyclists.

**Management:** Javni zavod Krajevski park Goričko  
Grad 191, SI - 9264 Grad; Phone: +386 (0) 2 551 88 60 +386 (0) 2 551 88 61; email: park.goricko@siol.net, website: www.park-goricko.org

**Visiting center:** Grad Castle  
Grad 191, SI - 9264 Grad; Phone: +386 (0) 2 551 88 60; email: vodniki@goricko.info

*Time of visit: Guided tours of the Grad castle every day, except Mondays, for groups of at least ten visitors that announce their arrival in advance. The castle is open to visitors from April 1 to October 31 between 9 AM and 6 PM, and in March and November between 9 AM and 4 PM.*

*There is no charge to enter the park. There is an entrance fee to the castle.*

## ABOUT THE PARK

**Location:** Extreme northeastern part of Slovenia, close to the border with Austria and Hungary

**Surface area:** 114,163 acres (462 km<sup>2</sup>)

**Establishment of the park:** 2003

**Natural significance:** Valuable natural features: 47, the entire park is an ecologically important area, Natura 2000 (SPA) site for 11 bird species, Natura 2000 (SCI) site for 18 animal species and seven habitat types





You can take a tour of Goričko in the company of local guides or Goričko Landscape Park employees. They offer nature and technical education days to groups that are eager to learn.

### WORTH SEEING

- Get to know the **wealth of biodiversity** offered by the mosaic landscape; important nesting sites, migratory paths and wintering sites for birds (including the white and black storks); a habitat for the largest otter population in Slovenia, for 44 types of dragonflies and numerous species of butterfly.
- See **typical folk architecture**, thatched roofs, brick houses, religious buildings, historic memorials including watch-towers and guard posts from the Iron Curtain era.
- Witness **ethnological points of interest**, watermills, collections of traditional craft tools and farming activities.
- Visit **Grad castle**, the largest castle building in Slovenia with 365 rooms.

Visitors' learning about the numerous points of interest in the park is assisted through marked short and long trails in the Goričko forests, along the waters around Hodoško, Ledavsko and Bukovniško lakes, through meadows and through the border area in



European otter



Ethnological museum



White stork

Slovenian Porabje and Austrian Steiermark and Burgenland. Those who prefer shorter trails can choose among the following: Korovci-Fuks graba, Trdkova-Tromejnik, Bukovniško lake, "Otter Paradise", Sladka pot (Sweet trail) (Berkovci, Ratkovci, Ivanjševci), Zelena pot (Green trail) (Sebeborci), Prosenjakovska pot (Prosenjakovci trail) (Prosenjakovci), Pot vinotočev (Wine shop trail) (Moravske Toplice, Suhi vrh), Panonska pot (Pannonian trail) (Bogojina), Pot kulturne dediščine (Cultural heritage trail) (Bogojina, Filovci), Geografska pot (Geographic trail) (Selo), Olivinova pot (Olivin trail) (Grad), Bernardina pot (Bernarda trail) (Krašči), Vrbova pot (Vrba trail) (Rogašovci, Nuskova), Zelena vez (an education trail along the former Iron Curtain boundary, Goričko), Pot sožitja (Harmony trail) (Kančevci, Ivanovci). Those who like longer hiking trails will learn about Goričko while walking on the marked Pomurje mountain trail or on European Footpath E7.



Yellow Day-lily

### REGULAR ANNUAL EVENTS

**January:** "Pout po bregaj pa dolaj" – hike with the Three Kings from Budince to Andovci.

**February:** Valentine's Day hike to Kugel, highest peak in the tri-country park.

**Third Saturday in February:** demonstration of traditional local liquor-making techniques at the Smodiš fruit-growing farm in Otovci.

**March:** The largest castle in Slovenia opens its doors and presents the Castle Festival.

**22. March:** World Water Day.

**April:** Easter workshops at Grad castle.

**22 April:** World Earth Day; organized cleaning.

**May:** Reaping competition with a manual scythe in Selo.

**Second Sunday in May:** May song, choirs, skit festival, Pečarovci.

**22 May:** Biodiversity Day – walk in nature.

**24 May:** European Park Day – Day of open doors for Goričko Landscape Park and Grad Castle.

**15 June:** St. Vitus holiday – events along the banks of Bukovniško lake, Dobrovnik.

**Last Saturday in June:** "Peli in plesali so jih mati moja", traditional song and dance, Moščanci.

**July:** Castle festival – nature films and open-air concerts.

**15 August:** Assumption of Mary service at Grad, trades fair.

**First week in September:** "A night with the bats" to coincide with the European Week of Bat Conservation.

**Second Saturday in September:** tri-country biking trip and marathon Goričko-Raab-Őrség/ Porabje.

**October:** Autumn bazaar – holiday of Goričko cultural landscape conservation (Grad), bird-watching in Goričko.

**First Sunday in October:** "Dödolijada" festival and culinary exhibition to win "zlata kijanca" (Puconci).

**Last Sunday in October:** Halloween (Grad castle).

**Second weekend in October:** exhibition of local ancient apple varieties at Smodiš fruit-growing farm, Otovci.

**Last Saturday in October:** European walk along the border, Cankova.

**December:** Christmas concert, Grad.

Several cultural, tourist and sports associations, not to mention Goričko LP as a public institute, organize events showcasing traditions and customs, as well as leading hikes, biking trips and marathons. The Castle festival at the Grad castle is a concert venue that hosts exhibitions and nature film screenings.

### PARK ACCESS

*Regular passenger train* Ljubljana – M. Sobota – Budapest: stops in M. Sobota, Mačkovci, G. Petrovci, Šalovci, Hodoš: [www.slo-zeleznice.si](http://www.slo-zeleznice.si). *Regular bus line* from M. Sobota to destinations throughout Goričko: [www.apms.si](http://www.apms.si). *By car* on the A5 motorway, access western Goričko and Grad (if coming from Ljubljana) through exits Vučja vas; Radenci, Petanjci, Gederovci, Cankova, heading towards Kuzma. Eastern Goričko is accessible, if coming from Ljubljana or Hungary, through the exits M. Sobota vzhod; Rakičan, M. Sobota, heading Hodoš. Entry to easternmost Goričko is via the Turnišče exit: heading toward Dobrovnik, natural landmark Bukovniško Lake.







River Kolpa

# KOLPA LANDSCAPE PARK

In the embrace of white birches and an  
emerald green river

The mighty Kolpa River, which in places carves through the steep, rocky slopes of the wooded Karst while elsewhere flows gently through wide and verdant valleys, is one of Slovenia's most beautiful assets. Stretching along the river is the Karst plateau of Bela Krajina – a perfect demonstration of the balance that can be struck between traditional farming methods and a caring approach towards the natural environment. In addition to the valleys, you will witness a wonderfully diverse flora with fern and white birches being particularly well represented by this border river. Kolpa is a truly preserved paradise with flourishing craft traditions, unique customs and a precious cultural heritage.

**Management:** Javni zavod Krajinski park Kolpa  
Adlešiči 15, SI - 8341 Adlešiči; Phone: +386 (0) 7 356  
5240, fax: +386 (0) 7 356 5240;  
email: [info@kp-kolpa.si](mailto:info@kp-kolpa.si), website: [www.kp-kolpa.si](http://www.kp-kolpa.si)

**Info Center:** Šokčev dvor  
Žuniči 2, SI - 8341 Adlešiči; Phone: +386 (0) 7 356  
5240, fax: +386 (0) 7 356 5240;  
email: [info@kp-kolpa.si](mailto:info@kp-kolpa.si), website: [www.kp-kolpa.si](http://www.kp-kolpa.si)

*Open throughout the year with prior notice.  
There is no charge to enter the park.*

## ABOUT THE PARK

**Location:** Extreme southeastern part of Slovenia, adjacent to the border with Croatia

**Surface area:** 10,702 acres (43.31 km<sup>2</sup>)

**Establishment of the park:** 1998

**Natural significance:** Valuable natural features: 67, the entire park is an ecologically important area, part of the Natura 2000 (SPA) area, part of the Natura 2000 (SCI) area for 12 animal species and four habitat types

**International significance:**

- EDEN 2010 – Kolpa River



The main feature of the Kolpa Landscape Park is the Kolpa river with its valley. Visitors can enjoy unspoiled nature, immense biodiversity and a whole variety of differing landscapes in within a small area.

### WORTH SEEING

- **Šokčev dvor in Žuniči** is a principle Info point offering visitors the most extensive information on the nature, culture, history and various ethnic groups of Bela Krajina.
- **Birdwatching along the river**, among the ferns or from the forest.
- **River sports on the Kolpa**, swimming and fishing, canoe and raft hire.
- **Bela Krajina landscape**, view cultivated fields, vineyards, orchards and meadows and birch forests as they have existed for hundreds of years.
- Visiting prehistoric settlements, see archaeological finds from the surroundings of **Vinica, Zilje and Radenci**.
- Social history brought to life, visit **courtyard farmhouses, watermills and sawmills**.
- **Traditional handicrafts** demonstrated at farms in Adlešiči, Damelj, Rim, Vrhovci, Žuniči etc (including linen making, needlework and basket weaving).

southerly point of Slovenia's territory in Kot pri Damlju.

- **Milling footpath** from Damelj to Vinica, learning about the rich tradition of watermills and sawmills on the Kolpa river.
- **Fair footpath** from Vinica to Žuniči preserves the tradition of old trails leading to fairs.
- **Castle footpath** from Žuniči to Dragoše. A 25-kilometre-long easy walking trail in a gorgeous natural environment leading from Šokčev dvor through villages to the Pobrežje Castle and past Kuzmin mill to the final Info point in Dragoše.
- **Market footpath** around Stari trg, exploring part of the Poljanska valley. There are three options for this trail with a total length of 10 km.
- **Župančič footpath**, leading from Dragatuš to Vinica and connecting the two villages where Slovenian poet Oton Župančič spent his childhood as well as two natural parks: Lahinja and Kolpa. The total length is 13 km.
- There are three **biking trails** in the park: Damelj biking trail (65 km, highest point 616 m alt., difference in altitude 466 m), Poljanska biking trail (51 km, highest point 622 m alt., difference in altitude 468 m) and Župančič biking trail (51 km, highest point 334 m alt., difference in altitude 150 m).

Kolpa including bonfire, linseed harvest swimming and boating.

**September:** Open Door Day – anniversary of the public institute's establishment.

**October:** dormousing, grape harvest in Bela Krajina.

**November:** St. Martin's celebrations across Bela Krajina, chestnut picnic outside Šokčev dvor.

**December:** Annual concert KUD Božo Račič Adlešiči, handicraft workshops at different locations throughout the park.



Flowering linseed



Smooth snake



Žagar mill



Harvesting linseed

Below are the marked park trails that allow visitors to learn about the main points of interest within the park:

- **Beekeeping education trail, Bela Krajina, Žuniči**, visitors are guided by an experienced beekeeper and follow a series of descriptive signs to learn about the history and importance of beekeeping.
- **Žeželj forest education trail**, a pleasant walk through the woods learning about the local tree species.
- **Herding and fruit growing education trail**, a circular trail from Pobrežje through Velika Sela and Mala Sela to Adlešiči and the Kolpa river, where visitors encounter traditional cattle rearing practices, learn about indigenous breeds, see a sample of a tall-tree orchard and get a taste of viticulture.
- **Southern-most footpath** from Radenci to Damelj, leading the visitors on an 11 km hike through the Kolpa canyon via the most

### REGULAR ANNUAL EVENTS

**January/February:** Winter counting of fowl; craft workshops at various locations throughout the park.

**22 March:** World Water Day – activities related to preserving the most precious resource, hike along milling footpath.

**April:** Sowing linseed, organized cleaning for World Earth Day.

**23 April:** St. George's Day – folk tradition.

**First Saturday after 23 April:** George's hike on the castle footpath.

**May:** Painting colony in Damelj: "Eno je Kolpa i Kupa".

**9 May:** Europe Day – hike on the southernmost trail from Damelj to Radenci.

**22 May:** World Biodiversity Day – expert conference on biodiversity.

**24 May:** International Natural Parks Day – Open door day in Kolpa LP.

**June/July/August:** Summer events on the

### PARK ACCESS

The park is accessible from Ljubljana via the motorway, exiting either at Ivančna Gorica (through Žužemberk to Bela Krajina) or at Novo mesto. Coming from Kočevje, you enter the park around Stari trg. Arriving by train, the Črnomelj station is the closest to the park - from there take the bus to different locations within the park. The Croatian Zagreb – Reka motorway comes within 5 km of the park at the Bosanci exit. There is no direct bus connection from Ljubljana to Črnomelj, only from Novo Mesto. The park is accessible from all sides by bicycle, on horseback or on foot.







Abandoned salt pans

# SEČOVLJE SALINA LANDSCAPE PARK

Where the air is filled with the smell of salt

Apart from the at Strunjan, Sečovelje is home to the only remaining active salt pans in Slovenia and, indeed, the only salt pans in this part of the Adriatic where salt is still produced according to traditional methods dating back some 700 years. Through the centuries unique geographical circumstances arose here with their own ecosystem of plant and animal species. The salt pan landscape is also rich in social history and provides a memory of flourishing Mediterranean cultural heritage.

**Management:** Krajinski park Sečoveljske soline, SOLINE Pridelava soli d.o.o.

Seča 115, SI-6320 Portorož; phone: +386 (0) 5 6721330, fax: + 386 (0)5 6721331; email: info@kpss.si, website: www.kpss.si

**Info Center on Lera**

Seča 115, SI-6320 Portorož

*Time of visit: In the warm half of the year, the park is open between 8 AM and 8 PM, in winter, it's open between 8 AM and 5 PM. An entrance fee must be paid at entry points to the park.*

*An entrance fee must be paid at entry points to enter the park.*

## ABOUT THE PARK

**Location:** Extreme southwestern part of the Slovenian Adriatic coast, on the border with Croatia.

**Surface area:** 1,730 acres (7 km<sup>2</sup>)

**Establishment of the park:** 1990

**Natural significance:** Valuable natural features: 6, the entire park is an ecologically important area, Natura 2000 (SPA) site for 30 bird species, Natura 2000 (SCI) site for four animal species and six habitat types.

**International significance:**

- UNESCO – Ramsar site 1993





The salt pans are an excellent place to observe the salt pan landscape, halophytic animal, bird, plant species and habitats, traditional procedures of producing salt. Organized groups may be accompanied by a guide (please give notice in advance).

### WORTH SEEING

- Learning about numerous **halophytic habitats, plants, animals, especially bird species.**
- An internationally significant **migration zone and wintering site for birds.**
- View active and abandoned **salt pans and remains of salt-maker's houses.**
- See the process of **producing salt** is throughout the year – the most fascinat-

ing time comes between June and September when salt crystals form out of condensed brine.

- Visit the multi-media centre to watch a **film about the salt pans and view a scale model of them**, also visit the salt shop where local produce is on sale.
- **Viewing platform** overlooking Sečovlje.
- Visiting the **salt shop**, salt-related products and other local products, and a space for art exhibits in the renovated saline building.
- Visit the **saltmaking museum**, open to visitors between April 1 and October 31.

Marked park trails allow visitors to learn about points of interest throughout the park – **hiking and biking trails** with descriptive signs.

### REGULAR ANNUAL EVENTS

**2 February:** World Wetlands Day, entry to the park is free, educational material available free to all visitors.

**Last weekend in April & during August:** Salt-making festival illustrating the customs and traditions of life on the salt pans. The Lera park buildings also host regular local art exhibitions.

**24 May:** European Day of Parks, free entrance and promotional materials for all.



Little egret



Red-breasted Merganser



Brine shrimp



Arriving in the park by boat



Active salt pans

### PARK ACCESS

The landscape park is 130 km from Ljubljana. The areas of Sečovlje salt pans, Lera and Fontanigge, are currently not yet linked by land. To see both parts of the park, there are two separate land entrance points. There is no public transport from Portorož however it is possible to sail to the park by boat, where a docking pier is available.







Logarska dolina

# LOGARSKA DOLINA LANDSCAPE PARK

A valley where time stops and silence abounds

An inimitable, glacial alpine valley, settled with just a few farmsteads, right in the midst of the Kamnik and Savinja Alps. A vast natural amphitheatre of bright green grassland and forest surrounded by towering cliffs. A place where chamois roam peacefully, golden eagles arch through azure skies and the meadows are covered in beautiful flowers for much of the year. The great farms have been preserved and remain active to this day, complementing farming with tourism.

**Management:** Podjetje za razvoj Logarske doline, Logarska dolina d.o.o.  
Logarska dolina 9, SI - 3335 Solčava; phone: +386 (0) 3 838 90 04, fax: +386 (0)3 838 90 03; email: info@logarska.si, website: www.logarska-dolina.si

**Info Center:** TIC Logarska dolina  
*Visiting Hours (also by arrangement):* November–April: 10 AM to 1 PM, May–June and September–October: 9 AM to 3 PM, July–August: 8 AM to 6 PM, info screen in Slovenian, English and German is always on

*A parking fee is collected at the entrance point to the park.*

## ABOUT THE PARK

- Location:** North–central Slovenia, Kamnik and Savinja Alps  
**Surface area:** 6,024 acres (24.38 km<sup>2</sup>)  
**Establishment of the park:** 1987  
**Natural significance:** Valuable natural features: 43, the entire park is an ecologically important area, part of the Natura 2000 area  
**International significance:**
- First prize in the protected areas category at the CIPRA – Future in the Alps 2005 international competition
  - EDEN 2009 – Solčava region





Logarska Dolina Landscape Park and its surroundings offer plenty of opportunities for actively spending your free time. Unforgettable views of are available from the meadows approaching the valley, from the Solčava panoramic road and from the peaks of the Kamnik and Savinja Alps. Guided tours are also available to visitors.

### WORTH SEEING

- Take an **adventure walk** in Logarska dolina or Robanov kot – arguably the most picturesque glacial valley in the Kamnik and Savinja Alps, with peaks and vertical rock faces, natural springs, waterfalls, alpine flowers etc.
- Watching alpine flowers, listening to the wood grouse's and black grouse's mating calls.
- Experience the 90 m **Rinka waterfall**, one of Slovenia's highest, the Palenk waterfall and the Karst spring of Črna.
- Seeing **Potočka zijalka** in Olševa.
- Visit the renovated **collier's hut**, **Logar granary** and restored dairy cottage in Logarski kot – all examples of the valley's rich social history.
- **Bike** along the Solčava panoramic road.

- Take part in the annual hay harvest or witness traditional mining and coal production methods.

Another way for visitors to learn about Logarska Dolina is to take the **natural-ethnographic path which guides you through the most beautiful corners of the valley to the majestic Rinka waterfall**. You can continue on established mountain trails to climb to the local peaks. The park also offers a wide amount of recreational opportunities including hiking, mountaineering, rock-climbing, walks, cross-country running, horse-riding, archery, biking, sledding and skiing.



Hikers' paradise



Fruits of the Yew

### REGULAR ANNUAL EVENTS

**January:** Cross-country skiing in Logarska dolina (sports event).

**June:** Spring hiking days.

**July/August:** Summer fun and cultural events – traditional Solčava days and summer activities programme.

**December:** Christmas-New Year concert, Logarska Dolina, cultural events.



Tour of the park by horse-drawn



Rinka waterfall

### View from Solčava panoramic road



### PARK ACCESS

From the larger population centres nearby (including Ljubljana, Celje and Celovec/Klagenfurt (AT)) it is approximately 75 km (ie. an hour's drive) to Logarska Dolina. Bus access is possible from Celje, which itself can be reached by train from Ljubljana or Maribor. In fact, with adequate preparation it's possible to organize transportation to Logarska dolina from almost any place within Slovenia.







Mist at Ljubljansko Barje

# LJUBLJANSKO BARJE LANDSCAPE PARK

A multitude of diverse ecosystems on the  
doorstep of Slovenia's capital

Right on the doorstep of Ljubljana and laying just a stone's throw from the city limits, Ljubljansko Barje is a beautiful park which extends to Vrhnika, Ig and Škofljica. Sited on over 150 km<sup>2</sup> of bog plain, it is characterized by a mosaic of meadows, vast green spaces, birds and butterflies flying overhead and a rich stories from long past days of pile dwellers. The Ljubljanica, a historically significant river that was a commercial waterway during Roman times, flows through it. Best experienced by bicycle, Ljubljansko Barje can also be viewed from a lazy boat ride along the Ljubljanica, or even via a hot-air balloon ride.

**Management:** Javni zavod KP Ljubljansko barje  
Podpeška cesta 380, SI - 1357 Notranje Gorice; phone:  
+386 (0) 8 20 52 350; email: [info@ljubljangobarje.si](mailto:info@ljubljangobarje.si),  
website: [www.ljubljangobarje.si](http://www.ljubljangobarje.si)

*There is no charge to enter the park.*

## ABOUT THE PARK

**Location:** south of Ljubljana  
**Surface area:** 34,595 acres (140 km<sup>2</sup>)  
**Number of built-up areas:** 25  
**Population:** about 30,000  
**Establishment of the park:** 2008  
**Natural significance:** Valuable natural features: 55, the entire park is an ecologically important area, Natura 2000 (SPA) site for 22 bird species, Natura 2000 (SCI) site for 23 animal and one plant species and seven habitat types.



Ljubljansko barje  
— KRAJINSKI PARK —



There are few capital cities in which require so little travel (whether on foot, by bike or by public transportation) to a natural area with such a rich history, archaeological heritage and ethnological uniqueness. Ljubljansko Barje is the lungs of the Ljubljana, offering the perfect getaway from the noise of the city and, in summer, the sultry urban temperatures. Ljubljansko Barje is an open classroom.

### WORTH SEEING

- Learn about the extensive **wet grasslands** with their indigenous plant, animal and bird species common for long hedges of black alder trees, oak and willows between fields and meadows.
- Learning about **birds**, the park is a nesting ground for numerous bird species and internationally significant migratory area and wintering site for birds.
- See the **bog rivers** Ljubljanica, Iščica, Iška, Bistra and Borovniščica with their tributaries, numerous pools and karst springs.
- Climb **inselbergs**, rocky outcrops raised above the bog plain, to enjoy the full sweep of the Ljubljansko Barje landscape.
- The plain, with its crisscross of field paths, is ideal for a **biking trip**, which can last any time from an hour to several days but

will not include a single demanding upward slope.

- Take a ride on a **horse-drawn carriage** (by arrangement with a local farmer).
- At **Mali plac and Jurčevo šotišče**, see the last remnants of a raised bog and its characteristic plant life while the Kucler and Podpeč quarries will shed light on Slovenia's geological history for those with a particular interest.
- At Jezero v Podpeči view the **circular karst lake** which is up to 50 m deep in places.
- Learning about numerous archaeological areas, especially crannogs.
- Visit the former Carthusian monastery in Bistra which now serves as the **Technical Museum of Slovenia**.
- In Črna vas, you can see one of the great central European architect Jože Plečnik's most beautiful churches, **St. Michael's**.
- Stop for a refreshing rest alongside the cool fresh brook on the way to the **Iški vintgar gorge**.

Below are the marked park trails that allow visitors to learn about the principal points of interest in the park.

- **Draga at Ig** has a natural reserve with seven ponds, a set of walking trails and is the starting point for the forest education trail.

- **Corn crane education trail** in Iški morost is ideal for understanding the habitat of meadow bird species (including the rare curlew and the crane) which are most characteristic of Ljubljansko Barje.

You can see Ljubljansko Barje alone or accompanied by a specialized guide provided by the Institute of Tourism Ljubljana, Ivan Cankar Vrhnika Institute or Ljubljansko Barje LP.

### REGULAR ANNUAL EVENTS

**February/March:** Lent carnival in Ig

**March/April:** organized cleaning initiative: "Stop illegal dumping", a set of lectures: "Barje, do I know you?"

**May:** May 1<sup>st</sup> hike to Krim, hike in Ljubljansko Barje, biking on the "Ostrogrogi jelen" trail, Cankar days, oldtimers meeting.

**June:** Argonaut days, Barje night, hike on Svarun trail, Children's boggy frogginess.

**July:** Equestrian event in Vrbljene, blueberry harvest day.

**August:** Barje ethnological event, Contest of "Kosci and Grabljice" for the Ljubljansko Barje prize, Crannog Day with a camp for children.

**September:** Ig fair.

**October:** Autumn farmer's market.



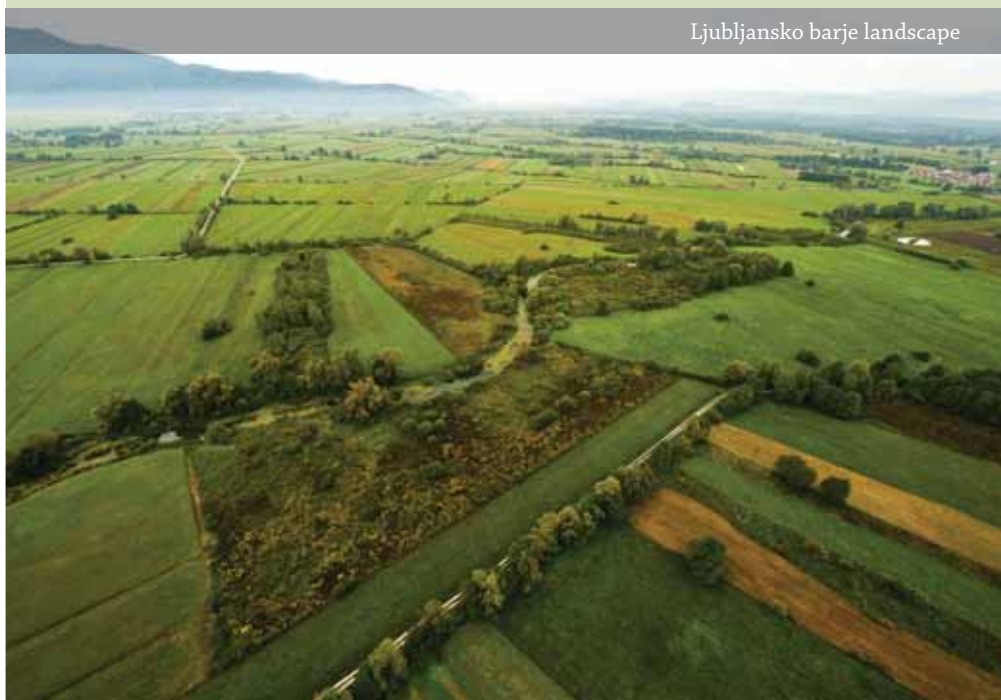
Bird Observatory



Grasshopper Warbler



Round-leaved Sundew



Ljubljansko barje landscape

### PARK ACCESS

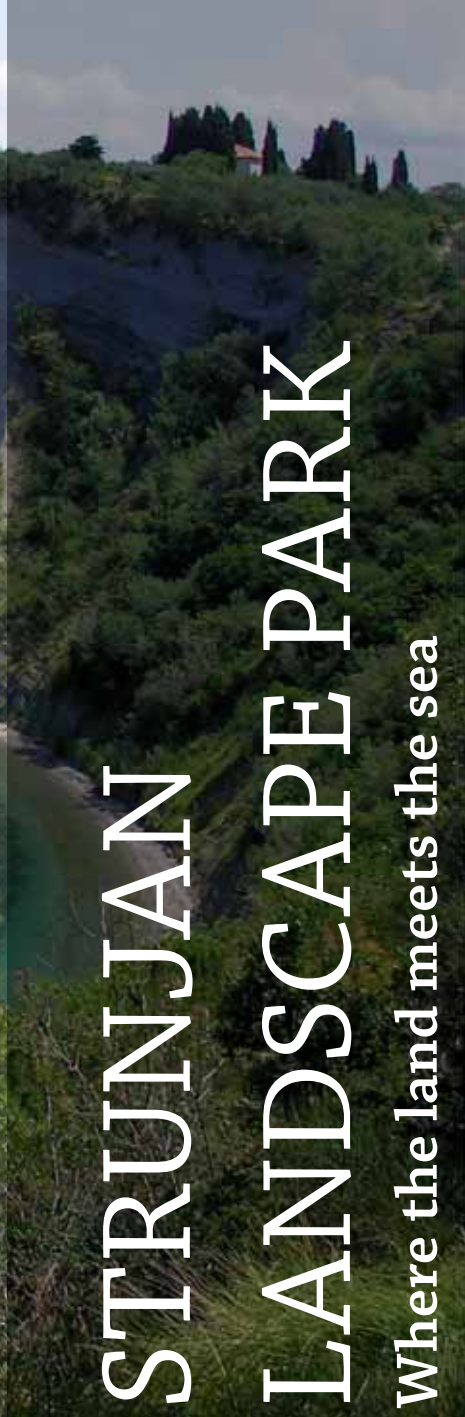
You can enter Ljubljansko Barje by road from various directions: Ljubljana, Primorska (Vrhnika) and Dolenjska (Škofljica). Take the train heading towards Borovnica to Barje, alternatively take the Ljubljana municipal bus (no. 19B and 6B) or one of several suburban bus lines. From the centre of Ljubljana, it's a 30-minute cycle to the middle of Barje.







Mesečev zaliv - Moon Bay



# STRUNJAN LANDSCAPE PARK

Where the land meets the sea

Along the coast of Slovenia's Strunjan peninsula are some of the highest cliffs on the Adriatic coast, the northernmost Mediterranean salt pans, the longest section of preserved nature in the Gulf of Trieste, indigenous growing sites for many Mediterranean plant varieties, and the prettiest bay in Slovenia. The park that hosts all this and more is a must-visit for tourists.

**Management:** Javni zavod Krajinski park Strunjan  
Pacug 10, SI - 6320 Portorož; phone: +386 (0) 8 205 1880, fax: +386 (0) 5 674 69 80;  
email: [info@parkstrunjan.si](mailto:info@parkstrunjan.si), website: [www.park-strunjan.si](http://www.park-strunjan.si)

*Info center is being established at present.  
There is no charge to enter the park.*

*Landscape Park Strunjan – the public institute will organize guided tours of the park for groups with prior arrangement.*

## ABOUT THE PARK

**Location:** Slovenian coast east of Piran  
**Surface area:** 1,060 acres (4.3 km<sup>2</sup>)  
**Establishment of the park:** 1990  
**Natural significance:** Valuable natural features: 11, the entire park is an ecologically important area, Natura 2000 (SCI) area for two animal species and seven habitat types.



Javni zavod Krajinski park Strunjan  
Istituto pubblico Parco naturale Strugnano



### WORTH SEEING

- Wander along a 4 km section of naturally preserved Slovenian coast boasting an 80 m cliff, the highest on the Adriatic (or a pebble terrace at the foot of the cliff).
- Witness the picturesque **sub-Mediterranean landscape** that constitutes the land part of the reserve.
- Visit **Stjuža lagoon** and the nearby salt pans with specific ecological significance.
- Visit **Mesečev zaliv (Moon Bay)**, natural habitat of two marine flowering plants (*Cimodocea nodosa* and *Zostera noltii*), the noble pen shell (*Pinna nobilis*) and the date mussel (*Lithophaga lithophaga*).

### REGULAR ANNUAL EVENTS

**Last weekend in May:** Artichoke days, organized by Solinar Tourist Association.

**14 August:** Procession of barges, takes place every year when the Strunjan Mary from the Piran church of St. George is brought by sea to the church of Mary's appearance. The event includes a cultural and religious program, concluding the next day with Mary's Assumption and holy masses in Strunjan.

**15 October:** Traditional "pandola" tournament, ancient Istria games, organized by Solinar Strunjan Tourist Association.

**2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in November:** Traditional Peršimon holiday with educational, cultural and

entertainment program, culinary offerings and open-air market with Strunjan delicacies, organized by Solinar Strunjan Tourist Association.

Talasa Strunjan Gallery (Terme Krka) in association with Insula Gallery from Izola organizes visual art exhibitions by renowned Slovenian artists every three months throughout the year.



Strunjan salt pans



Strawberry tree



Marine fauna and flora



Seahorse

Flysch coast



### PARK ACCESS

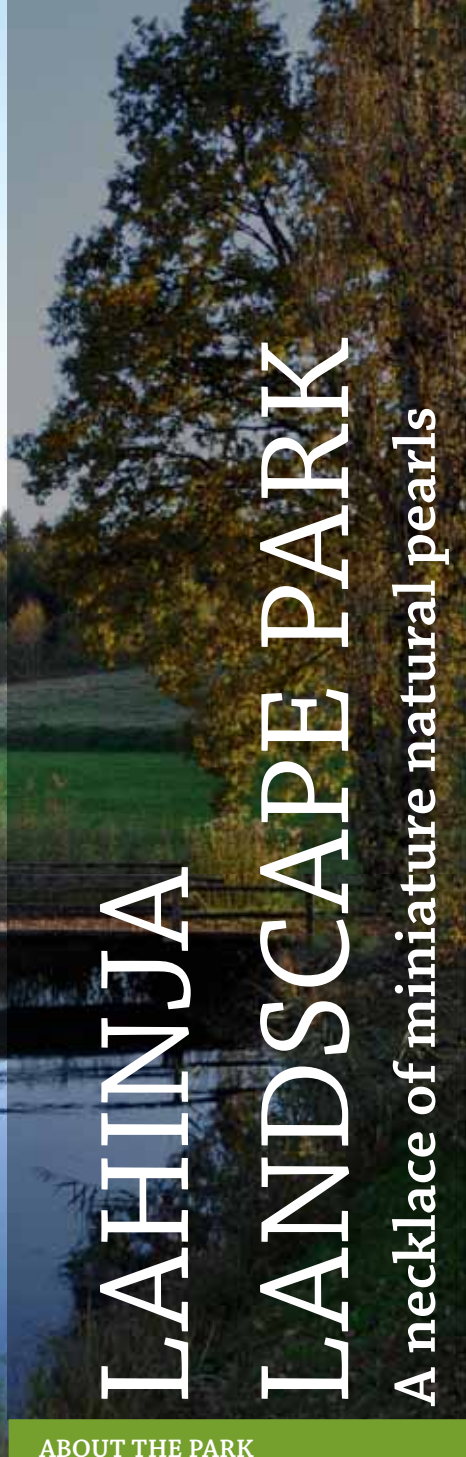
Take a bus or train to Koper, changing onto a local bus in the direction of Piran. One of the stops between Izola and Piran is Strunjan.







Lahinja river



# LAHINJA LANDSCAPE PARK

A necklace of miniature natural pearls

A landscape of wet grasslands, fens, marshy woodlands, flooded plains and meadows along the meandering course of the Lahinja River and its tributaries. Offering great biodiversity, the reed beds are an oasis for. Karst features formed are visible at Bela Krajina while tiny villages of clustered houses are restricted to the hills and terraces on the edges of the park. It's also an exceptional archaeological site and bears testament to prehistoric culture of the area.

**Manager: RIC Bela krajina**

Trg svobode 3, SI - 8340 Črnomelj; phone: +386 (0) 7 305 65 30, fax: +386 (0)7 305 65 31;  
email: [info@ric-belakrajina.si](mailto:info@ric-belakrajina.si), website: [www.belakrajina.si](http://www.belakrajina.si)

*There is no charge to enter the park.*

## ABOUT THE PARK

**Location:** southeast Slovenia, south-eastern part of Bela Krajina in the upper course of the Lahinja river

**Surface area:** 494 acres (2 km<sup>2</sup>)

**Establishment of the park:** 1988

**Natural significance:** Valuable natural features: 11, the entire park is an ecologically important area, Natura 2000 (SCI) area for 13 animal species and six habitat types.





The most naturally preserved area is the original Lahinja river area which is protected as the Lahinjski Lugi natural reserve. A slightly larger marsh is Nerajski Lugi, a true botanic treasury that has the impression of a lake during high water periods. Walking through the park, you will encounter a number of rare and endangered plant and animal species. Pleasant sites to interest are the Klepec watermill and Venetian sawmill by the meander of the Lahinja in Pusti Gradec. Guided tours are available to visitors in addition to boat rides through the park on the Lahinja.

### WORTH SEEING

- The naturally preserved Lahinja river, Nerajčica stream and other tributaries, with prominent meanders and diverse aquatic vegetation.
- The wet grasslands and fens (Nerajski lugi, Lahinjski lugi), habitats for numerous aquatic and riverbank-dwelling animal and plant species including the European otter (*Lutra lutra*), many bird species and the European pond terrapin (*Emys orbicularis*).
- Numerous limestone karst features: sinkholes, water caves, natural stone bridges, karst springs etc.

- Prehistoric settlements, finds from the early Stone, Bronze and Iron ages have been made in the vicinity and remains from Antiquity discovered.
- The Pusti Gradec settlement at one of the meanders of the Lahinja.
- Info center in Veliki Nerajec (situated in a 200 year old property with an open-fire kitchen).
- Handicrafts gallery by Vera Vardjan (clay products).
- All Saints country church.
- Halstatt burial mound Veliki Nerajec.



Mowing



Lahinja river spring



Yellow iris

### REGULAR ANNUAL EVENTS

- 1 June: walk on Župančič trail from Dragatuš to Vinica
- 2 June: mowing festival at Nerajski lugi



Common kingfisher



Old sawmill



A traditional Bela Krajina house

### ACCESS TO PARK

The park is accessible in several ways. The simplest route is on the Ljubljana – Novo mesto highway and then through Dolenjske toplice to Črnomelj. It's possible also to take the way Ljubljana, Žužemborg, Črnomelj. In Črnomelj you proceed in the direction of Vinica. After 9 km you come to the village Dragatuš, and from there to the first point of entry into Lahinja Landscape Park.

From the Croatian side is best route to cross the border Bosiljevo - Vinca and then drive for more than 8 km in direction to Črnomelj to reach Lahinja Landscape Park.







Halophytic plants

# ŠKOCJANSKI ZATOK NATURE RESERVE

Green oasis on Koper's doorstep

The largest semi-saline wetland in Slovenia was restored in 2007 after many years of deliberate draining in order to expand the city of Koper and its port. These days its a paradise for water fowl (and, of course, for birdwatchers!).

**Manager: Društvo za opazovanje in proučevanje ptic Slovenije (DOPPS)**  
Tržaška cesta 2, SI - 1000 Ljubljana; phone: +386 (0) 1 426 58 75, fax: +386 (0) 1 425 11 81; email: dopps@dopps.si, website: www.ptice.si

**Temporary Info Center NR Škocjanski zatok**  
Staničev trg 16, SI - 6000 Koper; phone: +386 (0) 5 626 03 70, 051 680 442, fax: +386(0) 5 626 03 69; email: skocjanski@skocjanski-zatok.org, website: www.skocjanski-zatok.org  
*Open: Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10 AM to 12 PM and Wednesday from 3 PM to 5 PM*

*Entrance to the nature reserve is free to individuals however the management reserves the right to charge for guided tours which should be arranged in advance for a specific time on a weekday. Škocjanski zatok nature reserve is open for visitors from sunrise to sunset every day of the year.*

## ABOUT THE RESERVE

**Location:** southwestern Slovenia, immediate vicinity of Koper

**Surface area:** 301 acres (1.22 km<sup>2</sup>)

**Establishment of the reserve:** 1998

**Natural significance:** Valuable natural features: one (the entire natural reserve area), the entire reserve is an ecologically important area, Natura 2000 (SPA) site for four bird species, Natura 2000 (SCI) site for two animal species and five habitat types.





Škocjanski zatok nature reserve is the perfect choice for anyone wanting to experience the rich biodiversity of Mediterranean wetlands in a relatively small space. Walking on the education trail, visitors will learn all about the flora and fauna of the reserve, with its many rare and endangered species. The animal aspect of the area is complemented by Camargue's horses and indigenous Istrian cattle which graze and thus provide a balance of vegetation in the freshwater part of the nature reserve. The reserve manager organizes expert guided tours, nature days and guided trips for visitors with special interests or requirements. These take place on the circular education trail in the freshwater part of the reserve.

### WORTH SEEING

- **Learn about the brackish lagoon** with its nesting islets, semi-saline water holes and mudflats where different types of halophytes (i.e. salt-water plants) grow.
- **View the freshwater marsh** with its grasslands and open water areas, surrounded by reeds and thermophilic shrubs.
- **Spot numerous birds:** the reserve is the habitat for an estimated 225 bird species, of which around 50 nest there – it is also a very significant wintering and migratory resting site within Europe.

The circular education trail, 2.2 km long, leads along the edge of the freshwater part of the reserve at Bertoška bonifika and expands at five key points into observation sites, set-up with educational content about the plant and animal world in Škocjanski zatok. Along the trail there are water holes set-up of various shapes and sizes allowing visitors to experience nature from up close. All access points, and the education trail itself, have been designed to accommodate those with disabilities.

### REGULAR ANNUAL EVENTS

**2 February:** Guided tour of the reserve on World Wetlands Day.

**March:** Children's painting on Day of Waters.

**April:** Beginning of nesting period. With some basic knowledge, it will be easy to recognize the singing of the nightingale, the blackcap and Cetti's warbler from the bushes along the circular education trail, as well as the tireless song of the great and Eurasian reed warblers. On the islets of the lagoon part of the reserve, you will see colonies of nesting black-winged stilts and common terns.

**24 May:** European Day of Parks, all visitors receive free information materials about the reserve.

**August/September:** During this period flocks of several hundred great egrets, little egrets

and grey herons are readily observable in the tamarix trees.

**First weekend in October:** European Bird-watching Day.

**November:** Arrival of first large flocks of overwintering water fowl to the reserve area.

**December/February:** In this period, the number of overwintering water fowl increases day by day and reaches its peak at the beginning of February. After that, their numbers start to gradually diminish as the first flocks of winter visitors begin to move to their northern nesting sites. During this period, the most numerous species are gulls (Caspian, black-headed and common), Eurasian curlew, greenshank, common sandpiper, grebe, ducks and geese.

After the new information centre is opened, which is expected to happen in 2012, the program of events in Škocjanski zatok nature reserve will expand significantly.



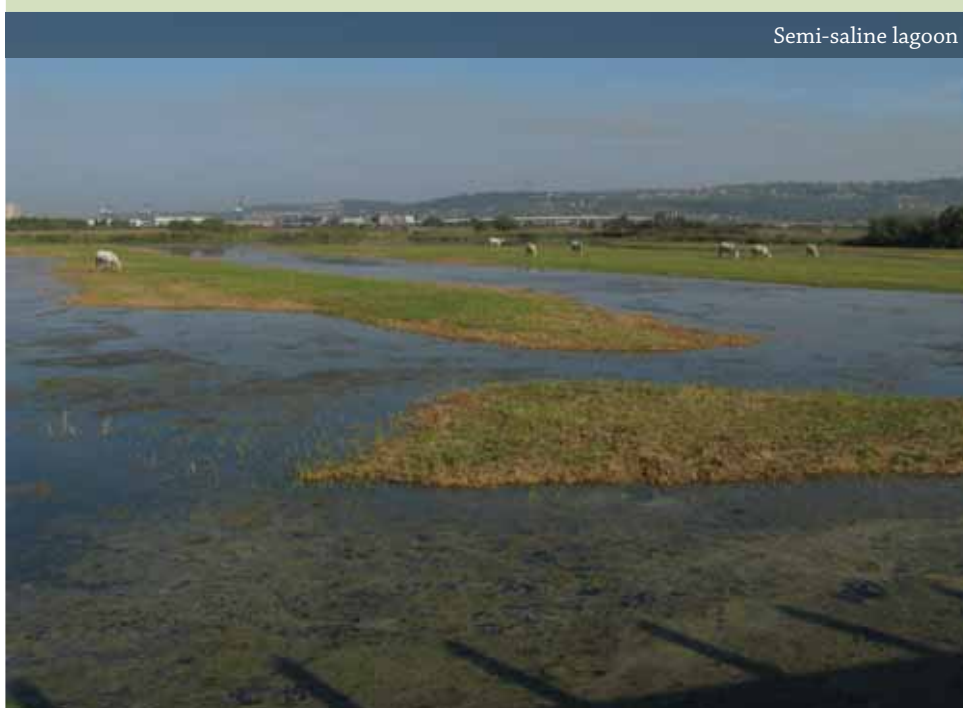
Black-winged stilt



Sea lavender



Birdwatching

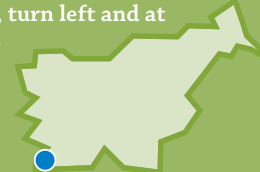


Semi-saline lagoon

### RESERVE ACCESS

**By Car:** the main entrance to Škocjanski zatok nature reserve is at Bertoška bonifika. Exit from the Ljubljana – Koper expressway at the Bertoki/Bertocchi exit. Head towards the AMZS base when you're on the Bertoki slip-road. Take the first exit on the left to get to the nature reserve which should already be visible on that side of the road.

**By train and bus:** from Ljubljana, take the train or intercity bus to the main respective Koper stations, where you can continue on foot to the main entrance to the reserve or on the marked bike trail (Pot zdravja in prijateljstva – Porečanka/Parenzana) along the semi-saline lagoon. When you get to the intersection with the Bertoki entry road, turn left and at the entrance to the reserve is only a further few hundred metres.







View of Radensko polje

# RADENSKO POLJE LANDSCAPE PARK\*

Picturesque karst plain where waters disappear into the mysterious underground

This 4.5 km long karst polje surrounded by wooded slopes, 1.2 km at its widest and 400 m at its narrowest, is host to three separate sinking river systems. After heavy rain a genuine lake forms which then disappears after a few weeks. Kopanj, the 392m-high inselberg in the middle of the karst polje, is the most beautiful example of its type in Slovenia.

**Information office: Center Grajski vrt Boštanj**  
Veliko Mlačevo 59, SI - 1290 Grosuplje; phone: +386 (0) 40 655 795, +386 (0) 40 655 796, +386 (0) 40 655 797; email: [info@radenskopolje.si](mailto:info@radenskopolje.si),  
website: [www.radenskopolje.si](http://www.radenskopolje.si), [www.grajski-vrt.si](http://www.grajski-vrt.si)

*There is no charge to enter the park.*

\*establishment under way

## ABOUT RADENSKO POLJE

**Location:** Central Slovenia, 20 km south-east of Ljubljana

**Surface area:** about 3,707 acres (15 km<sup>2</sup>)

**Establishment of the park:** 2007 – Beginning of a multi-year project to establish the park, between Grosuplje municipality and the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning

**Natural significance:** Valuable natural features: 34, the entire future park is an ecologically important area, potential Natura 2000 (SCI) area for 10 animal species and three habitat types.



Radensko polje is a natural and cultural gem that offers visitors a mixture of natural and cultural heritage as well as traditions and customs unique to the particular area. Radensko polje is perfectly suited to various forms of recreation such as walking, hiking, running, cycling and horse-riding.

### WORTH SEEING

- A wealth of karst phenomena in a relatively small area: karst springs, inflow caves, an intermittent lake, estavelles functioning as springs during the rainy period and as swallow holes in dry periods.
- Diverse habitat types including wet grasslands, watercourses, underground caves etc.
- A hugely varied plant and animal ecosystem due to the constantly changing water habitat.

- Castle ruins on Boštanj hill, St. Mary's church on the Kopanj inselberg, traces of a Bronze Age dwelling discovered in the Viršnica cave.

Below are the marked park trails that allow visitors to discover many points of interest.

- **Blagaj trail**; circular trail from Center Grajski vrt Boštanj past Boštanj castle remains (30 minutes).
- **Trail from Grajski vrt Boštanj** – Veliko retje – Zagradec – Beznica – Srednjice – Močilo – Novljanovo retje and back (3 hours).
- **Velika Račna and Kopanj** (1 hour).
- **Circular trail Velika Račna** – Šica spring – Mala Račna – Zatočna cave – Lazar cave – Viršnica – Velika Račna (2 hours).

### REGULAR ANNUAL EVENTS

**February:** Prešeren hike from Grosuplje to Kopanje, learning to prune fruit trees.

**March:** Spring rescue of amphibians on the Mlačevo – Velika Račna section of the regional road.

**April:** Traditional Easter fair at Boštanj, annual practical basket making course (spring part).

**May:** Spring hike on Radensko polje (takes place on the Saturday closest to May 24, European Day of Parks), learning to recognize and use medicinal herbs (spring part).

**September:** Learning to recognize and use medicinal herbs (autumn part).

**Oktober:** Annual practical basket making course (autumn part).

**November:** Autumn hike on Radensko polje.



High water at Radensko polje



Siberian iris



View of estavelles

### ACCESS TO RADENSKO POLJE

Driving on the A2 motorway heading towards Novo Mesto, turn off at the first exit for Grosuplje. Continue on the priority road for 1.5 km until the roundabout then take the first exit on the right, heading towards Krka. Drive again on the priority road, crossing railroad tracks and continuing for about 2 km. After the sign for Veliko Mlačevo, continue straight for another 200 m and turn right after the greenhouses. Carry straight on to Grajski vrt Boštanj, the central point of the park with the information office. The other starting point with descriptive signs is in the village of Velika Račna.







View from Grintavec

# KAMNIK AND SAVINJA ALPS REGIONAL PARK\*

Where steep mountain peaks ascend to the sky

The central part of the Kamnik and Savinja Alps is home to a park full of steep rock faces, vast forests, mysterious valleys, playful brooks and waterfalls flowing into crystal clear rivers; all in all a real treasure for lovers of the wilderness. Complementing nature is a strong social heritage of farmers, foresters, herds-men and mountaineers; many of whose activities are still practiced today using traditional methods.

**Logarska dolina Info Point:**

Logarska dolina 9, SI - 3335 Solčava; phone: +386 (0)3 838 90 04, +386 (0)41 467 122

**Kamnik Tourist Information Center:**

Glavni trg 2, SI - 1240 Kamnik; phone: +386 (0)1 831 81 91, +386 (0)31 694 134; email: info@ksa.si, website: www.ksa.si

*There is no charge to enter the park.*

## ABOUT KAMNIK AND SAVINJA ALPS

**Location:** on the border with Austria, at the meeting point of the Gorenjska, Štajerska and Koroška region

**Surface area:** about 61,776 acres (250 km<sup>2</sup>)

**Establishment of the park:** 2005 – Beginning of a multi-year project to establish the park, between the municipalities of Jezersko, Kamnik, Luče, Preddvor and Solčava, and the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning

**Natural significance:** Valuable natural features: 212, the entire future park is an ecologically important area, Natura 2000 (SPA) site for 10 bird species, Natura 2000 (SCI) site for five animal and five plant species and 18 habitat types.

\*establishment under way



Apart from preserving the natural and cultural landscape, the Kamnik and Savinja Alps are a space for research, education, leisure and, above all, experiencing nature. Kamnik and Savinja Alps authorities enable visitors to learn the park through a number of leaflets and other information accessible at two info points, via marked thematic trails and through guided tours. The future park will eventually also contain the existing landscape parks Logarska Dolina and Robanov Kot, with all their characteristics and events, detailed earlier in this brochure.

### WORTH SEEING

- Visit the **Alpine world** with its 2000m-plus mountains such as Grinatvec, Kočna, Skuta, Storžič, Ojstrica, Raduha and others. Expect to see high mountain karst, subalpine plains, natural windows and bridges and scree from the geological point of view. It is also the habitat of much mountain wildlife including chamois, Alpine ibex, golden eagles, and indigenous plant species, including Julian mouse-ear chickweed and Kerner's Alpine poppy.
- Visit **glacial valleys** such as Logarska dolina and Robanov kot in Solčavsko, and Ravenska and Makekova kočna in Jezersko.
- Visit the **river valleys** of Kamniška Bistrica with its spring and Predaselj gorge, valleys

of Kokra, Savinja with its spring, and Bela, which are accessible via various thematic footpaths.

- **Visit waterfalls:** Rinka in Logarska dolina, Čedec in Jezersko and Orglice in Kamniška Bistrica.
- Explore the **underground world** with Snežna cave on the southern slope of Raduha.
- Tramp through traditional **pasture meadows**, the best known of which is Velika planina.
- Witness **religious heritage** with the two Gothic churches of St. Primus above Stahovica and Mary of the Snows in Solčava.

### REGULAR ANNUAL EVENTS

**March:** Skiing in the old Cup Šinkel at Velika planina.

**April:** Arničev winter hike to Raduha.

**May:** Festival of music and joy, Preddvor.

**June:** Medieval days in Kamnik, music festival in at Jezersko »VOX LACI – glas jezera«; Fair in Kokra; Second weekend of June – Alps biking marathon.

**July:** Luče day in Luče, hike to Molička peč, Tourism days in Solčavsko.

**August:** Shepherds' Ball in Jezersko, shepherd's feast on the Velika planina, farm holiday under Storžič.

**September:** Days of national costumes in Kamnik – second weekend.



Wind-shaped tree



Capercaillie



Climbing



Velika planina



Kamniška Bistrica spring

### ACCESS

Kamnik and Savinja Alps are accessible both from the Gorenjska and the Štajerska side. On the Gorenjska side, you can reach the area through Kamnik (from Ljubljana by train, bus or car) and on to Kamniška Bistrica or along the valley from Kokra to Jezersko. From the Štajerska side: on the Maribor - Ljubljana motorway exit at the Šentrupert turn towards Luče and on towards Logarska dolina.





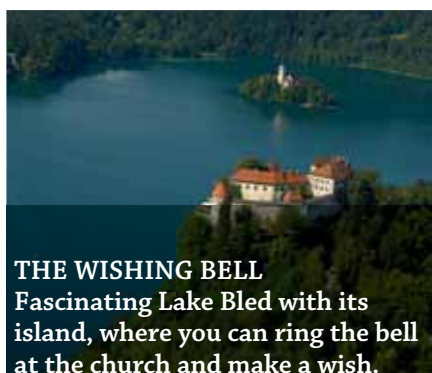


#### URBAN URBANE

The architecture of the famed Plečnik spread all over the capital city of Ljubljana.

# 9 HOTTEST FACTS

Come and take a closer look.



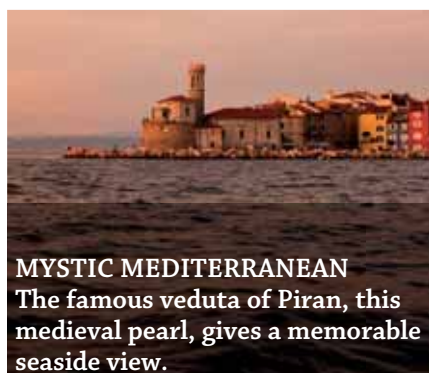
#### THE WISHING BELL

Fascinating Lake Bled with its island, where you can ring the bell at the church and make a wish.



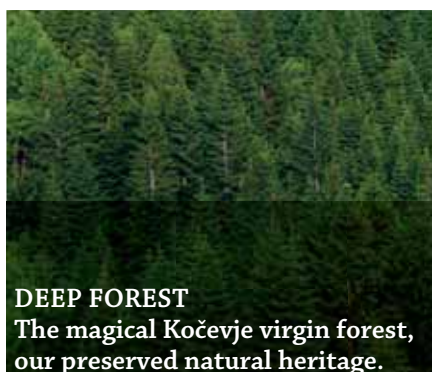
#### UNDERGROUND, OVERGROUND

The unique Karst landscape stretches over approximately 500 square kilometres.



#### MYSTIC MEDITERRANEAN

The famous veduta of Piran, this medieval pearl, gives a memorable seaside view.



#### DEEP FOREST

The magical Kočevje virgin forest, our preserved natural heritage.



#### GOOD WATER

Numerous thermal-water springs reaching the surface at 32-73 °C are one of the greatest Slovenian treasures.



#### GREAT-GREAT-GRANDVINE

The oldest vine in the world, the 400-year-old vine in Maribor.



#### CULT CULTURE

The creative crossroads of the European Alps, the Mediterranean and the Pannonian Plain.



#### ALPINE DANCE MUSIC

The Avsenik Brothers established a new kind of folk music by combining piano accordion, trumpet, clarinet, bass and guitar.

#### HOT LINKS

General:

[www.slovenia.info/lovebooking](http://www.slovenia.info/lovebooking)

[www.slovenia.info/lovemap](http://www.slovenia.info/lovemap)

[www.slovenia.info/loveevents](http://www.slovenia.info/loveevents)

[www.slovenia.info/loveshop](http://www.slovenia.info/loveshop)

[www.slovenia.info/lovepublications](http://www.slovenia.info/lovepublications)

[www.slovenia.info/lovegreen](http://www.slovenia.info/lovegreen)

Business:

[www.slovenia.info/loveboard](http://www.slovenia.info/loveboard)

[www.slovenia.info/lovepress](http://www.slovenia.info/lovepress)

[www.slovenia.info/lovephoto](http://www.slovenia.info/lovephoto)



# SLOVENIA GREEN

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Slovenia swears by sustainable development. Respect for the environment and nature is central to all our actions as a nation and we constantly looking to preserve the specific natural features of different locations. Join us in being green and help us keep our beautiful country unspoiled.

The Slovenian Tourist Board (STO) is committed to green action. The “SLOVENIA GREEN” project is designed to promote our country and to encourage awareness and participation in environmentally friendly activities.

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## GREEN FACTS

Slovenia is a small country blessed with beautiful unspoiled nature which is appreciated by residents and tourists alike. Natural conditions are a prerequisite for developing green, responsible tourism.

- With about 60% in forested areas, Slovenia is proportionately the second most forested nation in Europe.
- More than 35% of Slovenia’s territory is part of the Natura 2000 network.
- One fifth of Slovenian coast is a protected area.
- Slovenia is also a land of water. It ranks among the states with the highest volumes of river water per inhabitant in Europe and its drinking water in Slovenia some of the cleanest on the continent.
- Slovenian flora and fauna is hugely diverse and with over 22,000 species among the richest in Europe
- Just 60km from the capital Ljubljana exist virgin forests.





## WE ESPECIALLY WELCOME VISITORS TO OUR NATURAL PARKS WHO:

- understand that a park is the habitat for endangered animals and plants and a space to preserve our natural and cultural heritage,
- show their respect for plants growing in the park and animals living there - as well as geological features (stones, rocks, fossils),
- prefer to experience the unique natural environments of protected areas on foot or bicycle while staying on marked trails,
- do not take plants away with them, recognizing that they are endangered and best seen in nature,
- respect the work and efforts of native inhabitants living in a park or around its borders,
- leave their motor vehicles in the designated parking areas and when passing hikers and cyclists drive slowly and carefully,
- walk their dogs on a leash so as not to disturb inhabitant wildlife, or indeed visitors,
- keep the park clean by taking all rubbish home or at least to the closest disposal point.





*Issued and published by:*  
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