

# Cycling Safaris

## Pearls of Slovenia 2024

### Self guided tour

236 - 246 km | 8 days / 7 nights

Slovenia was formerly part of Yugoslavia gaining Independence in 1992. A relatively small country in terms of size and population (just two million) it has a very varied geography. To the north it is bordered by Austria, to the west by Italy, to the south by Croatia and to the east by Hungary. Culturally, these neighbours have exerted influences over the Slovenian peoples (as it has changed hands between them, from the Roman Empire through to the Austro-Hungarian Empire and also being behind the Iron Curtain). The geography of the country almost seems to reflect these influences too, with the North West predominantly Alpine, the South West Mediterranean and the East low lying plains.

The stunning beauty of the country is certainly a good reason to come and visit, but for many, the friendliness of the Slovenians would be reason enough in itself. Many speak impeccable English (as well as other languages) and are delighted to share their country with foreign visitors.

This is not a mountain bike tour. It is suitable for cyclists of average fitness, it includes one pass of 750m / 2500ft (but you have the whole day to do it on a quiet road and a help-out lift can be ordered). A definitive must for photographers and those who like mountain scenery but don't want to take too much effort to get it!



## TOUR ITINERARY

### Day 1 ARRIVAL TO LAKE BLEED

You will arrive in Bled, a world famous town on the shore of a beautiful glacial lake. Defined by its unique island church sitting proudly in the middle of this immense body of water, surrounded by towering alpine mountains, and the castle perched high on a cliff standing guard over the town, Bled is one of Slovenia's most popular tourist attractions.

One of our representatives will meet you and take you for a welcome drink, deliver your information pack and ensure you have everything you need for your trip. For the rest of the day you can choose between a number of leisure activities in Bled. Visit the island church and marvel at the ornate golden altar and ring the church bell and make a wish, it might come true. Hike up to the castle for a spectacular view of this glacial valley. In the evening try the local speciality – the cream cake – in one of the great little tea shops beside the lake, or sample the many bars and restaurants.

**Day 2            BLED – BOHINJSKA BISTRICA    28 km + possible side trip to Savica Waterfall 16 km**  
**Downhill. Accommodation in 4\* hotel.**

You will be transferred up to the high plateau at Pokljuka (12 km). From here you can marvel at the stunning views before gliding down into the neighbouring Bohinj Valley, the jewel in the heart of the Triglav National Park.

You will cycle through the many small alpine villages scattered across the valley until reaching the small settlement of Ribčev Laz (Fisherman's Pass) lying next to the stunning Lake Bohinj. Cycle around the lake to Savica Waterfall, source of the Sava Bohinjka River, and then take the cable car up to Vogel Mountain for a spectacular view into the Bohinj Valley and of Mount Triglav, the highest peak in the Julian Alps.

Explore the forests surrounding the lake before spending the evening in one of the cosy village pubs and trying the local home-made honey brandy.



**Day 3            BOHINSKA BISTRICA – ŠKOFJA LOKA            50 km**

**Gradul climb up to Jelovica High plateau, pass of 750 m / 2400 ft.**

**Accommodation in 3\* hotel.**

Leaving Bohinj you cycle to the lovely village of Bohinjska Bistrica, where you can admire the picture-perfect backdrop. Then it's up 750 m/2400 ft to the Jelovica high plateau (a "help out" lift to top of mountain pass is available for this part of the trip at extra cost of €20 per person). From the top the route takes you through a deep forest which soon drops off into the Selška Dolina Valley leading to the Škofja Loka hills. The first stop is at the little alpine village of Sorica, set among low green hills. This is the birthplace of the famous Slovene painter, Ivan Grohar. Visit his gallery where you'll find a limited collection of his work.

The next stop is at the historic iron-smelting town of Železniki, where you will find the remains of an old blast furnace dating from 1826. Stop in one of the village inns along the way and try the delicious trout.

Finally you arrive in the wonderful town of Škofja Loka, one of the oldest towns in Slovenia.

If you are not too tired you can cycle up to the castle on the hill overlooking town. Spend the rest of the evening wandering through the old streets of this historic medieval town.



**Day 4**                    **ŠKOFJA LOKA - PREDDVOR - PREDOSLJE**                    **42 km**

**Cycling across flatlands. Accommodation in 3\* hotel**

Leaving Škofja Loka you will head across the great Sora plain with the majestic peaks of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps as your backdrop. If the weather is warm enough, you can take a swim in a small lake in pure, refreshing alpine water in the village Preddvor. The easy cycling day ends at the Brdo estate. The former royal and presidential residence is decorated with a beautiful park where you can relax before dinner.

**Day 5**                    **PREDOSLJE - RADOVLJICA**                    **30 KM**

**Mostly flat with a few small hills. Accommodation in 3\* hotel.**



A ride through history. In the morning you can pay a visit to Kranj, capital of Carniola. Your route brings you to the fascinating little village of Kropa where you will find the iron forging museum. This was dedicated to the history of the town's blacksmith trade. Later, this route will take you along the edge of Jelovica high plateau to Radovljica with its beautifully preserved old town and an interesting beekeeping museum.

**Day 6**                    **RADOVLJICA - KRANJSKA GORA**                    **50 km (+15km options trip to ski jumps at Planica )**

**An easy, very slow climb (300m/1000ft) over 40 km. Accommodation in 3\* hotel.**

This route will take you along the edge of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps to the historic village of Begunje. As the sun illuminates the mountains your route will take you on cycling path that goes between the ranges of the Julian Alps and the Karawanke Mountains to Kranjska Gora, a popular alpine town famous for its ski resorts, but also a great base for many summer activities. Along the way you can take a short side trip to the lookout point for Spik Mountain, regarded as the one of Slovenia's toughest peaks to climb. If you arrive in plenty of time you can take a ride up to the Planica Valley, location for the world famous ski jumping championships. It's here that many of the longest jumps have been achieved, including the current world record.



**Day 7**                    **KRANJSKA GORA - BLED**                    **40 km (+8km options side trip to Vintgar gorge )**

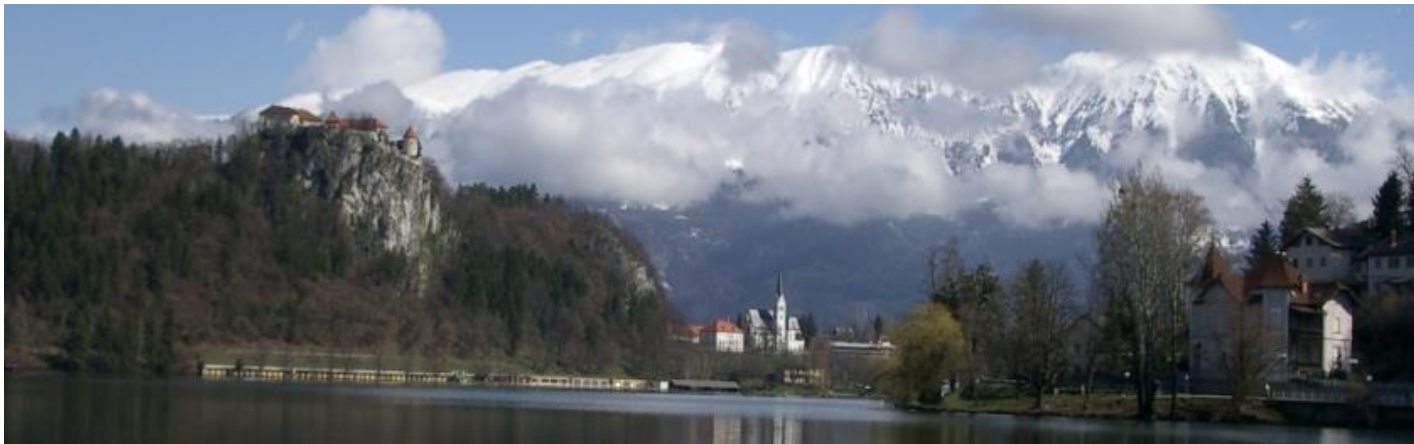
**A nice downhill ride with one pass of 150m/500ft. Accommodation in 4\* hotel.**

For your final day you will head back into the heart of the Triglav National Park. The route takes you alongside the Sava Dolinka River as it cuts its way south to join the Sava Bohinjka, where it becomes the Sava River, the longest in Slovenia. From Mojstrana you will head into the Krma Valley. This lush green valley leads through a peaceful forest littered with WW2 monuments and traditional farmhouses, one of which has been adapted into a museum.

You can have lunch in the mountain hut at the foot of Triglav, the mightiest mountain in the Julian Alps, and enjoy the breathtaking scenery deep in the heart of this beautiful alpine landscape. From here you will head through the Radovna Valley between the Pokljuka and Mežakla plateaus. As you exit the valley, take a short

detour to the stunning 1.6km Vintgar Gorge, carved 150m deep into the mountains by the Radovna River. The gorge was discovered by chance by the town mayor in 1891, who then set to work building walkways to open the gorge up to the public.

You finish the tour back in the picture perfect town of Bled



## Day 8

## Departure

Tour ends after breakfast.

### 2024 TOUR PRICE AND DATES

Low Season (23 March – 3 May & 21 September – 12 October)	€995 per person sharing
High Season (4 May – 20 September)	€1045 per person sharing
Single Supplement (if traveling with others)	€275 low / 295 high
Solo Traveler Supplement (if traveling alone)	€380
Bike hire	€90
E-Bike hire	€230
Helmet rental	€12

This is self led tour can start any day between 23<sup>rd</sup> March and 12<sup>th</sup> October

### WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation in hotels 3\*/ 4\* in two bedded room, bed & breakfast
- Luggage transfer – one piece, max 20 kgs / 45 lb, airline dimensions
- Car transfer on day 2
- Tour description and maps in electronic form
- Personal welcome meeting and bike fitting upon arrival
- GPS data
- Local tourist and other taxes
- Backup service (hotline) during the trip

Bike rental is not included in the standard tour package price

## TYPICAL ACCOMMODATION ON TOUR ( **this depends on availability** )

Night 1 & 7: Bled	<a href="#">Hotel Triglav 4*</a> or <a href="#">Hotel Golf 4*</a>
Night 2: Bohinjska Bistrica	<a href="#">Hotel Kristal 4*</a> at lake Bohinj or <a href="#">Hotel Eco Park 5*</a> in Bohinjska Bistrica
Night 3: Skofja Loka	<a href="#">Hotel Mini 3*</a> or <a href="#">Loka Turizem 3*</a>
Night 4: Preddvor	<a href="#">Hotel Zaplata 3*</a>
Night 5: Begunje	<a href="#">Hotel Lambergh 4*</a> ()
Night 6: Kranjska Gora	<a href="#">Hotel Miklič 3*</a> (possible to upgrade to 4* hotel Ramada hotel & suites)

### **Additional accommodation in Bled**

4\*-accommodation: €115 per person sharing; €190 single room

### **Additional accommodation in Kranska Gora**

3\*-accommodation: €95 per person sharing; €175 single room

## WHAT TO BRING

- We would recommend that you bring padded cycling shorts or even a gel saddle cover to make your days cycling more comfortable (if you wish to bring your own saddle this is no problem). Cycling gloves are also a good investment.
- We highly recommend that you wear one. If you own a bicycle helmet please bring it, otherwise helmets can be rented for 12 euro each.
- Don't forget sun cream, sunglasses and sun hat.
- If you wish to use toe clips we advise you to bring your own pedals with toe clips, as the pedals on our bikes do not accommodate them.
- We do not provide rain gear so be sure to bring your own lightweight waterproofs.



## BIKE RENTAL

This tour is perfect for those who like mountain scenery, but don't want to take too much effort to get it. This is NOT a mountain bike tour. It is suitable for cyclists of average fitness, has one pass of 750m / 2500ft (but you have the whole day to do it on a quiet road) or we can arrange a lift.

Bike hire starts at 9am on day 2 of the trip and ends at 6pm on day 7.



Aluminium frame  
Shimano gear system with “rapid-fire” shifters: 21 speed  
Lock, Rack on back, 1 rear pannier, Repair kit

## ELECTRIC BIKES:



**Frame types** unisex and low step  
**Sizes** 17,19 in / 44,48 cm  
**Front suspension** Stand  
**Mud guards**  
**Luggage rack**  
**Bottle holder**  
**Computer meter**  
**Front gear set** 3 (48,38,28)  
**Back gear set** 7 (28,14)  
**E-gears** Brakes V-brake  
**Motor** in mid section  
**Battery autonomy** 80 km at 50% use

Helmets are not included (available upon booking for €12 per week).

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### What is the currency and how much money should I bring?

Slovenia uses the Euro. By UK/US/Irish standards Slovenia is a cheap destination with a ½ litre of beer costing around €1.50 and a glass of wine €2.00. A Pizza would be about €5 euro and a decent 3-course meal with a couple of drinks €10 - €15 euro.

### What is the Language?

The official language is Slovenian. Most Slovenians speak good English and many speak German and Italian as well! Lots of places will have menus in several languages and, if not, the ever-helpful locals are more than happy to explain. The guide is, of course, fluent in English.

### What happens if I am delayed on the first night?

If you know in advance that you will be late please contact our office. If you are unexpectedly delayed you should call the meeting point on Saturday evening and leave a message as to what time you expect to arrive.

### What is the weather like?

Slovenia is a small country that enjoys a varied climate based around its distinct regions – Alpine, Continental and Mediterranean. It is known for being on the sunny side of the Alps. The summer days can be extremely warm (30 C) and sunny with rainfall occurring late into the afternoon (5.00 pm or thereabouts).

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

Slovenia is a relatively small country with a small dispersed population (around 2 million inhabitants). Therefore the entry/exit points are fairly limited and it is often better served by places outside of the country.

The main access point is to fly into Ljubljana (the capital). There is a direct bus service from the airport to the centre of Bled. From Ljubljana buses depart from Bay 7 at the main bus station every hour on the hour and takes 1 hour and 15 minutes. You can also take a train up to Bled (the train station in Bled is called “Lesce Bled”). The journey takes just under an hour.

Public transport to and from Trieste is more complicated (as you may have to change trains and train stations in Nova Gorica or Ljubljana) so you should take care in your travel plans if coming to and from this airport. The airport is actually called Ronchi and is some 30km outside the city, which is actually closer to Gorizia (which is one of the trains stopping points).

All the details for the above train journeys are on the website

<http://reiseauskunft.bahn.de/bin/query.exe/en>

**(remember that the train station in Bled is called “Lesce Bled” and is 7km from the town of Bled itself).**

Private transfers can be arranged: Price per transfer, one way. No pooling permitted.

	<b>1-3 Persons</b>	<b>4-8 Persons</b>
Ljubljana Airport to Bled	€95	€125
Ljubljana City to Bled	€120	€160
Villach to Bled	€160	€180
Klagenfurt Airport to Bled	€210	€250
Lesce Bled Railway Station to Bled	€40	€50
Trieste AP to Bled	€250	€310