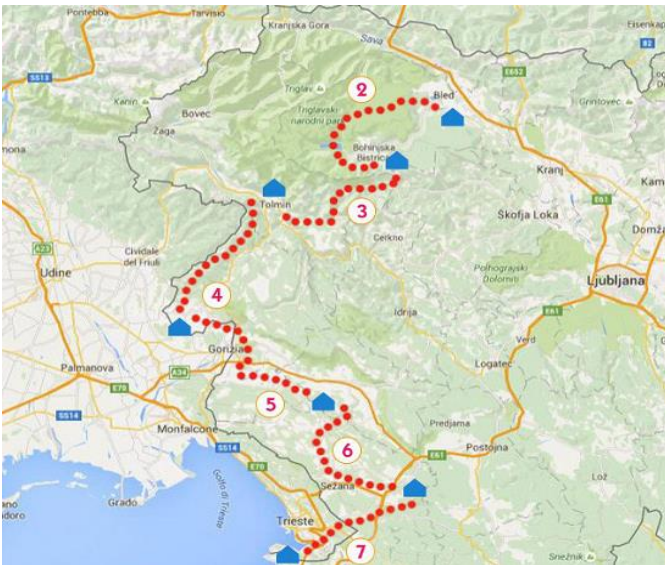


# Cycling Europe

**SLOVENIA 2020, SELF-GUIDED CYCLING,  
8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS  
FROM THE ALPS TO THE ADRIATIC  
MOUNTAINS, WINE & VISTAS!**



*From alpine lakes to a sun-drenched coast packed with mountain views, immense bodies of water and flowing wine. Starting at the fairytale world of Lake Bled, a glacial lake famed for its beautiful island church and clifftop castle. Your ride will take you first through alpine, Slovenia's most beautiful mountain vistas, over a high pass, along thundering rivers and out into a valley laden with vineyards. Castles and hilltop churches will be in abundance, along with great local wine and food in the Karst region (a beautiful Limestone plateau). Finally, the sunny coast awaits you with lazy promenades and beautiful Venetian architecture. This is the perfect cycling holiday for lovers of diverse landscape, good food and great local wine, and people who want to soak their feet in the warm sea after a long journey by bike.*

## HIGHLIGHTS ALONG THE WAY:

- Visit a breathtakingly stunning alpine national park
- Follow the dazzling emerald-coloured Soča river limestone
- Swim in fresh, cool alpine lakes
- Sip typical Teran wine in a world of
- Sample great local food in Karst villages



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: ARRIVE LAKE BLEED

This shimmering glacial lake is famous for its distinctive island church and the cliff-top castle backed by the beautiful Karavanke Mountains. Bled is one of Slovenia's must-see spots. You can take a stroll around the western side of the lake for some of the best views and photographs, and then have lunch and the locally famous cream cake (Kremšnita) on the eastern Lakeside.

### Day 2: BLEED – BOHINJSKA BISTRICA (27km / 43km with side trip)

A short car transfer leaves you on the high plateau at Pokljuka. From here you'll cycle through alpine villages to Lake Bohinj, the jewel of the Triglav National Park. Encircled by tall mountain peaks, Bohinj is the largest and deepest lake in the National Park. Savica Waterfall is the source of the lake and the Sava Bohinjka River. A cable car runs up to Vogel Mountain, where you can get a spectacular view into the Bohinj Valley and of Mount Triglav, the highest peak in the Julian Alps.

### Day 3: BOHINJ – TOLMIN (56km; or 35km if taking train to Podbrdo).

In the morning you'll have two options. Your route will take you via the Sorica Pass over the Julian Alps, but if you want to save some climbing you can take a short train ride through the Bohinj tunnel to Podbrdo. Then you peddle off through a narrow valley and follow the beautiful emerald-green Soča River as it rushes out of the mountains and into the western side of the Julian Alps. Just before reaching your destination you'll have a chance to dive into its supernatural waters, or visit the only monument in the world dedicated to military cooks.

### Day 4: TOLMIN – ŠMARTNO / DOBROVO (34km / 46km without lift up)

You will be transferred by car to Kolovrat Saddle - a million dollar viewpoint high above the Soča Valley. Once the site of heavy fighting during WW1, it's now a very interesting open-air museum. Reaching the first village, Mrs. Josephine, who lives all alone in an intact old-fashioned pub, will be overjoyed to welcome you in her shady garden. Cycling the ridges above two valleys, you'll reach your day's destination - Šmartno v Goriških Brdih, amid an abundance of lush vineyards. A recent and beautifully restored medieval village of narrow streets with Mediterranean houses, you can stretch your legs here, sip cool white wine and chat with locals in an authentic village pub.





### Day 5: ŠMARTNO / DOBROVO - KODRETI / ŠTANJEL (53km)

After leaving the Brda wine region you'll reach "Southern Berlin". The Iron Curtain once split the town of Gorizia between Italy and Yugoslavia. At the railway station that stands right on the border, one can visit the very interesting Curtain museum. Cycling further along the border you'll come to the smallest military museum in the world - a historic Yugoslav border outpost. Overlooking the

border is the ancient Kostanjevica Monastery, where the last French King is buried. Turning inland, you'll soon reach the vineyards of the Vipava region. Your host Vid will be happy to provide you with samples of the best wines in the beautiful rural setting of his small karst village.

### Day 6: KODRETI / ŠTANJEL – DIVAČA (48km)

Today you'll cycle to the stud farm of Lipica, where you can visit the beautiful thoroughbred Lipizzaner horses, whose gentle, graceful dancing have wowed many a visitor. Take a tour in a traditional carriage, and visit them close up in their stables. You can also visit the unusual but nonetheless interesting "War Museum" set inside a lovely Venetian tower - see what a collector's passion can really mean. The small town hotels belongs to a butcher's family, but the young master is a wine expert too and he'll present you the best red wines of karst region.

**Re. Lipica Horses:** From June to September performances are at 3pm on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday and 11.00am on Saturdays. Cost is approx. €23 Euro per person, and includes a guided



tour of the stud farm. There are also guided tours of the Stud farm every day on the hour from 10.00am until 5.00pm. Reservations are not needed in advance (€16, approx 50 minute tour).

Website: <http://www.lipica.org/en/what-to-do>

### Day 7: DIVAČA – TRIESTE / MUGGIA (46km)

In the morning you can visit the fascinating UNESCO Škocjan Caves. Then follows one last descent with magnificent views of the Adriatic Sea before reaching the southern outskirts of Trieste - the old seaside village of Muggia, where your cycling day and tour end. Park your bikes and take the city shuttle boat to the worldly port city of Trieste and visit Miramare Castle, the cathedral or Piazza Unita central square where you can relax with a cappuccino or a gelato with Trieste Bay in full view.

### Day 8: DEPARTURE FROM TRIESTE / MUGGIA.

After breakfast your tour ends.



## 2020 SCHEDULE

**Self-Guided tour:** Start any day from 14 March to 10 October 2020

### 2020 COST PER PERSON IN EURO:

**Low Season: 14 Mar – 24 Apr and 19 Sep-10 Oct** €715 share twin/double

**High Season: 25 Apr – 18 Sep** €755 share twin/double

**Single room supplement** €110

**Dinner supplement** (Half Board, 6 dinners – 3 courses) €125

**3 Wine Tastings** in Brda, Kodreti, Divaca with 3 wines in each tasting and cheese € 30

### 2020 BIKE COST PER PERSON IN EURO:

21 speed €80

Electric Bike €200

Helmet € 12 (Helmets must be worn in Slovenia by law)

Bikes are equipped with odometer, lock, pannier bag, spare tube, basic puncture repair kit, and Allen keys.

### TRANSFERS: per person - minimum 2 persons

Ljubljana to Bled €35

Ljubljana Airport to Bled €30

Klagenfurt Airport to Bled €65

Trieste City to Trieste Airport €35

Trieste to Ljubljana €60

Trieste to Ljubljana Airport €70

### EXTRA NIGHT COST PER PERSON IN EURO:

**Bled 3\* hotel** € 69 share twin, €100 single room, 3 course dinner €15

**Bled 4\* hotel** € 84 share twin, €143 single room, 4 course dinner €25

**Ljubljana 3 \* hotel** € 58 share twin, € 83 single room, Dinner €15

**Ljubljana 4 \* hotel** €84 per person share twin. €111 single room, Dinner €15

**Trieste 3 \* hotel:** €69 share twin, €100 single room, Dinner €15

### 2020 TOUR COST INCLUDES:

- 7 nights in 3 & 4\* hotels and guesthouses
- All rooms have private facilities
- Meals: breakfast daily
- Personal tour briefing /bike handover on arrival
- Luggage transport between hotels (one piece per person max. 20kg).
- Information package including detailed text route description (one per room).
- GPS data
- Tourist and other taxes
- Backup service (hotline) during the trip.

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