

DISCOVERING SLOVENIA

10 – 17 SEPTEMBER 2025



FROM
£3,780 PER
PERSON

Tour Leader: Bridget Wheeler


The Ultimate
TRAVEL COMPANY



Slovenia, the most peaceful country to emerge from the former Yugoslavia, is the most delightful of countries.

It offers a wonderful combination of charming cities and towns, bearing the historic imprint of the Hapsburg Empire and Venetian Republic, and unspoiled countryside, where mountains, valleys, lakes and vineyards are dotted with ancient villages, monasteries, castles and palaces.

This illuminating journey begins in the capital, Ljubljana, which is dominated by a magnificent castle set on a wooded hill and where the Old Town is a maze of narrow streets, exquisite architecture, Baroque churches and quaint bridges.

We also enjoy full day excursions to the pretty town of Piran on the Adriatic coast, and the ancient town of Ptuj in Lower Styria, famous for its rich cultural heritage and wine cellars.

We then move to Bled, in the Julian Alps, a region of magnificent scenery, beautiful lakes and ancient Alpine villages.

We return to Ljubljana for a final night before returning to the UK.



Piran

8-DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 10 SEPTEMBER 2025

10 September London / Ljubljana

Suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) British Airways flight BA 690 departing London Heathrow at 14.00 hrs arriving Ljubljana at 17.10 hrs. Group transfer to the centrally located Grand Hotel Union where four nights are spent. Dinner at a local restaurant.

11 September Ljubljana

Full day tour of Ljubljana, exploring the city and Old Town on foot including: the medieval fortress, which dominates the town; the Baroque Chapel of St. George; the Castle and Pentagonal Towers; the pink 17th century Franciscan Church; the lovely Art Nouveau buildings of Prešernov Square;



Robba Fountain, Ljubljana

the exquisite Tromostovje (Three Bridges); the Town Hall with its double Gothic courtyard and Baroque arcade; the Baroque Robba Fountain; the Cathedral of St. Nicholas with its Baroque interior and frescoes; the Schweiger House with its exquisite façade; the 'Shoemaker's Bridge'; the Ursuline Church; the National Library and the Plecnik House Museum.

Lunch and dinner a local restaurant.

12 September Ljubljana / Postojna Caves / Piran

A full day's excursion the Adriatic Coast. En-route, visit the Postojna Caves with their spectacular caverns and underground canyons filled with magnificent stalactites and stalagmites. Continue to the coast and the city of Piran, a gem of Venetian Gothic architecture set on a peninsular, its ancient heart surrounded by walls that are still visible.

After lunch at a local restaurant, enjoy a walking tour of Piran including the Old Town, Church of St. George, which has wonderful frescoes, the adjoining early 17th-century Campanile and Baptistery, Minorite Monastery, Port area and City Walls. Return to Ljubljana. Dinner at a local restaurant.

13 September Ljubljana / Ptuj

Visit Ljubljana's Zalet Cemetery before continuing on an excursion to Ptuj, the oldest city in Slovenia renowned for its rich cultural heritage, its wine cellars and its restorative thermal waters. Walking tour of the old town encompassing the attractive and varied architecture, and sights such as the ancient Roman Orpheus Monument and Mithras shrines, the museum and the 12th century castle, which overshadows the town.

After lunch at a local restaurant, enjoy a tasting of Slovenian wines at one of the cellars lying under the town, before returning to Ljubljana. Dinner at a local restaurant.



Ptuj



14 September Ljubljana / Skofja Loka / Crngrob / Bled

Leave Ljubljana and drive to Skofja Loka, a beautifully preserved medieval city dominated by Loka Castle. Explore the old town centre, which has two main squares, one with beautiful old Renaissance and Baroque town houses, and see Homan's House – a restored manor house, the Capuchin Bridge and the 15th century Gothic Church of St. John. Continue to Crngrob to visit the famous Romanesque pilgrimage Church of the Annunciation, which is an architectural masterpiece, and its interior a treasure house.

After lunch at a local restaurant in Radovljica, visit the Museum of the Bee, before continuing to Bled in the Julian Alps. Two nights are spent here at the Hotel Park on the shores of Lake Bled, which has spectacular views over the lake and a panoramic thermal pool. Dinner at a local restaurant.

15 September Bled

Today, explore area surrounding and including Bled. Begin with a visit to the medieval Castle of Bled, which sits high up on a rock towering above the town. Return to the town and board a pletna (a large gondola,

hand-propelled by the boatman), to cross the lake – the tall white belfry of the Baroque Church of the Assumption rising above the trees on an island, framed by the lake and surrounding mountains, is a magical sight.

After lunch at a local restaurant enjoy a walk at the nearby Vintgar Gorge. Dinner at a local restaurant.

16 September Bled / Ljubljana

Morning at leisure with the option to walk around Lake Bled including (for the most intrepid) the Ojstrica Viewpoint.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Transfer back to Ljubljana. Dinner at a local restaurant.

17 September Ljubljana / London

Morning at leisure with option to visit the Central Market which consists of an open-air market and a covered market, a series of small food shops in a colonnade designed by Joze Plecnik. Lunch under own arrangements.

Group transfer to Ljubljana Airport for suggested flight (not included) British Airways flight BA 691 departing at 17.55 hrs arriving London Heathrow Airport at 19.20 hrs.

TOUR PRICES PER PERSON

Tour Price	£3,780
Single Supplement	£610

Please note we have not included the cost of the flights in the tour price. Please contact us for prices should you wish to book them through us.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- Breakfast daily, 6 lunches. 7 dinners
- Soft drinks with included meals
- All entrance fees, visits, excursions
- Group airport transfers and transportation as per the itinerary
- Gratuities in restaurants for included meals
- Gratuities to guide/s
- Gratuities to driver/s
- Porterage
- Local English-speaking guide/s
- The services of your tour leader throughout

PRICE EXCLUDES

- International flights
- Alcoholic beverages
- Meals indicated as under own arrangements
- Travel insurance
- Items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 12/08/24



Skofja Loka



Vintgar Gorge



YOUR TOUR LEADER



BRIDGET WHEELER

Bridget has worked in the travel industry for 35 years. After obtaining a degree from London University she started her career at Montpellier Travel before setting up Riverside Travel in the late 1990s, which then amalgamated with The Ultimate Travel Company in the early 2000s. She now divides her time between her office in Hampshire and The Ultimate Travel Company in Fulham. She has travelled extensively and has led numerous groups to various diverse destinations including Ethiopia, Cuba, Jordan, the Baltic States, Georgia and Morocco.



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