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ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation in Slovenia runs the gamut from riverside camping grounds, hostels, mountain huts (for pricing see boxed text, p44), cosy *gostišča* (inns) and farmhouses, to elegant castle hotels in Dolenjska and Štajerska, and five-star hotels in Ljubljana. Slovenia counts just under 80,000 beds in total – over a third of them in hotels – so you'll usually have little trouble finding accommodation to fit your budget, except at the height of the season (July and August) on the coast, at Bled or Bohinj, or in Ljubljana.

BOOK ACCOMMODATION ONLINE

For more accommodation reviews and recommendations by Lonely Planet authors, check out the online booking service at www.lonelyplanet.com. You'll find the true, insider lowdown on the best places to stay. Reviews are thorough and independent. Best of all, you can book online.

Accommodation listings throughout this guide are ordered by price – from the cheapest to the most expensive, even within budget, midrange and top-end categories. Very, very roughly, budget accommodation means a double room under €50, midrange is €51 to €100 and top end is €101 or more.

Bear in mind that virtually every municipality in the land levies a tourist tax of between €0.60 and €1.25 per person per night. For stays of less than three nights, many pensions and almost all private rooms charge 30% to 50% more, although the percentage usually drops on the second night.

Accommodation owners are required to register foreign visitors with the local town hall – an old socialist holdover – so many will insist on holding your passport or identity document during your stay. This can be inconvenient when trying to change money, although most places are happy to return the documents to you after registering your details.

Camping

In summer, camping is a great way to go if you're on a budget and would like to meet people. You'll find a conveniently located *kamp* (camping ground) in virtually every corner of the country, but there are about four-dozen official ones. And you don't always need a tent; a few grounds have inexpensive bungalows available for hire. Among the best camping grounds for those who want to experience the mountains are Camping Špik (p126) at Gozd Martuljek near Kranjska Gora, Kamp Triglav (p132) at Trenta and Kamp Polovnik (p137) at Bovec. On the coast, most of the camping grounds are *avtokampi*, catering

PRACTICALITIES

- Use the metric system for weights and measures (see inside front cover).
- Plug your hairdryer or laptop into a standard European adapter with two round pins before connecting to the electricity supply (220V, 50Hz AC).
- Read the following English-language publications: the **Slovenia Times** (www.sloveniatimes.com; €1.50), a fortnightly independent newspaper often distributed for free; **Sinfo** (www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/publications/sinfo), a free government-produced monthly magazine; and **Ljubljana Life** (www.ljubljanalife.com), a free quarterly magazine with listings of Ljubljana restaurants, bars and nightlife. *Slovenian Business Report* is a quarterly publication with a cover price of €12, but it's usually available for free at top-end hotels. Many UK and US newspapers are available at kiosks, hotels and bookshops in Ljubljana, Maribor and larger tourist towns.
- Listen to the news bulletin broadcast in English year-round at 10.30pm on Radio Slovenija 1 (88.5, 90.0, 90.9, 91.8, 92.0, 92.9, 94.1, 96.4 MHz FM and 918 kHz AM). In July and August Radio Slovenija 1 and Radio Slovenija 2 (87.8, 92.4, 93.5, 94.1, 95.3, 96.9, 97.6, 98.9, 99.8 and 99.9 MHz FM) broadcast a weather report in English at 7.10am. During these months, Radio 2 broadcasts traffic conditions after each news bulletin from Friday afternoon to Sunday evening. Visit RTV Slovenija's website, www.rtvsl.si.

more to camper vans and caravans than to motorists and pedestrians with tents. Places like Avtokamp Fiesa (p174) near Piran and Avtokamp Lucija (p179) near Portorož can be crammed to bursting in summer.

Prices vary according to the site and the season, but expect to pay anywhere from €5 to €15 per adult (children are usually charged 30% of the adult fee) on the coast or in the mountains at peak season. Many of the official camping grounds offer discounts of 5% to 10% to holders of the Camping Card International (CCI; see p276).

Almost all sites close between mid-October and mid-April. Camping 'rough' is illegal in Slovenia, and this is enforced, especially around Bled. Seek out the Slovenian Tourist Board's *Camping in Slovenia* pamphlet.

Farmhouses

Hundreds of working farms in Slovenia offer accommodation to paying guests, and for a truly relaxing break they can't be beaten. You stay either in private rooms in the farmhouse itself or in alpine-style guesthouses somewhere nearby. Many of the farms offer activities such as horse riding, kayaking, trekking or cycling and allow you to help out with the farm chores if you feel so inclined.

The farms themselves can range from places where Old MacDonald would feel at home to not much more than a modern guesthouse with a vegetable patch and orchard. The latter

is especially true around tourist destinations like Bled and near the coast. You'll find much more isolated farmsteads with livestock and vineyards in Štajerska, Dolenjska and Bela Krajina. For more information, contact the **Association of Tourist Farms of Slovenia** (Združenje Turističnih Kmetij Slovenije; ☎ 03-491 64 80; ztkso@siol.net; Trnovljaska cesta 1, 3000 Celje) or check out the Slovenian Tourist Board's *Friendly Countryside* pamphlet, which lists upwards of 300 farms with accommodation (see p284). You can book through **ABC Farm & Countryside Holidays** (☎ 01-510 43 20; abc-tourism@europcar.si; Ulica Jožeta Jame 16) in Ljubljana.

Expect to pay about €13 per person in a room with shared bathroom and breakfast (from €17 for half-board) in the low season (September to mid-December and mid-January to June), rising in the high season (July and August) to a minimum €16 per person (from €23 for half-board). Apartments for groups of up to eight people are also available. There's no minimum stay, but you must pay 30% more if you stay fewer than three nights.

Hostels & Student Dormitories

Some 26 hostels in Ljubljana and the provinces are registered or affiliated with the Maribor-based **Hostelling International Slovenia** (Popotniško Združenje Slovenije; ☎ 234 21 37; www.youth-hostel.si; Gosposvetska cesta 84). In Ljubljana contact Erazem (p68). You are not required to have a Hostelling International (HI) card to stay at

hostels in Slovenia, but it sometimes earns you a discount or cancellation of the tourist tax. These hostels typically cost from €13 to €21, with prices at their highest in midsummer.

A large percentage of Slovenian pupils and students live away from home during the school year and sleep in a *dijaški dom* (college dormitory) or *študentski dom* (student residence). Dorms in Ljubljana, Maribor, Idrija and a number of other cities in Slovenia accept foreign travellers in summer for rates ranging from €10 for a bed in a dormitory to €30 for a single room with bathroom.

Hotels

Rates at Slovenia's hotels vary seasonally, with July and August the peak season and September/October and May/June the shoulder ones. Ski resorts such as Kranjska Gora and Maribor Pohorje also have a peak season from December to March. In Ljubljana prices are generally constant throughout the year. Many resort hotels, particularly on the coast, are closed in winter. As hotels seldom levy a surcharge for stays of one or two nights, they're worth considering if you're only passing through. Rates almost always include breakfast.

Despite a star system (one to five), as with many other countries in the region, hotel standards in Slovenia vary enormously and it's often difficult to tell what's what until you've stepped inside or spent the night. The Slovenian Tourist Board's annual *Hotel Rates* pamphlet, with pictures, rates and some description, might prove useful (see p284).

There's a new crop of destination hotels – places you'd travel a great distance just to stay in – coming up in Slovenia, places like Ljubljana's Antiq Hotel (p81) and the Dobra Vila (p137). Other fine and/or romantic places to stay include the country's castle hotels such as those at Otočec (p207) and Mokrice (p214).

Pensions & Guesthouses

Pensions and guesthouses go by several names in Slovenia. A *penzion* is, of course, a pension, but more commonly it's called a *gostišče* – a rustic (or made to look rustic) restaurant with *prenočišče* (accommodation) upstairs or somewhere in a separate building. They are more expensive than hostels but cheaper than hotels, and they might be your only option in small towns and villages. Generally speaking, a *gostilna* serves food and drink only, but

some might have rooms as well. The distinction between a *gostilna* and a *gostišče* isn't very clear – even to most Slovenes.

Private Rooms & Apartments

You'll find private rooms and apartments available through tourist offices and travel agencies at most tourist towns. Make sure you understand exactly where you'll be staying; in cities some private rooms are located quite far from the centre. The Slovenian Tourist Board's brochure *Rates for Accommodation in Private Rooms and Apartments* is useful, as it provides a photo and the location of the house along with the rates of its rooms and/or apartments.

You don't have to go through agencies or tourist offices; any house with a sign reading 'Sobe' or 'Zimmer frei' means that rooms are available. The only advantage to this is that, depending on the season, you might save yourself a little money by going directly.

In Slovenia, *registered* private rooms and apartments are rated with from one to four stars. Those with one star have running water in the room and a shower or bathroom in the corridor, while those with two have their own shower or bath. Rooms with their own bath plus comfortable furnishings, TV, breakfast on offer and so on rate three stars while four stars (apartments only) adds large room sizes and great views to the three-star category. Prices vary greatly according to the town and season, but typical rates range from around €12 to €25 per person per night.

The price quoted is usually for a minimum stay of three nights. If you're staying a shorter time (and you are usually welcome to except in high season), you'll have to pay 30% and sometimes as much as 50% more the first night and 20% to 30% extra the second and third. The price of a private room never includes breakfast (from around €4.50 if available) or tourist tax. An extra bed in the room is usually 20% on top, as is single use of a room.

Some agencies and tourist offices also have holiday apartments available that can accommodate up to six people. One for two/four people could go for as low as €30/45.

ACTIVITIES

Known as 'Europe's activities playground', Slovenia offers an extensive range of outdoor activities, from skiing, climbing and

cycling to bird-watching, diving and 'taking the waters' at one of the nation's many spas. For details, see the Great Outdoors chapter (p43).

BUSINESS HOURS

With rare exceptions, the *delovni čas* (opening times) of any concern are posted on the door. *Odperto* means 'open' while *zaprto* is 'closed'.

Grocery stores and supermarkets are usually open from 8am to 7pm on weekdays and 8am until 1pm on Saturday. In winter they may close an hour earlier. Some branches of the Mercator supermarket chain open from 8am to 11am on Sunday.

Restaurant hours vary tremendously across the country but essentially are from 10am or 11am to 10pm or 11pm daily. Bars are equally variable but are usually open 11am to midnight Sunday to Thursday and to 1am or 2am on Friday and Saturday.

Bank hours vary, but generally they're from 8am or 8.30am to 5pm weekdays (often with a lunchtime break from 12.30pm to 2pm) and (rarely these days) from 8am until noon or 1pm on Saturday. The main post office in any city or town (almost always the ones listed in this book in the Information sections of the individual towns and cities) is open from 8am to 7pm weekdays and 8am until noon or 1pm on Saturday.

Museums are usually open from 10am to 6pm Tuesday to Sunday. Winter opening hours may be shorter (or at weekends only) outside the big cities and towns.

CHILDREN

Successful travel with young children requires planning and effort. Don't try to overdo things; even for adults, packing too much into the time available can cause problems. And make sure the activities include the kids as well. Although the Slovenian Ethnographic Museum (p72) in Ljubljana has wonderful and very colourful hands-on exhibits for kids, balance a morning there with an afternoon at the zoo (p72) on Rožnik Hill or at the huge Atlantis water park (p77) in the BTC City mall. Include children in the trip planning; if they've helped to work out where you will be going, they'll be much more interested when they get there. Lonely Planet's *Travel with Children* is a good source of information.

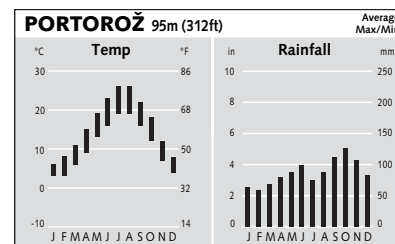
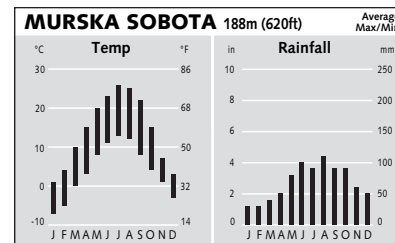
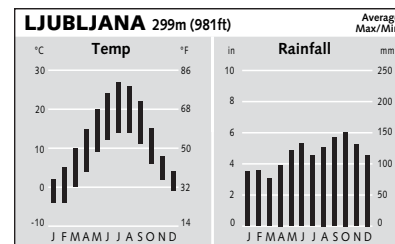
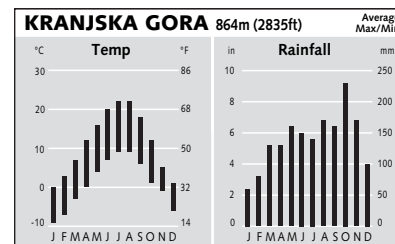
Additionally, while most activities and sights have lower prices for children, readers have reported that many places don't charge entrance fees for children under the age of five.

All car-rental firms in Slovenia have children's safety seats for hire for about €20 per rental. Make sure you book them in advance; by law children must use such seats until age 12. The same goes for highchairs and cots (cribs); they're standard in some restaurants and hotels, but numbers are limited. The choice of baby food, infant formulas, soy and other types of milk, disposable nappies (diapers) and the like is as great in Slovenian supermarkets as it is back home, but the opening hours may be different. Don't be caught out at the weekend. Nappy-changing facilities, on the other hand, are few and far between.

CLIMATE CHARTS

In general, Slovenia is temperate with four distinct seasons, but the topography creates three individual climates. The northwest has an alpine climate with strong influences from the Atlantic and abundant precipitation. Temperatures in the alpine valleys are moderate in summer but cold in winter. The coast and a large part of Primorska as far as the Soča Valley has a Mediterranean climate with warm, sunny weather much of the year, and mostly mild winters (although the *burja*, a cold and dry northeasterly wind, can be fierce at times). Most of eastern Slovenia has a Continental climate with hot (and occasionally very hot) summers and cold winters.

Slovenia gets most of its rain in the late spring (May and June) and autumn (October and November); precipitation varies but averages about 900mm in the east, 1300mm to 1600mm in the centre (Ljubljana), 1100mm to 1300mm on the coast and up to 3500mm in the Alps. January is the coldest month, with an average annual temperature of -2°C, and July is the warmest (19°C to 23°C). The mean average temperature is around 10°C in Ljubljana, 7°C in the mountains and 13.5°C on the coast. The number of hours of sunshine per year ranges from 1500 to 2300, with Ljubljana at the low end of the scale and Portorož at the top. For more information on how the climate might affect your travel plans, see p12.



COURSES

The most famous and prestigious place to learn Slovene is the **Centre for Slovene as a Second/Foreign Language** (Center za slovenshino kot Drugi/Tuji Jezik; Map p66; ☎ 01-241 86 77; www.centerslo.net; 2nd fl, Kongresni trg 12; ☹ 11am-1pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri, 11am-1pm & 3-5pm Wed) at the University of Ljubljana. There are a number of courses available, including a two-week winter course in January/February for €467, two- and four-week summer ones

in July for €467 and €789 respectively, and an intensive 14-week course running from October to January and February to May for €1168 per semester. Prices do not include room and board. The centre also sponsors free two-hour introductory lessons in Slovene for tourists once a week at the Slovenian Tourist Information Centre (p68) in Ljubljana.

Private schools offering courses in Slovene in Ljubljana include the academic **Miklošič Educational Centre** (Map pp62-3; ☎ 01-230 76 02; www.ism.si; Miklošičeva cesta 26), with courses of 30/85 hours starting at €160/395, and the upbeat **Mint International House Ljubljana** (Map pp62-3; ☎ 01-300 43 00; www.mint.si; 1st fl, Kersnikova ulica 1), with courses of 60/90 hours costing €399/598. Individual lessons cost from €29 an hour.

CUSTOMS

Duty-free shopping within the European Union was abolished in 1999, and Slovenia, as an EU member since 2004, now adheres to those rules. You cannot buy tax-free goods in, say, Austria, Italy or Hungary and take them to Slovenia. However, you can still enter Slovenia with duty-free items from countries outside the EU (eg Australia, the USA, Switzerland, Croatia etc). The usual allowances apply: 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars or 250g of loose tobacco; 2L of still wine and 1L of spirits; 50g of perfume and 250cc of eau de toilette.

DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Slovenia is not a violent or dangerous society. Firearms are strictly controlled, the few drunks you'll encounter are sloppy but docile, and you'll see little of the vandalism that plagues cities like New York or London (although the incidence of graffiti in urban centres has risen astronomically in the years since independence). The organised crime that torments Russia and some Eastern European countries has arrived in Slovenia, notably in Ljubljana and Maribor, but not to the same degree.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance (Reševalci) ☎ 112
Fire brigade (Gasilci) ☎ 112
First aid (Prva pomoč) ☎ 112
Police (Policija) ☎ 113 (emergencies)
Road emergency or towing (AMZS)
 ☎ 1987

Police say that 90% of all crimes reported in Slovenia involve theft, so take the usual precautions. Be careful of your purse or wallet in busy areas like bus and train stations, and don't leave it unattended on the beach, or in a hut while hiking. Lock your car at all times, park in well-lit areas and do not leave valuables visible.

In cities like Ljubljana, Maribor or Celje you might be approached occasionally by beggars who ask for – and then demand money – but it's seldom anything dangerous. One problem can be drunks on the road – literally or behind the wheel – especially around St Martin's Day (Martinovanje; 11 November; see p278).

One particularly irksome law here is that alcohol may not be purchased from a shop, off-license or bar for consumption off the premises by anyone between the hours of 9pm and 7am. Of course you can drink to your heart's content in restaurants, bars, pubs and clubs until closing time, but not buy it outside. The ruling follows a number of horrific car accidents involving young people who had consumed alcohol bought at popular round-the-clock convenience stores.

DISCOUNT CARDS

For details about the excellent-value Ljubljana Card, see p65.

Camping Card International

The **Camping Card International** (CCI; www.campcardinternational.com), which is basically a camping-ground ID, is available from local automobile clubs, local camping federations (eg the Caravan Club in the UK) and sometimes on the spot at selected camping grounds. They incorporate third-party insurance for damage you may cause, and some camping grounds in Slovenia offer discounts of 5% to 10% if you sign in with one. Contact the **Caravanning Club Slovenije** (CCS; info@ccs-si.com).

Hostel Card

No hostels in Slovenia actually require you to be a Hostelling International (HI) or associated member or cardholder, but they sometimes offer a discount if you are. Hostelling International Slovenia (see p272) in Maribor and Erazem (p68) in Ljubljana sell hostel cards for those aged up to 15 (€5.85), 16 to 29 (€7.50) and over 30 (€9.20).

Student, Youth & Teacher Cards

The **International Student Identity Card** (ISIC; www.isic.org; €7.10), a plastic ID-style card with your photograph, provides bona fide students many discounts on certain forms of transport and cheap admission to museums and other sights. If you're aged under 26 but not a student, you can apply for ISIC's International Youth Travel Card (IYTC; €7.10) or the Euro<26 card (€7.10) issued by the European Youth Card Association (EYCA), both of which offer the same discounts as the student card. Teachers can apply for the International Teacher Identity Card (ITIC; €8.35).

EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

Slovenian Embassies & Consulates

Slovenian representations abroad are listed on the website of the **Slovenian Foreign Ministry** (www.mz.gov.si) and include the following embassies: **Australia** Embassy (☎ 02-6243 4830; vca@gov.si; 6th fl, St George's Bldg, 60 Marcus Clarke St, Canberra ACT 2601); Sydney Consulate (☎ 02-9517 1591; slovcon@mona.com.au; 86 Parramatta Rd, Camperdown NSW 2050)

Austria Embassy (☎ 01-586 13 09; vdu@gov.si; Nibelungengasse 13, A-1010 Vienna)

Canada Embassy (☎ 613-565 5781; vot@gov.si; Suite 2101, 150 Metcalfe St, Ottawa K2P 1P1)

Croatia Embassy (☎ 01-63 11 000; vzg@gov.si; Savska cesta 41, 10000 Zagreb)

France Embassy (☎ 01-44 96 50 60; vpa@gov.si; 28 rue Bois-le-Vent 75116 Paris)

Germany Embassy (☎ 030-206 1450; vbn@gov.si; Hausvogteiplatz 3-4, D-10117 Berlin); Munich Consulate (☎ 089-543 9819; kmu@gov.si; Pf 150829, Lindwurmstrasse 14, 80045 Munich)

Hungary Embassy (☎ 01-438 5600; vbp@gov.si; Csepelkö út 68, 1025 Budapest)

Ireland Embassy (☎ 01-670 5240; vdb@gov.si; 2nd fl, Morrison Chambers, 32 Nassau St, Dublin 2)

Italy Embassy (☎ 06-80 914 310; vri@gov.si; Via Leonardo Pisano 10, 00197 Rome)

Netherlands Embassy (☎ 070-310 86 90; vhg@gov.si; Anna Paulownastraat 11, 2518 BA Den Haag)

UK Embassy (☎ 020-7222 5400; vlo@gov.si; 10 Little College St, London SW1P 3SH)

USA Embassy (☎ 202-667 5363; vwa@gov.si; 1525 New Hampshire Ave NW, Washington, DC 20036); New York Consulate (☎ 212-370 3006; 600 Third Avenue, 21st fl, New York, NY 10016)

Embassies & Consulates in Slovenia

Selected countries with representation in Ljubljana – either full embassies or consulates – appear below. If telephoning from outside the

capital but still within Slovenia, remember to dial 01 first. From outside Slovenia dial 386-01 then the number.

Australia Consulate (Map pp62-3; ☎ 425 42 52; 12th fl, Trg Republike 3; ☎ 9am-1pm Mon-Fri)

Austria Embassy (Map pp62-3; ☎ 479 07 00; Prešernova cesta 23; ☎ 8am-noon Mon-Thu, 8-11am Fri) Enter from Veselova ul.

Canada Consulate (Map pp62-3; ☎ 430 35 70; Dunajska cesta 22; ☎ 9am-noon Mon-Fri)

Croatia Embassy (Map p75; ☎ 425 62 20; Gruberjevo nabrežje 6; ☎ 10am-1pm Mon-Fri); Consulate (☎ 02-234 66 80; Trg Svobode 3, Maribor; ☎ 10am-1pm Mon-Fri)

France Embassy (Map p75; ☎ 479 04 00; Barjanska cesta 1; ☎ 8.30am-12.30pm Mon-Fri)

Germany Embassy (Map pp62-3; ☎ 479 03 00; Prešernova cesta 27; ☎ 9am-noon Mon-Thu, 9-11am Fri)

Hungary Embassy (Map pp62-3; ☎ 512 18 82; Ulica Konrada Babnika 5; ☎ 9am-noon Mon, Wed & Fri)

Ireland Embassy (Map pp62-3; ☎ 300 89 70; Poljanski nasip 6; ☎ 9am-12.30pm & 2.30-4.30pm Mon-Fri)

Italy Embassy (Map pp62-3; ☎ 426 21 94; Snežniška ulica 8; ☎ 9-11am Mon-Fri); Consulate (05-627 37 49; Belveder 2, Koper; ☎ 8.30am-noon Mon-Fri)

Netherlands Embassy (Map pp62-3; ☎ 420 14 61; Poljanski nasip 6; ☎ 9am-noon Mon-Fri)

New Zealand Consulate (Map pp62-3; ☎ 580 30 55; Verovškova ulica 57; ☎ 8am-3pm Mon-Fri)

South Africa Consulate (Map pp62-3; ☎ 200 63 00; Pražakova ulica4; ☎ 3-4pm Tue)

UK Embassy (Map pp62-3; ☎ 200 39 10; 4th fl, Trg Republike 3; ☎ 9am-noon Mon-Fri)

USA Embassy (Map pp62-3; ☎ 200 55 00; Prešernova cesta 31; ☎ 9-11.30am Mon-Fri)

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Major cultural and sporting events are listed in the Festivals & Events section of individual towns and cities. The following abbreviated list gives you a taste of what to expect. For a fuller list look under 'Events' on the website of the Slovenian Tourist Board (www.slovenia-tourism.si) and in the STB's annual *Calendar of Major Events in Slovenia*.

JANUARY

Women's World Cup Slalom and Giant Slalom Competition (Golden Fox), Pohorje (www.pohorje.org) One of the major international ski events for women. Held on the slopes southwest of Maribor.

FEBRUARY

Kurentovanje, Ptuj (www.kurentovanje.net) A 'rite of spring' celebrated for 10 days up to Shrove Tuesday (February or early March) and the most popular Mardi Gras celebration

in Slovenia. Other important pre-Lenten festivals take place in Cerknica in Notranjska and Cerkno in Primorska.

MARCH

Ski Jumping World Cup Championships, Planica (www.planica.info) Three days of high flying on skis near Kranjska Gora.

APRIL

Spring Flower Show & Gardening Fair, Volčji Potok (www.arboretum-vp.si) Slovenia's largest flower and gardening show at the arboretum near Kamnik.

Salt Works Festival, Piran & Sečovlje Country Park (www.kpss.soline.si) Weekend festival held in both Piran and at Sečovlje Saltworks Country Park to promote the tradition of salt making and the uses of sea salt.

MAY

Druga Godba, Ljubljana (www.drugagodba.si) A festival of alternative and world music in the Križanke in late May/early June.

JUNE

International Rowing Regatta, Bled (www.bled.si) One of the country's most exciting (and fastest) sporting events. Held over three days in late June.

International Biennial of Graphic Arts, Ljubljana (www.mglc-lj.si) Held at Ljubljana's International Centre of Graphic Arts and other venues from late June to early October in odd-numbered years (ie 2007, 2009 etc).

Ana Desetnica International Festival of Street Theatre, Ljubljana (www.anadesetnica.org) One of the largest outdoor theatre festivals in Europe held over a week in late June/early July.

Festival Lent, Maribor (<http://lent.slovenija.net>) A two-week extravaganza of folklore and culture in the Old Town in late June/early July.

Brežice Festival of Early Music, Brežice (www.festivalbrezice.com) Month-long series of concerts of ancient music. Held from late June to late July.

JULY

Ljubljana Summer Festival (www.festival-lj.si) The nation's premier cultural event (music, theatre and dance) held from early July to late August.

Primorska Summer Festival (www.portoroz.si) Concerts, theatre and dance events held in various venues in Piran, Koper, Izola and Portorož from early July to mid-August.

Rock Otočec (www.rock-otocec.com) Three-day rock concert in early July at Prečna airfield, 5km northwest of Novo Mesto, and Slovenia's biggest open-air rock concert.

AUGUST

Okarina Etno Festival, Bled (www.bled.si) Two-day international festival of folk and world music.

Erasmus Tournament, Predjama (www.postojna-cave.com) Jousting and other medieval shenanigans below Slovenia's most beguiling castle.

SEPTEMBER

Cows' Ball, Bohinj (www.bohinj.si) Zany weekend of folk dance, music, eating and drinking to mark the return of the cows from their high pastures to the valleys.

Dormouse Night, Cerknica (www.postojna-cave.com) A celebration and feast during the very short dormouse-hunting season in the forests around Snežnik Castle in late September.

OCTOBER

City of Women, Ljubljana (www.cityofwomen-a.si) International festival of contemporary arts, focusing on art and culture created by women.

Ljubljana Marathon (<http://maraton.slo-timing.com>) First run in 1996, this marathon draws an increasingly international field.

DECEMBER

Christmas concerts Held throughout Slovenia, especially Ljubljana, but the most famous are in Postojna Cave (www.postojna-cave.com), where you can also attend the Live Christmas Crib, a re-enactment of the Nativity with Christmas carols.

FOOD & DRINK

Slovenia has a highly developed and varied cuisine and a wine-making tradition that goes back to the time of the Romans. For details see the Food & Drink chapter (p49).

GAY & LESBIAN TRAVELLERS

Slovenia has no sodomy laws. There's a national gay rights law in place that bans discrimination in employment and other areas on the basis of sexual preference, and homosexuals are allowed in the military. Outside Ljubljana, however, there is little evidence of a gay presence, much less a lifestyle.

K4 Roza (Map pp62-3; ☎ 01-430 47 40; Kersnikova ul 4) in Ljubljana is made up of the gay and lesbian branches of Škuc (www.skuc.org), which stands for Studentski Kulturni Center (Student Cultural Centre) but is no longer student-orientated as such. It organises the **Gay & Lesbian Pride** event in June and the **Gay & Lesbian Film Festival** in December. The gay male branch, Magnus (skucmagnus@yahoo.com), deals with AIDS prevention, usually publishes a colour magazine of news, interviews and listings called *IXY* several times a year and runs the café-bar Tiffany (p87) in Ljubljana.

Lesbians can contact the Ljubljana-based and ŠKUC-affiliated LL through Monokel (p87).

Legebrita (www.ljudmila.org/siqrd/legebitra; PO Box 106, 1000 Ljubljana), affiliated with the Student Organisation of the University of Ljubljana (Študentska Organizacija Univerze Ljubljani; ŠOU) is a youth group for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transsexuals under 26. ŠOU runs the gay and lesbian K4 Roza (p87) in Ljubljana. **GALFON** (☎ 01-432 40 89; ☎ 7-10pm) is a hotline and general source of information for gays and lesbians. The website of the **Slovenian Queer Resources Directory** (www.ljudmila.org/siqrd) contains a lot of stuff, both organisational and serious, but is often out of date (or perhaps just 'archival'). **Out in Slovenia** (www.outinslovenija.com) is where to go for the latest on events, activities and venues.

HOLIDAYS

Slovenia celebrates 14 *prazniki* (holidays) a year. If any of the following fall on a Sunday, then the Monday becomes the holiday.

New Year's holidays 1 & 2 January
Prešeren Day (Slovenian Culture Day) 8 February
Easter & Easter Monday March/April
Insurrection Day 27 April
Labour Day holidays 1 & 2 May
National Day 25 June
Assumption Day 15 August
Reformation Day 31 October
All Saints' Day 1 November
Christmas Day 25 December
Independence Day 26 December

Although it's not a public holiday, St Martin's Day (11 November), the day that fermenting grape juice officially becomes new wine, is almost marked as such (p52), and just about everyone has to have a sip or three.

On the eve of St Gregory's Day (11 March), all the children in certain Gorenjska towns and villages – Železniki is the most famous one – set afloat hundreds of tiny boats bearing candles.

On Palm Sunday (the Sunday before Easter), people carry a complex arrangement of greenery, wood shavings and ribbons called a *butara* to church to be blessed. These *butare* end up as home decorations or are placed on the graves of relatives.

Many towns celebrate Midsummer's Night (Kresna Noč; 23 June) with a large bonfire, and St John's Eve (30 April) is the night for setting up the maypoles and more bonfires.

A *žegnanje* is a fair or celebration held on the feast day of a church's patron saint. Naturally a lot of them take place throughout Slovenia on 15 August, the feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, especially at Ptujška Gora in Štajerska (p237) and at Sveta Gora (p142), north of Nova Gorica.

INSURANCE

A travel insurance policy to cover theft, loss and medical problems is a good idea. There is a wide variety of policies available, so check the small print. EU citizens on public health insurance schemes should note that they're generally covered by reciprocal arrangements in Slovenia; see p296.

Some insurance policies specifically exclude 'dangerous activities', which can include scuba diving, motorcycling, even trekking. A locally acquired motorcycle licence is not valid under some policies.

You may prefer a policy that pays doctors or hospitals directly rather than you having to pay on the spot and claim later. If you have to claim later, make sure you keep all documentation. Some policies ask you to call back (reverse charges) to a centre in your home country, where an immediate assessment of your problem is made. Check that the policy covers ambulances or an emergency flight home.

Paying for your airline ticket with a credit card often provides limited travel accident insurance, and you may be able to reclaim the payment if the operator doesn't deliver. Ask your credit-card company what it covers.

INTERNET ACCESS

The internet has arrived in a big way in Slovenia; 37% of the population uses it regularly. The useful **e-points in Slovenia from A to Ž** (<http://e-tocke.gov.si> in Slovene) and its website lists free access terminals, wi-fi hotspots and commercial cyber-café where you can log on across the nation. Many libraries in Slovenia have free terminals and most towns have at least one cyber-café. Check the Information section of cities and towns throughout the book.

Most hotels and hostels in Slovenia have some form of internet access available nowadays. We have included an internet icon (☎) only if the hotel has wi-fi or allows guests to use a terminal free of charge in the lobby or reception room. Some establishments (usually hostels) charge their guests an access fee, which we have usually noted in the review text.

COMING OF AGE

The legal age for voting, driving an automobile and drinking alcohol is 18. According to Article 183 (1995) of the Penal Code of the Republic of Slovenia (Kazenski Zakonik Republike Slovenije), the age of consent for all sexual activity (ie heterosexual and homosexual) is 15 years.

If you're travelling with your own notebook or hand-held computer, remember that the power-supply voltage in Slovenia may vary from that at home, risking damage to your equipment. The best investment is a universal AC adaptor for your appliance, which will enable you to plug it in anywhere. You'll also need a plug adaptor for European outlets; it is often easiest to buy these before you leave home.

For the best sites to check out before arriving in Slovenia, see p14.

LAUNDRY

With a full 96% of all Slovenian households owning a washing machine, well, good luck trying to find a self-service laundrette... The best place to seek out do-it-yourself washers and dryers is at hostels, college dormitories and camping grounds, but even these are very limited. There are a few commercial laundries in Ljubljana (p65) that will do your laundry reasonably quickly, but they are expensive, charging from €3.80 per kilogram. Hotel laundry service is even more costly.

LEGAL MATTERS

Persons violating the laws of Slovenia, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use or trafficking in illegal drugs in Slovenia are strict, and convicted offenders can expect jail sentences and heavy fines. The permitted blood-alcohol level for motorists is 0.05%, and it is strictly enforced, especially on motorways.

MAPS

The **Geodesic Institute of Slovenia** (Geodetski Zavod Slovenije or GZS; www.gzs-dd.si in Slovene), the country's principal map-making company, which also runs the Kod & Kam (p61) shop in Ljubljana, produces national (1:300,000; €7.20) and regional maps. Some 17 excursion maps at a scale of 1:50,000 (€7.20) cover the whole country, and there are city plans

(€3.10 to €7.10) for all the major towns. GZS's *Ljubljana* map (1:20,000; €6.70) with street index is excellent. The **Alpine Association of Slovenia** (Planinska Zveza Slovenije or PZS; www.pzs.si) produces 30 hiking maps (€7.50) with scales as large as 1:25,000.

Anyone planning to do a lot of driving in the country should pick up a copy of the 1:300 000 *Turistični Atlas Slovenija* (Tourist Atlas of Slovenia; €19) from GZS, which includes 14 city plans, or the more detailed 1:100 000 *Avtoatlas Slovenija* (Road Atlas of Slovenia; €30), with 65 1:12,500 maps of Slovenian cities and towns.

MONEY

Slovenia traded the tolar (abbreviated SIT) for the euro (abbreviated € and pronounced *ew-roh* in Slovene) in January 2007, sharing the currency with 12 of the 25 other member-states of the EU (Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain). One euro is divided into 100 cents. There are seven euro notes in different colours and sizes; they come in denominations of €5, €10, €20, €50, €100, €200 and €500. The designs on the recto (generic windows or portals) and verso (imaginary bridges, a map of the EU) are exactly the same in all 13 countries and symbolise openness and cooperation.

The eight coins in circulation are in denominations of €2 and €1, then one, two, five, 10, 20 and 50 cents. The 'heads' side of the coin, on which the denomination is shown, is identical throughout the euro zone; the 'tails' side is peculiar to each member-state, though euro coins can be used anywhere where euros are legal tender, of course.

In Slovenia, the verso of the €2 coin (brassy centre ringed with silver) shows the poet France Prešeren (1800–49) and a line from his poem *Zdravljica*, which forms part of the national anthem. The €1 coin (silver centre with brassy ring) portrays the Protestant reformer and translator Primož Trubar (1508–86) and the Latin inscription *Stati Inu Obstati* (To Stand and Withstand).

On the three lowest-denomination coins – €0.01, €0.02 and €0.05 (all copper) – are a stork, the stone where the 8th-century Carantanian dukes were installed, and *The Sower* by painter Ivan Grohar (1867–1911). The other three coins are brass. On the €0.10 coin is a design for a parliament by architect Jože

Plečnik (1872–1957) that was never built and the words 'Katedrala Svobode' (Cathedral of Freedom). The €0.20 coin features a pair of Lipizzaner horses prancing together. The stunning and very symbolic €0.50 coin shows Mt Triglav, the Cancer constellation (under which independent Slovenia was born) and the words 'Oj Triglav moj dom' (O Triglav, my home).

Exchange rates are given on the inside front cover of this book. For a general idea on what you might spend while visiting Slovenia, see p13.

ATMs

Automated teller machines (ATMs) – called *bančni avtomat* – are ubiquitous throughout Slovenia. If you have a card linked to either the Visa/Electron/Plus or the MasterCard/Maestro/Cirrus network and a PIN (personal identification number), then you can withdraw euros from almost any ATM in the country. Both Abanka and SKB Banka ATMs are linked to both networks; all banks mentioned in this guide have an ATM unless otherwise indicated.

Although an English-language option is available on the ATM screen, the following are the Slovenian words you'll find on the buttons of the machines (in the order shown) and their English equivalents:

Popravek – Correction/Cancel

Prekinitvev – Cancel

Potrditev – Enter/Confirm

Cash

Nothing beats cash for convenience – or risk. It's always prudent to carry a little foreign cash, however, in case you can't find an ATM nearby or there's no bank or travel office open to cash your travellers cheques. You can always change cash at a hotel, though the commission will be high.

Credit Cards

Visa, MasterCard/Eurocard and American Express credit cards are widely accepted at hotels, restaurants, shops, car-rental firms, petrol stations and travel agencies. Diner's Club is also accepted but less frequently.

Visa cardholders can get cash advances from any Abanka branch, Eurocard/MasterCard holders from a Nova Ljubljanska Banka or SKB Banka. American Express clients can get an advance from the main office of **Atlas Express** (Map pp62-3; ☎ 01-430 77 20; Kolodvorska ulica

16; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri) in Ljubljana, but the amount is usually limited to US\$600 in travellers cheques for Green Card holders and US\$1200 for Gold Card holders. American Express customers who want to report a lost or stolen card or travellers cheques should also call here. They can both replace cards (although you must know the account number) and make refunds for lost or stolen American Express travellers cheques.

If you have problems with your Visa card, call the **Visa Centre** (☎ 01-471 81 00) in Ljubljana. Eurocard and MasterCard holders should call **Nova Ljubljanska Banka** (☎ 01-477 20 00). **Diners Club** (☎ 01-589 61 11) is based in Bežigrad, a northern suburb of Ljubljana.

International Transfers

Nova Ljubljanska Banka (☎ 01-477 2001 for information) is an agent for Western Union, and you can have money wired to any of its branches throughout the country.

Moneychangers

It is easy to change cash and travellers cheques at banks, post offices, tourist offices, travel agencies and private exchange offices. Look for the words *menjalnica* or *devizna blagajna* to guide you to the correct place or window.

There's no black market in Slovenia, but exchange rates can vary substantially, so it pays to keep your eyes open. Banks take a *provizija* (commission) of 1% on travellers cheques and usually nothing at all on cash, but tourist offices, travel agencies and exchange bureaus usually charge around 3%. Hotels can take as much as 5%.

Taxes & Refunds

Value-added tax (known as *davek na dodano vrednost* or DDV in Slovenia) is applied to the purchase of most goods and services at a standard rate of 20% (eg on alcoholic drinks, petrol and so on) and a reduced rate of 8.5% (eg on hotel accommodation, food, books, museum entrance fees etc). It is usually included in the quoted price of goods, but not of some services, so beware.

Visitors who are not residents of the European Union can claim refunds on total purchases of €62.50 (not including tobacco products or spirits) issued on one or more receipts by the same retailer/shop on the same day as long as they take the goods out of the country (and the EU) within 90 days. In order

to make the claim, you must have a DDV-VP form or Global Tax-Free Shopping refund cheque correctly filled out by the salesperson at the time of purchase and have it stamped by a Slovenian customs officer at the border. You can then collect your refund – minus handling fee from more than 30 post offices nationwide. You can also have it sent by bank cheque or deposited into your credit-card account. For information contact **Global Refund** (☎ 01-513 22 60; www.globalrefund.com; Goriška ulica 17) in Ljubljana.

Most towns and cities in Slovenia levy a 'tourist tax' on visitors staying overnight (typically €0.65 to €1.25 per person per night). This is not normally included in hotels' advertised rates and is never included in the rates quoted in this book.

Tipping

Tipping was not really very common at Slovenian restaurants, bars or hotels under the *ancien régime* but has become so since independence. When a gratuity is not included in your bill, which is usually the case, 10% is customary. If service is outstanding, you could go as high as 15%. With taxi drivers, you usually just round up the sum if you have been happy with the ride or for the sake of convenience.

Travellers cheques

Slovenian banks often give a better exchange rate for travellers cheques than for cash while some private exchange offices (not travel agencies) do the opposite. Post offices are not the best places to change money as many accept only cash, and when they do take travellers cheques it will be at a relatively poor rate.

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO

Film and basic camera equipment are available throughout Slovenia, although the largest selection by far is in Ljubljana.

Film prices vary, but a 36-exposure roll of 200 ASA Kodak, Agfa or Fuji colour print film will cost about €3.25 to €3.75 and a disposable camera around €5.50 (€6.65 with flash). Slide film (36 exposures) is €6. **Foto Tivoli** (Map pp62-3; ☎ 01-438 40 00; www.foto-tivoli.si in Slovene; Slovenska cesta 58; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat) in the lower level of a shopping arcade in Ljubljana stocks a wide range of cameras and photographic equipment.

There are processing labs in towns and cities nationwide where you can have your film developed and printed in a matter of hours. You'll have no problems having your digital photos transferred to CD, and the standard of printing is very high. Print processing costs from €2 per roll, and from €0.25 per print.

Labs with fast processing in Ljubljana include **Foto Grad** (Map pp62-3; ☎ 01-439 2910; Trg OF 13; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Thu, 8am-4pm Fri) opposite the train station and a **Foto Grad branch** (Map pp62-3; ☎ 01-439 29 00; Miklošičeva cesta 36; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat) around the corner. Foto Grad can develop from all digital media as well.

Spare cassettes for video cameras are also widely available in photographic and electronic goods shops. A 60-minute 8mm cassette costs €5.20 while a 30-minute DVM is €7.50.

POST

The Slovenian postal system (Pošta Slovenije), recognised by its bright yellow logo, offers a wide variety of services – from selling stamps and telephone cards to making photocopies and changing money. The queues are never very long, but you can avoid a trip to the post office if you just want to mail a few postcards by buying *znamke* (stamps) at newsstands and dropping your mail into any of the yellow letterboxes on the street. Staff at post offices can sell you boxes and will even wrap the packages you want to send for you.

Something mailed within Slovenia takes only a day or two. Post to neighbouring countries and ones close by (eg Germany) should take about three days maximum. For the UK, you can count on about five days, and the USA between a week and 10 days. Mail to Asia and Australia takes between 10 days and two weeks.

Postal Rates

Domestic mail costs €0.20 for up to 20g, €0.40 for up to 50g and €0.50 for up to 100g. Postcards are a uniform €0.20. For international mail, the rate is €0.45 for 20g or less, €0.95 for up to 100g and €0.35 for a postcard. An aërogram costs €0.50.

Sending & Receiving Mail

Look for the sign 'Pisma – Paketi' if you've got a *pismo* (letter) or *paket* (parcel) to post.

Poštno ležeče (poste restante) is kept at the main post office of a city or town. In the capital, address it to Glavni Pošta, Slovenska cesta 32, 1101 Ljubljana, where it will be held for 30 days.

There are a lot of different words for 'street' in Slovene. You'll find all the various terms used to distinguish boulevards, roads and alleys in the Glossary (p306), while the accompanying boxed text might help with place names.

SHOPPING

Although Ljubljana has a nice array of craft and souvenir shops (p88), in general it's best to go to the source where you'll find the real

thing and not mass-produced kitsch. In Gorenjska, go to Bohinj for carved wooden pipes with silver lids, and to Kropa for objects made of wrought iron. In Primorska go to Idrija or Železniki for lace. Ribnica in Dolenjska is famous for its *suha roba* (wooden household utensils), Rogaska Slatina in Štajerska for its crystal, and Prekmurje for its Hungarian-style black pottery. Some people think they're tacky, but traditional *panjske končnice* (beehive panels) painted with folk motifs make original and unusual souvenirs – especially the one showing a devil sharpening a gossip's tongue on a grindstone. I'm sure we all know a few people back home who should hang that one up as an icon.

The silver-filigree jewellery you'll see for sale in shops all over the country, but especially on the coast, is not distinctively Slovenian but a good buy nonetheless. Almost all of the shops are owned and run by ethnic Albanians who brought the craft here from Kosovo.

Ski equipment and ski-wear are of very high quality. Skis and snowboards are made by Elan (www.elan.si) in Begunje na Gorenjskem near Bled, and boots by Alpina (www.alpina.si) at Žiri, northeast of Idrija.

Natural remedies, herbal teas, sea salt and apian products, such as beeswax, honey, pollen, propolis and royal jelly, can be found in speciality shops around the country.

A bottle of quality Slovenian wine makes a great gift. Buy it from a *vinoteka* or a dealer with a large selection, such as Vinoteka Movia or Wine Cellars of Slovenia (Vinske Kleti Slovenije; p89). A couple of the monasteries found in Dolenjska – the Cistercian one at Stična near Ivančna Gorica and the Carthusian one at Pleterje – sell their own brand of firewater made from fruits and berries. It's fragrant and very potent stuff.

Two excellent books, well-illustrated works on the arts and crafts of Slovenia, both of them by ethnologist Janez Bogataj, are *Handicrafts of Slovenia* (Mojstrovine Slovenije; €66.50) and the broader-scoped *Creative Slovenia* (Ustvarjalna Slovenija; €54). Other sources of information include the **Craft Chamber of Slovenia** (Obrtna Zbornica Slovenije; www.ozs.si) and **Art & Craft Slovenija** (Rokodelstvo Slovenija; www.rokodelstvo.si in Slovene). No one sells classier and better-made Slovenian gift items, books and wine than Darila Rokus (p89), with outlets in Ljubljana.

Bargaining

As elsewhere in Eastern Europe, bargaining was not the done thing under communism; everyone paid the same amount by weight and volume. Nowadays people selling folk crafts on the street and especially vendors at flea markets will be very open to haggling. At hotels enjoying less-than-full occupancy during the off-season, you may be able to wangle a *popust* (discount) of up to 25%.

TELEPHONE

Public telephones in Slovenia don't accept coins; they require a *telefonska kartica* or *tel-ekartica* (telephone card) available at all post offices and some newsstands. Phonecards cost €2.95/4.20/7.10/14.60 for 25/50/100/300 *impulzov* (impulses, or units). A three-minute local call will cost €0.08 during peak times (7am to 7pm weekdays) and €0.06 at off-peak times.

A three-minute call from Slovenia to Austria, Croatia, Italy or Hungary will cost €0.38; to much of Western Europe, including the UK, as well as Canada and the USA, it's €0.42; to Australia €1.14; and to New Zealand, South Africa and most of Asia €1.71. Rates are 20% cheaper on most calls between 7pm and 7am every day. Slovenian call boxes do not display their telephone numbers, so it's impossible for the other party to phone you back.

To call Slovenia from abroad, dial the international access code, ☎ 386 (the country code for Slovenia), the area code (minus the initial zero) and the number. There are six area codes in Slovenia (01 to 05 and 07), and these are listed at the beginning of each city and town section in this book. To call abroad from Slovenia, dial ☎ 00 followed by the country and area codes and then the number.

Mobile Phones

Many locals – just under 52% to be precise – have mobile phones, and network coverage amounts to more than 95% of the country. In fact, even certain businesses only quote

ADDRESSES & PLACE NAMES

Streets in Slovenian towns and cities are well signposted, although the numbering system can be a bit confusing with odd and even numbers sometimes running on the same sides of streets and squares.

In small towns and villages, streets are usually not named and houses are just given numbers. Thus Ribčev Laz 13 is house No 13 in the village of Ribčev Laz on Lake Bohinj. As Slovenian villages are frequently made up of one road with houses clustered on or just off it, this is seldom confusing.

Places with double-barrelled names such as Novo Mesto (New Town) and Črna Gora (Black Hill) start the second word in lower case (Novo mesto, Črna gora) in Slovene, almost as if the names were Newtown and Blackhill. This is the correct Slovene orthography, but we have opted to go with the English-language way of doing it to avoid confusion.

Slovene frequently uses the possessive (genitive) case in street names. Thus a road named after the poet Ivan Cankar is Cankarjeva ulica and a square honouring France Prešeren is Prešernov trg. Also, when nouns are turned into adjectives they often become unrecognisable. The town is 'Bled', for example, but 'Lake Bled' is Blejsko Jezero. A street leading to a castle (*grad*) is usually called Grajska ulica. A road going in the direction of Trieste (Trst) is Tržaška cesta. The words 'pri', 'pod' and 'na' in place names mean 'at the', 'below the' and 'on the' respectively.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

General information ☎ 090-939 881
International directory assistance ☎ 1180
Domestic directory assistance ☎ 1188
International operator/collect calls ☎ 115
Time/speaking clock (in Slovene) ☎ 195

mobile numbers, identified by the prefix 031, 040, 041 and 051.

Slovenia uses GSM 900, which is compatible with the rest of Europe and Australia but not with the North American GSM 1900 or the totally different system in Japan. SIM cards with €4 credit are available for €12 from SiMobil (www.simobil.si) and for €15.40 from Mobitel (www.mobitel.si). Top-up cards, available at post offices, newsstands and petrol stations, cost €4.20, €10.40 and €21.

Both networks have outlets in virtually every city and town in Slovenia, including Ljubljana:

Mobitel Centre (Mobitelov Center; Map p66; ☎ 472 24 60; www.mobitel.si; Trg Ajdovščina 1; ☎ 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat)

SiMobil Slovenska cesta (Halo Centre; Map pp62-3; ☎ 430 01 75; www.simobil.si; Slovenska cesta 47; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Fri); Old Town (Map p66; ☎ 426 71 02; Mestni trg 19; ☎ 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat)

TIME

Slovenia lies in the Central European time zone. Winter time is GMT plus one hour while in summer it's GMT plus two hours. Clocks are advanced at 2am on the last Sunday in March and set back at the same time on the last Sunday in October.

Without taking daylight-saving times into account, when it's noon in Ljubljana, it's 11pm in Auckland, 1pm in Bucharest, 11am in London, 2pm in Moscow, 6am in New York, noon in Paris, 3am in San Francisco, 9pm in Sydney and 8pm in Tokyo.

Like a few other European languages, Slovene tells the time by making reference to the next hour – not the previous one as in English. Thus 1.15 is 'one-quarter of two', 1.30 is 'half of two' and 1.45 is 'three-quarters of two'.

TOILETS

Finding a public lavatory is not always easy in Slovenia, and when you do, you'll probably have to pay (€0.20) to use it. All train stations have toilets as do most shopping centres and department stores. The standard of hygiene is usually good.

TOURIST INFORMATION

The **Slovenian Tourist Board** (Slovenska Turistična Organizacija, STO; ☎ 01-589 18 40; www.slovenia.info; Dunajska cesta 156) based in Ljubljana is the umbrella organisation for tourist promotion in Slovenia, and it can handle requests for information

in writing or by email. The STO produces a number of excellent brochures, pamphlets and booklets in English, 17 of which can be ordered on its website. The site itself is not open to the public.

Walk-in visitors in Ljubljana can head to the **Slovenian Tourist Information Centre** (STIC; ☎ 306 45 75; stic@ljubljana-tourism.si; Krekov trg 10; ☎ 8am-9pm Jun-Sep, 8am-7pm Oct-May). In addition, the STO oversees another five dozen or so local tourist offices and bureaus called 'tourist information centres' (TICs) across the country; there are smaller, independent or community-run offices in other cities and towns. If the place you're visiting doesn't have either, seek assistance at a branch of one of the big travel agencies (eg Kompas or Globtour) or from hotel or museum staff.

The best office in Slovenia for face-to-face information is the **Ljubljana Tourist Information Centre** (TIC; ☎ 306 12 15; www.ljubljana-tourism.si; Kresjica Bldg, Stritarjeva ulica; ☎ 8am-9pm Jun-Sep, 8am-7pm Oct-May) run by the Ljubljana Tourist Board (Zavod za Turizem Ljubljana). The staff know everything about the capital and almost as much about the rest of Slovenia. In summer the TIC employs students who are very enthusiastic about their country and your interest in it. There's a branch at the train station (p67).

TRAVELLERS WITH DISABILITIES

Disabled facilities found throughout Slovenia include public telephones with amplifiers, pedestrian crossings with beepers, Braille on maps at city bus stops, occasional lifts in pedestrian underpasses, sloped pavements and ramps in government buildings, and reserved spaces in many car parks. An increasing number of hotels (mostly top-end, although not always) have at least one room designed especially for disabled guests (bathrooms big enough for a wheelchair user to turn around in, access door on bath tubs, grip bars alongside toilets etc). These are noted in the text throughout the book with an icon (♿).

The **Paraplegics Association of Slovenia** (Zveza Paraplegikov Republike Slovenije; ☎ 01-432 71 38; www.zveza-paraplegikov.si; Štihova ulica 14) in Ljubljana looks after the interests and special needs of paraplegics, and produces a special guide for its members in Slovene only (although their website in English is fairly complete). Another active group is the Ljubljana-based **Slovenian Association of Disabled Students** (Društvo Študentov

Invalidov Slovenije; ☎ 01-565 33 51; www.dsis-drustvo.si; Kardeljeva ploščad 5). Some towns and cities produce useful brochures describing which local sights and attractions are accessible by wheelchair.

VISAS

Virtually everyone entering Slovenia must have a valid passport, although citizens of the EU as well as Switzerland need only produce their national identity card on arrival for stays of up to 30 days. It's a good idea to carry your passport or other identification at all times.

Citizens of virtually all European countries as well as Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand and the USA do not require visas to visit Slovenia for stays of up to 90 days. Those who do require visas (including South Africans) can get them at any Slovenian embassy or consulate (p276) for up to 90 days. They cost €35 regardless of the type or length of validity. You'll need confirmation of a hotel booking plus one photo and may have to show a return or onward ticket.

Your hotel, hostel, camping ground or private room arranged through an agency will register your name and address with the municipal *občina* (government) office as required by law. That's why they have to take your passport away – at least for the first night. If you are staying elsewhere (eg with relatives or friends), your host is supposed to take care of this for you within three days.

If you want to stay in Slovenia longer than three months, the easiest thing to do is simply

cross the border into Croatia and return (it won't work with Austria, Italy or Hungary as they are all EU countries too). Otherwise you will have to apply for a temporary residence permit at the **Foreigners Office** (Urad za Tujce; ☎ 01-306 30 00; Proletarska ulica 1; ☎ 8am-3pm Mon, 8am-5pm Wed, 8am-1pm Fri) in Moste, northeast of Center in Ljubljana.

Contact any Slovenian embassy, consulate or tourist office abroad for any recent changes in the above regulations or check the website of the Foreign Ministry (www.mzz.gov.si).

VOLUNTEERING

Voluntariat (☎ 01-239 16 25, 031-813 939; www.zavod-voluntariat.si; Resljeva ulica 20; ☎ 9am-2pm Mon, 10am-2pm Tue, 1-5pm Wed, 9am-1pm Thu) in Ljubljana, which is part of the Service Civil International (SCI), organises summer work camps in Slovenia on projects ranging from ecology research in Novo Mesto to working with Roma (Gypsies) near Murska Sobota, as well as volunteer work camps abroad.

WOMEN TRAVELLERS

Travelling as a single woman in Slovenia is no different from travelling in most Western European countries. If you can handle yourself in the very occasional less-than-comfortable situation, you'll be fine.

In the event of an emergency call the **police** (☎ 113) any time or the **SOS Helpline** (☎ 080-11 55; www.drustvo-sos.si; ☎ noon-10pm Mon-Fri, 6-10pm Sat & Sun).

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GETTING THERE & AWAY

ENTERING THE COUNTRY

Border formalities with Slovenia's three fellow European Union neighbours – Italy, Austria and Hungary – are now virtually nonexistent. However, as a member state that forms part of the EU's external frontier, Slovenia must implement the strict Schengen border rules, so expect a somewhat closer inspection of your documents – national ID (for EU citizens) or passport and, in some cases, visa (p285) when travelling to/from Croatia.

AIR Airports & Airlines

Slovenia's only international airport receiving regular scheduled flights is **Brnik Airport** (airport code LJU; ☎ 04-206 10 00; www.lju-airport.si) at Brnik, 27km north of Ljubljana, though there are international airports handling special and charter flights at Maribor and Portorož as well. In the Brnik arrivals hall you'll find a branch of the **Slovenia Tourist Information Centre** (STIC; ☎ 11am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, to 4.30pm Sat), a hotel booking board with telephone, an ATM and a currency-exchange machine. In the departures area there is an information desk, a **post office** (☎ 7am-6pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat), a branch of

THINGS CHANGE

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works, and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

Nova Ljubljanska Banka (☎ 8am-3pm Mon-Fri), an exchange bureau run by **Kompas** (☎ 04-201 42 88; ☎ 7am-7pm) and a row of car-rental agencies, including Europcar, Avis, Budget and Hertz.

From its base here, the Slovenian flag-carrier, **Adria Airways** (JP; ☎ 01-231 33 12, toll-free ☎ 080 13 00, airport ☎ 04-236 34 62; www.adria-airways.com; Gosposvetska cesta 6; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Fri, 8am-noon Sat) serves as many as two-dozen European destinations depending on the season. Adria flights can be remarkably good value, but with the arrival of easyJet and Wizz Air flights between the Slovenian capital and London, most British visitors are now weekend visitors on budget airlines. Adria connections include two to five per day from Frankfurt, three daily from Munich, one or two daily from Paris (Roissy Charles de Gaulle) and Zürich, daily from Istanbul and London Gatwick, four weekly from Amsterdam, twice weekly from Manchester, and useful connections to Pristina (Kosovo), Ohrid (Macedonia) and Tirana (Albania).

Other airlines serving Ljubljana include: **Air France** (AF; ☎ 01-244 34 47, 04-202 36 50; www.airfrance.com) Daily flights to Paris (CDG) **Austrian Airlines** (OS; ☎ 04-202 01 22; www.aa.com) Multiple daily flights to Vienna. **ČSA Czech Airlines** (OK; ☎ 04-206 17 05; www.csa.cz) Flights to Prague. **easyJet** (EZY; ☎ 04-206 12 29; www.easyjet.com) Low-cost flights to London Stansted. **JAT Airways** (JU; ☎ 01-231 43 40, 04-206 17 80; www.jat.com) Daily to Belgrade. **LOT Polish Airlines** (LO; ☎ 04-202 0122; www.lot.com) Flights to Warsaw.

CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

Flying & Climate Change

Pretty much every form of motor transport generates CO₂ (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel, but because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the US will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

Carbon Offset Schemes

Climatecare.org and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow travellers to offset the greenhouse gases they are responsible for with contributions to energy-saving projects and other climate-friendly initiatives in the developing world – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: www.lonelyplanet.com.

Malév Hungarian Airlines (MA; ☎ 04-206 16 76; www.malev.hu) Daily to Budapest.

Turkish Airlines (TK; ☎ 04-206 16 80, 031-285 753; www.turkishairlines.com) Flights to Istanbul.

Wizz Air (W6; ☎ 04-206 19 81; www.wizzair.com) Budget flights to London Luton and Brussels (Charleroi).

Australia

Flights to Ljubljana from Australia generally involve a combination of airlines, passing through one of the main European hubs. Return low-season fares from Sydney are from A\$1865 to A\$2300 and from Melbourne A\$2100 to A\$2400.

The following are well-known agents for competitive fares:

STA Travel (☎ 1300 733 035; www.statravel.com.au)

Flight Centre (☎ 133 133; www.flightcentre.com.au)

Continental Europe

Adria has at least one nonstop flight a day to Ljubljana from Brussels, Frankfurt, Istanbul, Moscow, Munich, Paris, Pristina, Sarajevo, Skopje, Vienna and Zürich, and one to five departures a week from Amsterdam, Barcelona, Belgrade, Copenhagen, Dublin, Manchester, Ohrid, Podgorica, Rome, Tirana and Warsaw.

Return flights from Frankfurt and Munich on an Adria-Lufthansa joint flight cost around €330 and €260 respectively. From

Paris on Adria or Air France expect to pay about €240, and from Vienna (Adria or Austrian Airlines) from €185.

A few recommended travel agents include the following:

France Nouvelles Frontières (☎ 0 825 000 747; www.nouvelles-frontieres.com in French)

Germany Just Travel (☎ 089-747 3330; www.justtravel.de)

Netherlands NBBS Reizen (☎ 0900 1020 300; www.nbbs.nl in Dutch)

UK

Adria flies non-stop daily from London and once or twice a week from Manchester and Dublin during the summer. The cheapest return excursion ticket from London with Adria is UK£123, but the average two-week advance purchase excursion (APEX) fare is still around UK£165.

You'll do much better on **easyJet** (EZY; ☎ 0905 8210905), which flies daily to Ljubljana from London's Stansted airport or **Wizz Air** (W6; ☎ Poland

DEPARTURE TAX

A departure tax of €16.75 is collected from everyone leaving Slovenia by air. This is usually included in the ticket price, but it's always best to check.

or 10 days within a two-month period. Thus a Eurail Selectpass valid for travel in Slovenia, Austria, Italy, Croatia and Hungary for five/10 days would cost adults US\$473/670 in 1st class (only) and youths under 26 years of age US\$306/433 in 2nd class.

For national rail passes valid within Slovenia only, see p295.

Croatia, Bosnia & Hercegovina, & Serbia BUS

Koper, Piran and Portorož are the best ports of entry from Croatian Istria and points further south by bus.

A bus leaves Koper daily on weekdays for Rijeka (€7.60, two hours, 84km, 10.10am Monday to Friday) and there's a daily bus to Zagreb at 4.56am (€22, 4½ hours, 243km). There are also buses to Rovinj (€11.10, three hours, 129km, 3.55pm daily July & August) via Piran, Portorož and Poreč (€8, two hours, 88km), with another two or three buses to Poreč only, including one at 8.30am Monday to Friday.

Two daily buses link Zagreb (€11.25 to €13.25, 2½ hours, 154km, at 7.30am and 8pm) with Ljubljana. Count on at least two daily departures to Belgrade (€31.30 to €35, 8¼ hours, 549km, 10am and 7.45pm daily, 10.45pm Sunday to Friday). There is also a departure at 6.35am on Saturday for Varaždin (€19, five hours, 214km). Buses depart from Ljubljana at 3.30pm and 7.40pm daily for Rijeka (€9.50, 2½ hours, 136km); the second one carries on to Split (€34, 10 hours, 528km), where you can change for Dubrovnik (€15.60, four hours, 212km). A bus for Banja Luka (€30.25, 5½ hours, 336km, 12.57pm and 4pm daily) leaves twice a day and another one three times a week for Sarajevo (€35.65, 9½ hours, 554km, 7.15pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday)

Expect two buses a day from Maribor to Varaždin and Zagreb (€10.75, two hours, 119km, 5.35pm on Monday and 7pm Friday) and another bus once a day to Varaždin and Zagreb (€8.75, 1½ hours, 97km, 8am on Monday and Friday) from Ptuj.

TRAIN

There are eight trains a day to Ljubljana from Zagreb via Zidani Most (€11.90, two hours, 154km), two a day from Rijeka (€11.40, two hours, 136km) via Postojna, and five a day from Split (€44.10, eight to 12 hours, 456km), with a change at Zagreb. There are four trains a day from Belgrade (€41.80, nine to 10 hours,

549km) via Zagreb. There is also one train a day from Sarajevo (€35, 12 hours, 554km) with a change at Zagreb.

Germany, Austria & Czech Republic BUS

Deutsche Touring (☎ 069-79 030 in Frankfurt; www.deutsche-touring.com) operates a daily overnight bus between Frankfurt and Ljubljana (adult one way/return €80/122, under 26/student €72/110; 12½ hours, 799km), leaving Frankfurt at 1pm and picking up passengers at Stuttgart (4.30pm), Ulm (6pm) and Munich (7.15pm). The northbound bus leaves Ljubljana at 7.30pm Sunday to Friday and at 9.30am on Saturday. A bus bound for Prague (€43.40, 12 hours, 659km, one a week on Sunday) departs Ljubljana between June and mid-October.

There are daily buses from Maribor to Munich, Stuttgart and Frankfurt (€78, 12½ hours, 778km, 6.50pm and 9.50pm daily) and another at 8.12am on Saturday.

TRAIN

There are three direct trains a day between Munich (€66, 6½ hours, 405km) and Ljubljana via Salzburg and Villach. The 8.17pm departure has sleeping carriages available. There is also a train from Salzburg only (€39, 4½ hours, 273km) to Ljubljana and another one just from Villach (€16.20, two hours, 96km).

To get to Vienna you have a choice between the morning ICS (InterCity Slovenia) and EC *Rogla Croatia* from Zagreb (change at Maribor) or the afternoon EC *Emona*. To get to Graz you have a choice between three connections per day (one with a change in Maribor).

Ljubljana–Vienna trains (€57, 6¼ hours, 385km) via Graz (€30, 200km, 3½ hours) are expensive though co-called SparSchiene fares as low as €29 (valid for travel in one direction in 2nd class) apply on certain trains at certain times. In summer passengers can travel with couchette for only €39 on specific trains. There is also a 'Praga Spezial' fare available on the *Jože Plečnik* train between Ljubljana and Prague for only €29.

Be aware that the number of these discounted tickets per train is limited.

Hungary BUS

The Hungarian train station Rédics is only 7km to the north of Lendava, in northeastern

Slovenia, which can be reached from Murska Sobota (€3.50, 30 minutes, 29km, half-hourly). Two buses a day link Murska Sobota and Ljubljana (€16.50, four hours, 195km). From Rédics trains go to Zalaegerszeg (450Ft, 1¼ hours, 49km, six to eight daily), which is reached by three direct trains from Budapest (2226Ft, four hours, 252km) and a couple more requiring a change at Boba.

TRAIN

The EN *Venezia* and EC *Goldoni* link Ljubljana directly with Budapest (€58.60, 8¼ hours, 451km, three daily) via Zagreb and Koprivnica in Croatia. The IC *Citadella* goes via Ptuj and Hodoš in Slovenia's northeast. There are Budapest Spezial fares available as low as €39 on certain trains at certain times.

Italy BUS

Buses from Koper to Trieste (€3, one hour, 23km, up to 13 daily) run along the coast via Ankaran and Muggia on weekdays only. There's a direct year-round service from Ljubljana to Trieste (€11.50, 2½ hours, 105km, 6.25am Monday to Saturday), with an additional departure at 8.15am Saturday between June and mid-October.

Hourly buses link the train stations in the Italian city of Gorizia with Nova Gorica (€1, 25 minutes), just across the border. Tarvisio (Trbiz) in northeast Italy is linked by bus with Ljubljana (€10.20, 2½ hours, 109km) via Kranj and Kranjska Gora Monday to Saturday.

TRAIN

There are several trains between Ljubljana and Venice (€25, four hours, 244km) to choose from, with special fares of only €15 available on some trains. Another possibility is to go first to Nova Gorica (€7.30, three hours, 153km, six daily), walk to Gorizia then take an Italian train to Venice (€7.90, 2¼ hours).

The EC *Casanova*, a high-speed Pendolino train, leaves Venice daily for Ljubljana via Sežana and Postojna at 3.44pm, arriving in Ljubljana at 7.42pm. It leaves Ljubljana at 10.28am, arriving in Venice at 2.21pm.

The EN *Venezia* runs between Venice and Budapest via Ljubljana. Departure from Ljubljana is at 1.47pm, arriving in Trieste (€15, 99km) at 4.52pm and Venice at 7.16pm. It departs from Venice at 9.04pm, arriving in Trieste at 11.13pm and in Ljubljana at 2.31am.

The EC *Goldoni* also runs between Venice and Budapest via Ljubljana. Departure from Ljubljana is at 4.16pm, with arrival in Venice at 8.31pm. It returns from Venice at 9am, reaching Ljubljana at 1.14pm.

SEA

The **Prince of Venice** (☎ 05-617 80 00; portoroz@kompas.si) is a 39m high-speed catamaran that runs day trips between Izola and Venice. It departs Izola at 8am and arrives in Venice at 10.30am; the return journey departs at 5pm and arrives back at Izola at 7.30pm. The schedule changes according to the season, but essentially there are sailings on Saturday from mid-April to October, with between two and three sailings a week from May to September. An adult return ticket costs €42 to €67 (children aged three to 14 pay half-price) depending on the season and day, including a guided tour of Venice, and there are various family packages available. An adult single costs €29.20 to €46.90. Tickets can be purchased at **Kompas** (www.kompas.si) travel outlets in Slovenia and various other agencies along the coast.

From mid-April to mid-October **Venezia Lines** (in Italy; ☎ 674 67 72; www.venezialines.com) runs a similar service from Piran, departing at 8.40am and returning at just after 7.30pm on Tuesday, with an occasional sailing on Thursday. Tickets, which cost €79 to €82 for an adult return (children aged three to 13 pay half-price), are available through several travel agencies in Piran and Portorož, including **Maona Tourist Agency** (www.maona.si).

GETTING AROUND

AIR

Slovenia has no scheduled domestic flights, but a division of Adria Airways called **Avio-taxi** (☎ 04-259 42 45, 041-636 420; www.adria-airways.com) flies chartered Piper Turbo Arrows on demand to airports and aerodromes around the country. Sample return fares for three passengers from Brnik airport are €83.70 to Bled, €1000.50 to Bled and Bohinj, €150.80 to Slovenj Gradec and €294 to Portorož or Maribor.

BICYCLE

Cycling is both a popular leisure pastime and a means of transport in Slovenia, and bikes can be carried free of charge in the baggage

compartments of InterCity and regional trains. On buses you can put your bike in the luggage compartment as long as there is space. Cycling is permitted on all roads except motorways. Many larger towns and cities, including Ljubljana, Maribor, Celje, Ptuj, Novo Mesto, Kranj and Murska Sobota, have dedicated bicycle lanes and special traffic lights.

Bicycle rental places are generally concentrated in the more popular tourist areas such as Ljubljana, Bled, Bovec and Piran though a fair few cycle shops and repair places hire them out as well. Expect to pay from €4.20 to €5.45 per day; some places may ask for a cash deposit or a piece of ID as security. Look in the Getting Around sections of the relevant towns for details.

BUS

You can buy your ticket at the *avtobusna postaja* (bus station) or simply pay the driver as you board. In Ljubljana you should book your seat (€1/3.60 domestic/international) one day in advance if you're travelling on Friday, or to destinations in the mountains or on the coast on a public holiday. Bus services are severely restricted on Sunday and holidays (less so on Saturday).

A range of bus companies serve the country, but prices are uniform: €3/5.50/9/16.50 for 25/50/100/200km. For sample domestic bus fares from the capital, see p90.

Some bus stations have a *garderoba* (left-luggage office) and charge €1.80 per hour. They often keep banker's hours; if it's an option, a better bet is to leave your things at the train station, which is usually nearby and keeps longer hours. If your bag has to go in the luggage compartment below the bus, it will cost €1.25 extra.

Bus Timetables

Timetables in the bus station, or posted on a wall or column outside, list all destinations and departure times. If you cannot find your bus listed or don't understand the schedule, get help from the *blagajna vozovnice* (information or ticket window), which are usually one and the same. *Odhodi* means 'departures' while *prihodi* is 'arrivals'.

Slovenian bus timetables use standard coloured text or abbreviation footnotes to denote which days of the week and during what seasons the buses run. The following lists cover most of the combinations you'll encounter.

Bus Timetable Colours

white or black	daily
green	Mon-Sat
blue	Mon-Fri
orange	Mon-Fri & working Sat
yellow	days when school is in session
red	Sun & public holidays

Bus Timetable Abbreviations

Č	Thu
D	workdays (Mon-Fri)
D+	Mon-Sat
N	Sun
NP	Sun & holidays
Pe	Fri
Po	Mon
PP	Mon-Fri
SN	Sat & Sun
So	Sat
ŠP	days when school is in session
Sr	Wed
To	Tue
V	daily

CAR & MOTORCYCLE Automobile Association

Slovenia's national automobile club is the **AMZS** (Avto-Moto Zveza Slovenije; ☎ 530 53 00; www.amzs.si; Dunajska cesta 128; 🕒 7am-7.30pm Mon-Fri, to 12.30pm Sat) based in Ljubljana. For emergency roadside assistance, call the AMZS on ☎ 19 87 anywhere in Slovenia. All accidents should be reported to the police (☎ 113) immediately.

Driving Licence

If you don't hold a European driving licence and plan to drive in Slovenia, obtain an International Driving Permit (IDP) from your local automobile association before you leave – you'll need a passport photo and a valid licence. They are usually inexpensive and valid for one year only. Be aware, though, that an IDP is not valid unless accompanied by your original driver's licence.

Fuel

Petrol stations, which accept almost every credit card, are usually open from about 7am to 8pm Monday to Saturday, though larger towns have 24-hour services on the outskirts.

Bencin (petrol) has risen by almost 25% in the past three years, and the price is now on par with the rest of Continental Europe:

EuroSuper 95/SuperPlus98 costs €1.04/1.06 per litre, with diesel at €0.98.

Hire

Renting a car in Slovenia is recommended and can even save you money as you can access cheaper out-of-centre hotels and farm or village homestays. Car rentals from international firms such as Avis, Budget, Europcar and Hertz (all have offices in Ljubljana and in some provincial cities) vary in price. Expect to pay from €45/245 a day/week, including unlimited mileage, collision damage waiver (CDW), theft protection (TP), Personal Accident Insurance (PAI) and taxes. Some smaller agencies (p90) have somewhat more competitive rates.

Insurance

International vehicle insurance is compulsory in Slovenia. If you enter the country in your own car and it is registered in the EU, you are covered; Slovenia has concluded special agreements with certain other countries, including Croatia. Other motorists must buy a Green Card (www.cobx.org/public/NXhomeEng-Public.htm) valid for Slovenia at the border.

Parking

You must pay to park in the centre of most large Slovenian towns. In general you'll have to buy a special 'pay and display' parking coupon (from €0.45 per hour) from newsstands, kiosks or vending machines and display it on the dashboard. In Ljubljana there are underground car parks where fees are charged (€1.25 for the first hour and €0.85 per hour after that).

Road Conditions

Roads in Slovenia are generally good, well maintained and improving rapidly. Driving in the Alps can be hair-raising, with a gradient of up to 18% at the Korensko Sedlo Pass into Austria, and a series of 49 hairpin bends on the road over the Vrščič Pass. Many mountain roads are closed in winter and some well into early spring. Motorways and highways are very well signposted, but secondary and tertiary roads are not always so; be sure to have a good map or atlas (see p279) at the ready.

Investments worth €5.4 billion have been earmarked over a 10-year period to 2013 for the expansion of Slovenia's motorway network – from 228km in 1990 to 483km by the end of 2004. There are two main motorway

corridors – between Maribor and the coast (via the impressive new flyover at Črni Kal) and from the Karavanke Tunnel into Austria to Zagreb in Croatia – intersecting at the Ljubljana ring road, with a branch from Postojna to Nova Gorica. Motorways are numbered from A1 to A10 (for *avtocesta*), and a *cestnina* (toll) is payable (eg €4.40 from Ljubljana to Koper, €5.40 from Ljubljana to Maribor).

Major international roads are preceded by an 'E'. The most important of these are the E70 to Zagreb via Novo Mesto, the E61 to Villach via Jesenice and the Karavanke Tunnel, the E57 from Celje to Graz via Maribor, and the E59 from Graz to Zagreb via Maribor. National highways contain a single digit and link cities. Secondary and tertiary roads have two sets of numbers separated by a hyphen; the first number indicates the highway that the road runs into. Thus road No 10-5 from Nova Gorica and Ajdovščina joins the A10 motorway at Razdrto.

Private-car ownership in Slovenia exceeds that of the UK (457 vs 444 vehicles per 1000 inhabitants), so expect a lot of traffic congestion, especially in summer and on Friday afternoons when entire cities and towns head for the countryside. Work is being carried out on major roads throughout the country so factor in the possibility of delays and *obvozi* (diversions).

Road Rules

You must drive on the right. Speed limits for cars and motorcycles (less for buses) are 50km/h in towns and villages, 90km/h on secondary and tertiary roads, 100km/h on highways and 130km/h on motorways.

The use of seat belts is compulsory, and motorcyclists must wear helmets. Another law taken very seriously is the one requiring all motorists to illuminate their headlights throughout the day. The permitted blood-alcohol level for drivers is 0.05%.

HITCHING

Hitchhiking remains a popular way to get around for young Slovenes, and it's generally easy – except on Friday afternoon, before school holidays and on Sunday, when cars are often full of families.

Hitching from bus stops is fairly common. Otherwise use motorway access roads or other areas where the traffic will not be disturbed. For the best routes out of the Ljubljana, see p90.

TOURS

Many local travel agencies organise excursions and tours for both individuals and groups. **Kompas** (☎ 200 64 14; www.kompas-online.net) is just one example that has half-day and day trips to Bled (€46), Postojna Cave and Predjama Castle (€48), Lipica and Škocjan Caves (€60) and Maribor and Ptuj (€64). Tours last for between five and nine hours and include transport, guide and entrance fees.

A very welcome addition for travellers in Ljubljana anxious to see some of the rest of the country is **Roundabout** (☎ 051-427 624, www.roundabout.si), based in the capital. It's basically a hop-on, hop-off bus trip that does what it calls a Gorenjska trip (Škofja Loka, Bled and Bohinj; €35.50) on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday and a Primorska one (Predjama, Škocjan, Lipica and Piran; €39.60) on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. You can either do the trip in one go or get off and wait for the next bus. A more ambitious trip is the two-day West Roundy one that takes in Bled, Bohinj, Bovec (where you stay overnight) Kobarid, Štanjel, Lipica, Piran and the Škocjan Caves before heading back to Ljubljana. The trip alone costs €66.80; with multibed apartment/hotel accommodation in Bovec added on it's €79.30/96.

TRAIN

Slovenian Railways (☎ 01-291 33 32; www.slo-zeleznice.si) runs trains on 1230km of track, about 40% of which is electrified. Very roughly, figure on covering about 60km/h to 65km/h except on the ICS express trains, which hurtle between Ljubljana and Maribor (€12.40, 1¾ hours) at an average speed of 90km/h. In the summer months an ICS train links Koper with Maribor (€21.70, four hours) via Ljubljana (€12.40, two hours).

Although many secondary lines serve provincial cities and towns only, the main ones converge on Ljubljana, and to get from A to B it's usually easier to go via the capital. Going from Maribor to Novo Mesto, for example, takes two or more changes if you refuse to backtrack.

The provinces are served by *regionalni vlaki* (regional trains) and *primestni vlaki* (city trains), but the fastest are InterCity trains (IC), which levy a surcharge of €1.45 to €1.80.

TIMETABLE SYMBOLS

- ✂ Mon-Sat (except public holidays)
- ⊗ Mon-Fri (except public holidays)
- ⊗ Mon-Sat and public holidays
- ⊗ Sat & Sun
- ⊙ Sat, Sun & public holidays
- ⊗ Sun and public holidays
- ⊙ No Sun service
- † Holiday service

An 'R' next to the train number on the timetable means seat reservations are available. If the 'R' is boxed, seat reservations are obligatory.

Purchase your ticket before you travel at the *železniška postaja* (train station) itself; buying it from the conductor on the train costs an additional €2.10. An invalid ticket or trying to avoid paying will earn you a fine of €33.50.

A *povratna vozovnica* (return ticket) costs double the price of a *enosmerna vozovnica* (a one-way or single ticket). A 1st-class ticket costs 50% more than a 2nd-class one.

Travelling by train in Slovenia works out to almost half the price of going by bus. In rough terms, a 100km journey costs €5.50 in 2nd class; see p90 for sample domestic fares out of the capital. There's a 30% discount on return weekend and ICS fares.

Seventeen stations around the country have left-luggage offices, and there are lockers at stations in Ljubljana, Maribor, Celje and Koper. The charge is €2 per piece of luggage or locker per day.

Train Timetables

Departures and arrivals are announced by loudspeaker or on an electronic board and are always on a printed timetable somewhere in the station. The yellow one with the heading *Odhod* or *Odhodi Vlakov* means 'Departures', and the white one with the words *Prihod* or *Prihodi Vlakov* is 'Arrivals'. Other important words that appear often are *čas* (time), *peron* (platform), *sedež* (seat), *smer* (direction) and *tir* (rail).

If you expect to use the train a lot in Slovenia, buy a copy of the official timetable, *Vozni Red Slovenske Železnice* (€4.20), which has explanatory notes in Slovene and German. An abridged version listing main routes only in Slovene is free.

Discounts & Passes

Slovenian Railways has its own Slovenian Rail Pass which allows three/four/five/six/seven/eight days of travel in 2nd class for €30/35/40/45/50/55 and in 1st class for €42/48/54/60/66/72. Travel is unlimited except on ICS trains, which levy a supplement of €1.90/4.40 on 2nd-/1st-class seats.

Euro Domino passes, allowing three to eight days of midnight-to-midnight travel over a one-month period, are also available to more than two-dozen European and North African countries. A three-day adult/youth (ie under 26) pass for Slovenia costs €41/55, while

one valid for eight days' travel within a month is €95/71. Euro Domino passes are available only to those who have resided in Europe for at least six consecutive months and must be purchased outside the country in which you intend to travel.

Steam Trains

SŽ has a stock of five steam locomotives and antique rolling stock – a trainspotter's dream come true – and several of them dating as far back as 1919 are put to good use in summer when the Old Timer Train (*Muzejski Vlak*) excursions depart. For details see p114.

Health

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Travel health depends on your predeparture preparations, your daily health care while travelling and the way you handle any medical problem that develops while you are on the road. Although the potential dangers might seem frightening, in reality few travellers experience anything more than an upset stomach. Tap water, for example, is 100% safe everywhere in Slovenia. Mosquitoes can be a real annoyance, however, especially around lakes and ponds in the warmer months.

BEFORE YOU GO

A little planning before departure, particularly for pre-existing illnesses or conditions, will save trouble later. See your dentist before a long trip, carry a spare pair of contact lenses or glasses, and take your optical prescription with you. Bring medications in their original, clearly labelled, containers. A signed and dated letter from your physician describing your medical conditions and medications, including their generic names, is also a good idea.

INSURANCE

EU citizens on public-health insurance schemes should note that they're generally covered by reciprocal arrangements in Slovenia. They should, however, carry

RECOMMENDED VACCINATIONS

While Slovenia does not require any vaccination of international travellers, the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends that all travellers be covered for diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and polio, regardless of their destination. Since most vaccines don't produce immunity until at least two weeks after they're given, visit a physician or clinic at least six weeks before departure.

their European Health Insurance Card. In the UK, application forms for such cards are available from any branch of the Department of Health (www.dh.gov.uk). In addition, citizens of certain other countries, including Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia and Romania, are guaranteed emergency medical assistance or subsequent treatment provided they submit the appropriate documentation. Citizens of other countries should check with their Ministry of Health or equivalent before setting out. Everyone else is entitled to emergency medical treatment in Slovenia, but they must pay for it. Check the website of the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia (www.zzzs.si) for more information.

If you do need health insurance while travelling (p279), we strongly advise you to consider a policy that covers you for the worst possible scenario, such as an accident requiring an ambulance or an emergency flight home.

INTERNET RESOURCES

The World Health Organisation's (WHO) online publication *International Travel and Health* is revised annually and is available at www.who.int/ith.

Other useful websites:

www.ageconcern.org.uk Advice on travel for the elderly.

www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk General travel advice for the layperson.

www.maristopes.org.uk Information on women's health and contraception.

www.mdtravelhealth.com Travel-health recommendations for every country; updated daily.

It's usually a good idea to consult your government's travel health website before departure, if one is available:

Australia (www.dfat.gov.au/travel/)

Canada (www.travelhealth.gc.ca)

UK (www.dh.gov.uk/home/fs/en)

USA (www.cdc.gov/travel/)

IN TRANSIT

DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS (DVT)

Blood clots may form in the legs (deep vein thrombosis or DVT) during plane flights, chiefly because of prolonged immobility. The longer the flight, the greater the risk. The chief symptom of DVT is swelling or pain in the foot, ankle or calf, usually – but not always – on just one side. When a blood clot travels to the lungs, it may cause chest pain and breathing difficulties. Travellers with any of these symptoms should seek medical attention immediately.

To prevent the development of DVT on long flights, you should walk about the cabin, contract the leg muscles while sitting, drink plenty of fluids and avoid alcohol.

JET LAG & MOTION SICKNESS

To avoid jet lag, which is common when crossing more than five time zones, try drinking plenty of nonalcoholic fluids and eating light meals. Upon arrival, get exposure to natural sunlight and readjust your schedule (for meals, sleep and so on) as soon as possible.

Antihistamines such as dimenhydrinate (Dramamine) and meclizine (Antivert, Bonine) are usually the first choice for treating motion sickness. A herbal alternative is ginger.

IN SLOVENIA

AVAILABILITY & COST OF HEALTH CARE

Medical care in Slovenia corresponds to European standards and is good. Every large town or city has a *zdravstveni dom* (health centre) or *klinični center* (clinic) that operates from 7am to at least 7pm. Treatment at a public outpatient clinic costs little or nothing; doctors working privately will charge much more. Very roughly, a consultation in a Slovenian doctor's surgery costs from €20.

Pharmacies are usually open from 7am to 8pm, and at least one in each community is open round the clock. A sign on the door of any *lekarna* (pharmacy) will help you find the nearest 24-hour one.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Lyme Disease

A tick-transmitted infection that is not unknown in Central and Eastern Europe, the illness usually begins with a spreading rash at the site of the tick bite. It is accompanied by fever, headache, extreme fatigue, aching joints and muscles, and mild neck stiffness. If untreated, these symptoms usually resolve over several weeks, but over subsequent weeks or months disorders of the nervous system, heart and joints might develop.

Poliomyelitis

This disease is spread through contaminated food and water. Children are vaccinated against it, but vaccination should be boosted every 10 years, either orally (a drop on the tongue) or as an injection.

Rabies

Contracted through bites or licks on broken skin from an infected animal, Rabies is always fatal unless treated. Three injections are needed over a month. If you have not been vaccinated and have been bitten, you will need a course of five injections starting within 24 hours or as soon as possible after the injury. If you have been vaccinated, you will need fewer injections and will have more time to seek medical help.

Tickborne Encephalitis

Another condition spread by tick bites, this is a serious infection of the brain. Vaccination is advised for those in risk areas – parts of Central and Eastern Europe, including Slovenia – who are unable to avoid tick bites (such as campers, forestry workers and ramblers). Two doses of vaccine will give a year's protection, three doses up to three years'. For up-to-date information, log on to www.masta.org/tickalart.

Typhoid & Hepatitis A

These are spread through contaminated food (particularly shellfish) and water. Typhoid can cause septicaemia; hepatitis A causes liver inflammation and jaundice. Neither is usually fatal, but recovery can be prolonged. Typhoid

vaccine (typhim Vi, typherix) will give protection for three years. In some countries, the oral vaccine Vivotif is also available. Hepatitis A vaccine (Avaxim, VAQTA, Havrix) is given as an injection; a single dose will give protection for up to a year, a booster after a year gives 10 years' protection. Hepatitis A and typhoid vaccines can also be given as a single-dose vaccine, hepatyrix or viatim.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Insect Bites & Stings

Mosquitoes are found in most parts of Europe; they might not carry malaria but can still cause irritation and infected bites. Just make sure you're armed with a DEET-based *prašek* (insect repellent) and wear long-sleeved shirts and long trousers around sundown.

Bees and wasps cause real problems only to those with a severe allergy (anaphylaxis) If you have a severe allergy to bee or wasp stings carry an 'epipen' or similar adrenaline injection.

Water

If you are hiking or camping in Slovenia's mountains and are unsure about the water, the simplest way of purifying it is to boil it for 10 minutes. Chlorine tablets will kill many pathogens. Iodine is more effective and is available in tablet form. Follow the directions carefully, and remember that too much iodine can be harmful.

TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN

All travellers with children should know how to treat minor ailments and when to seek medical treatment. Make sure the children

are up to date with routine vaccinations, and discuss possible travel vaccines well before departure as some vaccines are not suitable for children younger than a year.

Children should be encouraged to avoid and mistrust any dogs or other mammals because of the risk of rabies and other diseases. Any bite, scratch or lick from a warm-blooded, furry animal should immediately be thoroughly cleaned. If there is any possibility that the animal is infected with rabies, immediate medical assistance should be sought.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

If using oral contraceptives, remember that some antibiotics, diarrhoea and vomiting can stop the pill from working and lead to the risk of pregnancy. Time zones, gastrointestinal upsets and antibiotics do not affect injectable contraception.

Travelling during pregnancy is usually possible but always consult your doctor before planning your trip. The riskiest times for travel are during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy and after 30 weeks.

SEXUAL HEALTH

Emergency contraception is most effective if taken within 24 hours after unprotected sex. The International Planned Parenthood Federation (www.ippf.org) can advise about the availability of contraception in different countries.

When buying condoms, look for a European CE mark, which means they have been rigorously tested, and then keep them in a cool dry place; otherwise they might crack and split.

Language

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Slovene is the official language of the Republic of Slovenia. The forebears of today's Slovenians brought the language, with its roots in the Slavonic language, from their original homeland beyond the Carpathian Mountains.

The French novelist Charles Nodier (1780–1844), who lived and worked in Ljubljana for a couple of years in the early 19th century, once wrote that Slovenia was like ‘an Academy of Arts and Sciences’ because of the people’s flair for speaking foreign languages. Monsieur Nodier would be happy to know that Slovinci still have that talent almost two centuries down the track.

Virtually everyone in Slovenia speaks at least one other language. Around 90% speak Croatian and Serbian, 45% speak German, 37% are conversant in English and 17% speak Italian.

German, once the language of education and the elite, is generally spoken only by older Slovenians these days, mostly in Koroška, Štajerska and northern Gorenjska. There may be fewer speakers of English than German overall, but it is definitely the preferred language of the young, with the vast majority of all students claiming some knowledge of it. Most speak English very well indeed, even if they pepper their speech with the odd bit of ‘Slovenlish’ slang, like

‘full cool’, meaning ‘trendy’ or ‘fashionable’. Italian is really only useful in Primorska and small parts of Notranjska.

The fact that you’ll rarely have difficulty making yourself understood and that you’ll probably never ‘need’ Slovene shouldn’t stop you from learning a few words and phrases of this rich and wonderful language. More than anything else, Slovene has kept the Slovenian *narod* (nation) alive and united as a culture over centuries of domination and brutality, so any effort on your part to speak it will be rewarded a hundred-fold.

PRONUNCIATION

No sounds in Slovene are difficult for a speaker of English to learn. The Slovenian alphabet consists of 25 letters. Each letter generally represents only one sound, with very few exceptions.

Vowels

- a** as the ‘u’ in ‘cut’
- e** as the ‘a’ in ‘hat’; as the ‘e’ in ‘they’; when unstressed, as the ‘a’ in ‘ago’
- i** short, as in ‘ink’; long as in ‘marine’ (written as **ee** in the pronunciation guides)
- o** as in ‘off’; also as in ‘or’ (written as **aw** in the pronunciation guides)
- u** as in ‘put’ (written as **oo** in the pronunciation guides)

Consonants

- c** as the ‘ts’ in ‘cats’ (written as **ts** in the pronunciation guides)
- č** as the ‘ch’ in ‘chip’ (written as **ch** in the pronunciation guides)
- g** as in ‘gold’
- j** as the ‘y’ in ‘yellow’ (written as **y** in the pronunciation guides)
- r** a rolled ‘r’
- š** as the ‘sh’ in ‘ship’ (written as **sh** in the pronunciation guides)
- ž** as the ‘s’ in ‘pleasure’ (written as **zh** in the pronunciation guides)

Stress

Slovene has no fixed rule for word stress, so it simply has to be learned case by case.

We've made things easier for you in our pronunciation guides by marking the stressed syllable in italics.

ACCOMMODATION

I'm looking for a/the ...

<i>Iščem ...</i>	<i>eeesh-chem ...</i>
camping ground	
<i>kamping</i>	<i>kam-ping</i>
guesthouse	
<i>gostišče</i>	<i>gos-teesh-che</i>
hotel	
<i>hotel</i>	<i>ho-tel</i>
manager/owner	
<i>direktor/lastnik</i>	<i>de-rek-tor/last-neek</i>
youth hostel	
<i>počitniški dom</i>	<i>po-cheet-neesh-kee dom</i>

What's the address?

Kako je naslov? ka-ko ye na-slaw?

Please write it down.

Prosim, napišite naslov. pro-seem, na-pee-she-te na-slaw

I'd like a ...

Rad/Rada bi ... (m/f) rad/ra-da bee ...

Do you have a ...?

Ali imate prosto ...? a-lee ee-ma-te pro-sto ...?

bed	
<i>posteljo</i>	<i>po-stal-yo</i>
cheap room	
<i>poceni sobo</i>	<i>po-tse-nee so-bo</i>
single room	
<i>enoposteljno sobo</i>	<i>en-no-po-stel-no so-bo</i>
double room	
<i>dvoposteljno sobo</i>	<i>dvo-po-stel-no so-bo</i>
room with a bathroom	
<i>soba z kopalnico</i>	<i>so-bo z ko-pal-nee-tso</i>

I'd like to share a dorm.

Rad/Rada bi delil/a spalnico. (m/f)
rad/ra-da bee de-lee/lee-la spal-nee-ko

How much is it ...?

Koliko stane ...? ko-lee-ko sta-ne ...?

per night	
<i>na noč</i>	<i>na noch</i>
per person	
<i>po osebi</i>	<i>po o-se-bee</i>

Is breakfast included?

Ali je zajtrk vključen?
a-lee ye zay-trk oo-klyoo-chen?

May I see the room?

Lahko vidim sobo?
lah-ko vee-deem so-bo?

MAKING A RESERVATION

(for written and phone inquiries)

To ...	<i>Do ...</i>
From ...	<i>Od ...</i>
Date	<i>Datum</i>
I'd like to book ... in the name of ... from ... to ...	<i>Rad/a bi rezerviral ... (m/f) v imenu ... od ... do ...</i>
credit card type	<i>vrsta kreditne kartice</i>
number	<i>številka</i>
expiry date	<i>datum poteka</i>

Please confirm availability and price.

Prosim da potrdite rezervacijo in ceno.

Where is the bathroom?

Kje je kopalnica?
kye ye ko-pal-nee-ca?

Where's the toilet?

Kje je stranišče/WC?
kye ye stra-neesh-che/ve-tse?

I'm/We're leaving today.

Danes odhajam/odhajamo.
da-nes od-ha-yam/od-ha-ya-mo

CONVERSATION & ESSENTIALS

Good day/Hello.

Dober dan. do-br dan

Hi.

Pozdravljeni (pol)/ poz-drav-lye-nee/
Pozdravljen. (inf) poz-drav-lyen

Goodbye.

Nasvidenje. nas-vee-da-nye

Please.

Prosim. pro-seem

Thank you (very much).

Hvala (lepa). hva-la (le-pa)

You're welcome. (Don't mention it.)

Dobrodošli! (Ni za kaj.) do-bro-do-shlee! (nee za kaj)

Yes.

Da/Ja. (pol/inf) da/ya

No.

Ne. ne

Excuse me.

Dovolite mi, prosim. do-vo-lee-te mee, pro-seem

Sorry. (forgive me.)

Oprostite. (pol) o-pro-stee-te
Oprostí. (inf) o-pro-stee

What's your name?

Kako vam je ime? (pol) ka-ko vam ye ee-me?
Kako ti je ime? (inf) ka-ko tee ye ee-me?

My name's ...

Jaz sem ... yas sam ...

Where are you from?

Od kod ste? od kot ste?

I'm from ...

Sem iz ... sam eez ...

May I?

Ali lahko? a-lee lah-ko?

No problem.

Brez problema. brez pro-ble-ma

I like (to do something).

Rad/Rada bi ... (m/f) rad/ra-da bee ...

I like (something).

Imam rad/rada ... (m/f) mam rad/ra-da ...

I don't like ...

Ne maram ... ne ma-ram ...

brother	<i>brat</i>	brat
daughter	<i>hči</i>	hchee
father	<i>oče</i>	o-che
husband	<i>mož</i>	mozh
mother	<i>mama</i>	ma-ma
sister	<i>sestra</i>	sas-tra
son	<i>sin</i>	seen
wife	<i>žena</i>	zha-na

DIRECTIONS

Where is ...?

Kje je ...? kye ye ...?

How do I get to ...?

Kako pridem do ...? ka-ko pree-dam do ...?

Is it near/far?

Ali je blizu/daleč? a-lee ye blee-zoo/da-lach?

(Go) straight ahead.

(Pojdite) naravnost naprej. (poy-dee-te) na-raw-nost na-pray

(Turn) left/right at ...

(Obrnite) levo/desno pri ...
(o-br-nee-te) le-vo/des-no pree ...

the corner
vogalu vo-ga-loo

the traffic lights
semaforju se-ma-for-yoo

far (from)	<i>daleč (od)</i>	da-lech (od)
near (to)	<i>blizu (do)</i>	blee-zoo (do)
in front of	<i>spredaj</i>	spre-day
behind	<i>za (zadaj)</i>	za (za-day)
opposite	<i>nasproti</i>	nas-pro-tee
here/there	<i>tu/tam</i>	too/tam
north	<i>sever</i>	se-ver
south	<i>jug</i>	yoog
east	<i>vzhod</i>	ooz-hod
west	<i>zahod</i>	za-hod

beach	<i>plaža</i>	pla-zha
bridge	<i>most</i>	most

SIGNS

Informacije	Information
Izhod	Exit
Odpрто/Zaprto	Open/Closed
Postaja	Station
Prepovedano	Prohibited
Vhod	Entrance
Železniška Blagajna	Ticket Office (Train)
Avtobusno Postajališče	Bus Stop
Carina	Customs
Proste Sobe	Rooms Available
Zasedeno	Full (No Vacancies)
Policija	Police
Stranišče	Toilets
Moški	Men
Ženske	Women

castle	<i>grad</i>	grad
cathedral	<i>stolnica</i>	stol-nee-tsa
church	<i>cerkev</i>	tser-koo
hospital	<i>bolnišnica</i>	bol-neesh-nee-tsa
lake	<i>jezero</i>	ye-ze-ro
main square	<i>glavni trg</i>	glaw-nee terg
market	<i>tržnica</i>	terzh-nee-tsa
palace	<i> palača</i>	pa-la-cha
ruins	<i>ruševine</i>	roo-she-vee-ne
tower	<i> stolp</i>	stolp

HEALTH

I'm sick.

Bolan/Bolna sem. (m/f) bo-lan/baw-na sam

Where's the nearest doctor?

Kje je najbližji zdravnik? kye ye nay-bleezh-ye
zdravnik? zdraw-neek?

Where's the nearest hospital?

Kje je najbližja bolnica? kye ye nay-bleezh-ya bol-nee-tsa?

I'm diabetic/epileptic/asthmatic.

Sem diabetik/epileptik/ sam dee-ya-be-teek/a-pee-lep-teek/
astmatik. ast-ma-teek

It hurts here.

Tukaj boli. too-kay bo-lee

I'm allergic to ...

Alergičen sem na ...
a-ler-gee-chen sem na ...

penicillin	
<i>penicilin</i>	pe-nee-tsee-len
antibiotics	
<i>antibiotike</i>	an-tee-bee-o-tee-ke
nuts	
<i>orehe</i>	o-re-he
peanuts	
<i>kikiriki</i>	kee-kee-ree-kee

a quarter to (hour)
četrť do (...)
a quarter past (hour)
(...) in četrť

che-trť do (...)
(...) een che-trť

in the morning zjutraj
in the evening zvečer
today danes
tonight nočoj
tomorrow jutri
yesterday včeraj

zyoot-ray
zve-cher
da-nes
no-tsoy
yoo-tree
oo-cher-ray

Monday ponedeljek
Tuesday torek
Wednesday sreda
Thursday četrtek
Friday petek
Saturday sobota
Sunday nedelja

po-ne-del-yek
to-rek
sre-da
che-trť-tek
pe-tek
so-bo-ta
ne-del-ya

January januar
February februar
March marec
April april
May maj
June junij
July julij
August avgust
September september
October oktober
November november
December december

ya-noo-ar
fe-broo-ar
ma-rets
a-preel
may
yoo-nee
yoo-lee
aw-goost
sep-tem-ber
ok-to-ber
no-ven-ber
de-tsem-ber

TRANSPORT

Public Transport

What time does the ... leave?

Kdaj odpelje ...? gday od-pel-ye ...?

boat/ferry ladja/trajekt
bus avtobus
plane avion
train vlak

la-dya-tra-yekt
a-oo-to-boos
a-vee-on
vlak

I want to go to ...

Želim iti ...
zhe-leem ee-tee ...

Can you tell me when we get to ...?

Mi lahko poveste kdaj pridemo ...?
mee lah-ko po-ves-te gday pree-de-mo ...?

The train has been delayed.

Vlak ima zamudo.
vlak ee-ma za-moo-do

The train has been cancelled.

Ta vlak je odpovedan.
ta vlak ye od-po-ve-dan

Stop here, please.

Ustavite tukaj, prosim.
oos-ta-vee-te too-kay, pro-seem

How long does the trip take?

Koliko traja potovanje?
ko-lee-ko tra-ya po-to-van-ye?

Do I need to change?

Ali moram presesti?
a-lee mo-ram pre-ses-tee?

one way ena smer
return povratna
1st class prvi razred
2nd class drugi razred
the first prvi
the last zadnji

en-na smer
pov-rat-na
pr-vee raz-red
doo-gee raz-red
pree-vee
zad-nee

platform number

številka kolodvora shte-veel-ka ko-lo-dvo-ra

ticket office

prodaja vozovnic pro-da-ya vo-zov-neets

timetable

spored spo-red

train station

železniška postaja zhe-lez-neesh-ka pos-ta-ya

bus station

avtobusno postajališče aw-to-boos-no po-sta-ya-leesh-che

Private Transport

I'd like to hire a ...

Rad bi najel ... (m) rad bee na-ye-oo ...

Rada bi najela ... (f) rada bee na-ye-la ...

bicycle

kolo ko-lo

car

avto a-oo-to

4WD

terenski avto te-ren-skee a-oo-to

guide

vodiča vo-dee-cha

horse

konja ko-nya

motorcycle

motorno kolo mo-tor-no ko-lo

Is this the road to ...?

Ali je to cesta za ...? a-lee ye to tses-ta za ...?

Where's a service station?

Kje je pumpa? kye ye poom-pa?

ROAD SIGNS

Dajte Prednost	Give Way
Nevarnost	Danger
Prepovedano Parkiranje	No Parking
Obvoz	Detour
Vhod	Entry
Cestnina	Toll
Vozite Počasi	Slow Down
Prepovedan Vhod	No Entry
Ena Smer	One Way
Izhod	Exit
Prepovedano Vstavljanje	Keep Clear

Please fill it up.

Napolnite prosim. na-pol-nee-te pro-seem

I'd like ... litres.

Prosim ... litrov. pro-seem ... leet-raw

diesel

dizel dee-zel

leaded petrol

benzin z svincem ben-zeen z sveen-tsem

unleaded petrol

benzin brez svinca ben-zeen brez sveen-tsa

(How long) Can I park here?

(Koliko časa) lahko (ko-lee-ko cha-sa) lah-ko
tukaj parkiram? too-kay par-kee-ram?

Where do I pay?

Kje plačam? kye pla-cham?

Car Trouble

I need a mechanic.

Potrebujem mehanika.
po-tre-boo-yem me-ha-nee-ka

The car/motorbike has broken down (at ...)

Avto/motor se je pokvaril (pri ...)
a-oo-to/mo-tor se ye pok-va-ree (pree ...)

The car/motorbike won't start.

Avto/motor noče vžgati.
a-oo-to/mo-tor no-che oozh-ga-tee

I have a flat tyre.

Zračnica mi je počila.
zra-chnee-tsa mee ye po-chee-la



I've run out of petrol.

Nimam več benzina.
nee-mam vech ben-zee-na

I've had an accident.

Imel/Imela sem nesrečo. (m/f)
ee-me-oo/ee-me-la sem ne-sre-cho

TRAVEL WITH CHILDREN

Is there a/an ...?

Ali tukaj obstoja ...?
a-lee too-kay ob-sto-ya ...?

I need a ...

Potrebujem ...
po-tre-boo-yem ...

baby change room

prostor za previjanje pro-stor za pre-vee-yan-ye
dojenčka do-yench-ka

car baby seat

sedež za dojenčka se-dezh za do-yench-ka

child-minding service

nekoga da mi čuva ne-ko-ga da mee choo-va
otroka ot-ro-ka

children's menu

otroški meni ot-rash-kee me-nee

disposable nappies/diapers

papirnate plenice pa-peer-na-te ple-nee-tse

infant milk formula

formula za dojenčke for-moo-la za do-yench-ke

(English-speaking) babysitter

otroško varovalko ot-rash-ko va-ro-val-ko
(ki govori angleško) (kee go-vo-ree an-glesh-ko)

highchair

visoki stol vee-so-kee staw

potty

kahlico kahl-tso

stroller/pusher

otroški voziček ot-rash-kee vo-zee-chek

Do you mind if I breastfeed here?

A lahko tukaj dojim? a lah-ko too-kay do-yeem?

Are children allowed?

Ali je dovoljeno za otroke? a-lee ye do-val-ye-no za ot-ro-ke?

Also available from Lonely Planet:
Fast Talk Slovene and Eastern Europe Phrasebook

Glossary

Can't find the word you're looking for here? Try the Language chapter (p299) or the Slovene-English Glossary in the Food & Drink chapter (p49).

AMZS – Avto-Moto Zveza Slovenije (Automobile Association of Slovenia)
avtocesta – motorway, highway

bife – snack and/or drinks bar
bivak – bivouac (basic shelter in the mountains)
breg – river bank
burja – bora (cold northeast wind from the Adriatic)

čaj – tea
čakalnica – waiting room (eg in station)
cena – price
cerkev – church
cesta – road (abbreviated c)

DDV – davek na dodano vrednost (value added tax, or VAT)
delovni čas – opening/business hours
dijaški dom – student dormitory, hostel
dolina – valley
dom – house; mountain cottage or lodge
drevored – avenue
dvorana – hall
dvorišče – courtyard

fijaker – horse-drawn carriage

gaj – grove, park
garderoba – left-luggage office, coat check
gledališče – theatre
gora – mountain
gostilna – innlike restaurant
gostišče – innlike restaurant usually with accommodation
gozd – forest, grove
grad – castle
greben – ridge, crest
GRS – Gorska Reševalna Služba (Mountain Rescue Service)
GZS – Geodetski Zavod Slovenije (Geodesic Institute of Slovenia)

Hallstatt – early Iron Age Celtic culture (800–500 BC)
hiša – house
hrib – hill

izhod – exit
izvir – source (of a river, stream etc)

jama – cave
jedilni list – menu
jezero – lake
jug – south

Karst – limestone region of underground rivers and caves in Primorska
kavarna – coffee shop, café
klet – cellar
knjigarna – bookshop
knjižnica – library
koča – mountain cottage or hut
kosilo – lunch
kot – glacial valley, corner
kotlina – basin
kozolec – hayrack distinct to Slovenia
kras – karst
krčma – drinks bar (sometimes with food)

La Tène – late Iron Age culture (450–390 BC)
lekarna – pharmacy
LPP – Ljubljanski Potniški Promet (Ljubljana city bus network)

mali (m) **mala** (f) **malo** (n) – little
malica – midmorning snack
menjalnica – private currency exchange office
mesto – town
morje – sea
moški – men (toilet)
most – bridge
muzej – museum

na – on
nabrežje – embankment
narod – nation
naselje – colony, development, estate
nasip – dike, embankment
novi (m) **nova** (f) **ново** (n) – new

občina – administrative division; county or commune
obvoz – detour (road sign)
obvoznica – ring road, bypass
odhod – departure
odprto – open
okrepčevalnica – snack bar

Osvobodilne Fronte (OF) – Anti-Fascist Liberation Front during WWII
otok – island

panjska končnica – beehive panel painted with Slovenian folk motifs
peron – train-station platform
pivnica – pub, beer hall
pivo – beer
planina – Alpine pasture
planota – plateau
pod – under, below
podhod – pedestrian underpass (subway)
polje – collapsed limestone area under cultivation
pot – trail
potok – stream
potovanje – travel
prazniki – holidays
prehod – passage, crossing
prekop – canal
prenočišče – accommodation
prevoz – transport
pri – at, near, by
prihod – arrival
PZS – Planinska Zveza Slovenije (Alpine Association of Slovenia)

regija – province, region
reka – river
restavracija – restaurant
rini – push (door)
rob – escarpment, edge

samopostrežna restavracija – self-service restaurant
samostan – monastery
Secessionism – art and architectural style similar to Art Nouveau
sedežnica – chairlift
sedlo – pass, saddle
sever – north
SIT – international currency code for tolar, Slovenia's currency from 1992 to 2007
skanzen – open-air museum displaying village architecture
slastičarna – shop selling ice cream, sweets
smučanje – skiing
SNTO – Slovenska Nacionalna Turistična Organizacija (Slovenian Tourist Board)
sobe – rooms (available)
soteska – ravine, gorge
sprehajališče – walkway, promenade
star(i/a/o) – old
stena – wall, cliff
steza – path

stolp – tower
štruklji – dumplings
Sv – Saint
SŽ – Slovenske Železnice (Slovenian Railways)

terme – Italian word for 'spa' used frequently in Slovenia
TIC – Tourist Information Centre
TNP – Triglavski Narodni Park (Triglav National Park)
toplar – double-linked hayrack unique to Slovenia
toplice – spa
trg – square

ulica – street (abbreviated ul)

vas – village
večerja – dinner, supper
veliki (m) **velika** (f) **veliko** (n) – great, big
vhod – entrance
vila – villa
vinoteka – wine bar
vinska cesta – wine road
vinska klet – wine cellar
vleci – pull (door)
vozni red – timetable
vozovnica – ticket
vrata – gate
vrh – summit, peak
vrt – garden, park
vrtača – sinkhole
vzhod – east
vzpenjača – cable car, gondola

zahod – west
zaprto – closed
zavetišče – mountain 'refuge' with refreshments and sometimes accommodation
zdravilišče – health resort, spa
zdravstveni dom – medical centre, clinic
žegnanje – a patron's festival at a church or chapel
ženske – women (toilet)
žičnica – cable car
zidanica – a cottage in one of the wine-growing regions
znamenje – wayside religious shrine

ALTERNATIVE PLACE NAMES

Abbreviations
 (C) Croatian, (Cz) Czech, (E) English, (G) German, (H) Hungarian, (I) Italian, (P) Polish

Avstrija – Austria (E), Österreich (G)

Beljak – Villach (G)
Benetke – Venice (E), Venezia (I)

Bizeljsko – Wisell (G)
Bohinj – Wochain (G)
Brežice – Rhain (G)
Budimpešta – Budapest (H)

Čedad – Cividale (I)
Celovec – Klagenfurt (G)
Celje – Cilli (G)
Cerknica – Cirkniz (G)
Črna Gora – Montenegro (E)
Črnomelj – Tschernembl (G)

Dolenjska – Lower Carniola (E)
Dunaj – Vienna (E), Wien (G)

Gorenjska – Upper Carniola (E)
Gorica – Gorizia (I)
Gradec – Graz (G)
Gradež – Grado (I)

Hrvaška – Croatia (E), Hrvatska (C)

Idrija – Ydria (G)
Istra – Istria (E)
Italija – Italy (E), Italia (I)
Izola – Isola (I)

Jadran, Jadransko Morje – Adriatic Sea (E)

Kamnik – Stein (G)
Kobarid – Caporetto (I)
Koper – Capodistria (I)
Koroška – Carinthia (E), Kärnten (G)
Kostanjevica – Landstrass (G)
Kranj – Krainburg (G)
Kranjska – Carniola (E), Krain (G)
Kras – Karst (E)
Kropa – Cropp (G)
Krnski Grad – Karnburg (G)

Lendava – Lendva (H)
Lipnica – Leibnitz (G)
Ljubljana – Laibach (G), Liubliana (I)

Madžarska – Hungary (E), Magyarorszá (H)
Metlika – Möttling (G)

Milje – Muggia (I)
Murska Sobota – Muraszombat (H)

Notranjska – Inner Carniola (E)
Nova Gorica – Gorizia (I), Görz (G)

Otočec – Wördl (G)
Oglej – Aquileia (I)

Piran – Pirano (I)
Pleterje – Pletariach (G)
Pliberk – Bleiburg (G)
Portorož – Portorose (I)
Postojna – Adelsberg (G)
Praga – Prague (E), Praha (Cz)
Ptuj – Pettau (G)

Radgona – Bad Radkersburg (G)
Radovljica – Ratmamsdorf (G)
Reka – Rijeka (C), Fiume (I)
Ribnica – Reiffniz (G)
Rim – Rome (E), Roma (I)
Rogaška Slatina – Rohitsch-Sauerbrunn (G)
Rosalnice – Rosendorf (G)

Seča – Sezza (I) Peninsula
Sečovlje – Sicciole (I)
Škocjan – San Canziano (I)
Štajerska – Styria (E), Steiermark (G)
Soča – Isonzo (I)
Srbija – Serbia (E)
Sredozemlje – Mediterranean (E)
Sredozemsko Morje – Mediterranean Sea (E)
Štajerska – Styria (E), Steiermark (G)
Stična – Sittich (G)
Strunjan – Strugnano (I)

Trbiž – Tarvisio (I)
Trst – Trieste (I)
Tržaški Zaliv – Gulf of Trieste (E), Golfo di Trieste (I)
Tržič – Monfalcone (I)

Varšava – Warsaw (E), Warszawa (P)
Videm – Udine (I)
Vinica – Weinitz (G)

Železna Kapla – Eisenkappel (G)

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