

IEEE Region 8 Meeting 2015 – Ljubljana, Slovenia

I FEEL
SLOVENIA

Travel advisory Meeting Venue

Hotel Union

Miklošičeva 1, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenija

T: +386 1 308 1270

E: grand@union-hotels.eu

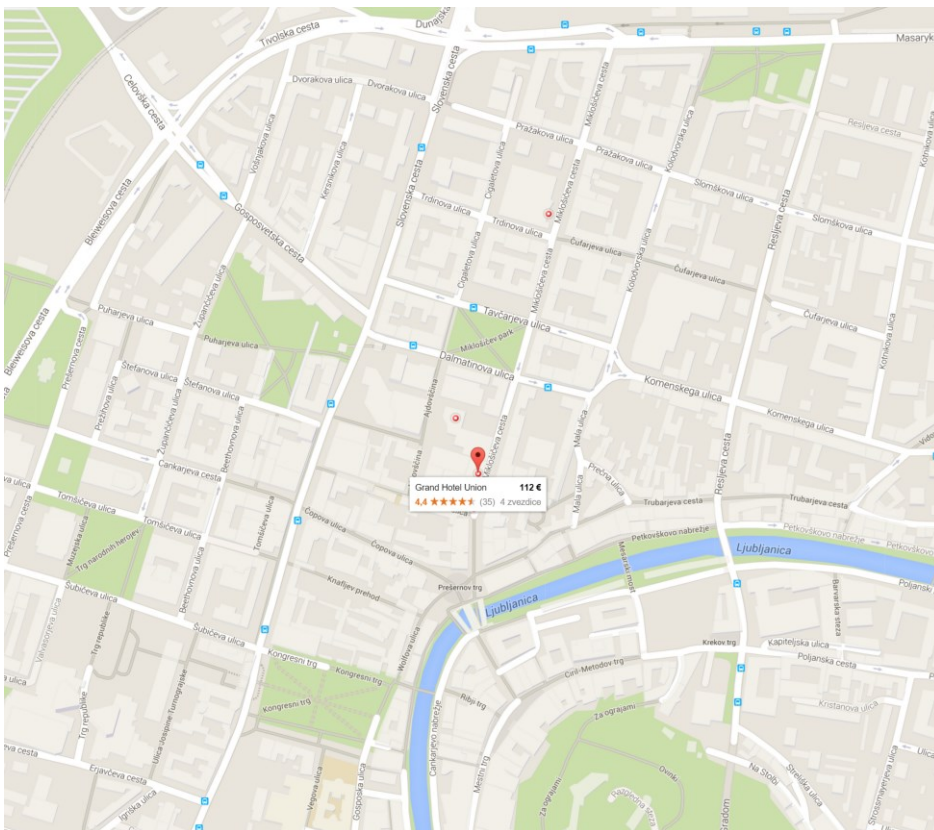
GPS: 46.0529786, 14.50638570000001

[Google Map](#)

The hotel is in Art Nouveau style and offers location in the heart of the city centre, overlooking Prešeren Square, the Triple Bridge and the Ljubljana Castle. The Grand Hotel Union is easily accessible from all major highways, the railway station, the main bus station and the Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport. The Hotel offers a secured parking garage with 120 parking spaces. The Grand Hotel Union offers 173 standard and historic rooms, 9 suites and 12 hotel studios. The rooms are comfortable and nicely furnished. We also offer the largest hotel conference centre, a secured parking garage, large working surfaces, an indoor swimming pool, a fitness centre and a sauna. <http://www.union-hotels.eu/en/grand-hotel-union>

From the airport, please pre-book shuttle service in both directions **provide a reference code IEER8** under Comments, using the following form: <http://nero.si/book-reservation/>

For those arriving by car, there is a map below:



Getting to Ljubljana by air:



Info:

Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport is located 26 kilometres to Ljubljana (20 minutes by road).

For flight information, please call +386 (0)4 20 61 981.

Destinations: Amsterdam, Barcelona, Belgrade, Brussels, Vienna, Frankfurt, Helsinki, Istanbul, Copenhagen, London, Manchester, Moscow, Munich, Paris, Podgorica, Prague, Pristina, Sarajevo, Skopje, Split, Tel Aviv, Tirana, Zurich.

Airlines: Adria Airways, Air France, easyJet, Finnair, Montenegro Airlines, Turkish Airlines, Wizz Air.

Getting to Ljubljana by car:



Info:

Ljubljana is located at the crossroads of Slovenia's most important road routes. Motorway access from any of the neighbouring countries is very easy.

Road connections

- from Villach, Austria: E651
- from Klagenfurt, Austria: E652/E61
- from Graz, Austria: E57/E59
- from Trieste, Italy: E61/E70
- from Zagreb, Croatia: E70
- from Budapest, Hungary: E57/E71

Road tax vignettes

Road tax vignettes must be purchased for the use of Slovenian motorways, including the Ljubljana bypass. The roads where the vignette is required are marked by special vignette signs.

Vignettes can be purchased at petrol stations located in the border areas of Slovenia's neighbouring countries, at petrol stations, post offices and most newspaper kiosks in Slovenia, and at branch offices of the Automobile Association of Slovenia (AMZS) and other automobile clubs.

Vignette prices

- €15.00 for a weekly vignette for personal vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes

- €30.00 for a monthly vignette for personal vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes
- €110.00 for an annual vignette for personal vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes
- €7.50 for a weekly vignette for motorcycles
- €30.00 for a half-year vignette for motorcycles
- €55.00 for an annual vignette for motorcycles

An exception are double-track motor vehicles (with or without a trailer) whose height above the front axle is 1.3 metres or more and whose maximum gross weight does not exceed 3,500 kilograms.

For more information, please visit the DARS website.

Those driving on Slovenian motorways without a vignette are liable to a fine from €300 to €800

Traffic information

Traffic Information Centre for Public Roads

The Traffic Information Centre for Public Roads collects and provides information on traffic and road conditions in Slovenia.

For more information, please call 1970 or +386 (0)1 518 85 18 or visit the website of the Traffic Information Centre for Public Roads.

Automobile Association of Slovenia (AMZS)

AMZS, the Slovenian national automobile association, provides roadside assistance, car towing services and car repair services 24 hours, seven days a week.

For more information, please call +386 (0)1 530 53 00 or visit the AMZS website.

Getting to Ljubljana by train:



Info:

International railway connections to Ljubljana are good. Railway is also a convenient means of transport within Slovenia as distances within the country are mainly short, travel costs are low, and the fleet of passenger trains owned by the Slovenian Railway Company was almost entirely renewed a few years ago.

The following are some of the countries connected to Ljubljana by regular train services:

- Germany (via München, via Frankfurt)
- Switzerland (via Zürich)
- Austria (via Salzburg, via Villach, and via Graz, via Vienna)
- Croatia (via Zagreb and via Rijeka)
- Hungary (via Budapest)
- Czech Republic (via Prague)
- Italy (via Venice)

- Serbia (via Belgrade)
- Bosnia and Herzgovina (via Sarajevo)



Getting to Ljubljana by bus:

Info:

The Ljubljana Bus Station has regular services to all Slovenia's neighbouring countries and the most popular tourist destinations within the country. Bus tickets can be purchased at the counter of the Ljubljana Bus Station or online from the Ljubljana Bus Station website.

If you travel from Ljubljana, it is recommended to book the tickets in advance through the Ljubljana Bus Station info centre on 1991, a telephone number which can only be dialled from within Slovenia.

European cities served by direct bus routes from Ljubljana: Trieste, Venice (Mestre, Marco Polo Airport), Florence, Milan, Klagenfurt, Vienna, Munich, Dortmund, Paris, Budapest, Zagreb, Sarajevo, Belgrade, Niš, Sofia.

Major Slovenian tourist destinations served by direct bus routes from Ljubljana: Bled and Bohinj lake resorts, Postojna cave, the coastal towns of Portorož and Piran.

Timetables are available on the Ljubljana Bus Station website.

Schedule

Monday to Friday 5:00-22:30, Saturday 05:00-22:00, Sunday and public holidays 5:30-22:30.

Maps Ljubljana



A detailed map of Ljubljana:

<http://www.visitljubljana.com/en>



Slovenia

A detailed map of Slovenia:

<http://www.slovenia.info/en/Zemljevid/zemljevid.htm?zemljevid=0&srch=1&srctype=map&xgk=0&ygk=0&level=1&iditem=0&catname=zemljevid&lng=2&ctgdr=1>

Weather

The weather in Slovenia varies from season to season. There are also three climatic influences that meet in the country. A harsh Alpine climate prevails in the mountains, the coast has a sub-Mediterranean climate, and the north-east lowlands have a continental climate. The average temperature is above 20°C in July, and around 0°C in January. It is worth checking the current weather, so that you can dress and equip yourself appropriately.

<http://www.weatheronline.co.uk/Slovenia.htm>

Tipping

Tipping is a very personal thing. Everyone is different. Some people tip large, some small, and of course some not at all! Many visitors generally tip around 10% or sometimes 20% of the bill.

Tips are very much welcomed.

When you return to an establishment where you have previously tipped, you may be remembered and greeted with a smile and swifter service.

In Slovenia a tip is not an obligation, but is appropriate for good service.

Electrical power outlets

In Slovenia, standard voltage is 230 V. The standard frequency is 50 Hz. The power sockets that are used are of type F. Below you find pictures of these power sockets and corresponding plugs.



Languages

Over 90% of the population speak Slovene, the official language since independence from the former Yugoslavia in 1991. In areas where Italian or Hungarian ethnic communities reside, the official language is also Italian or Hungarian.

Serbian, Croatian and German are widely spoken minority languages.

Banks and money

Slovenia became an independent state in 1991. In one year adopted its own currency, the Slovenian tolar. 1 May 2004, joined the European Union and January 1st, 2007 adopted the euro and on 21st Dec.2007 to ShengenArea!

There are many more ATM machines than one would expect, with all of the towns having one. Note that ATMs don't always accept Mastercards as Visa is more popular. So make sure you have a bank card that can access both. All of the ATMs give you a choice of language or if it is outside a bank you can enter the bank for help. The worldwide accepted global cash any Yugoslavia dinara, Euro and the near obsolete U.S. dollar are getting good value for the money. Most of the newer hotels have casinos and where there are casinos you are able to exchange or obtain money on both credit cards , y dinara cash and bank cards. Don't bother with traveler's cheques since bringing an ATM card and a few credit cards should suffice. Another issue concerning money is that many of the smaller establishments are cash only and do not use credit cards. Prior to traveling, it is a good idea to contact your banks and credit card companies and let them know you plan on using them in a foreign country; otherwise, they might freeze your account if they think that your cards have been stolen.

Check current exchange euro (€) on Tourist Board Slovenia travel exchange rates page:

http://www.slovenia.info/en/Exchange-Rates.htm?ctg_valut_rates=0&lng=2

Useful information

Tourist Information Center: Turistični informacijski center Ljubljana

Stritarjeva 2

++386 1 306 12 15, 306 12 35

www.visitljubljana.com

TIC 1: Slovenski turistični informacijski center

Krekov trg 10

++386 1 306 45 75

stic@visitljubljana.si

www.visitljubljana.com

Police: Policijska postaja center

Trdinova 10

++386 1 432 03 41

Medical center: Zdravstveni dom Center

Metelkova 9

++386 1 472 37 00

Dentist: Zobozdravstvena služba

Kotnikova 36

++386 1 300 96 60

GPS Northing (N): 46,0516

GPS Easting (E): 14,5061

Emergency numbers:

113 Police

112 Medical Assistance, Fire department

Religious facilities:

Catholic Church

Dolnicarjeva 1

++386 1 234 26 90

Serbian Orthodox Church

Prešernova cesta 35

++386 1 241 26 80

Islamic community centre

Grablovičeva 14

++386 1 231 36 25

Jewish cultural centre

Križevniška 3

++386 3 133 06 00

Dharmaling Buddhist Congregation

Melikova 1

++386 4 012 55 12

Border formalities

Bringing in items and cash

Within the European Union there is free flow of goods, meaning that you can bring into Slovenia any kind of items for personal use. The exceptions to this are tobacco products and alcoholic beverages, for which there are restrictions. These are even stricter for those who live outside the European Union. There are also restrictions on bringing in cash from outside the EU.

Restrictions on tobacco products and alcoholic beverages

- For EU citizens

You can bring into Slovenia a maximum of 800 cigarettes or 200 cigars, or 1 kilogram of smoking tobacco. You can carry a maximum of 10 litres of spirits or drinks with an alcoholic content over 22 percent, or 20 litres of alcoholic beverages with less than 22 percent alcohol.

- For other citizens

Anyone over 17 years old can bring into Slovenia a maximum of 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars, or 250 grams of smoking tobacco. You can carry a maximum of 1 litre of spirits or drinks with an alcoholic content over 22 percent, or 2 litres of alcoholic beverages with less than 22 percent alcohol.

Restrictions on cash

There are no restrictions on the amount of cash that European Union citizens can bring into Slovenia, but citizens of other countries may only bring in a maximum of 10,000 euros in cash. Larger amounts must be declared to customs officials.

Travelling with weapons

- For EU citizens

If you are coming to Slovenia to hunt and you wish to use your own weapon, you just need a European permit and gun licence. You must also carry the proper documentation confirming that you are coming to Slovenia to hunt.

- For other citizens

If you wish to enter Slovenia with your own firearm, you must declare it to customs, and present the relevant gun licence and documents showing how you intend to use the weapon in Slovenia. Detailed information you may need regarding items that you wish to bring into Slovenia can be found on the website of the Slovenian Customs. This information is available in English.

VAT refunds

In view of the single market principle, Slovenia has abolished tax refunds on crossing the national border, since there is no such refund now among European Union Member States.

Visitors from other countries can obtain a VAT refund by getting a special form at the point of sale, and this is filled out by the seller. As you exit the EU Member State, you must get the form certified by the customs authorities. At the same time, of course, you need to present the original receipt. Goods purchased must be taken out of the country before the expiry of three months from the day of purchase. The tax is refunded to you by the institutions indicated on the tax-free purchases form.

VAT refunds cannot be requested for mineral oils, alcohol and alcoholic beverages or tobacco products.

A brief history of Slovenia

Prehistory

Present-day Slovenia was first settled by early humans more than 250,000 years ago. There are well-preserved **stone tools** from this time, found at the cave at Loza pri Orehku. A holed bone found at the subterranean cave of Divje Babe is 55,000 years old, making it the **oldest flute** in the world. It is kept at the **National Museum**.

Pile dwellers

About 7,000 years ago the Ljubljana Marshes, which were then a lake, were settled by pile dwellers. The stilts fixed into the shallow lake and the houses built on top of them were a feature of the way of life of that era. The people used canoes to move among the stilts. Finds from the pile dwellers are kept at the National Museum.

Iron Age

The National Museum and other museums also have numerous important artefacts from the period between 1,000 BCE and 300 BCE. Among the most important discoveries from the Iron Age and the Hallstatt era are the **Vaška situla**, the royal tombs in Novo Mesto and the earthworks in the Soča area.

Celts

The Hallstatt culture was subjugated by Celtic tribes in the 3rd century BCE. These warriors who had mastered the forging of iron had a strong army equipped with armour and helmets. They established the first state in the territory of Slovenia, a kingdom named Regnum Noricum.

Romans

The Romans began penetrating the area in the 2nd century BCE. They built major roads, and developed the first cities along these roads, many of which have survived until the present day: Emona (Ljubljana), Celeia (Celje), Poetovio (Ptuj) and Castra (Ajdovščina). Among the most important ruins from this period is the necropolis at Šempeter in the Savinjska Valley.

Slavs and Carantania

In the late 4th century a battle took place in Slovenia that was a direct cause of the partition of the Roman empire into two parts. In the 6th century the Slavs settled the area, having migrated from the fringes of the Carpathians. The ancestors of the Slovenes founded their own independent state in the 7th century, the **principality of Carantania**. The oldest Slavic state, ruled from Karnburg near present-day Klagenfurt, did not last long, and came under the overlordship of the Franks.

Conversion to Christianity and feudalism

The Slavs were originally pagan. In the 9th century, when present-day Slovenia became part of the Bavarian state, and hence the Frankish empire, the population began converting to Christianity. The feudal system had begun to strengthen by the 10th century. The **Freising Manuscripts**, the first documented writing in Slovene in the Latin alphabet, were written at the end of the 10th century.

The development of artisan crafts and trade

The monasteries, important centres of religious life, began emerging in the 11th century. Several towns were also founded: Kranj and Kamnik (1228), Škofja Loka and Piran (1274), Novo Mesto (1365) and Celje (1451). These towns became the centre of artisan and trading life. The 12th and 13th centuries saw the establishment of the major feudal families, as the **Habsburgs** grew in power, while the towns of Primorska became part of the **Venetian Republic**.

The Counts of Celje and the Habsburgs

Habsburg domination was threatened by the sole Slovenian noble family, the Counts of Celje, who died out in the second half of the 15th century. All of present-day Slovenia other than the towns of Primorska fell into Habsburg hands.

Turkish invasions and peasant uprisings

Slovenia was invaded by the Turks in the 15th and 16th centuries. The population tried to protect themselves by forming armed **camps**. The struggle against the Turks was joined by **peasant uprisings**, brought on by dissatisfaction with the defence against the Turks and also with new taxes and serfdom. The largest uprisings were in 1515 and 1572, but they continued until the 18th century.

Protestantism

Protestantism had a major impact on the development of the Slovene nation. Reformer **Primož Trubar** published the first book in Slovene, Catechismus, in 1550. **Jurij Dalmatin** translated the Bible into Slovene. Slovene thus claimed an equal footing in cultural circles with other European nations and languages.

From Maria Theresa to the Illyrian provinces

The 18th century, under the rule of Habsburg empress Maria Theresa and her son Joseph II, brought general **compulsory schooling** and **primary school teaching in Slovene**. This enlightened absolutist thus facilitated the strengthening of Slovenian national consciousness, which gained further impetus during the time of **Napoleonic** rule. Between 1809 and 1813, during the time of the Illyrian provinces, the status of Slovene improved in the education system.

United Slovenia

The worth of Slovene was raised again in the first half of the 19th century by the poet **France Prešeren**, whose work proved that the language was suited to high culture. His poem A Toast is now Slovenia's national anthem. The springtime of nations in 1848 saw the emergence of the first Slovenian political programme, called **United Slovenia**. This demanded the unification of all Slovenes in a single state, and the introduction of Slovene into offices and schools.

First World War

The First World War had a major impact on Slovenia. Slovenes fought for more than three years on the Austro-Hungarian side on the **Soča Front** and on other battlegrounds. After the collapse of Austria-Hungary in 1918, there followed the brief creation of the State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs, which then joined the **Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes**. The kingdom was ruled by the Serbian Karadžević dynasty.

Loss of Slovenian lands and the first Yugoslavia

The first Slovenian university was established in Ljubljana in 1919, but the next year Slovenia lost significant territory in the north and the west. In 1920 Koroška voted to join Austria in a referendum, while Primorska went to Italy under the Treaty of Rapallo. In 1929 King Alexander I overturned the constitution and proclaimed the **Kingdom of Yugoslavia**.

Second World War

The Second World War was a tragedy for Slovenia, as it was simultaneously a national liberation war and a civil war. Slovenia was partitioned by Italy, Germany and Hungary. A leading role in the liberation struggle was taken by the communists, who after the defeat of the aggressors in 1945 under the leadership of **Josip Broz (Tito)**, first formed the People's Republic, then the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Slovenia became one of the six Yugoslav republics.

After Tito's death

Slovenia was the most economically advanced of the former Yugoslav republics. Following Tito's death in 1980, a major economic, political and social crisis arose. Increasing opposition between the ethnic groups and the rise of nationalist politicians led to the break-up of Yugoslavia within a decade.

War of independence

Slovenia held a **referendum** in 1990, in which over 88% of voters backed independence. Independence was declared on 25 June 1991, and was followed by **the ten-day war**, which on the territory of Slovenia claimed tens of lives. The Yugoslav Army withdrew from Slovenia in October 1991. Several countries had recognised its independence by this stage, and the majority followed suit in 1992, when Slovenia joined the **United Nations**.

Membership of the European Union and Nato

One of the Slovenian government's main goals was joining the EU. After several years of negotiations it did so on 1 May 2004 with nine other countries. It joined Nato in the same year.

Introduction of the euro and presidency of the EU

On 1 January 2007 Slovenia became the first of the new EU members to join the euro. It was also the first new EU member to assume the presidency of the organisation, in the first half of 2008.

Attractions in Ljubljana

Central Market



More info:

Ljubljana's Central Market is more than just a place to shop. Traditionally, it has also been a place for the locals to meet and enjoy themselves together.

The Central Market consists of an open-air market, located in the Vodnikov trg and Pogačarnev trg squares, a covered market situated in between the two squares, and a series of small food shops along the river Ljubljanica, which are referred to as 'Plečnik's Covered Market' as they are located in a colonnade designed by Ljubljana's famous architect Jože Plečnik.

Apart from fresh Slovenian fruits and vegetables grown by local farmers, the market also offers a choice of tropical fruits, dry-cured meat products, balcony flowers, and plug plants.

At the covered market, you can get dry-cured meat products, fresh meat, homemade bread baked in the wood-fired oven, homemade biscuits and other sweet baked goods, various kinds of homemade cheese, dried fruits and nuts, homemade olive and pumpkin seed oil and much more.

The so called 'Plečnik's Covered Market', built to designs by the architect Jože Plečnik between 1940 and 1944, is conceived as a two-storey range of riverside market halls following the curve of the river. The small shops located there offer fresh meat (including horse and game meat), dry-cured meat products, fresh fish, bread and bakery products, dairy products such as cheese and cottage cheese, dried fruits and nuts, and herbs, among others.

Each Wednesday, the Pogačarjev trg square hosts an organic market where you can get organic food produced by Slovenian farms. Occasionally, the market features themed events presenting culinary offerings, farm produce, and organic foods offered by farmers and food producers' associations from different Slovenian regions.

Schedule

Open-air section:

Weekdays 6:00-18:00, Saturday 6:00-16:00 during summer, 6:00-16:00 in winter. Sundays and holidays closed

Covered section in the Pogačarjev trg square:

Weekdays 7:00-16:00, Saturday 7:00-14:00.

Covered section under Plečnik's Colonnade:

Weekdays 7:00-16:00, Saturday 7:00-14:00.

City Museum of Ljubljana – MGML



More info:

Visitors to the City Museum of Ljubljana can admire the Renaissance architectural features of the palatial museum building, take a walk along a 1st century Roman road or meet the Underwater Troll in the "Search.for.Yourself" exhibition room.

The Museum keeps the world's oldest wooden wheel with an axel, dated 3500 BC. To round off the tour of the renovated four-storey museum building, visitors can stop at the museum café for refreshment, in the museum's atrium to taste a culinary delight or at the museum shop to buy a souvenir.

Permanent Exhibition Faces of Ljubljana

The permanent exhibition Faces of Ljubljana is dedicated to the life and history of Ljubljana. It presents Ljubljana and the earlier settlements on its site in an interesting way, tracing their history from the time of a prehistoric lake dwelling dating back to 4500 BC to the time of the modern Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. The city is presented through everyday life of its residents and the lives of famous personalities related to it. Various thematic sections feature selected city images showing Ljubljana as a place for living and an economic, political, administrative and creative centre. The Museum runs a special guided tour for children aged between four and seven years, conceived in the form of a hide-and-seek game led by two friendly little frogs, Ljuba and Ana.

Emona: The Roman Trail of Ljubljana

The Roman Trail of Ljubljana is a circular route taking in ten monuments of the Roman city of Emona, whose 2000th anniversary of foundation will be celebrated in 2014. The trail includes, among other things, the Emona House and the Early Christian Centre archaeological parks, where visitors can see the most beautifully preserved remains of Roman houses in Ljubljana, and the remains of the Emona city wall, renovated by the famous architect Jože Plečnik.

All the monuments along the route are marked with information boards with QR codes, which allow smart phone users to access related audio and visual content on the internet. Tickets are available from the City Museum of Ljubljana. Each ticket comes with a free a map of Emona.

The two archaeological parks are open Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 to 18:00.

Schedule

Open: Tuesday to Sunday 10:00-18:00, Thursdays 10:00-21:00. Museum is closed on Mondays, December 25th and January 1st.

Location

The City Museum of Ljubljana is located in the Auersperg Palace (Turjaška palača), a historic building once owned by the House of Auersperg, dukes of Carniola. The palace is believed to have been built in 1642 from several older middle-class houses. It has undergone several restorations. Its front façade is adorned with pilasters and a classical entrance portal. It has an arched courtyard. In 2004, it was completely restored and

turned into a modern museum by the architects Špela Videčnik and Rok Oman.

Dragon Bridge



More info:

The Dragon Bridge, adorned with famous dragon statues, appears in the most recognizable images of Ljubljana. If you haven't been photographed next to a Dragon Bridge dragon, you can hardly claim that you have visited Ljubljana. The four dragon statues, which look slightly terrifying and almost real (if, of course, you believe that dragons might be real), are a masterpiece which has been exciting imagination since the bridge was built.

The attraction of the dragons aside, the bridge is a unique creation considered to be an extraordinary piece of technical heritage and a superb example of Art Nouveau architecture, which flourished at the turn of the 20th century. Constructed between 1900 and 1901, it was Ljubljana's first reinforced concrete structure and one of the largest bridges of its kind to be built in Europe. At the time of its opening, it was called the Jubilee Bridge of Emperor Franz Joseph I. According to original designs, it was supposed to be adorned with winged lions instead of dragons. It was the first structure in Slovenia to be paved with asphalt. The construction plans for the bridge were prepared by Professor Josef Melan, a famous engineer specializing in reinforced concrete bridges and the father of the theory underlying static calculations for large suspension bridges.

The Dragon Bridge was given its Art Nouveau appearance by the Dalmatian architect Jurij Zaninović, who studied under the famous Viennese architect Otto Wagner, one of whose pupils was also Ljubljana's great architect Jože Plečnik. Zaninović designed the concrete slabs in which the reinforced concrete structure is clad, the balustrades, and the sheet-copper dragon statues. The bridge's original decorations also include the parapet lamps, once powered by gas.

The Dragon Bridge replaced an old wooden bridge called Butchers' Bridge, which had stood on its site from 1819. The municipal authorities decided on a modern design and reinforced concrete structure mainly for economy reasons as construction in reinforced concrete was far less expensive than construction in the then more common stone.

Kongresni trg (square)



More info:

The site of the present Kongresni trg square was occupied by a small square already back in the Baroque period. The original square was thoroughly reconstructed for the 1821 Congress of the Holy Alliance and named after it.

Its south end, the site of the former Provincial Mansion, where the Congress took place, is now occupied by the University of Ljubljana building. Not far away from it is the Slovenian Philharmonic building and next to it a Bidermeyer building housing the oldest Slovenian publishing house, Slovenska matica, established in 1894. The north end of the square is occupied by the neoclassical Kazina building. The Zvezda park, which stretches across the central part of the square, is the site of several historical attractions.

Amid the remains of the town walls of the Roman Emona stands a copy of the gilded bronze statue of a Roman patrician excavated from a site next to the Kazina building in 1836. In Roman times, the area was the site of a burial ground. In accordance with Roman tradition, Emona's burial grounds were situated outside the town walls. The Emonian statue was buried together with the cremated remains of the deceased and a number of objects indicative of the fact that he was a distinguished citizen living in Emona at the beginning of the 2nd century AD, during the rule of Emperor Trajan.

On the other side of the park stands a picturesque music pavilion. An anchor statue on a plinth was placed in the park in 1954 to commemorate the annexation of the coastal region of Primorje to Slovenia. In 1927, a copy of the Holy Trinity Column supposedly created by Francesco Robba in 1722 was erected across the road from the Ursuline Church. The original is kept at the City Museum of Ljubljana.

Ljubljana Castle



More info:

Ljubljana Castle is the city's most prominent sight, offering some of the most beautiful views of Ljubljana. The castle premises house several museum exhibitions and presentations, such as Slovenian History, The Prison and Virtual Castle, among others. The castle, accessible by funicular railway, also houses two restaurants, Gostilna na gradu and Strelec.

Observation Tower

Ljubljana Castle's Observation Tower offers the most beautiful views of Ljubljana and its surrounding areas. Its site was originally occupied by the Pipers' Tower, pulled down after the French occupation in 1813, and later by a fire lookout tower, home of the city's fire lookout.

Virtual Castle

A virtual walk through the history of Ljubljana Castle offers an opportunity to learn about archaeological findings in the area, the castle's architectural development through different periods of time, and the interior of the castle. The 12-minute virtual tour is available in English, German, Italian, Croatian, Russian, French and Spanish.

Permanent exhibition: Slovenian History

Slovenian History, Ljubljana Castle's new permanent exhibition, shows the dynamic history of Slovenia and Ljubljana. Slovenian territory, lying at the junction of natural routes between the Alps, the Adriatic Sea and the Pannonian Plain, has been the point of convergence of different peoples and cultures since prehistory. The exhibition covers the Slovenian history from the earliest traces of human presence (200,000 BC) to the landmark events following Slovenia's independence in 1991.

The Prison

A permanent exhibition on view in the part of Ljubljana Castle which used to house a provincial prison and is now fully restored offers an insight into the role that Ljubljana Castle played in the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century. The exhibition includes several cells built between 1868 and 1895, original objects of the time, and a presentation of the life of prisoners.

Permanent exhibition: 310-Million-Year-Old Fossil Rocks

This exhibition, on display at the upper station of the Ljubljana Castle funicular, shows the rocks composing the Posavje folds and the castle hill as part of them. The rocks were formed in the Carboniferous period, over 300 million years ago, in a river delta located in a tropical climate, close to the equator.

St. George's Chapel

St. George's Chapel, originally built in the Gothic style and later rebuilt in the Baroque style, is one of the oldest parts of Ljubljana Castle. It is decorated with 15th century frescoes and 1747 wall paintings of the coats of arms of provincial governors-general and five Austrian rulers.

Schedule

Ljubljana Castle and Funicular

- January to March, November: 10:00-20:00 daily,
- April, May, October: 9:00-21:00 daily,
- June to September: 9:00-23:00 daily,
- December: 10:00-22:00 daily.

Info center, Virtual Castle, Outlook Tower, Slovenian History

- January to March, November: 10:00-18:00 daily,
- April, May, October: 9:00-20:00 daily,
- June to September: 9:00-21:00 daily,
- December: 10:00-19:00 daily.

Castle tours

Ljubljana Castle Time Machine

Join a time travelling tour through six groundbreaking periods in the history of Ljubljana Castle in the company of costumed castle guides impersonating different historical personalities.

Notes and additional information

Prices

Castle ticket with with funicular:

- €10.00 for adults
- €7.00 for children, students, seniors, and those visiting in a group of more than 15 people
- €26.00 for families - two adults and up to three pre-schoolers

The ticket to Ljubljana Castle includes return funicular ride, admission to the Virtual Castle, Outlook Tower, permanent exhibition Slovenian History, and all temporary exhibitions held in the castle.

Castle ticket:

- €7.50 for adults
- €5.20 for children, students, seniors, and those visiting in a group of more than 15 people
- €19.00 for families - two adults and up to three pre-schoolers

The ticket to Ljubljana Castle includes admission to the Virtual Castle, Outlook Tower, permanent exhibition Slovenian History, and all temporary exhibitions held in the castle.

Stories of Ljubljana's Castles

Embark on an exploration of Ljubljana castles' past and present. Save money by getting a combined ticket to Ljubljana Castle, Tivoli Mansion, Fužine Castle, and Cekin Mansion.

- €11.00 for adults
- €5.50 for children

The ticket is valid for three days from purchase.

Price list is available on the Ljubljanski grad official website.

National Gallery



More info:

The National Gallery, Slovenia's foremost museum of historical art, holds the country's largest collection of fine art from the High Middle Ages to the 20th century. Apart from housing two permanent collections, Art in Slovenia and European Paintings, it hosts temporary art exhibitions.

The National Gallery keeps one of Ljubljana's greatest Baroque works of art, the original Fountain of Three Carniolan Rivers by Francesco Robba, whose original site in front of the Ljubljana Town Hall is now occupied

by its replica. The Gallery also houses an extensive library and keeps a collection of posters and calendars and an archival collection made up of Slovenian artists' personal archives.

The National Gallery's education department, whose mission is to promote and popularize the nation's artistic heritage, runs a programme of activities for children and families (special exhibition tours, creative workshops, etc.), also available to groups by prior appointment.

Permanent collection Art in Slovenia

The collection is made up of the most important works of art created in Slovenian inhabited areas from the 13th century to the first quarter of the 20th century. Exhibited works include paintings and statues from the periods of Gothic art, Baroque, Classicism, Romanticism, Realism and Impressionism.

Permanent collection Slovenian Paintings

The National Gallery keeps over one hundred works by well and lesser known Italian, Spanish, French, Flemish, Dutch and German painters representative of different European schools of painting and painting traditions, as well as paintings by various 19th and 20th century artists. Selected works are held within Art in Slovenia permanent collection.

Schedule

Open: 10:00-18:00 Tuesday to Sunday, every first Thursday in month 10:00-20:00. Thursdays in July and August until 21 pm.

Location

Since 1925, the National Gallery has been housed in the Narodni dom building, constructed in 1896 to designs by the Czech architect František Edmund Škabrouk on the model of Prague's National Theatre (Národní divadlo). The building was originally used as a venue for cultural events organised by various Slovenian societies and its basement as a gym of the Društvo Sokol society. On the outside, the building is shaped in the form of a basilica with the central wing taller than the side ones. Its façade is decorated in the neo-Renaissance style.

The building now houses the National Gallery's collections of Slovenian art from the Middle Ages to the end of the 19th century and numerous temporary exhibitions. In recent times, it has undergone two modifications. In 1993 it was added a postmodernist-style annexe designed by Edvard Ravnikar, a renowned Slovenian architect who died before the construction was completed. In 2001, a glass extension designed by the architectural studio Sadar&Vuga arhitekti was added to the annexe to connect it with the main building. The glass extension is used as the Gallery's entrance hall and an event venue.



National Museum of Slovenia

More info:

Being Slovenia's main museum of national history, the National Museum keeps a number of finds from Slovenia considered to be important treasures of the world's cultural heritage. One of the most outstanding is the 60,000 year old Neanderthal flute from the Divje Babe excavation site.

The National Museum of Slovenia is housed in a centrally located neo-Renaissance palace built between

1883 and 1885 to designs by Viljem Treo. The Museum's history goes back to 1821, to the foundation of its predecessor, the Provincial Museum of Carniola.

Permanent exhibitions:

Prehistoric Treasures of the National Museum of Slovenia

This exhibition brings together the most important archaeological finds from the National Museum of Slovenia's prehistoric collection, including, among others, the Neanderthal flute from the Divje Babe excavation site, which is considered to be the world's oldest musical instrument, and the famous Vače Situla, an Early Iron Age ritual vessel found in the village of Vače.

Roman Stories from the Crossroads

The exhibition brings together archaeological finds from the time when the territory of the present-day Slovenia was part of the Roman Empire. It was set up to mark the 2000th anniversary of Emona, a city that stood on the site of the present-day Ljubljana in Roman times. Over a thousand objects on exhibition include an imperial construction inscription dated to 14 or 15 AD, which provides evidence on the time of the foundation of Emona. Another important exhibit is a gilded bronze statue of a citizen of Emona.

The exhibition also includes films, sculptural reconstructions, and reconstruction paintings.

The Roman Lapidarium

The Roman Lapidarium is a collection of more than 200 stone monuments bearing Roman Latin inscriptions and dating from the 1st to 4th centuries AD. Most of the monuments, displayed on the ground floor of the museum building and in a glass pavilion situated in the Museum's courtyard, were found on the site of Emona (Ljubljana in Roman times), the Ižanski kot area, the town of Trojane, and the regions of Zasavje and Dolenjska.

Schedule

Open: Daily from 10:00 to 18:00, Thursdays from 10:00-20:00, except 1 January, 1 May, 1 November, and 25 December.

Notes and additional information

Admission to the Museum

- Free admission for pre-schoolers, the disabled, journalists, and the members of the Slovenian Museum Society and the International Council of Museums (ICOM)

- €6.00 for adults

- €4.00 for seniors and secondary school and university students

- €4.00 for school groups and other groups of more than 10 people

Combined tickets for the Museum's two departments (one in the Prešernova cesta street and the other in the Metelkova ulica street)

- €8.50 for adults

- €6.00 for seniors and secondary school and university students

- €17.00 for families

Prešernov trg (square)



More info:

The Prešernov trg square developed from a road junction in front of one of the city gates leading to medieval Ljubljana. Next to the junction, a Franciscan church of the Annunciation was built in the 17th century, but the junction was turned into a square and paved only after the city walls were pulled down in the middle of the 19th century.

In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake of 1895 the square saw the building of several bourgeois palaces: Frisch House (Frischova hiša) and Seunig House (Seunigova hiša) at the lower end of the Čopova ulica street, the building currently housing the Centralna lekarna pharmacy, Urbanč House (Urbančeva hiša), Hauptman House (Hauptmanova hiša) and Mayer Palace (Mayerjeva palača), the latter built thirty years after the earthquake. Across the river from the square, Filip Mansion (Filipov dvorec) and the Kresija municipal office building were built by the Graz-based architect Leopold Theyer.

The first decade of the 20th century saw the Art Nouveau refurbishment of Hauptman House and the building of Urbanč House, one of Ljubljana's most beautiful Art Nouveau buildings, which housed the city's first department store. Between the two World Wars, as a final touch to the square, the Mayer department store was built on the south side of the square. When the architect Jože Plečnik's Triple Bridge was built, the square extended to the other side of the Ljubljanica river and assumed its present appearance.

The square's Prešeren Monument, designed by the architect Maks Fabiani and the sculptor Ivan Zajc, was unveiled in the autumn of 1905. It depicts the greatest Slovenian poet, France Prešeren (1800-1849), and the muse of poetry holding a spring of laurel above his head. The poet's statue is symbolically faced by the statue of Julija Primic, his great love, mounted on the facade of a building located across the square, in the Wolfova ulica street.



Robba Fountain (The fountain of Three Carniolan Rivers)

More info:

The Robba Fountain, one of Ljubljana's best known Baroque monuments, also known as The Fountain of Three Carniolan Rivers, stands at the edge of the Mestni trg square. It was created between 1743 and 1751 by the Venetian-born sculptor and architect Francesco Robba (1698-1757), who spent most of his life in Ljubljana and is considered to be the city's greatest Baroque master sculptor working in stone.

The Robba Fountain is modelled on famous Roman fountains. The sculptures of three river gods adorning it are believed to represent three Carniolan rivers: the Sava, the Ljubljanica and the Krka. The Fountain's

ground plan is shaped in the form of Ljubljana's ancient three-leaf town seal.

The Fountain of Three Carniolan Rivers was Robba's last work in Ljubljana. While sculpting it, he became poor and as soon as the work was finished he moved to Zagreb.

The Tivoli Park



More info:

Tivoli Park is Ljubljana's largest and most beautiful park, stretching right into the city centre. It was designed in 1813 by the French engineer Jean Blanchard and created by joining together the parks which had surrounded Podturn and Cekin Mansions. The park, covering an area of approximately five square kilometres, is crossed by three grand horse chestnut tree-lined walks and landscaped with ornamental flower beds, interesting trees and numerous statues and fountains. The park area blends into the slopes of the Rožnik hill, to which it is connected by several walking paths and a trim trail with several exercise stations along its length.

Jakopič Promenade, a popular outdoor gallery

Tivoli Park's scenic Jakopič Promenade (Jakopičevo sprehajališče), designed by the architect Jože Plečnik in the central part of Tivoli Park, has become a well known outdoor venue for exhibitions of large-format photographs, open throughout the year.

Location

Since its general layout was made in 1813, Tivoli Park has seen several expansions and re-landscaping projects, including the building of a fish pond on its western edge in 1880. Next to the pond there is a small botanical garden with a glasshouse, whose management was entrusted to the Ljubljana Botanic Garden on its 200th anniversary in 2010. The glasshouse houses a permanent exhibition of tropical and carnivorous plants. Across the way from the fish pond, a children's playground was built in 1942 and refurbished with new play equipment in 1994.

Between 1921 and 1939, an extensive re-design project was undertaken by the architect Jože Plečnik, who designed the park's wide Jakopič Promenade, which ends at the bottom of the stairway leading to Tivoli Mansion. The promenade is named after the Slovenian Impressionist painter Rihard Jakopič.

In 1929, the Letno Kopališče Ilirija outdoor swimming pool was built at the edge of the Tivoli park to a design by Stanko Bloudek. At the time when it was built it was the most modern swimming pool in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. In memory of Bloudek, a sports park bearing his name was later built in front of the Tivoli park's Cekin Mansion (Cekinov grad). It included tennis and basketball courts, a roller-skating rink and a children's playground designed by the architect Marjan Božič. In 1965, Božič also designed Dvorana Tivoli, a hall intended for sports events and larger concerts. Not far away, a sports and recreational centre with an indoor swimming pool, fitness facilities and a bowling alley was built to a design by Fedja Košir in 1973.

Town Hall



More info:

Ljubljana's Town Hall (locally referred to as Mestna hiša, Magistrat or Rotovž), is used as the seat of the Municipality of Ljubljana. It was built in the late 15th century by the master builder Peter Bezljaj. It assumed its present appearance between 1717 and 1719, when an annexe designed by Carlo Martinuzzi was added to it by the master builder Gregor Maček Snr. Later the building was altered several times, the most thoroughly by the architect Svetozar Križaj in 1963.

The Town Hall façade reflects Venetian architectural influences. The vestibule provides space for a late Gothic plaque with a coat of arms surviving from the original Town Hall building and a 17th century statue of Hercules with a lion, previously a part of the Hercules Fountain which used to stand in the middle of the nearby Stari trg square. In the Town Hall's arched courtyard stands Francesco Robba's Narcissus Fountain (Narcisov vodnjak) from Bokalce Castle (Grad Bokalce). Next to the staircase there is a monument in memory of Ivan Hribar (1851-1941), a famous mayor of Ljubljana.

Triple Bridge



More info:

The central of the three bridges forming the Triple Bridge has stood in its place since 1842, when it replaced an old, strategically important medieval wooden bridge connecting the north-western European lands with south-eastern Europe and the Balkans. Between 1929 and 1932, the side bridges, intended for pedestrians, were added to the original stone bridge to a design by the architect Jože Plečnik, who thus created a unique architectural gem of Ljubljana.

Plečnik removed the metal railings from the old stone bridge and furnished all the three bridges with massive stone balustrades and lamps. From each of the side bridges, two stairways lead to terraces situated just above the river, where poplar trees were planted to contribute to the overall appearance of the Bridge.

On the right bank of the river, the Bridge is enhanced by a small flower shop connected to the Ljubljana Central Market colonnade, and on the left bank by a kiosk. It has a key position on the crossing of Plečnik's two urban axes, the river axis and the axis running between the Rožnik and castle hills. In 1992, the Triple Bridge was thoroughly renovated.

Events on the weekend:

Odprta kuhna (an exclusive food market in Ljubljana)

In case you will arrive well before Friday Dinner, you should visit a pleasant event in Ljubljana, just across the Triple Bridge, or only a stone throw from hotel Union.

The event is taking place every Friday from March till October, providing favourable weather conditions and brings together street cook enthusiasts and cooks including many famous Slovenian chefs.

An experience not to be missed!

Ask for Odprta kuhna or for Pogacarjev Trg (square).

More details:

<http://www.odprtakuhna.si/en>

More useful information about Slovenia:

<http://www.slovenia.info/?lng=2&redirected=1>

More useful information about Ljubljana:

<http://www.visitljubljana.com/en/>