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SLOVENIA

WHY ORGANISE A CONFERENCE IN
SLOVENIA

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Slovenian
Convention
Bureau



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INTRODUCTION

In such a small area of only two million people, we have a very diverse and sustainably oriented offer and can organize meetings in cities, the Alps, the Mediterranean and spas. Slovenia has beautiful untouched nature and exquisite cuisine. We are excellent and hospitable organisers and hosts. We offer a great value for money. It is also important that we are a democratic European country with the euro and inside the Schengen area. It is important that Slovenia is both economically and scientifically internationally connected, as we have many experts in various fields that are involved in international associations. Thus, Slovenia hosts numerous reputable international scientific-professional meetings. Slovenia and its providers are active in the international business environment and are looking for appropriate events for our country. Last year we developed the long-term project Slovenian Ambassador Program. Its purpose is to bring even more international business events to Slovenia. In this project, we cooperate with the Slovenian scientific, professional, academic, medical and economic spheres, which are important stakeholders in this field.



Miha Kovačič,
Director of
Slovenian
Convention Bureau

Most attendees haven't visited Slovenia before, which makes it a very appealing destination for delegates who crave something new, different and off-the-beaten-path. The big advantage of being small is that you can focus on the little things. We utilize details and personal touches, which make your meeting truly authentic. Slovenian Convention Bureau is the central contact point for meeting planners, supplying them with impartial information and advice on all aspects of organizing events in Slovenia. Our experienced suppliers and fitting infrastructure can bring to life even the most demanding international scientific-professional events. Slovenia is a young country and new to MICE, but we know the importance and value of partnership since MICE events are only truly successful when the entire destination community works together in support of the clients' objectives. Our offer and guarantee are strongly supported by the energy and diligence of Slovenians, making for a unique and memorable experience.



SLOVENIA IS AN EASY ACCESSIBLE DESTINATION

- The current non-stop connections comprise around 200 weekly scheduled flights to 26 mostly European destinations.
- Any location in Slovenia is easily accessible from all neighboring international airports (Venice, Trieste, Zagreb, Graz, Vienna) with GoOpti buses and shuttles.
- Modern, comfortable trains serve the capital as well as almost every essential tourist destinations in Slovenia.
- Slovenia's road network has been modernized over the past decade as to provide an efficient road system, improve road safety and ensure broader European integration.

Distances from the neighbouring airports to Ljubljana by road:

Graz Airport, Austria: 187 km
Klagenfurt Airport, Austria: 85 km
Zagreb Airport, Croatia: 140 km
Trieste Airport, Italy: 130 km
Venice Airport, Italy: 230 km

All flights to and from Ljubljana are operated through the Jože Pučnik Ljubljana Airport, which is located at 25 km from the city centre. The current non-stop connections network covers 21 destinations, with one or more daily frequencies to Brussels, Belgrade, Berlin, Frankfurt, Istanbul, London, Moscow, Munich, Paris, Warsaw and Zurich. They are operated by Aeroflot, Air Serbia, Air France, Brussels Airlines, easyJet, Finnair, Lufthansa, LOT Polish Airlines, Montenegro Airlines, Swiss, Transavia, Turkish Airlines, and Wizz Air. British Airways will resume operating flights from London Heathrow to Ljubljana in summer 2020 schedule (4 times a week).



1000km

500km

SUSTAINABILITY



FORESTS

58% of land covered in forests



RECYCLING

58% of municipal waste is recycled



WATER STEWARDSHIP

over 3.000 m³ renewable water per citizen collected yearly

VISITOR INFORMATION



CURRENCY

Euro (sign: €, code: EUR)



COMMUNICATION

Official language is **Slovenian**, most people are fluent in English



DISTANCES

Everything is very **close by**, city centres are walkable, the entire country is easily accessible by motorway



VISA

visitors from **non-EU** countries **need a visa**

(list of countries, whose citizens need a visa to visit Slovenia: <https://www.schengenvisa.info.com/who-needs-schengen-visa/>)



SAFETY INDEX

12th on World safety scale (2019), with safety index score **7.44**



ARRIVING IN SLOVENIA

Airport, train station and **bus terminal** in Ljubljana

WELCOME TO SLOVENIA

FRIENDLY PEOPLE, STUNNING NATURE, PURE AUTHENTICITY

Slovenia is the only country in the world where green nature connects and unites the Alpine, Karst, Mediterranean and Panonic worlds. The **diversity of the landscape** and **unspoilt nature**, together with its **geostrategic position**, represent the country's main assets which have long been attracting congress organisers. For example, long before the emergence of the conference industry as we know it today, in 1821 Ljubljana hosted the Congress of the Holy Alliance. For four months the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana, became the centre of European politics. This could even be considered as the beginning of the two-hundred-year-long history of the Slovenian meetings industry.

As a congress destination, Slovenia is highly valued for its **compactness** and **safety** and for its **stress-free environment**. Slovenian residents appreciate nature and want to keep it the way it is, but at the same time like to share it with visiting congress guests. Slovenian congress organisers are famous for their kindness and ever smiling faces. They like to help with a personal approach, are flexible, and know how to work in a team.



„Slovenia promotes itself with the brand “I Feel SLOVEria”, This expresses a balance between nature and the diligence of Slovenians; it speaks of unspoilt nature and our will to preserve it.“



THE CAPACITY TO DELIVER

SLOVENIAN ENERGY

For Slovenian people, satisfaction at work is closely connected to the quality of life. Slovenia is renowned as a diligent and hard-working nation, and this largely defines the basis of the Slovenian congress offer. The energy of Slovenian congress events could be compared to Slovenian athletes who are famous for being energetic, diligent, motivated and open. Slovenians set themselves high long-term goals that they achieve with passion and commitment.

The Slovenian Convention Bureau's approach to organising congress events follows a lean management strategy and is constantly adapted to the requirements of conference organisers. Organising a large congress is never something to be taken lightly, but is rather an expression of our calling, competence and intelligent execution. It is a result of our talent, strong purpose, serious work ethic, passion and commitment. It is our devotion and guarantee to bring your congress to Slovenia.



„Slovenian energy is different. It's naturally laid back. Relaxed. Calm. Not all sparkly on the outside but then quickly running out of fizz. It's slow release, enduring, in it for the long haul. Slovenian energy is there when you need creative input in planning your event. And it is there throughout the event journey, right until the end when your attendees give you a standing ovation for a job well done.“





WHY SLOVENIA

A SAFE AND WELCOMING CONGRESS DESTINATION

Through years of development, Slovenia has become a recognisable congress destination and a reliable partner for the most demanding conferences. Slovenia possesses many natural resources, and its good position between the Mediterranean, Central and South-East Europe offers many opportunities, complementing the reasons for organising events in Slovenia.

10 reasons for organising an event in Slovenia

People: The conference industry equals people, and in Slovenia you are assured of positive, inspiring and creative energy. Slovenians believe in teamwork, and since every team is only as strong as its weakest link, they are aware that the knowledge and experience of the country's employees is its biggest asset.

Diversity & Compactness: Slovenia's great climatic and natural diversity is one of the main reasons why meeting planners like to hold events in Slovenia. This allows everyone to find a suitable location, ranging from the sunny coastal region to picturesque Alpine valleys.

Environmental responsibility & Stress-free destination: Slovenian people are aware how important environmental protection is in order to ensure a stable and safe future for everybody. Therefore, much attention is paid to nature preservation. Events organised by the Slovenian Convention Bureau take into account the goal of reducing environmental emissions.

Safety: Slovenia is known as an oasis of safety. It is safe to walk around any large city, while in the countryside there are still places where people do not lock their front door. All of this is confirmed by indexes that position Slovenia in the group of safest countries in the world.

Slovenian gastronomy: Is a key part of ensuring quality events and is an area to which the Slovenian Convention Bureau is committed. Slovenian cuisine is characterised by its extreme creativity and diversity. Slovenia is divided into 24 different gastronomical regions.

Success in science: Slovenian scientists excel in their fields. Some of the country's scientists recently achieved a great breakthrough. Researchers from the Faculty of Medicine in Ljubljana published a research paper proving that the Zika virus from an infected mother can infect the brain of a foetus and can cause permanent brain damage and microcephaly. This is just one of many other important discoveries made by Slovenian researchers.

Satisfaction of participants: The Slovenian Convention Bureau and its partners are aware of the importance of carefully listening to event participants, recognising their needs and then professionally, creatively and quickly transforming those needs into top-notch events.

Clean environment: There is no need for concern in regards to drinking water in Slovenia. The country has more than four times the amount of Europe's average supply of drinking water. In addition, Slovenia has the best scores among EU members when it comes to waste management. Ljubljana can boast being the first EU capital that in 2014 adopted a strategy of complete waste recycling.

Price competitiveness: The Slovenian congress product is competitive pricewise and comparable with other Central Europe destinations.

A door to the region: Slovenia's greatest asset is its location between Western and South-Eastern Europe (SEE) and its historical connection to SEE. For this reason the Slovenian Meetings industry has a competitive advantage through knowing its culture, mentality and the region's other characteristics.

„Slovenia shares a border with Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia. Like Switzerland, Slovenia has majestic mountains and lush river valleys but is not landlocked and has a magnificent coastline on the Adriatic. The capital city, Ljubljana, is a largely traffic-free city built on either side of a river with a stunning medieval castle.“

WHAT SLOVENIA OFFERS

THE GREEN HEART OF EUROPE

Slovenia is a land with wonderfully unspoilt nature that is valued highly by its residents and congress guests. The country's incredible gifts of nature, at the intersection of the Mediterranean, the Alps and the Panonian Basin, are the main conditions for the development of green and responsible congress tourism. Slovenia is considered one of the richest countries in water resources in Europe.

For the above-stated reasons, staging a congress in Slovenia means your event is held in a healthy environment where people live closely tied with nature. All the key congress destinations - Ljubljana, Maribor, Bled and Portorož - strive for quality of the environment and quality of living. The bounty of green areas, and the good quality and abundance of clean water, allows congress guests access to diverse and active experiences in connection with the country's extremely rich cultural heritage.

As event organisers, the Slovenian Convention Bureau strives to organise congresses and events that use natural and social resources in an economic and sustainable manner. These are based on green supply chains, locally produced food, sustainable water management, careful waste handling and authentic experiences through connecting with the local environment. Wherever you choose to hold your event in Slovenia, you will be standing with one foot in the city and the other in the countryside.

„Slovenia is a green country. Our cities have rich culture and human scale and our countryside has mountains, forests, rivers and lakes. Our food and wine compare with the best. Slovenia offers the perfect haven, an awesome place to escape to, yet is on your doorstep, right in the heart of Europe.“





BEING SLOVENIAN

SLOVENIAN ICONS

Slovenians identify themselves through various symbolic icons that have shaped the nation over centuries into what it is today. When Slovenians talk about Triglav – Slovenia’s highest mountain, linden trees, bee-keeping and Slovenian food, they are actually talking about themselves.

Slovenians are particularly proud of their language and culture. Approximately 2.4 million people speak the Slovenian language as their mother tongue. The Slovenian language is also special due its use of the dual form, which is very rare. Despite the relatively small surface area of Slovenia’s language territory and small number of speakers, linguists have recognised 46 clearly distinguished dialects. The Slovenian language ranks among the South-slavic languages, but, at the same time, it has a lot of similarities to those of the Western-slavic branch. In addition, Romance, Germanic and Ugrofinnic languages have had an impact on the Slovenian language.

Slovenians also have a great passion for ski jumping. This is a sport that many are convinced was actually invented in Slovenia. The Planica Nordic Centre, with its charisma, remains an important symbol of Sloveneness. It is a reflection of the love of Slovenian people for sport, while the events held at Planica are a true national celebration of sport and undoubtedly the biggest sporting events of the year.



„When working in a destination there needs to be a collaborative spirit amongst all suppliers. We are small enough as a MICE community to be truly connected to each other and proud enough as a country to care about getting it right.“





CONFERENCE ESCAPES

OFF THE-BEATEN TRACK

Slovenia's geographical and climatic diversity make it easy and quick to get from one side of the country to the other. The interesting locations listed below are approximately an hour away from the capital. In the morning you can be in the midst of a congress event, and in the afternoon be in the midst of the most attractive Slovenian natural and cultural landmarks.

The Slovenian Karst: The Karst plateau gave name to the Karst topography and Karst phenomena all over the world. Supposedly, it was in the Slovenian Karst where scientists for the first time described various Karst specialities: underground drainage systems with caves, sinkholes and water abysses. 'Must see' places in Slovenia include the Postojna Cave and the Lipica stud farm.

Recommended as a pre- or post-congress tour.

Lake Cerknica: This intermittent lake fills with water in spring and in autumn. When full, its surface covers an area of up to 38km² and it becomes the largest lake in Slovenia. In summer, however, the lake significantly shrinks in size due to its numerous subterranean reservoirs and caverns which drain its water.

Recommended as a pre- or post-congress tour.

Sečovlje Salina Nature Park: The largest Slovenian salt evaporation pond was the first Slovenian wetland put on the list of Ramsar wetlands of international importance (1993), while traditional salt making has been put on UNESCO's List of Intangible Heritage. Nowadays, a smaller area of the 700-year-old saltworks still harvests salt 'on the petola' and is one of only four remaining places in the world where this technique is still used. In the uninhibited part of the saltworks there is a rich treasury of flora and fauna.

Recommended as a venue for special events.

The Soča Valley: The Soča River, with its distinct emerald green colour, is considered to be one of the most beautiful rivers in Europe. The river and its tributaries excite lovers of natural beauty and seekers of adventurous water sports, such as wildwater kayaking, rafting, canyoning, etc.

Recommended as a teambuilding location and for incentive programmes.

Planica: The modern Nordic Centre is a symbol of Slovenia and an excellent venue. The centre boasts a renovated and newly-refurbished ski jumping hill, cross-country skiing trails, and congress halls. Since the first ski jumps in the early 1930's, more than 60 world records have been made at Planica.

Recommended as a venue for special events.

"Slovenia is a young country, new to MICE, so most attendees have not been here before. This makes the country appealing for today's delegates who crave something new, different, and off-the-beaten track."





IT'S ALL ABOUT LOCATION

SLOVENIA IN THE HEART OF EUROPE

Slovenia is an easy and quickly accessible destination. It is a diverse destination for business meetings where organisers can choose among numerous geographical features. It is easy to combine various destinations and excursions due to the country's compactness and good road connections.

Travelling by car

The easiest way to discover Slovenia is by car. Slovenia can be reached via one of the border crossings with Italy, Austria, Hungary or Croatia, or once here you can rent a car from one of the car rental agencies. Slovenia's motorways are good and clearly signposted. They are well-equipped with petrol stations, service stations, inns with overnight accommodation and motels.

Travelling by train

Modern and comfortable trains serve almost every important tourist destination. Connections abroad are excellent: direct services connect Slovenia with Italy, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, the Czech Republic, Germany and Switzerland. Railway travel is convenient and inexpensive.

Travelling by plane

There are regular scheduled flights available between Ljubljana and most major European cities. Various major international airlines as well as some low fare airlines fly to Slovenia.

Citizens of European Union member states and Switzerland can cross the border with a valid personal identification document, but stays must not exceed thirty days. A Schengen visa is available to anyone who

requires a visa in order to visit Slovenia. It can be obtained at Slovenian consulates in the applicant's own country, or at the consulates of all Schengen member states, which issue visas under the same conditions, taking into account the interests of other member states.

At www.slovenia.info, you can find information about accommodation, transport, museums and attractions.





INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SLOVENIA

1. Slovenia is in the world's top for the number of published books per resident. It has published 1,780 books per million residents and is only exceeded in this area by Great Britain.
2. Slovenia has incredibly diverse and well preserved nature. In 2004 Slovenia established a Natura 2000 network which covers 37% of the national territory and puts the country in first place in Europe.
3. Slovenia is also in the world's top according to general participation in sport, which amounts to 64% of the population, and ranks alongside Scandinavian countries.
4. Among 163 countries in the world, Slovenia ranks 8th in the 2019 Global Peace Index, immediately after the Czech Republic and Denmark.
5. Slovenia is symbolised by its forests. With 60% forestation, the country is known as the third most forested country in Europe, and the share is increasing since around a million new trees are planted annually.
6. Slovenia has one of the largest populations of brown bear in Europe. Their number is estimated between five to seven hundred.
7. On the gender equality scale by the World Economic Forum 2019, Slovenia ranks in 11th place. Iceland is in first place, followed by Norway, Finland, Sweden and Ireland.

„Throughout its history Slovenia has always been at the crossroads of the Mediterranean, Germanic and Slavic cultures and this has left its mark on our country today. It might be one of Europe's smallest countries, but it has great traditions in food and wine, richly diverse regions and its people are hard-working, progressive, naturally friendly and welcoming.“





WHY LJUBLJANA

The EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL 2016, Ljubljana has congresses written in its DNA. In 1821, long before the emergence of the meetings industry as we know it today, Ljubljana hosted the Congress of the Holy Alliance. It brought together important sovereigns, politicians and diplomats of the time to draw a new political map of Europe after Napoleon's downfall.

Due to its geographical location, the Slovenian capital has always had a linking role between South East and Central Europe. Ljubljana has many attributes of a big city, while creating the impression of a smaller and friendly town, which makes it so relaxing. The city is compact, picturesque, attractive and friendly to delegates attending conferences, corporate events or incentives programmes. With its accessibility and the well-developed and diversified meeting infrastructure, Ljubljana is Slovenia's major congress destination, having the highest share of (international) meetings. Ljubljana is extremely safe and it is one of the most sustainably-oriented cities in the region.



TOP PLACES WHERE PEOPLE MEET

GR – LJUBLJANA EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION CENTRE

A competitive advantage of this modernist complex of buildings is its location at the city centre edge, the ease of access being one of the sustainable elements that distinguish it. Conference delegates attending an event at this highly flexible venue can also enjoy a range of shopping, entertainment and recreational offers nearby.



CANKARJEV DOM – CD CONGRESS CENTRE

CD is one of the highest-quality and most interesting convention centres in Europe, whose cultural-artistic and congress programmes have been harmoniously complementing each other for 35 years. Cankarjev dom, set in the very city centre, is a flagship for both cultural and humanistic activities and the meetings industry in Slovenia.



LJUBLJANA CASTLE

A mighty medieval fortress overlooking the lively city centre and a landmark of Ljubljana, the castle is an idyllic setting for special events staged both outdoors – in the courtyard, and in its indoor halls. A striking panorama unfolds from the tower's top. Guests can easily reach the castle from the Old Town by means of a funicular railway.



GRAND HOTEL UNION

The Grand Hotel Union, located just a stone's throw from the Old Town quarter, boasts the largest hotel convention centre in Ljubljana. The outstanding cuisine ensures that receptions, business lunches, and gala dinners are a resounding success.



FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON LJUBLJANA MONS

Set in a green environment at the outskirts, yet close to the urban centre, this modernly designed hotel provides a relaxing and productive setting for an array of meetings and events. The nearby woods and meadows offer lots of options for recreation in natural surroundings.



INTERCONTINENTAL

As part of its exclusive offer 'Uncover the Unforgettable', the newly-opened InterContinental Hotel presents Ljubljana as one of the hidden gems of Europe. The hotel welcomes all congress guests to discover meeting stories at this unforgettable destination.



HOTEL LEV

Hotel Lev has been welcoming guests for more than half a century. The hotel recently introduced a new concept that is now offered to event organisers as a combination of an 'out of the box' conference and unconventional meeting setting that will surpass delegates' expectations.



HOTEL CUBO

The boutique Hotel Cubo follows the modern design trend for meetings, believing that the power of an event lies in the active co-creating and contact of participants, which is also encouraged by the arrangement of conference rooms.



RADISSON BLU PLAZA HOTEL

One of the newest hotels in town is set in the BTC City quarter. Business delegates can indulge in the nearby vast shopping, entertainment and sports offer. With the congress centre occupying the property's 15th floor, the amazing views that extend as far as the Alps are among its main assets.



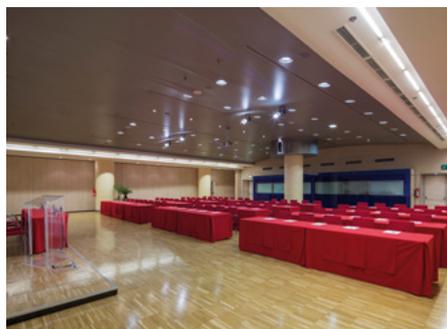
BEST WESTERN PREMIER HOTEL SLON

In the most central location of this vivid and charming capital city, the Best Western Premier Hotel Slon captures with its character. The hotel offers comfortable accommodation and recently refurbished multipurpose conference facilities combined with excellent cuisine.



AUSTRIA TREND HOTEL LJUBLJANA

This property is found in a business-residential district close to the Stožice Arena and Stadium, 4 km from downtown. Its flexible and modernly equipped congress centre is complemented by an attentive and professional service. A large 24-hrs fitness centre is among the amenities that distinguish this hotel.





GRAND HOTEL UNION ****

The Grand Hotel Union, originally designed in Art Nouveau style, offers 327 comfortable and elegantly appointed rooms, while perfectly combining business and pleasure with a fitness and wellness centre and a swimming pool on the eighth floor.

HOTEL LEV ****

Combining old charm with new concepts for meetings and events, this city centre hotel recently underwent a makeover and has a renovated lobby bar, breakfast room, a new 'Wine Corner' and a gym. It has 173 rooms and suites.

BEST WESTERN PREMIER HOTEL SLOJ ****

The oldest hotel in Ljubljana and one of the city's icons, the Best Western Premier Hotel Slon prides itself on its elite central location. The hotel's long history is evidenced by its excellent service and facilities that spoil guests in all aspects.

FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON LJUBLJANA MONS ****

Close to one of Ljubljana's most popular and greenest recreation areas – Mostec, yet within 5 km from the city centre, this is an excellent hotel for lovers of the active, great outdoors life.

HOTEL CUBO ****

Set in a prestigious location with an eye to the castle, this boutique hotel has not only built its reputation through design trends and comfort, but also by focusing on excellent service and a personalised attention each guest can enjoy.

RADISSON BLU PLAZA HOTEL ****

Wrapped in black glass, the 17-storey monumental cube is woven with light strips, which give it a special dynamic. All rooms are decorated in soothing, sober colours, and those on the top floors offer panoramic views over the city.

INTERCONTINENTAL *****

A newly-opened 21-storey hotel with 165 rooms, a 160 m² presidential suite, and swimming pool, saunas and a fitness centre. There are breathtaking views from the 18th floor, and the hotel easily meets the highest standards and expectations of its guests.



ESSENTIAL MEETING EXPERIENCES

STAY LOCAL

Find out about Jože Plečnik

Jože Plečnik (1872-1957) was a famous architect who tried to model Ljubljana on ancient Athens. The multitude of his creations in the city, referred to as a whole as “Plečnik’s Ljubljana”, is considered to be one of the 20th century’s most important total works of art. Plečnik’s best known works can all be explored on foot or by bike and include the National and University Library building, the Ljubljanica river embankments and bridges, the most notable among the latter being the Triple Bridge and the Cobblers’ Bridge, the Central Market, the Križanec Summer Theatre, the Bežigrad Stadium, and the funeral complex at the Žale cemetery.



HIT THE STREETS

Ljubljana Treasure Hunt

An interactive way of getting to know the city and your team members. Individual tasks are designed for teams to use their cartography and orientation skills, creativity, and competitiveness. The teams will walk through the historic streets of Ljubljana, among the most famous monuments as well as beautiful hidden places, attempt to solve a series of problems and challenges, answer carefully prepared questions, take photos and perform various tasks during the event in the quickest time possible while competing with other teams within your group.



HIDDEN GEMS

Graffiti Workshop

Graffiti Workshop is an exclusive workshop in Ljubljana, widely known for its rich graffiti and street art presence. The workshop allows you to create your own graffiti and come up with an awesome stencil design idea. You will learn all the practical stuff and be let in on a bunch of spray-painting tricks. All the workshops begin with a lecture on graffiti and street art and a demonstration, including an introduction to spray cans and spray painting in general. After an initial and detailed demo, you will be able to use your creativity under the instruction of Ljubljana’s graffiti maestros from the Institute for Urban Cultures.



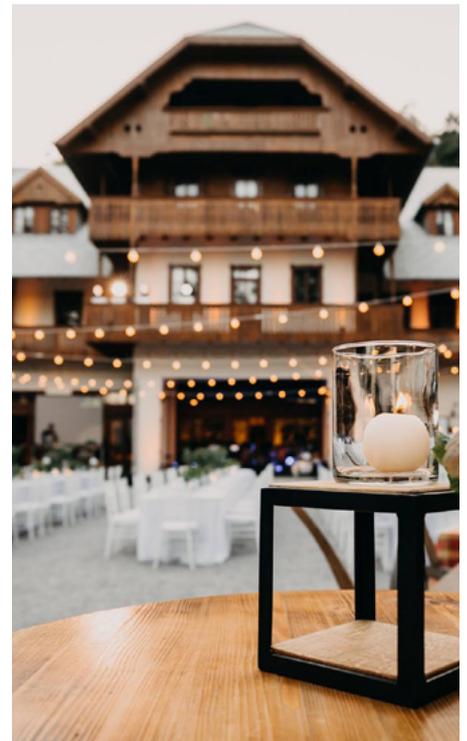
ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

The Švicarija Creative Centre

The newly opened Švicarija Creative Centre operates as a part of the International Centre of Graphic Arts (MGLC). Set in Ljubljana’s main park and built on the site of a former wooden guesthouse whose history goes back to 1835, this venue is nowadays a cultural monument. Tivoli Park – by far the most beautiful park in the capital, was designed in 1813 and stretches right into the city centre. With the massive reconstruction of Švicarija (aka Swiss house, named so due to its architectural style) Ljubljana has acquired a new cultural, educational and social centre, residential studios and gallery space. The multipurpose venue, with an adjoining coffee shop, is available for hosting various events. Its enchanting setting above the main Tivoli Park promenade, with an eye to the city centre, blends the best of both worlds – urban and natural.

Museum of Illusions

The Museum of Illusions, located in one of Ljubljana’s central squares, captivates and inspires with its fun and educational experiences where one can taste the limits of perception. Various installations in the form of holograms, puzzles, optical illusions, optical riddles, stereograms, etc. encourage visitors to get their mind wrapped around the phenomenon of perception, the human brain, and science. Offer your colleagues an event with a difference – anti-gravity room, inverted room, infinity disco room, vortex tunnel, etc. The museum offers space for any kind of event, such as press conferences, corporate events, brand launches, team buildings, celebrations, theme parties, and even video shoots. The layout of the items and the carefully selected content bring a special ambiance and colour to each and every event.



WHEN IN LJUBLJANA

ON THE MENU

Taste Ljubljana

Both Ljubljana's city centre and suburban districts boast a wide variety of restaurants, whose culinary styles include traditional Slovenian and numerous other national cuisines, particularly Balkan, Italian, Central European and, more recently, a variety of more exotic cuisines. One of Ljubljana's specialities is the numerous high-end restaurants that offer a selection of special lunchtime menus at affordable prices and a wide selection of high-quality Slovenian wines. Locals and tourists alike flock every Friday from March to October to the 'Open Kitchen', a food market where one can



taste a variety of dishes cooked outdoors on market stalls by Slovenian chefs.

LIFESTYLE

Bicycles, bicycles, bicycles...

Visitors to Ljubljana will quickly notice the high number of bicycles. A love for cycling is indicated by the free city bicycle scheme 'BicikeLJ', through organised Ljubljana cycling tours and an appreciation for the cult Pony bicycle. The old Pony, which now attracts high prices among collectors, has recently been relaunched in a modernised aluminium foldable version. In the European Green Capital, every-

thing is about sustainability. Sustainability goes hand in hand with the city's *Kavalir* (Gentleman) – an electric-powered vehicle that provides free transport around the old-town for everyone interested.

Dive into the cultural scene!

In Ljubljana, culture is imbued in its everyday life and is not considered a privilege. The year-round agenda features a multitude of international festivals and other events, encompassing a wide range of musical and artistic genres, where traditional lives side by side with the alternative. Welcome to join in!



PRE- AND POST-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOURS

PRE-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOUR

Ljubljana Wine Experience

The Ljubljana Wine Experience takes visitors by funicular up to Ljubljana Castle, where they have the opportunity to see the castle vineyard, otherwise not open to the public, where more than a thousand vines grow. The tour then continues to the Old Town -- where visitors, with the help of a wine connoisseur guide, learn about and taste wines from three wine-growing regions. The discovery of the richness of Slovenian viticulture is accompanied by regional snacks that perfectly complement the whole tasting experience.

POST-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOUR

Volčji Potok Arboretum & Velika Planina plateau

The Ljubljana Region offers a host of historical and natural attractions within less than

an hour's drive from the capital. Close to the medieval town of Kamnik, two sights deserve attention. Volčji Potok Arboretum, the most visited botanical park in Slovenia, presents on 85 hectares as many as 3,500 plants from across the world. Worth visiting all year round, it often features seasonal flower shows. An 18-hole golf course is another attractive content.



Velika Planina, a scenic high mountain plateau, is the site of one of Europe's few surviving herdsmen's villages with wooden huts where this traditional Alpine culture is still alive. Its stunning landscape, marked by vast pastures and Karst phenomena, is criss-crossed with many hiking routes.



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

1. The first congress was held in Ljubljana in 1821 – The Congress of Holy Alliance – that consisted of around 650 delegates.
2. The city's largest theatre-style hall capacity is for up to 2,200 seats.
3. Ljubljana celebrated 2 millennia of the Roman settlements on its grounds in 2014 (Emona was established in A.D. 14).
4. Ljubljana is the European capital with the highest share, 63%, of separated waste collected, and is the first capital in the EU in the 'zero waste' programme.
5. Ljubljana has 542 square metres of public green space per resident, while the city features 80 hectares of well-maintained green spaces.
6. Ljubljana suffered a huge earthquake in 1895 and much of it was rebuilt in the Art Nouveau style, which today appears juxtaposed against the earlier Baroque style buildings that remain.
7. The Ljubljana Botanical Garden holds over 4,500 plant species and subspecies. Roughly a third are endemic to Slovenia, whereas the rest originate from other parts of Europe and other continents.
8. There are 14 museums and 56 art galleries in Ljubljana for its 286,000 residents.
9. Gostilna na gradu, a restaurant at the Ljubljana Castle serving traditional Slovenian fare, also features signature dishes by the famous Slovenian chef Ana Roš - the World's Best Female Chef in 2016.
10. Ljubljana has already exceeded the EU's recycling targets for 2020 by 10%.



HOW TO GET THERE (by air, by road, by train)

The Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport is only 25km from the city centre. Slovenia's road and rail networks have been modernised over the past decade and now provide an efficient car, bus or train system, integrated with the broader European area and specifically neighbouring countries. Railway connections from Ljubljana to major cities across the borders are well served by intercity trains.



CONFERENCE FACILITIES							
VENUE	CONFERENCE ROOMS	MAX. SEATING CAPACITY THEATRE	MAX. SEATING CAPACITY CLASSROOM	BANQUET	RECEPTION	SURFACE AREA IN sq.m.	LARGEST MEETING ROOM IN sq.m.
CONGRESS CENTRES							
GR - Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre	22	2 200	1 200	1 200	2 100	12 323	2 456
Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	22	2.000	560	550	800	36 000	2 000
CONVENTION HOTELS							
Grand Hotel Union	21	700	390	390	800	3 150	504
Four Points by Sheraton Ljubljana Mons	8	600	350	450	800	869	621
Austria Trend Hotel Ljubljana	8	600	240	300	450	830	554
HOTELS WITH CONFERENCE FACILITIES							
Hotel Lev	7	360	150	220	500	721	367
InterContinental	4	300	150	200	380	528	363
Best Western Premier Hotel Slon	5	250	100	140	200	490	310
Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Ljubljana	6	200	100	130	250	341	158
City Hotel Ljubljana	5	200	130	120	200	226	166
M Hotel	9	120	64	80	100	285	95
Central Hotel	3	110	100	90	120	142	142
G Design Hotel	8	70	30	0	70	200	421
Hotel Cubo	3	45	18	28	45	125	52
SPECIAL VENUES							
Ljubljana Castle	9	1 000	120	500	800	2 016	600

Besides the listed meeting facilities, Ljubljana also provides a number of academic venues with the largest plenary capacities ranging from 400 to 200 seats, as well as other venues in business- or historic buildings that are suitable for smaller to medium-sized conferences. Another destination asset is the wide array of diverse special event venues: more than a dozen of them are found within a 15 minutes' walk from the Triple Bridge – often defined as the most central downtown spot. More at: www.meetinljubljana.com.

HOTELS			
HOTEL	CATEGORY	NUMBER OF ROOMS	LOCATION
InterContinental	5*	165	central
Grand Hotel Union	4*	327	central
Hotel Lev	4*	173	central
Central Hotel	4*	74	central
Best Western Premier Hotel Slon	4*	171	central

Austria Trend Hotel Ljubljana	4*	217	city
Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Ljubljana	4*	237	city
M Hotel	4*	147	city
Four Points by Sheraton Ljubljana Mons	4*	114	city
Hotel NOX	4*	30	city
Hotel CUBO	4*	26	central
Birokrat Hotel	4*	29	city
G Design Hotel	4*	26	city
Allegro Hotel	4*	17	Old Town
Vander Hotel	4*	16	Old Town
Hotel Galleria	4*	16	Old Town
Antiq Palace Hotel & Spa	4*	13	central
Lesar Hotel Angel	4*	12	Old Town
City Hotel	3*	200	central
Hotel Park	3*	207	central
Ljubljana Resort	3*	60	city
Hotel Emonec	3*	54	central
Hotel Meksiko	3*	52	central
Hotel Stil	3*	45	city
Hotel Mrak	3*	35	central
Urban Hotel	3*	32	central
Ahotel Hotel	3*	28	city
Hotel Center	3*	20	central
Hotel Florjančkov Hram	3*	13	city
Hotel Asteria	3*	12	central
Adora Hotel	3*	10	Old Town
Art Hotel	3*	10	central
BIT Center Hotel	2*	39	city

Additional accommodation is available in B&B, youth hostels, short-let apartments and Airbnb, many of which are centrally located.

5-star: 165 rooms

4-star: 1734 rooms

3-star: 816 rooms

2-star: 89 rooms

TOTAL: 2805 rooms (Updated Autumn 2019)

TOP REFERENCES

CONGRESS	VENUE	DATE	NO. OF DELEGATES
26 th European Conference on General Thoracic Surgery ESTS	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	27 – 30 June 2018	2 000
7th European Trauma Congress	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	14 – 17 May 2006	2 000
38th Congress of the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations – Apimondia 2003	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	24 – 30 August 2003	2 000
16th World Congress in Fetal Medicine	GR - Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre	25 – 29 June 2017	1 600
11th European Public Health Conference 2018	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	28 November – 1 December 2018	1 500
25th EFMC International Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry	GR - Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre	2 – 6 September 2018	1 500
40th EDTNA- ERCA International Conference (European Dialysis and Transplant Nurses' Association / European Renal Care Association)	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	10 – 13 September 2011	1 500
7th International Congress on Autoimmunity	GR - Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre	5 – 9 May 2010	1 500
42nd European Congress of Paediatric Endocrinology - ESPE	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	18 – 21 September 2003	1 500
European Society of Regional Anaesthesia & Pain Therapy - ESRA	GR - Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre	2 – 5 September 2015	1 360
EuroPrevent 2018 - 13th European Congress on Preventive Cardiology	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	19 – 21 April 2018	1 300
17th Congress of the World Council of Enterostomal Therapists - WCET	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	15 – 19 June 2008	1 300
40th World Scout Conference - WOSM	GR - Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre	11 – 15 August 2014	1 250
35th Congress of the European Accounting Association - EAA	Faculty of Economics	9 – 11 May 2012	1 200
2nd European Road Transport Research Arena – TRA 2008	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	21 – 24 April 2008	1 200
19th European Congress of Pathology	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	6 – 11 September 2003	1 200
9th European Congress of General Practice / Family Medicine – WONCA Europe	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	18 – 21 June 2003	1 100
World Congress of the World Society of Cardio-Thoracic Surgeons – WSCTS	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	13 – 16 September 2018	1 000

CEEISA-ISA 2016 Joint International Conference, »Politics for International Relations«	Faculty of Social Sciences	23 – 25 June 2016	1 000
20th Congress of the Paediatric Rheumatology European Society	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	26 – 29 September 2013	1 000
40th EMAC Conference (the European Marketing Academy)	Faculty of Economics	24 – 27 May 2011	1 000
1st EFFoST Congress on Food Systems	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	4 – 9 November 2008	1 000
1st FEMS Congress of European Microbiologists	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	29 June – 3 July 2003	1 000

NOTE:

Besides the above-mentioned events, Ljubljana hosts each year a relevant number of mid-sized regional, European or international association congresses attracting from 500 to 1 000 delegates.

The full list is published at <http://www.visitljubljana.com/en/meetings/congress-calendar/>



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WHY MARIBOR

As the second largest city in Slovenia, Maribor oozes the historic charm of a relaxed, medieval town. It is no wonder, then, that in 2012 Maribor was awarded the flattering title “European Capital of Culture”. “A life well lived” could very well be the slogan for the capital of Slovenia’s Styria region, for its greatest asset is its extraordinary access to nature, with an attractive position between the Drava river, the green Pohorje plateau on one side and, on the other, sunny wine-growing hills that stretch all the way to the Austrian border and beyond. With its quality congress/business capacities and opportunities for unique experiences combined with picturesque surroundings and the warm hospitality of the people, Maribor is becoming increasingly renowned as a host destination for conventions, seminars and other meetings. Maribor is also well known for two worldwide attractions - the oldest Vine in the world and the annual Golden Fox FIS Ski World Cup.



TOP PLACES WHERE PEOPLE MEET

HOTEL HABAKUK

Hotel Habakuk, located at the foot of Pohorje plateau, has become a synonym for conference industry tourism. The conference centre is fresh and bright, and the largest hall can accommodate up to 500 participants. A wellness and spa centre is also available.



HOTEL CITY MARIBOR

Located by the Drava River and just a few minutes walking distance from the city centre, this hotel offers conference facilities with various halls and multipurpose rooms for up to 450 guests, and panoramic views from the rooftop terrace.



CASINO & HOTEL MOND

Located among vineyards and on the border with Austria, the hotel offers beautiful rooms and a wellness centre. The business area covers almost 8,000m² and comprises of two event halls, an a la carte restaurant and a free-flow restaurant.



HOTEL MERCURE

This business hotel is located in the city centre of Maribor, yet is just a stone's throw from the motorway. It offers a wide variety of conference halls – including an impressive amphitheatre.



HOTEL BELLEVUE

Hotel Bellevue, located at the top of Pohorje plateau attracts those for whom forests, fresh air and remoteness are a welcome break. A large summer terrace adds to the number of options.



HOTEL ARENA

Hotel Arena lies in a picturesque location by the foothills of Pohorje, surrounded by ski slopes and nature, just 10 minutes away from the centre of Maribor. It offers bright and comfortable rooms, a conference hall for 60 guests and an excellent restaurant.



SPECIAL VENUES

HIŠA STARE TRTE

The Old Vine House, home to the oldest Vine in the world, is a temple of wine tradition and culture, offering guided tours of rich wine patrimony and tastings of premium Slovenian wines. The venue promises an open wine garden, with a view of the Vine, as well as a bright, airy room, perfect for wine-infused gatherings.



REGIONAL MUSEUM MARIBOR

The Maribor Regional Museum is located at the Maribor Castle. Its position in the city centre makes it a special venue with an interesting history and a unique setting for various events, either in the beautiful Knight's Hall with its Rococo staircase, or in the arcades or the castle courtyard.



KAZINSKA HALL

The beautiful Kazinska hall of the Slovenian National Theatre in Maribor is a special venue, frequently used for concerts and exclusive events. With its crystal chandeliers and classical interior, it exudes sophistication and grandeur.



NARODNI DOM MARIBOR CULTURAL AND EVENTS CENTRE

The Maribor *Narodni dom* is the home of numerous cultural events and shows. Its beautiful halls are ideal for various events and congresses that require style and sophistication. The largest hall seats 333 people, and a further 50 seats are available on the adjoining balcony.



MINORITI CHURCH

The beautifully embellished hall, now used for theatre performances, was once a church, then a military warehouse. Nowadays the historically rich but contemporarily equipped floor is open to the public and available for events.



VINAG

Vinag wine cellar is one of the largest and oldest classic wine cellars in Europe, boasting an area of 15.000 m² and 2,1 km long underground tunnels, which lead you along a barrel-filled path into a wonderful world of wine. The wine tasting room can be used as an inspired meeting and event venue for curated gatherings.



DVERI PAX

The Dveri-Pax Wine Cellar upholds an 800-year tradition of Benedictine winemaking, with well regarded, superior wine. The estate's wine cellar is the perfect setting for relaxed meetings, away from the city's busy atmosphere. With its rich history and enticing culinary offer the amazing estate will impress even the most demanding guests.



ESSENTIAL MEETING EXPERIENCES

STAY LOCAL

The link between city life and nature

The Pohorje plateau the pride and joy of the Styria region and its capital Maribor, is a natural wonderland awash with primeval forests, lakes, waterfalls and an abundance of hiking and biking trails that criss-cross its breathtaking scenery. In winter the area is transformed into a buzzing ski resort, one of the largest and most attractive in Slovenia, an additional speciality of which is the longest night-skiing trail in the country. The foothills are particularly lively during the Golden Fox FIS Ski World Cup. An open-air museum depicts Pohorje's cultural heritage offering an insight into the traditional artisanship of the glass industry.



HIT THE STREETS

The city of festivals

Visitors to Lent, Maribor's old city centre, are amazed by its vibrant streets, mighty buildings and wonderful frontages, monuments and fountains that adorn the city's squares, bridges that link the banks of the river, and towers that rise into Maribor's sky. Maribor also hosts numerous international events all-year-round: Lent festival, Old Vine Festival, Maribor Festival, Wine Festival, Golden Fox FIS Ski World Cup, and many others. Those looking for a unique adventure can take a hike up to the city's wine growing hill – the Pyramid - which makes Maribor one of the few cities in the world with a vineyard right in its centre.



HIDDEN GEMS

The oldest Vine in the world

Maribor is home to the oldest Vine in the world. The Blue Franconia, certified as being more than 400 years old, is the Guinness record holder for the oldest noble vine in the world still bearing grapes. The vine, also a protected natural monument, grows at the front of a long solid two-storey old town house, named "The Old Vine House" that is situated near the serene Drava River. The Old Vine House, built in the 16th Century entices many tourists from the most remote parts of the world; in the past decade it has been visited by more than half-a-million people.



ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

Ruševec – a unique example of ecological, sustainable and green tourism in Slovenia

On the Pohorje plateau range, in the embrace of the intact nature of the Natura 2000 Natural Reserve Park, lies a boutique, fairytale village with eco bungalows made exclusively of natural ecological materials such as Pohorje supre timber and wool. The Ruševec Estate, consisting of the Green Village with eco lodges, eco villa, and eco wellness, is committed to an ecological experience of nature. This mission is also shown through its Permaculture Circle. The area is ideal for biking, hiking, running, skiing, climbing, swimming, mushroom picking and spending time in the Šumik Primeval Forest Reserve. Special treats come in the form of organised trips to the intact areas of Pohorje – the main attractions being local culture, flora and fauna.

Europe's oldest classic wine cellar - Vinag and Winery Water Tower

Beneath Maribor's central square lies a 200-year-old viticultural gem - one of the largest and oldest classic wine cellars and one of the most beautiful tunnel cellars in Europe. The Vinag wine cellar, Maribor's true wine connoisseur's treasure trove of underground tunnels stretching for 2.5km and covering 20,000m² (the size of 3 football pitches), has an archive of more than 250,000 bottles of the best vintages and can store over 5 million litres of wine. Another of Maribor's unique wine infrastructure is the old historic water tower that stores wine bottles and represents a completely different type of wine store. The ground floor of this unique pentagonal-shaped Renaissance fortification, which once defended the walls of the Styrian capital, has been transformed into a modern winery.



WHEN IN MARIBOR

ON THE MENU

From farms to five-stars cuisine

The area is renowned for its great food offered at tourist farms, while in the city its superb restaurants, inns and pubs have a wealth of culinary delights. Among other offers, you can visit Maribor's food market *Pun Pisker* (Full Pot), taste a dessert made with grapes from the oldest vine "The Old Vine Kiss", and savour local specialities at the 300-year-old restaurant "Pri

treh ribnikih" (The Three Ponds), and the five-star cuisine of the modern Denk Restaurant.

LIFESTYLE

It's all about wine

For all wine lovers Maribor is the place to be. The influence of the wine tradition can be felt throughout the city. The vineyard-covered Pyramid hill rises directly above the centre of

the town. The oldest vine in the world is annually celebrated with the Old Vine Festival. The Benedictine Dveri Pax – one of the most modern wine cellars in Slovenia - stores 50,000 (out of a total of 300,000) litres of wine in oak barrels. The three Maribor wine roads lead to wine shops and cellars where one can learn all about premium quality Styrian wines.



PRE- AND POST-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOURS

PRE-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOUR

Experience the beauty of traditional rafting on the Drava river

The Drava Regional Park offers a connection with the rich, bygone tradition of old-style rafting on the Drava river, which dates back to the 13th Century. The rafts used for the tour are built in Robinson Crusoe-style, but equipped with seats and benches. During the tour, guests are also treated to culinary specialities from the region. The trip offers a different insight into the beauty of Maribor's major attractions such as the Old Vine House, the two defence towers along the river, and the old town Lent.

vineyards, the Ramšak estate offers a fairytale country castle. The heart of the property is the wine-growing infrastructure surrounded by a tree house and glamorous tents furnished like luxury hotel rooms with bathrooms, spacious terraces and a garden jacuzzi. It all adds up

to unique comfort mingled with the magic of sleeping under the stars, breathing fresh air, and listening to the sounds of a stream. The estate offers various experiences that give visitors an insight into the wine-making process.



POST-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOUR

Vineyard Glamping Resort – Chateau Ramšak

Just a short distance from Maribor, nestled among rolling green hillsides and exquisite

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

1. The St. Martin's Day celebration in Maribor is the largest open-air celebration of its kind anywhere in Slovenia. Every year the event brings together several thousand visitors who enjoy traditional Styrian wine and cuisine.
2. The Mariborsko Pohorje ski centre offers more than 41.5km of well-kept slopes for all kind of skiers, from beginners to experts.
3. The original Maribor Castle that stood on Pyramid hill was built at the beginning of the 12th Century.
4. During Maribor's year as European Capital of Culture 2012, the city hosted 5,230 cultural events and was visited by 2,040,000 visitors.
5. The Lent Festival, with its main stage on the banks of the Drava river, is annually attended by around 500,000 people.
6. Despite being the nation's second-largest city, and having the second largest airport in Slovenia, Maribor has only about a third of the population of Ljubljana.
7. According to various media commentators, over the past few years Maribor has become one of the Top 10 tourist destinations in the world that one should visit at least once in one's lifetime.
8. The Vinag tunnel cellar has over 2km of underground corridors.
9. Maribor is a silver Slovenian Green destination.
10. Each year no more than a hundred bottles are filled with the wine from the oldest vine in the world. Queen Elizabeth II., Pope John Paul II. and the former USA president Bill Clinton are some of the recipients of this unique wine.



HOW TO GET THERE (by air, by road, by train)

Maribor, just 17 km from the Austrian border, has good traffic infrastructure and can easily be reached by car, train or bus. There are many airports in the vicinity of Maribor, the nearest one being Graz Airport in Austria (60km), followed by Zagreb Airport in Croatia (120km) and Ljubljana's Jože Pučnik Airport (150km). Maribor also has its own airport, Edvard Rusjan Airport, with a lesser frequency of international flights.



CONFERENCE FACILITIES							
VENUE	CONFER- ENCE ROOMS	MAX. SEATING CAPACITY THEATRE	MAX. SEATING CAPACITY CLASSROOM	BANQUET	RECEPTION	SURFACE AREA IN sq.m.	LARGEST MEETING ROOM IN sq.m.
Hotel Habakuk	8	650	180	350	700	800	407
Hotel City Maribor	6	625	160	350	700	800	500
Hotel Mercure	3	120	70	100	110	140	130
Casino & Hotel MOND	1	120	60	80	250	120	120
Hotel Bellevue	4	100	50	70	100	100	100
Hotel Draš	3	800	120	850	280	360	220

HOTELS			
HOTEL	CATEGORY	NUMBER OF ROOMS	LOCATION
Casino & Hotel MOND	4*S	40	In the vineyards, on the border to Austria
Hotel City Maribor	4*	78	City centre
Hotel Habakuk	4*	130	It is located in the direct vicinity of the city (10 minutes) below the Pohorje mountain range
Hotel Mercure	4*	70	City center
Hotel Bellevue	4*	42	Pohorje mountain
Hotel Arena	4*	39	Below the Pohorje mountain range, 10 min from the city centre
Hotel Draš	4*	21	Below Pohorje mountain, 10 min from the city centre

TOP REFERENCES			
CONGRESS	VENUE	DATE	NO. OF DELEGATES
World youth championship chess	Hotel Habakuk	2012	3 000
European shooting championship	Hotel Habakuk	2017	800
Medigames	Hotel Habakuk	2016	800
ERACON conference	Hotel City Maribor	May 2016	800

Eurolawyers	Hotel Habakuk	2017	700
IZUM COBISS Conference	Hotel Habakuk	September 2015	300
Genetika 2012	Hotel City Maribor	September 2012	300
ELAN marketing conference	Hotel City Maribor	October 2016	200
Conference Association of tourist farms of Slovenia	Casino & Hotel MOND	March 2017	150



MARIBOR - POHORJE TOURIST BOARD / MARIBOR CONVENTION BUREAU

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WHY BLEED

This Alpine town is unquestionably among Slovenia's leading meeting destinations for many reasons. It has been actively present on the world's conference map for over 25 years playing host to medium-sized corporate, association and governmental meetings, as well as frequent top-end sports events. Its location in Slovenia, in the heart of Europe, makes it easily accessible by air, road, and rail. Everything in Bled, including the excellent and constantly upgraded and modernised conference infrastructure, is within walking distance. Beautiful natural and cultural attractions stun visitors and provide a fantastic backdrop that enthuses and inspires. Business can be blended with pleasure, be it adventurous sporting activities, cultural exploration, superb cuisine or an oeno-gastronomic teambuilding programme. Its recognition as an alpine congress icon will forever remain in the memory of attendees.



TOP PLACES WHERE PEOPLE MEET

BLED CONGRESS CENTRE - FESTIVAL HALL

The Bled Congress Centre boasts a superb lakeside location in the very heart of the town, enabling easy access. The congress centre has three separate halls and an exhibition space in the lobby. The largest hall can accommodate 500 guests.



BLED CASTLE

The imposing Bled Castle has been standing proudly above Lake Bled on a steep 130m rock for centuries. Function spaces, which can accommodate up to 70 guests, include the main restaurant, the Knights' Hall and the wonderful upper castle terrace.



BLED ISLAND

The island on Lake Bled is a charming sight that, together with the mighty castle, adds to the everlasting allure of Bled. It can be reached by taking a ride in a traditional wooden 'pletna' boat, with upright oarsmen propelling their boats. Alternatively, you can row yourself – it's up to you.



TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK

Demanding ascents, picturesque valleys, unique flora and fauna and fairytale lakes – in the heart of pristine nature and just a stone's throw from Bled. All of this can be found in Slovenia's only national park.



ROYAL BLEED GOLF COURSE

At one of the most beautiful golf courses in Europe, the Royal Bled golf course, every swing is a unique experience, because a round can not be completed without stopping to stare at the Slovenian mountains and the beautiful nature surrounding the course.



BLED ADVENTURE PARK

The Bled Adventure Park is located on the top of Straža hill and offers great fun and an unforgettable experience in the woods for individuals and groups. One-on-one tree-top adventures result in screams of fear, relief and excitement.



GARDEN VILLAGE BLEED

Garden Village Bled, an eco-tourist green resort, inspires with its adventurous, romantic and exclusive spirit. Enchanting treehouses, comfortable glamping tents, unbelievable pier tents, luxury apartments, and a sauna above the stream, are all designed in an eco-friendly way.



VELIKA AND MALA ZAKA

Velika and Mala Zaka are bays on Lake Bled. Velika Zaka serves as the finish for rowing competitions, the infrastructure for which can be used as a special venue. It offers a grandstand ideal for watching races or cultural performances, as well as two VIP lounges.



RIKLI BALANCE HOTEL

A modern conference and well-being hotel, which leverages local traditions and know-how, while focusing on sustainability. It boasts with the best views of Lake Bled and the largest spa and thermal pool complex in the area. Its large convention centre venue prides itself on hosting diverse conferences and meetings.





GRAND HOTEL TOPLICE *****

This five-star hotel occupies a prime location right on the shore of Lake Bled and is synonymous with top-notch service and an excellent choice for congress guests.

RIKLI BALANCE HOTEL **S**

This four-star modern conference and wellness hotel is conveniently situated in the heart of Bled. It is surrounded by a park with magnificent trees and boasts wonderful views of Bled's landscape.

HOTEL PARK ****

The four-star Hotel Park is Bled's largest hotel and the third biggest conference centre. Hotel Park is the home of the original Bled cream cake (*Kremšnita*) – Bled's famous dessert.

BLEED ROSE HOTEL ****

Experience the relaxed atmosphere and comfort of a 4-star hotel by the shore of Lake Bled, just behind a park. The hotel's luxurious interior blends with the environment and the good energy of nature surrounding it.

HOTEL KOMPAS ****

Hotel Kompas is situated on a small hill right in the heart of Bled. Built in an original alpine style, it blends harmoniously with the natural environment and offers unforgettable views.

HOTEL LOVEC ****

Friendly establishment that proudly continues the tradition of a century-old guesthouse. The hotel's main function room is on the topmost floor and offers plentiful daylight and wonderful vistas across the lake and towards the Julian and Karavanke Alps.



ESSENTIAL MEETING EXPERIENCES

STAY LOCAL

Taking a 'Pletna' boat

If you have resolved to visit the island whilst at the same time wish to enjoy the breathtaking scenery, then it goes without saying that taking a 'Pletna' boat is a must! These traditional wooden boats have been ferrying visitors to and from the island since the 16th century. The respected profession of oarsman has been handed down through the generations ever since, each one teaching the next the special technique of how to row whilst remaining standing, an art mastered only by the few. For an additional charming experience, enjoy a 'pletna' ride with a local gourmet dinner on the blue waters of Lake Bled.



HIT THE STREETS

Hop on a horse-carriage

If the urge has grabbed you to wander around Bled and its lake or up to the castle, but the idea of a strenuous walk is putting you off, then luckily you can hop in a horse-carriage and a coachman, known locally as *fjaker*, will be happy to take you around the trails. Open carriages have long been a tradition in Bled and the carriage drivers cannot be just anyone, as this is another "profession" that passes from generation to generation. A Bled *fjaker* therefore carries on the tradition, one of which is the clothing – black hat, white shirt, a vest embroidered with carnations from the Gorenjska region and jackets and blankets in a burgundy-red colour.



HIDDEN GEMS – BLED ISLAND

Bled Island makes one's wishes come true

Bled Island certainly is the world's hidden gem. A ride in a traditional wooden 'pletna' boat to reach it is an adventure in its own right, but alternatively visitors may opt to row to the island themselves, while in particularly cold winters, when the lake freezes, it is even possible to walk there. On docking at the island, there are 99 stone steps leading to the Church of the Assumption. The island is a great choice for a sparkling aperitif before dinner at the castle. Still, before leaving the island, don't forget to ring the church bell – according to legend it will make your wishes come true!



ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

Rowing with Olympians

How would you feel if you were to be taken on an incentive programme that involved rowing with Olympians on Lake Bled? Yes, everything is indeed possible when in Bled. If a group has no rowing skills, fear not – each participant is individually taught so they have the chance to learn basic rowing skills in professional racing boats, accompanied by Slovenian rowing Olympians. A crew consists of eight people,

demonstrating a balance between individual strength and team performance. This unique experience will allow your team to feel the physical, mental and emotional aspects of working together – as well as learning how to move a boat efficiently and at speed.

Dinner on pletna boat

Looking for an unforgettable experience that might include a couple of great culinary extras along with images of crystal waters and a traditional pletna boat? Taste Bled on the surface of Lake Bled, gliding on the water in a traditional pletna boat. Get ready for a remarkable four-course dinner with wine, served during a two-hour boat ride with an exclusive visit to Bled Island.



WHEN IN BLEĐ

ON THE MENU

Tasting *kremšnita* and observing top-notch chefs at work

The iconic symbol of Bled's cuisine is *kremšnita*, the delicious and world-renowned cream cake. The idyllic environment helped in creating other popular desserts such as *blejska grmada* and hazelnut *potica* cake with figs. Bled offers superb cuisine and visitors have the chance to taste its regional fare in traditional inns or can opt for the best gourmet cuisine



created by the town's new generation of contemporary chefs. Or go a step further and dine in the heart of the Grand Hotel Toplice kitchen at the 'Chef's Table' where the chefs can be observed at work.

LIFESTYLE

In Bled, tradition and modern approach to living go hand in hand

This little corner of paradise is already re-

nowned for its boundless beauty. However, Bled is also renowned for its wealth of pure drinking water and thermal spa water and a commitment to green initiatives. A circuit of the lake can be made by horse carriage, tourist train or by renting a bike, an electric bike or a Segway. Experience a wine tasting session at Bled Castle or visit craft beer boutiques and food festivals. Bled goes hand-in-hand with tradition and a modern approach to living.



PRE- AND POST-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOURS

PRE-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOUR

The sweet treat

It goes without saying that before a congress, participants like to treat themselves to some 'sweetness' to aid energetic participation at the event. Therefore, the »Honestly Sweet« town of Radovljica, just 20 kilometres from Bled is a great choice. Radovljica is home to the Museum of Apiculture and the Gingerbread Museum, where you can take part in a workshop or buy some local honey-bread products. Radovljica also annually hosts the biggest Slovenian chocolate festival.

POST-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOUR

Relieving energy in the unspoilt nature of Triglav National Park

However, after a congress, it feels good to relieve some energy by getting outdoors and active in nature. In the middle of the unspoilt nature of Triglav National Park lies Pokljuka,

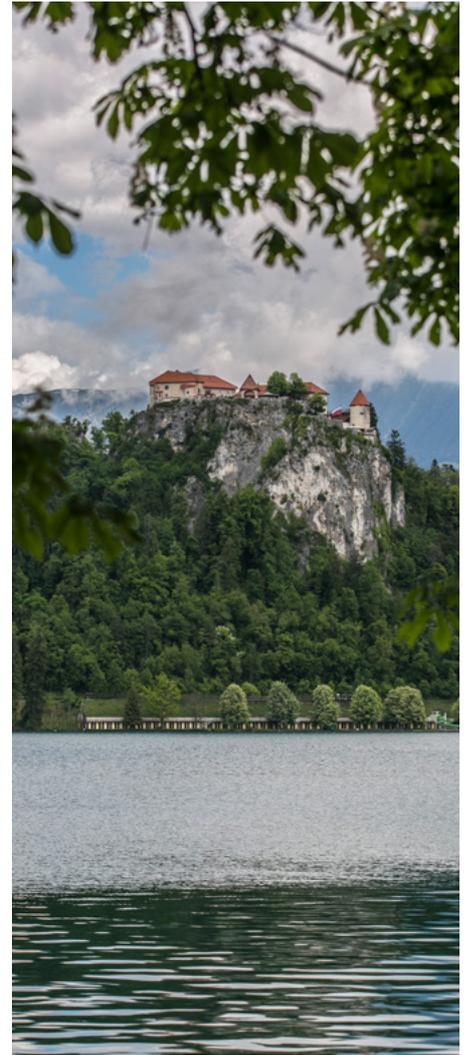
Slovenia's highest-lying plateau, stretching a full 20km in length and width, where world-class biathlon competitions are held. In spring, summer and autumn Pokljuka is perfect for

running, hiking and cycling, whilst in winter it is perfect for skiing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, Nordic walking, Geocoaching, guided tours or sledding.



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

1. Bled is suitable for medium-sized events up to 500 participants.
2. In the last 60 years, Bled has made and sold over 60 million cream cakes (Kremšnite).
3. There are at least 8 environmentally-friendly modes of transport that can be used to get around Bled: by foot, ,pletna' boat, carriage, regular bicycle, electric bicycle, Seagway, sup, kick scooter etc.
4. The Pokljuka plateau, located within Triglav National Park, has approximately 80 kilometres of intersecting forest tracks and approximately 30km of cross-country skiing trails.
5. Royal Bled Golf Course opened in 1938 on the initiative of the Karađorđević royal family.
6. In 2017 Bled was awarded the title ,Best Sport Tourism Town' in Slovenia.
7. Approximately 30% of meeting organisers decide to implement some of the suggested ,green' practices into their event within Bled hotels, and this trend is increasing.
8. Bled hotel and service providers show their sustainable orientation with their individual green initiatives, moreover, Bled is proud to be host of the first Zero Waste Hotel in Slovenia.
9. The wishing bell at the church on Bled Island has been rung since 1534.
10. Lake Bled has three thermal springs on its northeast side, which is why its water reaches a very pleasant 23 degrees in the summer time.



HOW TO GET THERE (by air, by road, by rail)

The nearest international airport is only 36km away from Bled. Direct shuttle bus services and private transfers are available throughout the year. For those arriving under their own steam, Bled offers ample parking and a charging station for electric cars. Bled can also be reached by public transport with regular bus and train connections to Ljubljana and other destinations.

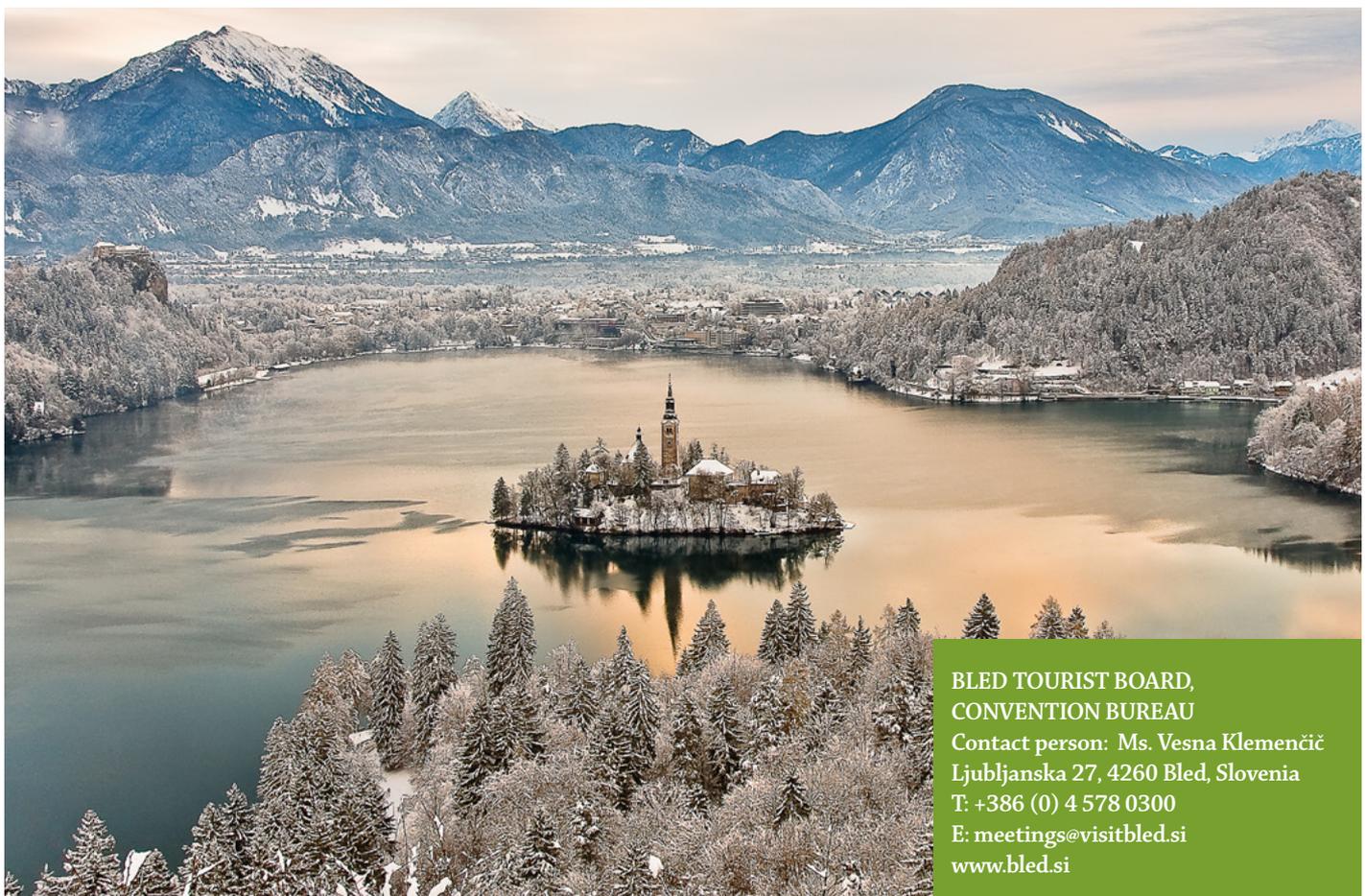


CONFERENCE FACILITIES							
VENUE	CONFER- ENCE ROOMS	MAX. SEATING CAPACITY THEATRE	MAX. SEATING CAPACITY CLASSROOM	BANQUET	RECEPTION	SURFACE AREA IN sq.m.	LARGEST MEETING ROOM IN sq.m.
Bled Festival Hall - Congress Centre	4	512	60	40	150	884	484
Hotel Rikli Balance	9	350	200	260	420	1 413	338
Grand Hotel Toplice	9	270	160	300	350	1 541	394
Hotel Kompas	5	200	60	-	70	479	/
Hotel Lovec	3	149	90	70	140	205	/
Bled Rose Hotel	5	136	-	130	250	706	290
Hotel Astoria	3	130	80	60	150	235	174
Hotel Park	8	120	72	80	130	497	128
Vila Bled	2	70	60	70	100	414	/
Hotel Triglav & Restaurant 1906 Bled	4	70	45	30	70	230	90
Bled Castle	2	70	24	24	70	/	/
Hotel Ribno	4	45	40	/	150	222	77

HOTELS			
HOTEL	CATEGORY	NUMBER OF ROOMS	LOCATION
Grand Hotel Toplice	5*	87	Bled
Hotel Rikli Balance	4*S	150	Bled
Hotel Park	4*	217	Bled
Bled Rose Hotel	4*	88	Bled
Hotel Kompas	4*	95	Bled
Hotel Lovec	4*	61	Bled
Hotel Triglav & Restaurant 1906 Bled	4*	22	Bled
Vila Bled	4*	31	Bled
Hotel Astoria	3*	74	Bled
Hotel Ribno	3*	61	Bled

TOP REFERENCES			
CONGRESS	VENUE	DATE	NO. OF DELEGATES
World rowing Masters Regatta	Lake Bled	6-10 September 2017	4 000
Bled Strategic Forum	Bled Festival Hall – Congress Centre	From 2005 –	1 200

Bled Chess Festival	Grand Hotel Toplice	10-22 March 2017	1 000
61 st EQQ Congress	Hotel Rikli Balance	10-22 March 2017	500
World Curling Federation Congress	Hotel Rikli Balance	13-18 September 2017	300
ATC Hockey tournament	Park Hotel	8-14 April 2015	300
IWDH The International Working group on the Diabetic Foot	Hotel Rikli Balance	17-21 April 2015	300
17 th International Conference on Discovery science	Hotel Rikli Balance	8-10 October 2014	300
UEMS PRM Section and Board	Bled Festival Hall – Congress Centre	27-29 March 2014	300
Election congress of European athletics (EA)	Hotel Rikli Balance	9-12 April 2015	250
10 th PCNE Working Conference	Hotel Park	1-4 February 2017	200
66 th Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the IWC	Hotel Rikli Balance	4-20 June 2016	200
18 th International Conference on Dielectric Liquids	Grand Hotel Toplice	29 June-3 July 2014	120
Flatlands conference	Hotel Rikli Balance	5-8 July 2016	100
FIA Alternative Energy cup	Hotel Rikli Balance	31 March-2 April 2016	100



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WHY PORTOROŽ

With its 130 years tradition of tourism, Portorož is a very popular and recognised MICE destination due to its climate, cultural diversity and rich history. The Slovenian coast, and the city of Portorož, lie in the Gulf of Trieste, an organic part of the Adriatic Sea. Portorož offers a wide range of hotel accommodation, numerous event venues, relaxation facilities, cultural events, entertainment options and delicious cuisine. Most importantly, top-quality and modern conference facilities are available in the majority of venues located within walking distance of the sea. Portorož is characterised by the short distances between all its venues, which allow visitors to reach all the activities, business, social and cultural sites on foot. An expensive yet detailed and thorough renovation of the secessionist Hotel Kempinski Palace Portorož and several historic buildings have ensured that the historic glamour of Portorož can still be felt today.



TOP PLACES WHERE PEOPLE MEET

BERNARDIN CONGRESS CENTRE

The Bernardin Congress Centre was the first and is today the largest convention centre in Slovenia. Its setting creates an environment for spontaneous networking and encourages creativity due to its natural daylight and inspiring sea-view guestrooms, meeting facilities, large exhibition areas and venues within walking distance of the Mediterranean.



LIFECCLASS HOTELS & SPA, CONGRESS CENTRE PORTUS

The Congress Centre is situated in the heart of the Portorož LifeClass Resort. Its 10 meeting rooms, featuring the latest technical equipment, cover an area of 1,600 m² and can host up to 1,200 guests. The centre includes ideal venues for informal meetings over a buffet, a cocktail, or for a reception.



METROPOL CONFERENCE CENTRE

The Metropol Business Centre fulfills the demanding standards of congress-seminar events, including five modern, multi-purpose halls, a reception, office and a large lobby designed for exhibitors and socialising. A variety of incentive programmes can be carried out on the beach.



KEMPINSKI PALACE PORTOROŽ CONVENTION CENTRE

The Kempinski Palace Portorož is an excellent congress hotel. With experience in incentive travel, conferences and complicated corporate events, it has set new standards and its prestigious congress and banquet hall, the Crystal Hall Ballroom, assures high-class luxury.



BENEDIKT – SALINERA RESORT CONFERENCE HALL

Its location between the coastal towns of Izola and Portorož makes this a true gem, offering an excellent starting point for exploring the Strunjan theme trail and satisfying those who appreciate natural beauty, peace and the mild Mediterranean climate.



BARBARA PIRAN BEACH HOTEL & SPA CONFERENCE HALL

The Barbara Piran Beach Hotel & Spa boasts modern conference room, where business guests can be creative and productive due to its excellent working conditions thanks to the hotel's location in a quiet and green corner of the Slovenian coast, yet still close to the centre of Portorož.



ARTS & CONVENTION CENTRE AVDITORIJ PORTOROŠE

The Portorož Arts and Convention Centre Auditorium, established in 1972, is located in the immediate vicinity of the centre of Portorož. It offers conferences, symposiums, seminars, corporate events, and other ceremonies year-round. An outdoor amphitheatre with 1,777 seats is located adjacent to the main building.



HOTEL MARKO CONFERENCE HALL

This sunlit congress hall is famous for its view of the park which adds to the well-being of participants and successful achievement of goals. During breaks attendees can linger, relax, socialise and enjoy fresh-air in the surroundings covered with lush rich Mediterranean vegetation.



MONFORT EXHIBITION HALL

Between Portorož and Piran lies the historic salt warehouse of Monfort, listed as a place of cultural and historical heritage. Built in the time of Napoleon, Monfort is nowadays an exhibition gallery, offering a large, rustic area suitable for larger events.



PHOTO: LCC/SebastianGabsch



KEMPINSKI PALACE PORTOROŽ ***S**

The first five-star superior hotel in Slovenia boasts a very calming, modern and prestigious design with a unique style that accentuates the hotel's historic legendary character and Habsburg elegance.

GRAND HOTEL BERNARDIN *****

The prestigious Grand Hotel Bernardin is located directly by the sea, with a wellness centre, indoor swimming pool with heated sea-water, private balconies overlooking the sea, casino, luxurious private beach and private marina.

REMISENS PREMIUM HOTEL METROPOL *****

An array of walls and scarps lined with stones, painted facades, columns, white stone window frames, window shutters, picturesque chimneys, open staircases and roof tiles form a charming and inviting Mediterranean resort, and serve as Portorož's trademark.

MIND HOTEL SLOVENIA *****

After thorough renovation, this five-star hotel is the newest luxury hotel in Portorož. It is situated right by the promenade overlooking the sea, which gives it a special charm.

GRAND HOTEL PORTOROŽ ****

The Grand Hotel Portorož is one of the town's tourism trump cards, one that visually and logistically represents the centre of Portorož. Probably the most comprehensive hotel, conference and wellness facilities on the coast that cater to a wide range of tastes.

HOTEL RIVIERA ****

This so-called Spa by the Sea features swimming pools with heated sea-water, and the Wai Thai Centre. This modern hotel also offers a magnificent view of the entire Bay of Piran.

HOTEL APOLLO ****

This entirely refurbished active wellness hotel is ideal for those who wish to remain healthy and active since it offers a selection of healthy Mediterranean cuisine, exercise facilities, and a natural and relaxing ambience.

REMISENS PREMIUM CASA BEL MORETTO ****

This four-star hotel, located in the vicinity of the beach and the promenade, was fully renovated in 2017 and now offers guests a perfect setting for rest and relaxation in green surroundings.

HOTEL HISTRION ****

This hotel features rooms and apartments with balconies overlooking the sea or the lagoon. The hotel has direct access to the indoor pool at the Laguna Water Park and the wellness centre.

BOUTIQUE HOTEL PORTOROSE ****

This modern four-star boutique hotel has been renovated in 2019 and offers several different categories of rooms, a conference room, wellness centre and outdoor pool. Guests can enjoy the unique design and rich gastronomical offer.

HOTEL MARKO ****

This family-run hotel by the seaside is embraced by the hotel park and close to the Portorož avenue. Splendid views of the sea and the hotel park can be admired from the outstanding terrace.

HOTEL PIRAN ****

Built in 1913 and renovated in 2013, this hotel is located directly on the coast and offers a magnificent view of the Adriatic Sea. It presents modern equipment, various culinary delights and offers a magnificent view over the Adriatic sea from the rooftop bar Terasa 99.



ESSENTIAL MEETING EXPERIENCES

STAY LOCAL

Recharge and rejuvenate in nature ... and in mud

Slovenian Istria is the most visited tourist region in the country. The present state of the region is the result of the longstanding development of tourism, which had already started intensively prior to the end of the 19th century. The coastline that runs from the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park to Portorož and Strunjan is well known for its health benefits: salt-pan mud and brine from the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park, the beneficial Mediterranean climate and sea-water. People from all over the world come here to boost their health and vitality. Experience the benefits in the natural environment or in one of the several spa centres.



HIT THE STREETS

Discover, discover, discover ...

Within a few kilometres in any direction you can discover beautiful landscapes and astonishing cultural heritage. From attractive vantage points you can enjoy a view of the neighbouring bays in Slovenia, Croatia and Italy, and the Gulf of Trieste framed by the peaks of the Alps. From Portorož, with its relaxed holiday atmosphere, take a stroll along the coast to the unforgettable town of Piran. Then continue along the coast or on the picturesque road to reach the Strunjan Nature Park. South of Portorož you enter the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park, while within close proximity you can explore Istrian villages in the midst of vineyards and hillside olive groves.



HIDDEN GEMS

Search for The Lost Violin

Portorož's neighbouring town Piran, also called the Pearl of the Mediterranean coast, is one of the most photogenic towns in the region and has managed to preserve its unsurpassed charm. The 'Search for the Lost Violin' is an excellent teambuilding experience and a unique and fun way to discover this gorgeous town. Follow the traces of Giuseppe Tartini, the famous composer born in Piran, through the typical Venetian streets, visiting attractions, finding clues and solving various mysteries, with a mission to find the missing Tartini violin. The event concludes with delicious Mediterranean refreshments and a concert played on the once long-lost instrument.



ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

Visit the home of the King of Slovenian fish

For those who would like to spend a day dedicated to fish and seafood dishes, challenge their culinary skills, gain new knowledge about seafood cuisine and delight their appetite, the Fonda Fish Farm is the answer. Situated in the magnificent nature of the Slovenian Istria, in the middle of the Bay of Piran, in the heart of the fishing preserve and the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park, the Fonda Fish Farm delivers a truly unforgettable experience and shares secrets about the selection of young fish spawn and the right type of feed, manual feeding and all aspects of caring for the environment, health and growth of several generations of the Piran sea bass. The farm can be even visited by water on a stand-up paddleboard!

Meet the Slovenian underwater world

The motor boat Subaquatic is the sole vessel on the Slovene Istria that simultaneously offers a

visit to a picturesque underwater world and a marvellous panoramic cruise. The boat can hold up to fifty passengers, twelve of whom can alternate in viewing the underwater world through the large windows in the hull of the boat. The geological composition of the sea bed, flora and fauna of the inshore, underwater overhangs and plantations of mussels can

be studied during the ride. The boat sails the route from Piran-Fiesca-Strunjan and back and boasts a beautiful panoramic experience of the seaboard and an enchanting sea view of Slovenia's coastal towns. A unique opportunity to come face-to-face with Slovenian sea life that is just as curious and excited as you.



ON THE MENU

Culinary art that is a fusion of Mediterranean and Istrian cuisine

With some of the best salt, olive oil, world-renowned, ecologically farmed sea bass from the Fonda family, excellent vegetables and tasty fruit from the Dragonja river valley, it is no coincidence that connoisseurs from all over the world have been flocking not only to high-profile restaurants but also to the area's many small, inconspicuous countryside inns. 'Must-try' typical local dishes include *bobiči*,

riži-biži, *fuži* with truffles, *fritaja* with asparagus, Piran sea bass in salt...

LIFESTYLE

It's all about the salt

The warm moderate Mediterranean climate and the high salt content in the soil and salt pans of the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park create an unusual living environment. The same can be said of the region's lifestyle - the tradition and love for its famous salt is expressed in many unexpected

ways. The salt, praised by chefs from all around the world, is registered as a Protected Designation of Origin, and is not milled or refined, is rich in minerals and tastes extraordinary. Another speciality is Piran sea bass in salt - one of the healthiest and most delicious ways to prepare sea bass. Not forgetting the famous dark chocolate with Fleur De Sel, a true delicacy for connoisseurs. And last but not least, an unusual salty treasure is the Lepa Vida Thallasso Spa, with its unique location right in the midst of the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park.



PRE- AND POST-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOURS

PRE-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOUR

Truffle Hunt

Engage yourself in a search for the "diamond of the kitchen". Istria is very famous for its truffles - a highly esteemed and prized delicacy in the world of gastronomy. Under the supervision and guidance of professionals, one can learn the basics of truffle hunting, while specially trained dogs aid in the search for prestigious white truffles amid beautiful Istrian landscapes. After a successful day of "hunting" it is time for an exquisite truffle-based dinner in the famous restaurant Stari Kaštel.

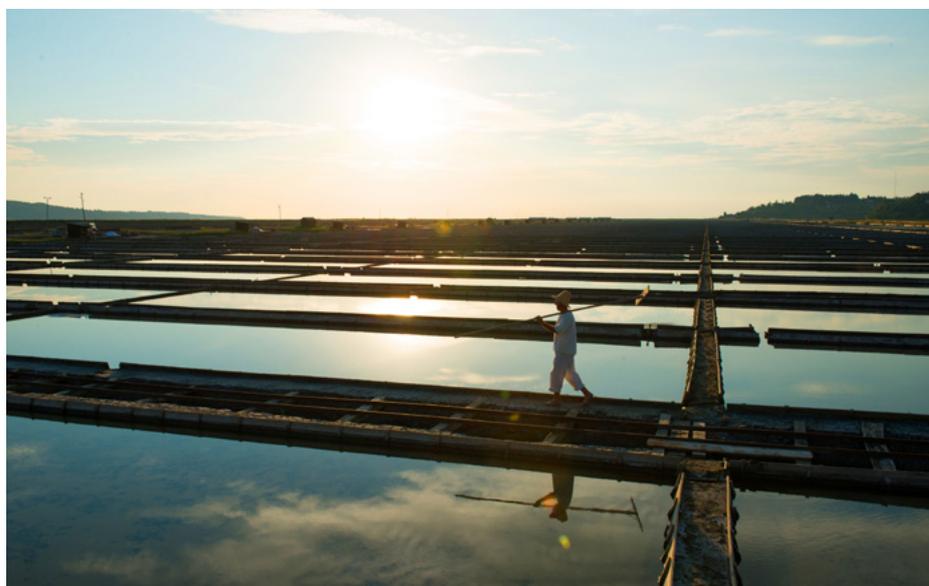
POST-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOUR

Saltpan worker for a day

The Sečovlje salt pans in Sečovlje Salina Nature Park are the northernmost salt pans in the Mediterranean and one of the most beautiful landscapes in Slovenia. Guided tours are

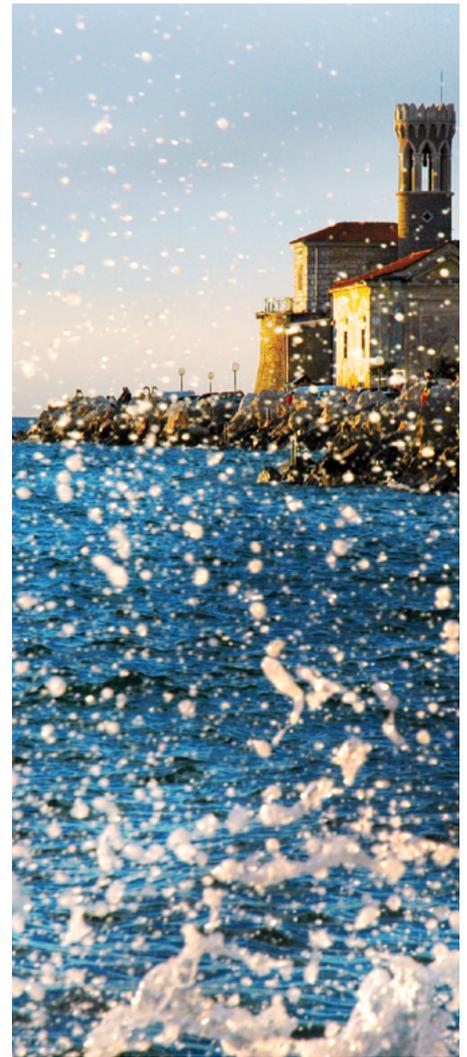
available for visitors who wish to get to know a little more about the park and its salt-making tradition. The saltpan adventure "Saltpan worker for a day" acquaints visitors with the

work in the salt pans and offers them the opportunity to try traditional saltpan work using traditional tools in the unique environment of the Sečovlje salt pans.



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

1. Portorož has been known as a health resort since the 13th century when monks treated people with seawater and brine.
2. In 1921 Portorož hosted its first large international conference, which is now considered the beginning of the city's meetings industry.
3. The first flight from Portorož over Venice and Pavia to Treviso was performed in 1926 and was 575km-long.
4. The dark chocolate with Fleur de Sal contains at least 62% cocoa solids.
5. Producing salt flower in the Sečovlje salt pans is based on a 700-year-old method.
6. In 2001, the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park and the Museum of Salt-making were proclaimed a cultural monument of national importance.
7. The Bernardin Congress Centre, with a total capacity of 2,600 people, was the first and is now the largest convention centre in Slovenia.
8. The Aquarium, in Portorož's neighbouring town Piran, holds around 200 species from the depths of the submersed world.
9. The Kempinski Hotel's gardens cover over 5000m².
10. There are two casinos in Portorož where people have been throwing the dice of luck for more than a century.



HOW TO GET THERE (by air, by road, by train)

As its window to the rest of the world, the coast plays a crucial role for Slovenia. This is the only part of the Slovenian territory that is not only accessible by road and air (four airports: Trieste, Pula, Ljubljana and Portorož), but also by sea - through the modern Portorož marina.



CONFERENCE FACILITIES							
VENUE	CONFERENCE ROOMS	MAX. SEATING CAPACITY THEATRE	MAX. SEATING CAPACITY CLASSROOM	BANQUET	RECEPTION	SURFACE AREA IN sq.m.	LARGEST MEETING ROOM IN sq.m.
Arts & Convention Centre Avditorij Portorože	6	2 256	220	300	500	2 348	648
Bernardin Hotels	19	1 100	350	350	1 000	2 200	1 085
Portus Congress Centre, LifeClass	10	520	280	230	450	1 600	495
Tartini Piran Theatre	1	263	/	70	180	640	440
Kempinski Palace Portorož	6	225	160	200	250	492	252
Metropol Congress Centre	5	200	140	350	500	400	250
Faculty of Tourism Studies -Turistica	2	192	/	/	/	/	/
Boutique Hotel Portorož	3	130	70	150	150	140	140
Hotel Lucija conference room	1	60	40	/	/	60	60
Hotel Barbara conference room	1	60	40	20	60	50	50

HOTELS			
HOTEL	CATEGORY	NUMBER OF ROOMS	LOCATION
Kempinski Palace Portorož	5* superior	181	Portorož
Grand Hotel Bernardin	5*	241	Bernardin
Mind Hotel Slovenia	5*	144	Portorož
Remisens Premium Hotel Metropol	5*	104	Portorož
Hotel Piran	4*	92	Piran
Hotel Histrion	4*	276	Bernardin
Grand Hotel Portorož	4*	196	Portorož
Hotel Riviera	4*	183	Portorož
Hotel Apollo	4*	87	Portorož
Hotel Mirna	4*	80	Portorož
Hotel Neptun	4*	87	Portorož
Remisens Premium Casa Rosa	4*	90	Portorož
Remisens Premium Casa Bel Moretto	4*	70	Portorož
Boutique Hotel Portorož	4*	83	Portorož
Barbara Piran Beach Hotel & Spa	3*	55	Fiesa

Hotel Vile Park	3*	239	Bernardin
Remisens Hotel Lucija	3*	180	Portorož

TOP REFERENCES

CONGRESS	VENUE	DATE	NO. OF DELEGATES
Festival of Slovenian Film Awards	Arts & Convention Centre Avditorij Portoroše	September 2017	6 500
Microsoft Slovenia	Grand Hotel Bernardin 5*	2010-2018	1 000
European and Mediterranean Film Festival	Tartini Piran Theatre	September 2017	1 000
Herbalife Slovenia	Grand Hotel Bernardin 5*	2010-2018	800
Salsa Summer Festival	Grand Hotel Bernardin 5*	2013-2018	600
Meeting of Dentists of Slovenia	Arts & Convention Centre Avditorij Portoroše	June 2017	500
SOF	Kempinski Palace Portorož	April 2017	500
International Whaling commission	Grand Hotel Bernardin 5*	2014, 2016	400
Chamber of Craft and Small Business of Slovenia: Professional caterers meeting	Arts & Convention Centre Avditorij Portoroše	November 2017	370
Piran Days of Architecture	Tartini Piran Theatre	November 2017	260
Krka	Metropol Hotels	13-19 May, 2015	190
Slovenian Chemical Days	Metropol Hotels	28-30 Sept 2016	150
Bia Separations	Metropol Hotels	25-30 May 2016	120
Studio Moderna	Metropol Hotels	23-30 September 2017	100
Daimler Event	Terrace 99, Hotel Piran	June 2016	90



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WHY KRANJSKA GORA

Kranjska Gora is the kingdom of the highest Slovenian mountains. It lies on the border between Austria, Italy and Slovenia, which brings many advantages. It is an easily accessible destination, perfect for skiing in the winter and biking and hiking in the warmer months. The proximity to two other borders also brings together three different cultures and kitchens, making for an extremely heritage-rich and interesting destination.

The city is also known for its ample sporting opportunities and is an attractive mountain sports destination all year round. Its location at the foot of the Julian Alps is the perfect starting point for visiting the mountains or simply marvelling in the impressive views of unspoiled nature. Kranjska Gora is most known as a ski resort, where several World Cup competitions take place every year, but many other winter and summer sports are on offer.

You will experience a genuine connection with the Julian Alps and breathe in the fresh mountain air. Kranjska Gora welcomes business meetings and events to a peaceful, natural setting, where productivity runs wild. The scenery, culinary offer and heart will persuade any tourist and congress guest alike.



TOP PLACES WHERE PEOPLE MEET

HOTEL KOMPAS

Hotel Kompas is situated in the heart of Kranjska Gora, across the road from the ski slopes. As the largest hotel in Kranjska Gora, Hotel Kompas is a suitable congress and meeting location. It offers a large reception space in the hotel lobby and two large conference halls. The first is a big hall, that can be separated into three smaller rooms and has a built-in stage. The second hall includes a balcony with a view and can be split in half.



RAMADA HOTEL & SUITES KLANJSKA GORA

The hotel's offer stands out as it has suites instead of classic hotel rooms. It is the architectural speciality of Kranjska Gora with comfortably furnished rooms and a view of the mountains. The hotel is located 100 metres from the ski slopes and right at the main promenade through town, so all the social events are always within reach. It has a large restaurant and a one conference room.



VITRANC HALL

This contemporary sports hall is located in the middle of Kranjska Gora, in the range of 100 to 500 metres from the hotels. Besides the sport hall, the building also boasts a conference hall, cafe, reception and a modern gym. The hall, which can seat up to 1.400 guests, has great acoustic qualities and is therefore also very suitable for meetings, conferences and even musical events.



LJUDSKI DOM

The building located amidst the central pedestrian zone of Kranjska Gora is a new addition to the city. The theatre-like hall is small and charming, equipped with a stage and sound system and 156 seats. It has an indoor reception hall, but an outdoor reception is also possible on the square in front of the building.



KORONA THEATRE

Korona is the local casino, with a special renovated theatre hall. The semi-circular hall has 220 seats and radiates a special charm. It is suited for organizing events of a business nature and different social events, that can be complemented with catering.



RAMADA RESORT KLANJSKA GORA

The hotel is located in the centre of the city and at the foot of the ski resort. It has been the recipient of the award for Slovenia's Best Ski Hotel for seven years in a row and has a state-of-the-art conference centre. Two conference rooms that can be combined into a large room are situated on the ground floor and boast an unparalleled view of the ski slopes and surrounding mountains. Together they can host up to 400 people and the terrace, leading out towards the slopes can also be used as an extension of the space. There is another hall in the lower level with a reception room, accommodating up to 240 guests. Additionally, the hotel offers four smaller conference rooms, evenly spaced through all the hotel floors, all with a view of the slopes and a balcony.



SPECIAL VENUES

PLANICA NORDIC CENTRE

The valley under the Ponce Mountains attracts the best ski jumpers and cross-country skiers as well as numerous sports enthusiasts from all over the world. That is the setting of the modern Nordic Centre, which offers many intriguing activities. Organize an event in the magnificent valley, make breaks for adrenalin-packed activities, such as the zipline or wind tunnel and get to know Planica up close.



PUB IN RAMADA HOTEL & SUITES KRANJSKA GORA

An authentic looking pub right at the hotel premises. It offers English-style comfort and is the perfect location for a secluded event. The space accommodates up to 100 people, it encompasses of the main area with a dancefloor and bar and a separate room suitable for catering.



DISCO IN HOTEL KOMPAS

This retro disco will take you back to the 80s. With its spectre of colours, the couches dispersed around the room and the disco lights it's bound to give you nostalgia. The disco has a cosy yet hip vibe with a large bar, a dancefloor and a DJ booth. The setting is ready for a night full of grooving and making unforgettable memories.



RESTAURANT FLORIANA IN HOTEL KOMPAS

The restaurant is thematic, resembling the living room of old farmhouses in the area and can sit up to 40 people. The authentic style of an old alpine kitchen exudes a cosy feeling and incorporates a wood-fired oven and homely, traditional décor.



OŠTARIJA

The restaurant at the foot of the mountain offers indoor and outdoor seating. The sun terrace, popular with ski enthusiasts in the winter, can seat up to 200 people and offers direct views of the slopes. The indoor area exudes a homey feel, complete with a fireplace and welcomes up to 40 guests.



SLOVENIAN ALPINE MUSEUM

The Slovenian Alpine Museum illustrates the development of Slovenian mountaineering, climbing and mountain rescue history, interwoven with educational and conservational content. Besides the beautiful framed views of Slovenia's highest mountains, virtual tours of 31 mountain tops and a rich collection of diverse historical items, the venue also offers two rooms for indoor gatherings, a reception hall and a green space in front of the museum for outdoor functions.



ESSENTIAL MEETING EXPERIENCES

STAY LOCAL

Uncover the charm of the city

Take a stroll from the heart of the town to the natural gems of Kranjska Gora. Start at the square "Na Gorici", which is the setting of various municipal events throughout the year and during winter transformed into a festively decorated Alpine village. The path will take you through the old part of town, then, passing a vast forest, to Lake Jasna. The spectacular views at the destination range from clear, emerald green water to the peaks of the beautiful Julian Alps and will not leave anyone indifferent.



NATURAL TREASURES

Active exploring of the unique landscape

Go for a walk or bike ride and let it take you to the beautiful natural reserve Zelenci. What awaits is shockingly clear, emerald green water and beautiful surroundings. If you continue towards Mojstrana, you will uncover the next natural masterpiece – the Peričnik waterfall. It is one of the highest waterfalls in Slovenia and you can even admire it from behind, as there is a path leading around the waterfall.



HIDDEN GEMS

A special piece of history

The Russian Chapel is a wooden construction, built during World War I. It was erected by Russian prisoners, to commemorate the fall of their compatriots who died while building the Vršič mountain pass. It is decorated in the orthodox style, expressing the faith of the passed away soldiers, who are buried next to the chapel. The chapel is a monument in its own right, registered in the Register of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia as a cultural memorial of local importance.



ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

Fly like a champion

Did you ever wonder what it feels like to be a bird or ski jumping champion? The Nordic Centre in Planica has a ski jump simulator that answers your question. Simply wearing a VR headset will let you fly along the Planica ski jumping hill and experience the adrenaline-filled sport, from the safety of the Nordic centre hall.



Ride a husky sledge

Get in a sledge and go for an adrenaline-filled ride in idyllic nature, powered by huskies. These beautiful, wolf-like dogs, with a thick coat that was made for the cold, are known as superior sledge dogs. Huskies were made to

run long distances in the winter, so the exciting experience you will remember for a long time is a mere walk in the park for the dogs. After an introduction to the dogs and the mechanics of riding a sledge, each individual gets their sledge, drawn by 2-4 eager huskies.



WHEN IN KRANJSKA GORA

ON THE MENU

A kitchen, influenced by three cultures

Due to the present mix of cultures, the local culinary specialities are unique, and you will not find them elsewhere. The hearty, imaginative dishes like buckwheat fritters with cottage cheese, dressed beans with mush, Rateče fritters or dried meat dumplings with dried meat soup will warm you inside-out and give you energy for your sporting or explorative endeavours.

Cheese from 1000 meters above sea level

The semi-hard Srjan cheese is made from raw milk from local cows. With a little imagination, its delicate scented flavour can be attributed to the fresh high-mountain pastures below the Špik mountain chain. The excellent cheese is produced at the 500-year-old homestead Pr' Hlebanju and has received three gold quality awards.

LIFESTYLE

Sport

Do like the locals do, or in this case sport. Go for a hike in the surrounding mountains or drive a bike along the specially designed bike trails. In the winter try cross-country skiing or regular skiing to clear your head and fill your lungs with fresh air. If you stay in Kranjska

Gora coincides with one of the winter World Cup competitions, make sure to attend the happening and cheer for your favorite sportsmen.

Discover the cultural heritage

Get the feeling for the history and culture of Kranjska Gora at the local Museums. The Slovenian Alpine Museum is a unique Alpine and mountaineering centre in Slovenia. Its permanent exhibition takes you on a journey from

mountaineering reparations through mountain huts to the conquest of the peaks. For an indigenous cultural experience visit Kajžnk's House in Rateče, which is a cultural monument and a museum of ethnological heritage. Now visit the Liznjek Homestead or Pocar Homestead and turn back time to the 17th century. The old preserved farmhouses with authentic furnishings and rooms let you in on the life of wealthy farmers 300 years ago.



PRE- AND POST-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOURS

PRE-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOUR

Dinner in three countries?

Its location gives Kranjska Gora the possibility of intertwining activities in three different countries on the same day. Thus, the idea of hosting a dinner in three countries was born. This culinary adventure will not only satisfy your taste buds, it will also educate you about the history and natural and cultural peculiarities of the area. The tour starts in Kranjska Gora with an aperitif, followed by a warm appetizer in Tarvisio, Italy, the main course in Arnoldstein, Austria and the dessert back in Kranjska Gora.

POST-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOUR

Views, sport and history

At the Slovenian border with Italy, the Planica Valley extends below Ponce, which is famous worldwide for its ski jumps and flights. Since

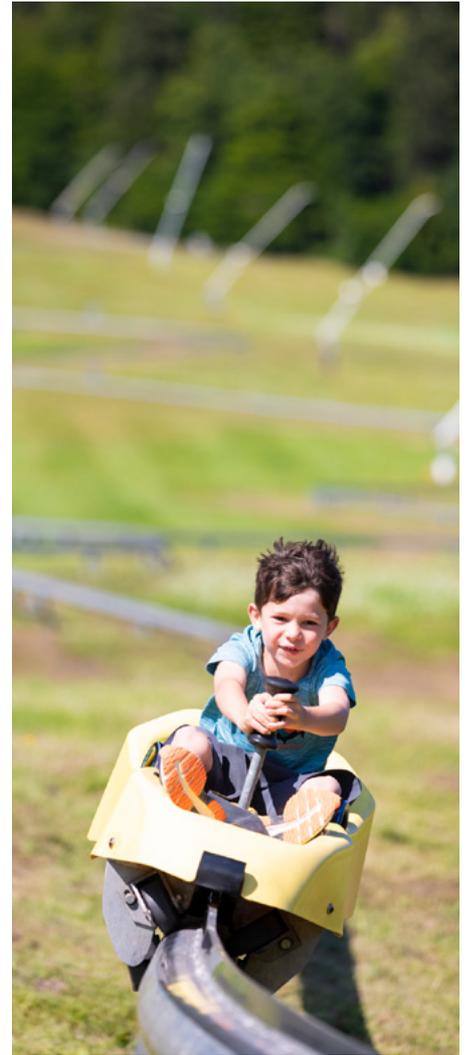
1934, it has hosted world-class competitions and throughout the years many records have been set precisely in Planica. Nowadays, ski jumpers are flying over the 200-metre mark and are attempting to set a new milestone at 250 metres. Visitors can climb to the top of the ski jump and marvel in the views, ride

the zipline for 202 metres along the ski jump, try out the wind tunnel or even the indoor cross-country skiing track. The centre offers guided tours, taking visitors through the history of ski jumping, with various interactive activities.



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

1. At 2864 m, the Triglav mountain is the highest point of the municipality.
2. 270 km of bike paths are spread all through the municipality of Kranjska Gora.
3. Kranjska Gora is a heart-friendly municipality, which means that within its borders there are as many as 16 automatic external defibrillators.
4. 56,66 % of all the municipality's surface is protected by the Natura 2000 status.
5. With an average slope of 38 %, the Planica zipline is the steepest zipline in the world.
6. The oldest and thickest larch trees grow here, estimated to be between 1030 and 1370 years old.
7. At 52 metres high, the Peričnik waterfall is one of the highest Slovenian waterfalls.
8. The first slalom World Cup in Vittranc was held in 1961.
9. The lake in Zelenci never freezes, as its floor is made up of chalk, giving it its signature emerald green water and always keeping it between 5°C and 6°C.
10. In Mojstrana, you will find 2 climbing trails, appropriate for beginners and advanced climbers.



HOW TO GET THERE (by air, by road, by train)

Kranjska Gora is right at the Italian and Austrian border and therefore easily accessible by car or bus. There are also various train stations nearby, the closest in Tarvisio, Italy (18km), followed by Jesenice, Slovenia (23km) and Villach, Austria (25km). The closest airports are in Ljubljana (68km), Villach (65km), Salzburg, Austria (212km), Venice, Italy (220km) and Zagreb, Croatia (236km).



THE DIRECTORY

CONFERENCE FACILITIES							
VENUE	CONFERENCE ROOMS	MAX. SEATING CAPACITY THEATRE	MAX. SEATING CAPACITY CLASSROOM	BANQUET	RECEPTION	SURFACE AREA IN sq.m.	LARGEST MEETING ROOM IN sq.m.
Hotel Kompas	Jasna A	120	72	100	140	147	/
Hotel Kompas	Jasna B	100	72	100	125	105	/
Hotel Kompas	Jasna C	100	72	100	125	105	/
Hotel Kompas	Jasna A, B, C	360	200	300	400	357	/
Hotel Kompas	Ledine D	40	22	/	60	55	/
Hotel Kompas	Ledine E	40	20	/	60	63	/
Ramada Resort	Planica A	120	65	130	/	100	/
Ramada Resort	Planica B	120	65	130	/	100	/
Ramada Resort	Planica A+B	240	130	250	/	200	/
Ramada Resort	Vitranc, Zelenci, Vršič	30	25	/	/	41	/
Ramada Resort	Ovalna dvorana	100	60	200	250	200	/

HOTELS			
HOTEL	CATEGORY	NUMBER OF ROOMS	LOCATION
Hotel Kompas	4*	149	Kranjska Gora
Ramada Resort	4*	118	Kranjska Gora
Ramada Hotel & Suites	4*	110	Kranjska Gora
Apartmaji Vitranc	3*	34 apartmajev	Kranjska Gora

TOP REFERENCES			
CONGRESS	VENUE	DATE	NO. OF DELEGATES
Worlds School Debate Academy 2019	Hotel Kompas	June 30 – July 1 2019	200
14th International Conference on Quasicrystals	Hotel Kompas*	May 26 – 31 2019	/

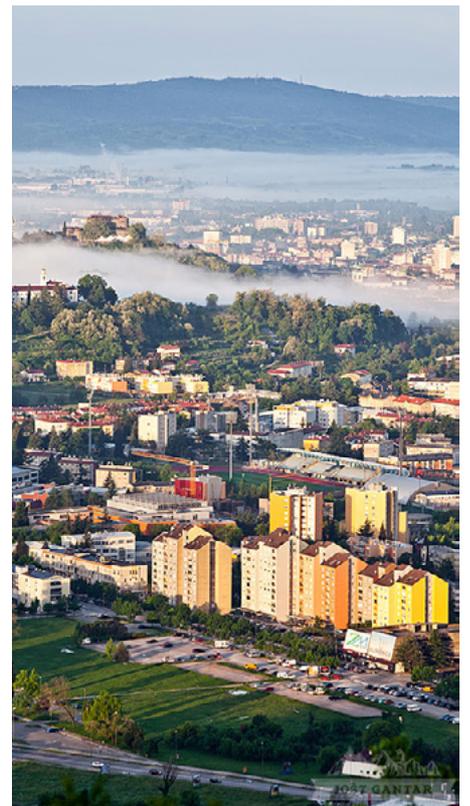


WHY NOVA GORICA

Nova Gorica town of roses is an attractive town for entertainment as in all seasons various venues, indoors or outdoors, offer a rich selection of events. It is a town of opportunities, with two entertainment centres and several casinos with the most modern gaming equipment. Nova Gorica invites you with its sights and attractions, views of the picturesque, authentic surroundings, and the mild climate and diverse scenery, which provide excellent conditions for a variety of sports.

The green and wine-growing Vipava valley stretches out to the East of the town. These nice places are the home of great wines, also of the unique varieties, which are best combined with tasty local dishes.

To the northeast, Nova Gorica is protected from the cold winds by the Trnovo and Banjšice plateau, a marvelous world with a completely different climate, full of folk traditions and natural attractions that enrich the sport of hiking in a special way. Lovers of peace will be impressed by the widespread Trnovo Forest which invites you to take biking paths and hiking trails where you can get to know rich flora and fauna.



TOP PLACES WHERE PEOPLE MEET

EUROPE SQUARE

Right in front of the Nova Gorica train station is the junction of the closest urban contact of the Italian Gorizia and Nova Gorica. The square at the border was named after the event of Slovenia becoming a member of the European Union and is decorated by a mosaic of new Europe. The Europe square became the symbol of harmony of the two cities as well as the symbol of demarcation and European integration.



PINE FOREST

The town park, named Pine forest is a unique green oasis in the middle of the town and was formed in the area of the last remains of the former clay pits. The ground retains water, which attracts frogs and birds, including migratory birds. It is a true peace oasis at your fingertips.



TOWN FOREST PANOVEC

In the immediate vicinity of the town lies an interesting, preserved and large forest complex with numerous native and foreign tree species. The proximity of the city and the intricately wound forest paths attract a vast number of visitors to the forest in all seasons.



PERLA, RESORT & ENTERTAINMENT

The Perla Conference Centre with its long tradition and wide array of amenities provides organisation of any type of tailor-made event made-to-order. It is the perfect location for meetings, motivation programmes, conferences or any other kind of event. The staff at the Perla will make sure that you get exactly the type of event that you want.



PARK, HOTEL & ENTERTAINMENT

The Park Conference Centre provides a diverse range of opportunities for business and other meetings. The conference room accepts medium-sized groups and the diligent staff guarantees to help carry out every event to perfection and according to specific wishes. The hotel specializes in creating wine and culinary stories and will happily provide something special for your event.



VILA VIPOLŽE

At the congressional, cultural and social center Vila Vipolže you will experience an inspiring landscape, an elegant atmosphere, genuine hospitality, and excellent cuisine. The villa incorporates one large conference hall with state-of-the-art equipment and a banquet hall with a kitchen, suitable for catering. Its noble history, beautiful park, rich wine bar, and restaurant add to the exceptional atmosphere.



SIMČIČ

The modern premises of Simčič winemakers are ideal for smaller meetings and team buildings. They also offer guided wine tastings and wine cellar tours for closed groups. The family wine estate with a history of excellence is located amidst pristine nature, perfect for a getaway from busy city life.



BELICA

Located in Medana village, in the heart of the wine-growing Brda region, this unique ambience of a provincial homestead allows you to indulge in food and fine wines. For business meetings and presentations, the estate offers a superbly equipped conference room accommodating up to 50 people and a large restaurant, with 100 indoor and 100 outdoor seats.



HOTEL SAN MARTIN

For business meetings the hotel offers a larger conference room and a smaller meeting room. The interior is customizable, and the staff has experience with important events and is ready to help. The hotel also has an excellent restaurant and an outdoor terrace with unimagined green views everywhere you look.





PERLA, RESORT & ENTERTAINMENT ****

The Perla Hotel is located in the city center of Nova Gorica. It offers utmost luxury and comfort in the rooms and suites, as well as in the casino, equipped with state-of-the-art slot machines and gaming tables with a rich selection of games. The hotel offer includes a modern spa with all the amenities. It is the perfect place to enjoy yourself and relax.

PARK, HOTEL & ENTERTAINMENT ****

Situated in the heart of the city, Park Hotel is known for cosy accommodation and attentive staff. The hotel has one of the largest and most attractive casinos in Europe, with a long tradition. Its exceptional hospitality allows the guests to meet in a relaxed atmosphere, sleep comfortably, shop, eat well, try their luck and participate in different tournaments.

HOTEL SABOTIN ***

Hotel Sabotin is a hotel with soul and character. It is located in Solkan, known for its proximity to nature and the magnificent Solkan railway bridge. The hotel offers its guests what every traveller wants: a comfortable room, excellent cuisine and a peaceful environment.

HOTEL LIPA ***

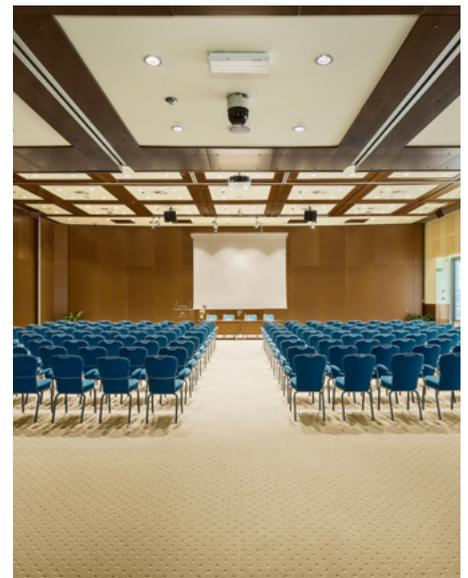
The hotel lies in Šempeter pri Gorici, a pleasant and picturesque village next to the Italian border, in the immediate vicinity of Nova Gorica. It prides itself on being ecological, green, and local and promises guests they will enjoy in comfort, authenticity and warmth.

DAM BOUTIQUE HOTEL ****

A boutique hotel, encapsulating a new concept of luxury. The hotel, located in a quiet part of town, features a fine dining restaurant, where guests can enjoy modern Mediterranean cuisine. It also provides space for meetings, seminars, lectures and presentations for up to 80 people.

HOTEL SAN MARTIN ***

Hotel San Martin is a new and elegant family-run boutique hotel, located at the edge of Šmartno village. The hotel boasts beautiful panoramic views of the surrounding wine hills and valleys with beautiful villages. It also offers a bio-herbal Finnish sauna, available for private bookings, a salt room and a wine bar with an exquisite selection of local wines.



ESSENTIAL MEETING EXPERIENCES

HIDDEN GEMS

Feel the natural beauty

The stories of western Slovenia are set against the backdrop of verdant vistas, hospitable hamlets, hills and forest paths. Overlooking the emerald green River Soča and the Adriatic Sea, the Banjšice and Trnovo Plateau, which is almost like an open-air wellness facility, is ideal for finding one's inner peace, with a view of the Julian Alps.



NATURAL TREASURES

Be active, green and healthy

The mild climate and varied terrain make for exciting cycling tours between the Alps and the Adriatic. Scale the Sabotin Hill and other peaks. Go skydiving over the Vipava Valley or go bungee jumping from the 55m-high bridge in Solkan spanning the River Soča. Admire the emerald river beauty from a kayak or raft.



STAY LOCAL

Prosciutto and olive oil tasting

The climate in the Goriška region is also friendly to olives, which local farmers are rearing for premium olive oil production. On the tourist farm, you can taste selected local olive oils. You can also try delicious prosciutto and other dried meat products, produced on the farm and taste the wine in the cellar of a local wine producer.



ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

Tandem sky diving

The diverse landscape of the Goriška region is even more breath-taking when viewed from the air. For a truly remarkable experience, view all the hills, valleys and fields from a bird's perspective. The steep slopes of the high plateaus above the Vipava Valley offer excellent conditions for free-flying and challenge the most courageous. A tandem flight, accompanied by an experienced instructor, allows you to take the plunge and enjoy the views of the magnificent surroundings.

An adventurous tour of the Rihemberk Castle

The Rihemberk castle, built on a steep slope above Branik, is the greatest and one of the oldest castles in the Primorska region, which has preserved its ancient medieval design to this day. Behind its walls, it preserves century-old stories that shaped the places and people in this part of Europe. In addition to

its outstanding cultural and historical significance, the picturesque castle is also an important refuge for several endangered bat species – mysterious but useful nocturnal animals, who have chosen the abandoned castle basements and towers for their home. Playful tours of the castle are offered in the warm part of the year by royal ladies and knights.



WHEN IN NOVA GORICA

ON THE MENU

Taste Goriška

Feel the exuberant energy of the Goriška region and its offer of food and wine. A number of renowned winemakers lovingly tend their vine varieties, both native and foreign. Enjoy the local specialties such as delicious polenta, štruklji, prosciutto, frittata and chicory from Goriška that adds a touch of glamour to your plate in winter.

Burbončice

Burbončice are chocolate pralines, enveloped in dried petals of bourbon roses. The chocolates intertwine the experiences and flavors of Nova Gorica and they were created as a sweet souvenir of the town's 70th anniversary. Burbončice are handmade, just like the town of Nova Gorica, which was built by the hands of Slovenian soldiers.



LIFESTYLE

Socializing

Soak up the lively atmosphere of the many events held in the town with the most splendid roses, and its surrounding villages. The casinos of Nova Gorica, with more than 30 years of tradition, provide entertainment all year round.

Discover the cultural heritage

The Kostanjevica Monastery offers a great view of Nova Gorica. Did you know that the crypt of the last descendants of the French Bourbon dynasty lies here? The life in the monastery of Franciscan monks also thrives because of the Bourbon rose collection which is among the largest in the world. You should also visit Kromberk Castle, dating back to the 17th century, which holds the collections of the Goriška Museum.



PRE- AND POST-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOURS

PRE-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOUR

A journey through the history of the young town

The path acquaints visitors with the conception of Nova Gorica – from the initial idea of a socialist city of architect Ravnikar to the center of consumerism and gaming. The journey begins at the model of Nova Gorica, its first conceptual design, which, due to various events and circumstances, was never finalized. The picturesque walk continues along the town's oldest buildings, the first promenade, the old brickyard, former cemetery, Europe square, and Kostanjevica. The mesmerizing walk, reaching all the noteworthy parts of town, ends at the border to Italy, emphasizing and explaining the close connection of the two cities that were once one.

POST-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOUR

A different kind of Safari

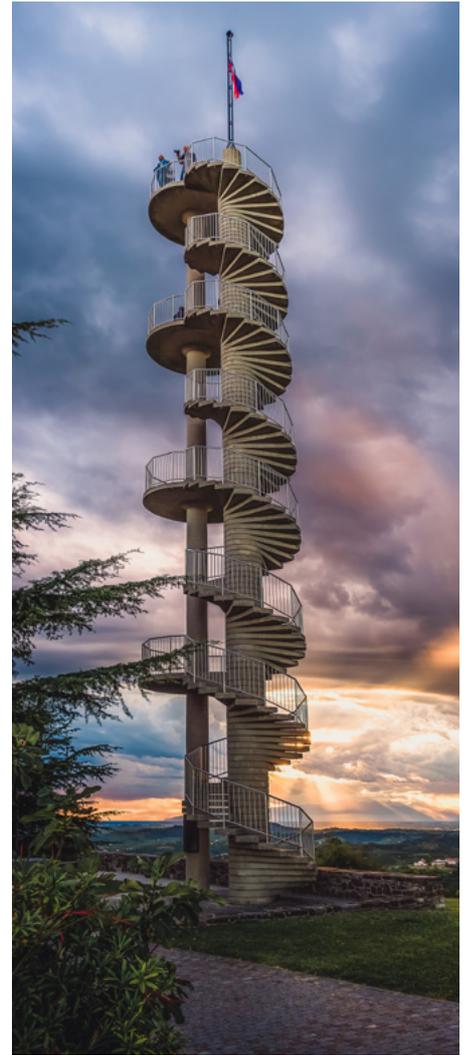
After a congress, it's the perfect time to unwind at the Wine Safari. The experience is a special combination of adventure exploration of the hilly Brda landscape and the tasting of local wines at the exceptional wineries. The Goriška region is one of the smallest regions with the highest number of wineries on the TOP 100 list of the best wineries in the world. This trip will embrace you in the local culture and introduce you to the winemakers, whose bottles you keep for special occasions. Since the region

is also famous for splendid Mediterranean-influenced cuisine, a trip without enjoying a slow multi-course meal on a terrace overlooking the vineyards almost defeats the entire purpose. With this in mind, a number of terrain vehicles will take you through the spacious terraced vineyards, letting you enjoy superb homemade local delicacies and wine. The unique expedition will bring you closer to the magic of the region and let you in on the secret of the extraordinary flavors of the greatest wines.



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

1. Nova Gorica is split into 19 local communities with 44 settlements.
2. The municipality of Nova Gorica boasts 42 winemakers.
3. Decanter magazine recognized 3 traditionally produced wines from the Vipava Valley as the best natural wines in the world.
4. More than 2/3 of the nature in the area of Nova Gorica and the Vipava Valley is protected and a large part of it falls within Natura 2000.
5. The Vipava Valley wine road runs through 30 wine sites, where indigenous wine varieties are preserved.
6. The Solkan bridge crossing the Soča river is made of exactly 4.533 fitted stones of limestone.
7. 20 traditional events are held in Goriška Brda every year that attract many visitors.
8. The Rebula grape, popular in Goriška Brda, was first mentioned in 1336.
9. The most beautiful renaissance villa in Slovenia, Vila Vipolže, has been offering spectacular views of Goriška Brda since the 16th century.
10. With more than 280 km of bike paths and over 100 km of walking trails, Goriška Brda is an active destination.



HOW TO GET THERE (by air, by road, by train)

Nova Gorica can be reached by car from different directions: from Bovec, Ljubljana, Koper, and Italy. The closest international airport is the Trieste Ronchi dei Legionari Airport, which is located 33 km from Nova Gorica and the other is Jože Pučnik Airport in Ljubljana, which is 125 km away. Two other Italian airports with many international connections are Venice Marco Polo, 134 km away and Treviso Airport, which is 131 km away. The town has a bus and train station and is interconnected by a free city bus.



THE DIRECTORY

CONFERENCE FACILITIES							
VENUE	CONFERENCE ROOMS	MAX. SEATING CAPACITY THEATRE	MAX. SEATING CAPACITY CLASSROOM	BANQUET	RECEPTION	SURFACE AREA IN sq.m.	LARGEST MEETING ROOM IN sq.m.
Perla, Resort & Entertainment	5	320	/	/	/	/	/
Park, Hotel & Entertainment	1	40	/	/	/	/	/
Vila Vipolže	2	220	/	/	/	/	/
Restaurant Primula	2	120	/	/	/	/	/
Obrtni dom	2	102	/	/	/	/	/
Kulturni dom	2	364	/	/	/	/	/
Hotel Winkler	1	25	/	/	/	/	/
Hotel San Martin	1	90	/	/	/	/	/
Simčič	1	25	/	/	/	150	/
Belica	1	50	30	/	/	/	/

HOTELS			
HOTEL	CATEGORY	NUMBER OF ROOMS	LOCATION
Perla, Resort & Entertainment	4*	249	City centre
Park, Hotel & Entertainment	4*	82	City centre
Hotel Sabotin	3*	68	2 km from city centre
Hotel Lipa	3*	42	4 km from city centre
DAM Boutique Hotel	4*	9	In the vicinity of the city centre
Hotel San Martin	3*	20	Šmartno village in Goriška Brda

TOP REFERENCES			
CONGRESS	VENUE	DATE	NO. OF DELEGATES
INFOSEK	Hotel Perla	November 27-29 2019	441
ASK	Hotel Perla Conference Centre	November 8-9 2019	250

AVAILABLE SUPPORT

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCIENTIFIC & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The Slovenian Convention Bureau, jointly with the local convention bureaux, supports international bids for congresses. It prepares everything necessary to introduce Slovenia as a potential host destination in a professional and friendly way.

What can associations and professional congress organisers expect from the Slovenian Convention Bureau and its partners?

- independent and trustworthy consultants that understand the needs of every single organiser
- a simple process for choosing the most suitable location and local partners
- an analysis of the bid requirements - feasibility evaluation
- marketing and promotional support for the candidacy
- help in execution of the candidacy's document and presentation (Bid Book)
- support from the city and local tourist economy
- evaluation of the event's budget
- assistance in preparing the bid document and promotional support for the bid presentation
- destination support (city & key industry players)
- coordination of site inspection visits in the decision-making process
- destination assistance during visits with regard to the organization of a confirmed congress
- marketing support to boost delegate attendance at the congress prior to a chosen destination in Slovenia
- all necessary information about the country, such as presentations, videos, maps, brochures and photographs, plus content marketing (social media).

Last, but not least: the knowledge of the destination, the connection with local partners and a personal approach when considering each potential bid are the benefits that, combined with the team spirit of the Slovenian meetings industry players, can provide you added value and a competitive advantage.



"... The big advantage of being small is that you can focus on the little things. The details. The personal touches that make your meeting really matter. That makes it real. Authentic. Slovenia's cities are small but pack a big punch with history, heritage and a human dimension that connects to the pulse of the people. To the personal touch."



MORE INFORMATION:

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Tel: +386 1 569 12 60
E-mail: info@slovenia-convention.com

SLOVENIAN MEETINGS INDUSTRY STANDARDS

The standardisation of Meetings Industry suppliers in Slovenia is intended, among other, to simplify and shorten the meeting planner's venue finding process. In a transparent way, client can get a clear insight into who is offering which service, as well as a better overview of the quality of comparable services offered by individual providers. The Slovenian Convention Bureau standards for meetings industry have been first implemented in spring 2008.

CATEGORIES

Category A: LOCAL OR REGIONAL CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU (CVB)

Category B: PROFESSIONAL CONGRESS ORGANISER

Category C: DMC AGENCY

Category D: EVENT AGENCY

Category E: CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION CENTRE

Category F: CONVENTION HOTEL

Category G: HOTEL WITH CONFERENCE FACILITIES

Category H: OTHER CONGRESS SERVICES

Category I: SPECIAL VENUE

PCO - PROFESSIONAL CONGRESS ORGANISER is a key factor in organising congresses and other types of meetings. The PCO deals with a very broad area of tasks and offers a comprehensive technical support for implementing the most demanding events. From the viewpoint of congress service providers, the requirements specified for this category make it the most demanding one

CERTIFIED PCO'S IN SLOVENIA

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SLOVENIAN AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Bringing international congresses to our country is a complex and strategic task, which requires unison and coordination from all the destination's stakeholders.

The **Slovenian Ambassadors Program** is of considerable importance for Slovenia's greater success in the **field of internationalization of science, science, business and sports**.

»We want to establish a platform of Slovenian Congress Ambassadors covering various scientific & medical and other fields that work closely with the Slovenian Convention Bureau and the individual destination bureaus as only with an active and creative cooperation we can be successful on the competitive international market.« emphasizes Miha Kovačič, director of the Slovenian Convention Bureau the reasons for the launch of the programme.

Slovenian Ambassadors Program was launched in 2019 by the **Slovenian Convention Bureau in collaboration with the Slovenian Tourist Board, the Ljubljana Convention Bureau at Ljubljana Tourism, and sixteen joining partners**.

The program helps promote Slovenia as a destination for international scientific-professional and business events, which create great international partnership and connection opportunities.

We have the **required infrastructure** and **experienced suppliers**, who can bring to life even the most demanding international scientific-professional events. To merge our potential and ambitions the ambassador program lends professional support to Slovenian scientists, doctors, professionals, businessmen, sportsmen and other individuals,

who are active in their field and are members of international associations.

In November 2019 first 25 Congress Ambassadors of Slovenia were awarded their honorary titles at the Ljubljana Castle. The ambassadors are successful individuals who are experts in their respective fields and who are ready to promote Slovenia as a destination for international events.

The national and local convention bureaus (destination clubs) offer impartial assistance and support to Congress Ambassadors at every stage of the event, from the initial bid to marketing and promotion. Additionally, ambassadors receive help with destination presentations, co-financing tailor-made site inspections, finding suitable locations and accommodation facilities, selecting social event venues, planning familiarizing trips and providing organizers with promotional materials about Slovenia and individual destinations.

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SLOVENSKI AMBASADORSKI PROGRAM

“For also knowledge itself is power.”

Francis Bacon

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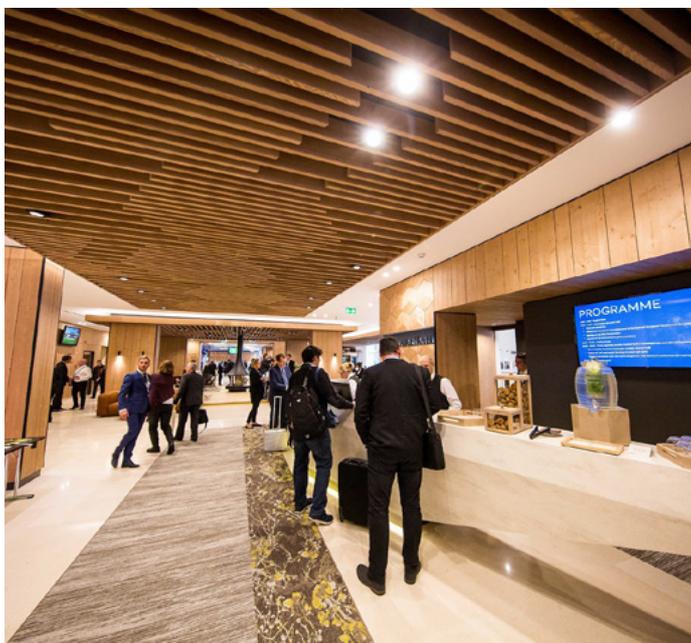
SLOVENIA MEETINGS

Slovenia is a petite, safe, and green stress-free haven with immense outdoor appeal. It is also incredibly diverse and proficient when it comes to supporting all kinds of meeting needs. We know the importance and value of partnership and Slovenia delivers that through the people who are endowed with natural charm and whose work is marked by a personal touch and team adaptability.

Meetings and events come in all shapes and sizes. There's no such thing as one size fits all. That's why you need a destination partner with flexibility etched into their DNA. It comes naturally to us in Slovenia, we're born with it. Working in meetings and events is full on. It requires a yes-we-can attitude, an ability to run with the punches and, of course, a 24-hour

smile. What we offer is relaxed and calm energy, which is there when you need creative input in planning your event. It's there throughout the event journey, right until the end when your attendees give you a standing ovation for a job well done. With you all the way.

Diligence and hard work are central to Slovenia Meetings and make up the foundation of our offering to the meetings and events market. In a quiet and modest way, representatives of the Slovenia Meetings are extraordinary, bringing real and tangible benefits to all meetings and events held in Slovenia. You'll find that vigour, hospitality and harmonious cooperation are recurring themes in our meetings and events story.



EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

EUOPREVENT

EuroPrevent is the annual congress of the European Association of Preventive Cardiology, where leading experts get together to share knowledge of cardiovascular prevention and rehabilitation for cardiologists, allied health professionals, general practitioners, basic scientists, young researchers and policymakers. Cankarjev dom Cultural and Congress Centre was visited by more than 1.200 healthcare professionals from more than 40 countries who participated in the scientific exchange of 800 abstracts and submitted clinical cases.

"I would definitely recommend Cankarjev dom to other congress organisers as it is a guarantee of success. Our first congress was very successful, and we feel that people will not get bored to return or discover the destination every 3 years. We also know that we have space for growth which is important as the congress is expanding year after year."

- Valerie Thiollet, Team Manager of the Specialty Congress Department at European Society of Cardiology – France



THREE SEAS INITIATIVE 2019

Three Seas Initiative 2019 at GR-Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre was the largest political and business event in independent Slovenia. The event promoted the initiative encouraging institutions and private investors to support the three seas situated amidst the Adriatic, Baltic and Black Sea in their endeavours for energy, traffic and digital infrastructure. The invitation of the President of the Republic of Slovenia Borut Pahor was accepted by nine foreign presidents, the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker and the United States Secretary of Energy Rick Perry.

"With the help of GR-Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre we managed to provide a location in the centre of Ljubljana, which largely contributed to the successful execution of the event. The entire staff and technical team were professional and the setting of the hall, where the majority of the event took place, was exquisite."

- mag. Dobran Božič, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



6TH INTERNATIONAL IMRUA CONGRESS

In April 2019 motorcycle paramedics from Slovenia organized the 6th International IMRUA Congress (International Fire and EMS Motorcycle Response Unit Association). The Congress was attended by EMTs, nurses, paramedics, doctors and firefighters on a motorcycle from all over the world. The event was held at the City Hotel in Maribor, which can accommodate up to 200 conference participants.

"When organizing the 2019 IMRUA congress we were aware that we would receive a large number of foreign participants and therefore had to find an appropriate congress centre. We decided to host our event at City Hotel in Maribor, which turned out to be an excellent decision. Our congress was extremely successful, in a large part due to the professionalism of the hotel staff."

- Marko Kukovec, President of Organizing Committee & IMRUA Vice-President





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