

SLOVENIA, the land of excellent beekeeping practices

Api Slovenia Tour

Carniola and Karst Region

Slovenia lies in the centre of Europe, where the Alps meet the Mediterranean area and the Karst changes into sumptuous forests. You will be captivated by the blue Adriatic Sea and the mysterious Karst with its subterranean caves. The beautiful world of the mountains, nature parks, ravines, plateaus and crystal clean waters which pour in picturesque lakes will amaze you. Picture the wealth of the thermal and mineral wells – a source of health and relaxation, picturesque vineyards on the spurs of hills, quality wine and excellent food, attractive cities, medieval monasteries and castles, illuminated churches on hilltops and hospitable people with open arms and a smile.



Day 01 Arrival to Ljubljana

Arrival in Slovenia. Drive to hotel in Ljubljana, dinner and overnight.

Day 02 Ljubljana – Beekeeping equipment store – Visit to a beekeeper – Ljubljana

Our first destination is a company specialised in manufacturing of stainless beekeeping equipment and supplies. The production takes place in their new premises utilizing modern CNC machines, allowing for the production of some of the most demanding products on the market. Next, we make a stop to our first beekeeper. Introduction to their activities followed by a tasting of their products, particularly the famous honey brandy and innovative beetroot honey, which has medicinal uses. Return to Ljubljana, with its medieval old town, rich Baroque and Renaissance architecture, museums, galleries, etc. We enjoy a walk through the old city centre, across the Triple Bridge designed by the well-known Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik, follow the path down to the cathedral, past Francesco Robba's fountain and the town hall, from where we will take the funicular up to the town castle. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

Day 03 Ljubljana – Apicultural museum – Lake Bled – Ljubljana

Drive to Carniola region where we spend the whole day. Our first stop is in Radovljica to visit the apicultural museum where Slovenia's entire beekeeping heritage is presented with a special emphasis on the 18th and 19th centuries. The museum has approximately 600 original hive fronts; the motifs painted in present the lives and beliefs of people from that time. Short walk through Radovljica's old town and continuing the trip to magnificent lake Bled - one of Europe's most beautiful Alpine resorts in Europe. Optional boat ride with the traditional wooden boat "pletna" to the small island on the Lake of Bled where you can ring the bell at the Church of the assumption for good luck. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

Day 04 Ljubljana – Visit to a beekeeper – Ptuj – Thermal spa

On the fourth day, we travel east to the Slovenian region of Štajerska. This green and hilly winegrowing region is rich in tradition, folklore and cultural heritage. The beekeepers from Styria region and particularly from the town of Maribor are known to be skilled in producing various honey-based beverages. A visit to a beekeeper where the president of the Slovenian honey beverages association give us an insight to processes of honey

liquid making. Tasting of honey wine, honey liquor and Slovenian specialty, sparkling mead, that is produced from high-quality mead using the traditional champagne making method. Visit Slovenia's oldest town Ptuj, with more than 1000 years of history at the riverside of Drava river. We explore its beauty while taking a walk through the town and visit the castle which houses fascinating collections of old instruments, furniture, weapons, paintings of Ottoman luxury, and traditional carnival costumes. The town is also well known for its Roman temples dedicated to the pagan God Mithras and the oldest Slovenian wine cellars. Dinner and overnight at the thermal spa resort.

*Slovenia's natural health resorts, thermal spas and wellness centers are the **pillars** of what Slovenia has to offer to people who value **health** and **wellness**. They combine centuries of tradition, experience and modern findings of experts dedicated to a healthy mind and body.*

Day 05 Thermal spa – Jeruzalem wine road with wine tasting – Thermal spa

In the morning free time for relaxing, swimming, spa treatments, ... In the afternoon visit to Jeruzalem Wine Road and tasting some great wine. The Ljutomer-Ormož hills are not only famous for their wines but also for the beauty of the surrounding landscape. Along the Jeruzalem Wine Road, nature glows in vibrant colours in every season, providing a suitable setting for the genuine hospitality of your hosts along the Wine Road and the outstanding quality of the wines produced here. Jeruzalem is proud of its sacred name, energy lines of force, wonderful viewpoints, and pilgrimage church. Romans, crusaders and pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land, and raiding Turks all left their stamp there, therefore Jeruzalem continues to be a crossroads of diversity and positive energy. Dinner and overnight at the thermal spa.

Day 06 Thermal spa – Open air apicultural museum – Beekeeping centre – Ljubljana

Morning stop in village of Veržej and visit the open air beekeeping museum with traditional old bee house, old beekeeping equipment and honey plants. Honey degustation. Continuing the drive to beekeeping centre. The Slovenian Beekeeping Association was established 140 years ago comprises 200 beekeeping societies. Of equally venerable age is the journal "Slovenian Beekeeper" whose interesting and detailed articles are an excellent source of information on activities in the beekeeping world. A significant part of their efforts are dedicated to informing the general public about the importance of beekeeping. Introduction with the activities of the Center, multivision presentation, visit of plantation of nectar producing plants and bee hives, built in unique Carniolian. Return to the capital of Slovenia. Free time to discover Ljubljana, its museums, ... Dinner and overnight in hotel.

Day 07 Ljubljana – The Postojna cave – Piran – Ljubljana

Departure for Postojna cave, the largest cave is the "classic karst" and the most visited show cave in Europe with 20 kilometers of passages, galleries and chambers. Ride with electrical train through the marvellous underground world. Continuing to coastal region. Piran is a very special city. It is the best preserved cultural monument of Slovenian Istria and the closest neighbor of Portorož, the luxurious city of flowers. Throughout time. Piran maintained the clustered medieval structure narrow winding streets; houses huddled close together, rising in cascades, the contact with the sea, numerous squares and churches. Tartini Square is the gem found in the very centre of Piran. It was named after the famous violinist and composer Giuseppe Tartini, who made the town world-famous. Dinner and overnight in the hotel.

Day 08 Ljubljana – departure

Breakfast and departure.

Specialised beekeepers visits are made upon your request and can include: visiting Carniolian queen breeding station with possibility of buying queens, specialized beekeeping equipment store, professional trainings in field of beekeeping and meetings with professionals, observing master beekeeper at work, honey massage, learn honey-inspired baking, join beehive front panel painting, visiting store with bee products and api cosmetic, ...

A special care for the creativity and relaxation of the ladies accompanying men beekeepers on Api excursion: during the professional visits ladies can treat themselves with spa treatments, by visiting a herb farm, different workshops, such as making products of honey dough, pottery, bread-making, shopping, ...

Package price from:

779 EUR

Price calculated in February 2016. Price is per person, based on twin room.

Included in the price:

- ✓ Transportation in air-conditional coach in Slovenia
- ✓ 7 nights in hotel 3* and 4* on twin rooms
- ✓ Tourist tax
- ✓ 7 buffet breakfasts
- ✓ 6 dinners in hotel (no drinks)
- ✓ Entrances and fees as per program
- ✓ English speaking guide
- ✓ Organisation and assistance

Not included:

- ✓ Transportation to and from Slovenia
- ✓ Transfer to and from airport
- ✓ Supplement for single room
- ✓ Lunches
- ✓ Drinks
- ✓ Entrances and fees: Boat «pletna», funicular to the town castle in Ljubljana
- ✓ Assurance in case of sickness before departure
- ✓ Everything not listed in «Included»

** Final price depends on the number of passengers, on the confirmed date, hotels and services.*

Have a great Api tour!