

THE WALKING PARTY

ITINERARY FOR SLOVENIA

Distance: 65 km possibly

Walking: moderate to tiring



Slovenia slots in between Austria and Croatia and Italy and Hungary. The Julian Alps that cut it off from Austria are very beautiful for walking and the Soca river (pronounced Socha), that runs from the mountains down to Tolmin before cutting south west through Italy to Monfalcone, is one of the fairytale rivers of Europe. It is jade or turquoise depending on the season and is the home for marbled trout which some of you can opt to fish for, as this is built into the itinerary.

We shall be visiting the extraordinary Skocjan caves too as well as the Lipizzaner stud farm founded in 1530 as yes the Lipizanns are native to Slovenia. There will be churches too and then we eat at the wonderful three star Michelin restaurant Hisa Franko which is such a treat ... a wonderful gastronomic experience.

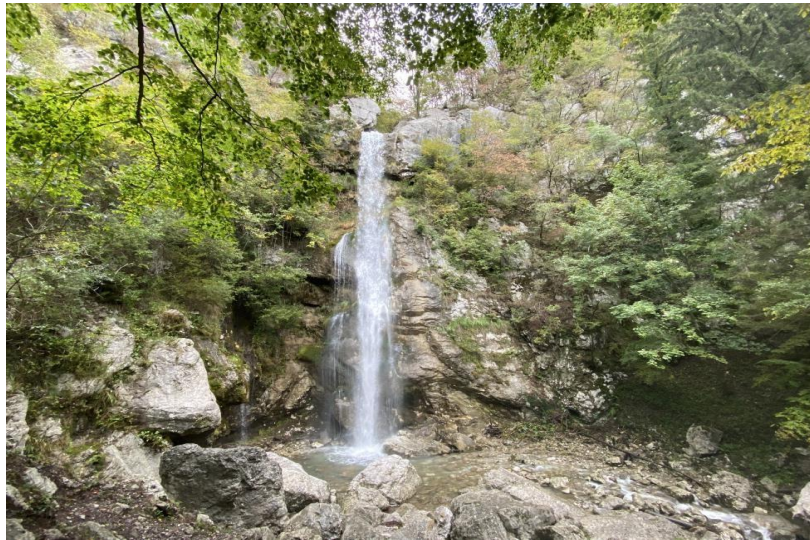
Michelin star cooking is fussy and delicate but definitely worth a go once in your life at least!

Fly fishing options too for those who would prefer to fish than walk.

So read on to see how the itinerary pieces together and I do hope to see you there!

Day 1 ARRIVAL. LJUBLJANA. You arrive in Ljubljana airport late morning to be met by James. We drive straight away to Lake Bled. This is a very panoramic part of Slovenia. We will have lunch in a tavern before taking a boat out to the island with the little church of the Mother of God. Once back on the shores of the lake we shall drive to Lake Bohinj where we will stay one night at the Triglav Apartmenti. All rooms will look over to the lake and have bathrooms en suite. Wifi available.

Day 2 LAKE BOHINJ After breakfast we will set off on foot for the village of Ukanc along the side of the lake. A drink at Ukanc before catching the ferry back to Bohinj for a bite of lunch. We shall then visit the church of St John the Baptist with its beautiful frescoes. After lunch we set off for Cerklje ob Savi stopping on the way for an afternoon walk. You will stay at Gostisce Gacnik which is a small family run traditional chalet type hotel. You will stay two nights here. *Walk: 8km*



Day 3 CERKNO After breakfast we will walk along the beautiful hills in this area. Picnic lunch. Return on foot to the hotel. Dinner at the hotel. *Walk: 15km*

Day 4 TRENTA and the SOCA RIVER We take a long drive up high to the Vrsic Pass to walk to a peak! A bit of an up. We will then drive to Trenta for a pizza lunch before moving on down the Soca gorge. The Soca river has to be one of the most beautiful rivers in Europe. Drive back to the Dobra Vila. Dinner near Bovec. *Walk: 12km*

Day 5 HISA FRANKO We go for a walk in the morning before getting ready for lunch and the Hisa Franko experience. We will drive to Hisa Franko for lunch. After lunch we will drive to Kobarid and see the First World War museum as Kobarid was the scene of a most horrific part of this war. Drive to your next hotel the four star Dobra Vila near the small town of Bovec. Dinner at the hotel. *Walk: 7 km*



Day 6 DREZNICA and VIPAVA After breakfast we will drive to the village of Kobarid to start our walk towards Dreznica and the waterfall of Kozjak. A bit of up! Picnic lunch at Dreznica before setting off for Santei bio dynamic vineyards near Vipava. We then drive on towards the coast and our first night in the little port of Piran. You will stay at the four star Hotel Piran. Dinner at the Restaurant Pavel. *Walk: 11 or 15km*

Day 7 PIRAN Today is a relaxed day taking it easy in this delightful little port. Wandering around at leisure. Dinner restaurant Neptun.



Day 8 CAVES and LIPIZZANERS We shall visit Hrastovlje church before continuing to the Skocjan caves before lunch. After a light lunch a trip to the next village to see the historic Lipizzaner stud farm. Drive to Ljubljana. Stay at the boutique four star Vander Urbani hotel in Ljubljana. Dinner in Ljubljana.

Day 9 Departure from Ljubljana.

NOTE: *This tour starts and ends at Ljubljana airport. The itinerary is subject to change according to local conditions. All mileages shown are approximate.*