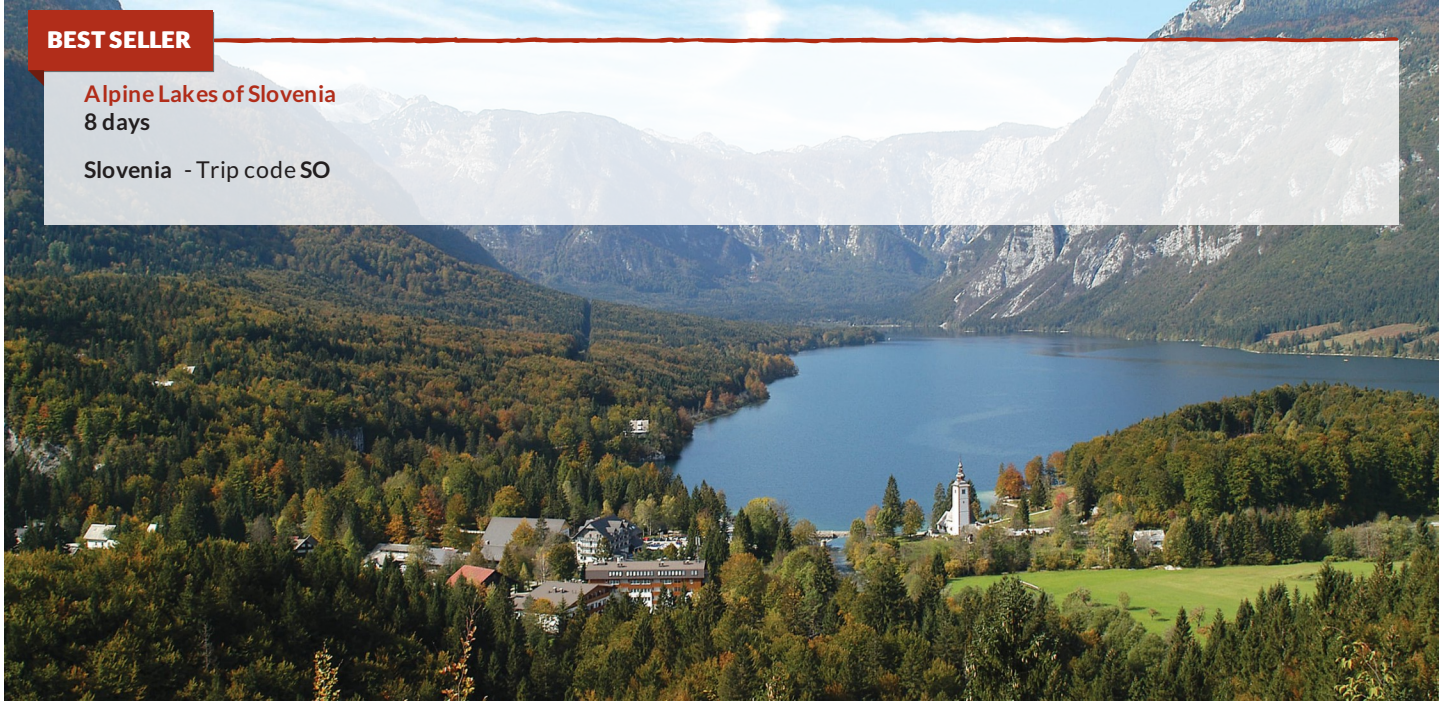


# EXPLORE!

**BEST SELLER**

**Alpine Lakes of Slovenia**  
8 days

Slovenia - Trip code SO



## Alpine Lakes of Slovenia

Slovenia is one of the most beautiful countries in the Balkans with its glistening glacial lakes, steep mountain cliffs and grassy meadows. The laid-back capital city of Ljubljana is perfect for exploring on foot with the main attractions close by and the leafy banks of the Ljubljanica River flowing through its centre. Lake Bled is probably the most photographed place in the country and it won't disappoint, but we'll also discover the red-roofed Venetian architecture of Piran on the Adriatic coast, the fascinating caves at Skocjan and the dramatic Predjama Castle.

## Trip highlights

- ★ **Lake Bled** - Picturesque town with an attractive lake and islet
- ★ **Triglav National Park** - Walks in the Julian Alps from tranquil Lake Bohinj and the chance to participate in mountain biking or whitewater rafting
- ★ **Ljubljana** - Majestic baroque capital city
- ★ **Skofja Loka** - One of the most beautiful small towns in Slovenia
- ★ **Bohinjska Bistrica to Nova Gorcia** - One of the most scenic train journeys in Slovenia
- ★ **Skocjan Caves** - Spectacular UNESCO World Heritage Site
- ★ **Piran** - Venetian Gothic architecture of this old Adriatic town

#### ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

##### Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

#### TRIP PACE:

##### Moderate

Moderate pace tours are ideal if you want a holiday which combines exciting activities and experiences with plenty of time to relax and unwind. Typically you'll be active and busy for part of the day but then also have time to rest and recharge your batteries.

#### GROUP SIZE:

##### 10 - 16

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

### DAY 1 - Join trip in Ljubljana, capital of Slovenia

Arrive Ljubljana and check into hotel. There may be time this afternoon to explore the centre of the city and take in the vibrant cafe lifestyle along the banks of the river.



**Accommodation: Hotel Park Ljubljana** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

### DAY 2 - Visit Medieval Skofja Loka and free time at Lake Bled

This morning we drive to Skofja Loka, one of the oldest and most beautiful small towns in Slovenia, dominated by its castle. We will soak up the atmosphere of this medieval town which is now protected both historically and culturally. Later we continue to the picturesque resort town of Bled situated on a tranquil lake. Widely acclaimed as one of the most fashionable European resorts in the early 20th century, this was the home of the Yugoslavian Royal Family and also the summer residence of President Tito. You may like to visit the island by travelling across in a traditional gondola known as a pletne (optional). On the island is the baroque Church of the Assumption and perched on a steep cliff above the lake is the 11th century Bled Castle with towers, ramparts, moats and a terrace. You may also wish to walk the 6 kms around the lake past linden, chestnut and willow trees, swans and water lilies on the water. There are also rowing boats for hire (optional), or you can swim in the lake. Later, we continue to Lake Bohinj. En route if the weather is clear, we may see Triglav, the highest Alpine peak at 2864m. The name means 'Three Heads' and pagan Slovenes believed the mountain was the home of a three-headed deity who ruled the Sky, the Earth and the Underworld. It is a sacred mountain and according to tradition every Slovene should climb it at least once in his or her life. The peak was first climbed in 1778 by an Austrian and three Slovenes, and the mountain features prominently on the Slovene national flag. Lake Bohinj is a naturally

preserved glacial lake enclosed by steep mountain cliffs on the southern edge of Triglav National Park - an ideal base from which to explore these magnificent mountains.



**Accommodation: Hotel Jezero** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 3 - Walk to Savica Waterfall in the beautiful Triglav National Park

The Triglav National Park nestles in the Slovene Julian and Kamnik Alps. Founded in 1924, it is one of the oldest Alpine nature reserves covering an area of 82,000 hectares. The Julian Alps is the first of the mountain barriers separating the Mediterranean Sea from continental Central Europe. On our first day we plan to walk to the Savica Waterfall, the source of Slovenia's longest and mightiest river, the Sava. The breathtaking cascade of water tumbles into a pool 60m below. We then take the cable car up Mount Vogel to the ski station at a height of 1535m from where impressive views extend over the lake and the Julian Alps. After exploring the area we take the cable car back down, although you could walk back if you choose. Once back at the lake you may choose to take an easy walk around Lake Bohinj (6.4kms) or hire a mountain bike and cycle quiet country roads.



**Accommodation: Hotel Jezero** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 4 - Free day at Lake Bohinj; option to go walking or join other activities

There are several optional walks to choose from on our second day, which could take us through deep-carved glacial valleys, across rolling hills and past springs, waterfalls, rivers and lakes or you can hire a kayak (optional) to explore the lake itself. The park is rich in flora and fauna (keep an eye open for chamois), and the ground is covered with a rich abundance of flowers; more than 10 species are endemic such as the Zois bellflower, Frolich gentian and Carniola cowslip. Throughout the countryside we will see 'kozolec', a special kind of rack for drying hay that is unique to Slovene regions. Also known as mountain harps, there are over 30 different types. There is also the opportunity to do some river rafting on the Sava Bohinjka river (optional), or horseriding (optional) in the surrounding countryside.



**Accommodation: Hotel Jezero** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available

## DAY 5 - Scenic train ride to Nova Gorica and visit to Skocjan Caves

We take the train from Bohinjska Bistrica to Nova Gorica. This journey is one of the most scenic in Slovenia with a back-drop of the Julian Alps. We pass through the Vipava Valley, a wine-growing region, onto one of the highlights of Slovenia, the amazing underground caverns at Skocjan, which have been protected by UNESCO since 1986. These 5km long caves descend 250m into a gigantic hollow into which a river disappears. Prehistoric people once sheltered in these caves and used them to make sacrifices to the gods of the underworld. After a guided tour, we continue to Piran, situated on the Slovenian Adriatic Sea. There are two distinct regions separated by a long shelf of steep cliffs extending down to the Istrian peninsular. In the past, this natural divide has been used as a border between kingdoms: the Venetian coastal lands and the inland domains of the Hapsburgs. Olive and tangerine trees grow in abundance along the 40km of coastline. On arrival, your Explore Leader will take you on a brief orientation tour.



**Accommodation: Hotel Tartini** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 6 - Free day in Piran to explore and enjoy the nearby beaches

The day is left free for personal exploration. You may like to spend today exploring Piran, a beautiful town full of narrow streets, vaulted passages, arcaded courtyards and Venetian Gothic architecture. Alternatively you could relax and take a swim off the rocks along the coast. Piran is one of the best preserved historical towns anywhere on the Adriatic and is entirely protected as a cultural monument. From the remains of the 15th century walls, there are some great views over the town and the sea. The ancient central square is surrounded by beautiful patrician villas and there is a monument dedicated to the local composer and violinist Giuseppe Tartini.



**Accommodation: Hotel Tartini** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 7 - Visit to Predjama Castle en route to Ljubljana

Today we make our way back to Ljubljana with a visit to Predjama Castle, built into a dramatic 123m craggy cliff en route. This four storey castle dates back to the 16th century and has all the features a castle should have such as a drawbridge, holes in the entrance ceiling for pouring boiling oil on intruders, a dark and dingy dungeon and a 16th century treasure chest. We drive on to Ljubljana, a small, majestic baroque city where we can visit Ljubljana Castle (optional). The original dates back to Celtic times, but the present one was mostly built after the 16th century. After climbing the 150 steps up to the tower, you can walk along the ramparts where there are some great views over the Old Town.



**Accommodation: Hotel Park Ljubljana** (or similar)



Standard Hotel

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Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 8 - Trip ends in Ljubljana

The trip ends today in Ljubljana.



Meals Provided: Breakfast



## Why book this trip

Discover Slovenia and all its astounding nature from beautiful lakes to breath-taking mountains. This 8 day trip is a great mix of fantastic scenery and gothic architecture.

## What's included?



### Included meals

Breakfast: 7



### Transport

Bus  
Cable Car  
Public Bus  
Taxi  
Train



### Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader  
Driver(s)



### Accommodation

4 nights standard hotel  
3 nights premium hotel

# Trip information

## Country information

### Slovenia Trips

#### Climate

Slovenia has a continental climate, with warm summers and the possibility of some rain in the Julian Alps. There is an average of 5-6 hours of sunshine in April, May, June and September and 7-8 hours in July and August. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. In the capital, Ljubljana, in spring and autumn temperatures average at around 15°C, with April being cooler at around 9°C, and in summer the temperatures average at 20°C.

#### Time difference to GMT

+1

#### Plugs

2 Pin Round

#### Religion

Roman Catholic

#### Language

Slovene

## Budgeting and packing

### Optional activities

Lake Bled - Pletne boat ride €14.00; Rowing boats €15.00 per boat; Bled castle €10.00. River Rafting - On Sava Bohinjka River €29.00. Triglav National Park - Bike hire €5.00 per hour; Kayaking €7.00 per hour; Horse riding €40.00 for 2 hours (Some experience preferred); Boat trip on Lake Bohinj €9.00; Allow £5.00 for local transport to and from optional walks in Triglav National Park. Piran - Boat trips along Adriatic Coast €20.00. Salt Pans €7.00 Ljubljana - Castle Museum €7.50

### Clothing

Pack for hot weather for July and August departures. Temperatures are cooler in the Julian Alps so a fleece is essential plus a windproof/water-proof jacket whilst hiking. Remember to bring your swimwear.

### Footwear

Bring trainers/sandals for general travel.

### Luggage

20kg

### Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and a daypack. Remember that you are expected to carry your own luggage - so don't overload yourself.

### Equipment

We recommend taking a water bottle, insect repellent, and sun cream. You may find a walking pole useful. You may also wish to bring a swimming costume and towel.

### Tipping

## Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Explore Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

## Country Information

### Slovenia Trips

#### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

**Lunch price**

£8

**Dinner price**

£15

**Beer price**

£2

**Water price**

£0.9

#### Foreign Exchange

**Local currency**

Euro.

**Recommended Currency For Exchange**

Pound Sterling and US Dollars can be exchanged for the local currency.

**Where To Exchange**

Most major towns and cities - your Explore Leader will advise you on arrival. Only exchange money at reputable places like banks, ATM's and official Forex Offices.

**ATM Availability**

Major towns and cities have ATMs for cash withdrawal.

**Credit Card Acceptance**

Credit cards are also generally accepted.

**Travellers Cheques**

Accepted in most banks but not all money changing facilities.

## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Bus, Cable Car, Public Bus, Taxi, Train

### Accommodation notes

#### Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

Please note that some of the hotels used on this trip don't have air-conditioning.

## Essential information

### FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice click [here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, click [here](#)

#### Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### Visa Information

Slovenia: Visas are not required by UK, US, Canadian, Australia and New Zealand citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

### Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

### Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

#### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

#### Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer click [here](#)

### Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

### Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them [here](#).



### **Flight Information**

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### **Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore**

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## **Maximum altitude (m)**

700

## **Non refundable permits**

## **Slovenia Trips**

### **Vaccinations**

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend being up-to-date with your routine vaccination courses and boosters as recommended in the UK including protection against measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, hepatitis A, typhoid and polio. Tick-borne encephalitis protection is recommended by some medical sources at certain times of the year. Ticks are most active between spring and late autumn. Check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

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