

# Cycling Safaris

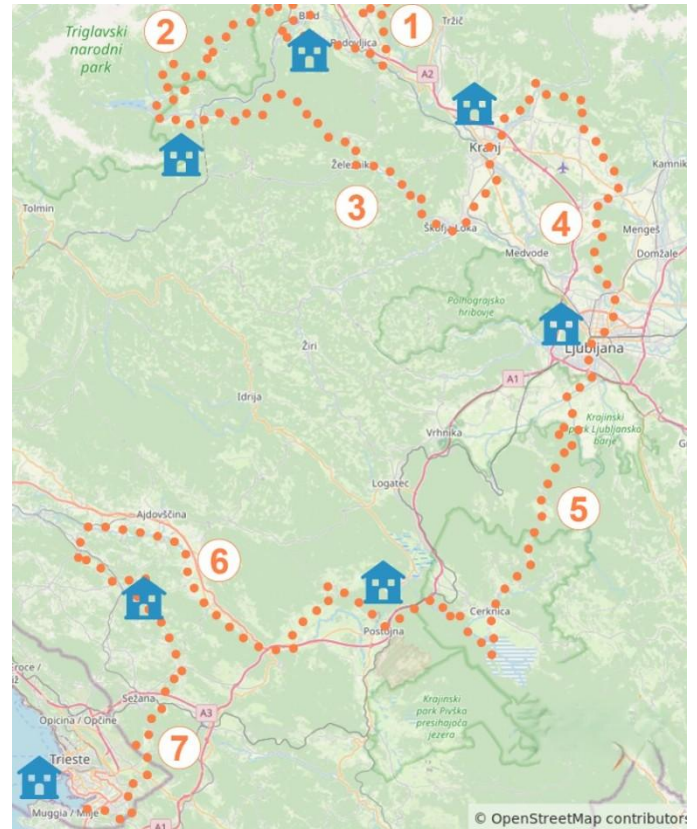
## Slovenia – Alps to Adriatic Self-Guided Gravel Bike tour 2026

360 km km | 8 days / 7 nights

This tour is for riders with solid fitness, used to long rides and changing terrain. The route features daily elevation gains of around 800–1,200 meters, with varied surfaces including compact gravel, forest tracks, and secondary roads. Gravel bikes or trekking bikes with wider tires are recommended.

Way type / Surface: gravel roads 40%, asphalt roads 35%, unpaved paths and tracks 15%, lightly paved roads 7%, natural surfaces and trails 3%

The route mostly follows well-maintained gravel and quiet paved roads. Some sections take you along forest roads, field paths, and village lanes—offering variety and a sense of real adventure, without being too rough or technical.



### Highlights

- Epic Transitions: Ride from glacial lakes and alpine forests to sunlit wine valleys and coastal cliffs—crossing entire landscapes under your own power.
- Water in All Forms: Pedal past still alpine lakes, trace winding rivers, and arrive at the salt-scented shores of the Adriatic Sea.
- Stories in the Terrain: From cliffside castles to forested railway paths, follow age-old routes through borderlands, past stone villages, and into the heart of history.
- Wild & Varied Gravel: Flow across spruce-covered plateaus, through open karst, pastures, and valleys—each day revealing new textures beneath your wheels.
- Cultural Encounters: Pause in timeless towns, ride through landscapes that shaped legends, and finish in a coastal port rich with character and heritage.

This tour is ideal for gravel cyclists seeking a multi-day journey across Slovenia's most iconic regions—blending scenic routes, local culture, and the quiet satisfaction of riding from the high Alps all the way to the sea.

## TOUR ITINERARY



### DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN LAKE BLEED - LAKESIDE VIEWS & OPTIONAL GRAVEL LOOP

Welcome to **Lake Bled**, where turquoise waters reflect snow-dusted peaks and every corner whispers adventure. After settling into your hotel, the day is yours: stroll the lakeshore, hike up to **Mala Osojnica** for a breathtaking view, or simply relax and take it all in. For those eager to ride, an optional gravel loop (42 km, 530 m ascent) provides a scenic introduction to the region—winding through forest trails, riverside paths, and traditional villages, with a mix of natural beauty and cultural highlights.

### DAY 2: ACROSS POKLJUKA - ALPINE PASTURES & TIMELESS VIEWS (49.6 KM, 1,110 M ASCENT)

Leave the lakeside behind and begin a steady climb into the vast forests of **Pokljuka**, a high alpine plateau within **Triglav National Park**. The paved road soon gives way to smooth gravel as the ride opens into wide pastures and cool spruce woods. Midway through, you'll reach **Zajamniki**—a hidden gem of wooden shepherd huts stretched along a panoramic ridge. The silence, the views, and the sense of stepping back in time make this one of the most iconic spots in the park. From there, the trail leads past Uskovnica, another traditional mountain pasture. After a flowing descent into Srednja vas, the ride glides toward the shores of **Lake Bohinj**—crystal clear and framed by towering cliffs. End the day with a gentle roll into **Bohinjska Bistrica**, tucked beneath the peaks of the **Julian Alps**.

### DAY 3: JELOVICA TRAVERSE - GRAVEL FLOW & HISTORIC TOWNS (62.9 KM, 870 M ASCENT)

From Bohinjska Bistrica, the ride begins with a steady climb toward Soriška Planina—but just before the pass, you branch off onto a long forest road across the **Jelovica** Plateau. This is pure gravel flow: wide, quiet, and carved through deep spruce woodland. After a descent, the route winds through Železniki and into **Škofja Loka**—one of Slovenia's oldest and most charming medieval towns, where stone bridges and cobbled streets echo centuries of history. From there, open fields and rural lanes bring you to the outskirts of Kranj. The ride ends in Predoslje near the **Brdo estate**, a former royal residence nestled at the foot of the **Kamnik Alps**—serene, stately, and surrounded by nature.

### DAY 4: GORENJSKA TO THE CAPITAL-ALPINE ROADS & SKYLINE VISTAS (55.0 KM, 780 M ASC.)

The day begins with a gentle roll from Brdo toward **Preddvor**, a quiet alpine town framed by the steep northern face of Mount Storžič. From here, a steady climb leads toward Možjanca and continues to **Štefanja Gora**, where a hilltop church looks out across the Gorenjska plain. After a winding descent, the route reaches Komenda—hometown of cycling superstar Tadej Pogačar, passing through the very roads that shaped one of the sport's greats. The final climb leads into the wooded hills of **Rašica**. From the panoramic tower above the city, Slovenia's bike-friendly capital opens up below—**Ljubljana**, with its leafy boulevards, riverside cafés, and laid-back energy, welcomes you at the end of a rewarding ride.



## DAY 5: FROM LJUBLJANA TO THE KARST - FOREST ROADS & KARST CAVES (69.4 KM, 1,100 M ASCENT)



Leave the capital behind, rolling through the flat, green expanse of **Ljubljansko Barje**, a protected marshland rich with birdsong and open skies. Soon, the road begins to rise toward **Rakitna** on a winding mix of pavement and gravel. After reaching the high basin of Rakitna, continue toward Cerknica, gateway to one of Slovenia's most curious landscapes. Visit **Lake Cerknica**, a seasonal lake that vanishes and reappears depending on the time of year. The final stretch leads you through the karst wonderland of **Rakov Škocjan**, where natural bridges, collapsed caves, and forested paths make for a truly unique gravel experience. The day ends in **Postojna**, a town famed for its underground world—yet perfectly placed above it all for your night's rest.

## DAY 6: KARST DESCENT & VINEYARDS - FROM CASTLES TO STONE VILLAGES (70.3 KM, 920 M ASCENT)

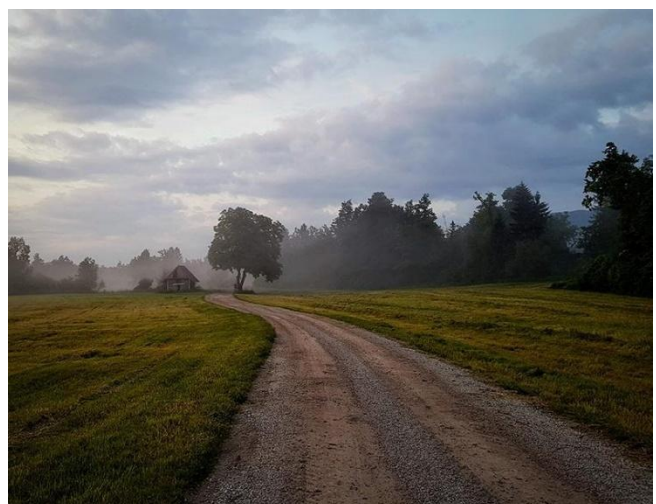
Begin with a gentle rise to **Predjama Castle**, perched dramatically beneath a limestone cliff. From there, the route rolls steadily toward Razdrto and then opens into the sweeping landscapes of the **Vipava Valley**. Surrounded by vineyards and wide skies, you'll follow the winding Vipava River past quiet villages and through a changing climate—the warmth and rhythm of the Mediterranean beginning to show. At Branik, the road begins to climb again. The ascent into the **Karst Plateau** brings a shift in tone: stone walls, scattered pines, and timeless views. The route passes through the historic town of **Štanjel**, a hilltop jewel of narrow lanes and weathered architecture, before descending gently to **Kodreti**, your quiet resting place for the night.

## DAY 7: FROM KARST HILLS TO THE ADRIATIC - RIDGES TO RIVIERA (53.2 KM, 780 M ASCENT)

Your final ride begins in the quiet stone villages of the Karst, where the route rolls west toward Štorje and then south to **Lipica**, home of the world-famous Lipizzaner horses. From here, the descent begins—easing not just in elevation, but into a gentler, more Mediterranean mood. You drop into the **Rosandra Valley**, a striking canyon carved by the **Glinščica** River. For part of the way, the route follows the old railway line, now transformed into a scenic path through tunnels and scrubby limestone hills. A final climb skirts the cliffs beneath **Socerb** Castle. Those who take the short detour (+6 km, +170 m) are rewarded with a dramatic view over the **Gulf of Trieste**—one last wide panorama before the sea. The ride finishes with a descent past the Laghetti delle Noghere **wetlands**, then gently rolling along the Osp River into **Muggia**, a coastal town of old-world charm and salty air. You've arrived—from high forests to the edge of the **Adriatic**.

## DAY 8: DEPARTURE

After breakfast, your tour concludes—leaving you with mountain memories, Mediterranean light, and the rhythm of the ride still in your legs.



## 2026 TOUR DATES & PRICES

Self-guided tours: any day between 9<sup>th</sup> May (first starting date) – 10<sup>th</sup> October (last starting date)

### Season A: 9<sup>th</sup> May – 24<sup>th</sup> July, 19<sup>th</sup> September – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2026

€1210 per person sharing in a double/twin room

€345 single room supplement (if traveling with other)

€55 solo traveler supplement (if traveling alone)

### Season B: 25<sup>th</sup> July – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2026

€1260 per person sharing in a double/twin room

€395 single room supplement

No supplement for solo traveler

### *Option of upgrading the first night's hotel in Ljubljana (4\* hotel):*

€50 per person sharing

€75 single room supplement

### Optional Extras:

€270 Gravel bike rental

€270 Electric mountain bike rental

€30 personal welcome meeting and bike fitting upon arrival

€30 printed information package in English or German, including route notes and detailed maps, delivered upon arrival

**Discounts: Third adult person in a double room on auxiliary bed 10% discount. This discount only applies to third persons (not all persons in the party)**

## WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- 7-night accommodation in hotels 3\* / 4\* hotels and guesthouses in two bedded ensuite facilities room, on basis of bed and breakfast
- Luggage transfer – one piece per person, max 23 kgs / 50 lb. Every additional item is €30 payable on spot.
- Tour description and maps in GUIBO application electronic form; one download per room
- Local tourist and other taxes
- Backup service (hotline) during the trip

## ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION

### Extra nights (per person rate):

|                          | Season A                                    | Season B                                    |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Ljubljana 4* hotel       | €100 per person sharing<br>€155 single room | €110 per person sharing<br>€170 single room |
| Karts area 3* guesthouse | €80 per person sharing<br>€110 single room  | €80 per person sharing<br>€110 single room  |
| Muggia 4* hotel          | €85 per person sharing<br>€120 single room  | €95 per person sharing<br>€135 single       |

## 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.
- Although it is not obligatory to wear a helmet we highly recommend that you wear one. If you own a bicycle helmet please bring it, otherwise helmets can be rented for €12 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.

## 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).

The national airline is Adria Airways and it has a number of direct flights to major European cities including London (Gatwick), Manchester and Dublin (depart Dublin Friday Nights/returning Saturdays only). For more information check ([www.adria-airways.com](http://www.adria-airways.com)).

Easyjet fly daily into Ljubljana from Stansted ([www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com))

There are also many alternatives connections through other European hubs such as Frankfurt, Paris, Prague and Budapest with most of the major European Flag Carriers.

Ryanair ([www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)) fly to Trieste on the Italian side of the border where again you can take a train to and from Ljubljana. 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>

We can pre-order taxis for you from various locations on request, so please contact us well in advance of the tour if you would like help.

The approximate cost per transfer each way: (price per person each way)

Transfers: Price per transfer, one way

| Route                       | 1-3 Persons | 4-8 Persons |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Ljubljana Airport to Bled   | €100        | €135        |
| Ljubljana City to Bled      | €140        | €180        |
| Muggia to Ljubljana Airport | €250        | €275        |
| Muggia to Bled              | €265        | €295        |
| Trieste AP to Bled          | €400        | €445        |
| Muggia to Trieste AP        | €180        | €220        |
| Muggia to Trieste Centre    | €175        | €220        |

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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### **What is the currency?**

Slovenia uses 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).