



Image credits: Francisco Ghisletti on Unsplash

## 16 Days Itinerary

# Slovenia and Northern Italy Itinerary

- Day 1** Flight from Newark to Frankfurt (7 hr, 25 min) +1
- Day 2** Flight from Frankfurt to Ljubljana (1 hr, 15 min)  
Transfer · Private Transfer  
Hotel Cubo - Ljubljana, Slovenia (4 Nights)
- Day 3** Free Day - Slovenia - Ljubljana Self Guided Options
- Day 4** Secrets of Romantic Bled Island & Slovenia's Largest Glacial Lake Bohinj (With Optional 2-hr Hike) 10:00 AM (7hr)
- Day 5** Discovering the Sunning Soa Valley - A Natural Treat for the Eyes and Soul  
11:15 AM (2hr 15min)  
Gredi Castle (2 Nights)
- Day 6** Transfer · Private Transfer 10:00 AM
- Day 7** Private Jeep Wine Safari 2:00 PM
- Day 8** Visit to the Postojna Cave, Predjama Castle, Lipica Stud Farm and the Town of Piran 8:30 AM (9hr 30min)
- Day 9** Transfer · Private Transfer 9:00 AM  
Rail · Trenitalia 12:26 PM (2hr 13min)  
Palazzo Portinari Salviati Residenza D'Epoca (4 Nights)
- Day 10**

Day of Leisure in Florence with Timed Skip the Line Gallria Accademia Tickets

- Day 11** The Boboli Gardens - Private Painting Class · Private Painting Class at Giardini di Boboli Gardens  
The Giuseppe Verdi Opera Trovatore · Opera Tickets - Row K, Seats 6 and 7
- Day 12** Rail · Trenitalia 10:20 AM (38min)  
Grand Hotel Majestic - Bologna, Italy (4 Nights)
- Day 13** Bologna Food Tour - Full meal with several food stops 11:45 AM
- Day 14** Truffle Hunting Experience 11:45 AM  
Private transfer to Lake Maggiore  
Villa e Palazzo Aminta, Hotel Beauty and SPA (2 Nights)
- Day 15** Boat visits to the 3 islands of Madre, Pescatori, and Bella (cash needed for island entrances) 10:00 AM
- Day 16** Flight from Milan to Newark (8 hr, 50 min)

## Day 1



### Newark, Newark Liberty International Airport to Frankfurt, Frankfurt Airport

1-800-864-8331

Lufthansa (LH)

<https://www.united.com/en/us/checkin>

Image credits: Ross Parmly on Unsplash

LH Carrier/Flight	EWR •	+1 FRA •	7 hr, 25 min Duration
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## Notes

United Airlines Reference Number:

Please find additional details & confirmation of your flight reservation in the Documents tab of your travel app.

United Airlines

- [Flight Status](#)
- [Manage Your Booking](#)
- [Baggage Information](#)

- [FAQs](#)
- [Customer Support](#)

Boutique Travel Advisors is not responsible for flight changes. Please check in for your flights within the permissible time frame (typically 24 hours prior to departure) to confirm the accuracy of your flight information. Flight confirmations are subject to change and/or cancellation by the airlines.

Seat assignments will be assigned if available at the time of booking. If you would like assistance with securing seat assignments after booking, please let us know. Our fee is \$25 per confirmation number to assist with seat assignments. Please note that airlines often charge for seat assignments. If you choose to obtain your own seat assignment please update us with your chosen seat assignments so we can upgrade our records.

***Given the unpredictability of today's environment, BTA strongly recommends arriving to the airport at least 3 hours in advance for international travel and 2 hours in advance for domestic travel.***

## Day 2

### Frankfurt, Frankfurt Airport to Ljubljana, Ljubljana Joze Pucnik Airport

[1-800-864-8331](#)

Lufthansa (LH)

<https://www.united.com/en/us/checkin>

LH Carrier/Flight	FRA •	LJU •	1 hr, 15 min Duration
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#### Notes

United Airlines Reference Number: DAHNTE

Please find additional details & confirmation of your flight reservation in the Documents tab of your travel app.

#### United Airlines

- [Flight Status](#)
- [Manage Your Booking](#)
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## Transfer · Private Transfer

**Departure Location**  
Ljubljana Airport

**Arrival Location**  
Ljubljana Hotel - Hotel  
Cubo

**Vehicle**  
Private Transfer

### Notes

Transfer to Hotel ~30 minutes

Once you clear customs and baggage claims look for a driver holding a sign with your name on it.

If you are unable to locate them please contact our emergency number: +386 51 601 601, or my private number +386 40 780 065.



## Hotel Cubo - Ljubljana, Slovenia

386 1-425-6000

15 Slovenska Cesta, Ljubljana, Slovenia 1000

Image credits: Hotel Cubo on <https://maps.google.com/maps/contrib/105273524579643405856>

3:00 PM

Check In

12:00 PM

Check Out

4 Nights

Duration

Hotel CUBO is located in the centre of Slovenian capital Ljubljana, right opposite to the traffic free historical centre, within walking distance from the most important sightseeing sites and the shopping streets with lots of restaurants.

It offers 26 modern rooms (2 Junior suites, 14 double rooms with one king bed, 7 twin rooms, 3 single rooms). All rooms are luminous and decorated with particularly good taste in a warm contemporary style using only the highest quality materials and amnesties, such as prestigious bed linen by Rivola Carmignani and The White Company bathroom amenities. All rooms have double glazing, carpet, telephone (10 minutes free calls within EU) TV, air conditioning, heating, free safe, WiFi, minibar, a mobile phone (free calls, mobile data and GUIDO app, personal guide). Bathrooms have showers or bath tubs, hairdryers, bathrobes and slippers. Parking is available for hotel guests, also with electric charging station.

## Day 3



### Free Day - Slovenia - Ljubljana Self Guided Options

#### #1 TAKE IN THE VIEWS FROM LJUBLJANA CASTLE

Sitting majestically on a hilltop overlooking the city, Ljubljana Castle deserves a top spot in your itinerary for the city. Built in the 12th century, the castle features the Romanesque, Gothic, and Renaissance architectural styles. Many parts of the castle have since been rebuilt or expanded. The St. George's Chapel, from the 15th century, is one of the oldest parts of the castle that still survives.

You can walk up to the top in about 10-15 minutes, or you can take the funicular. The castle is a stop on the Ljubljana tourist train tour as well. We took the funicular up and loved the views on the ride up the hill. *Make sure you're standing at the bottom end of the funicular car for great views!*

At the top, take in the panoramas from the viewing tower. You can see pretty much the entire city spread out below you: the tops of the stalls in the market, the spires of the Franciscan Church, and the tall buildings of the modern city beyond.

Visit the castle chapel and the penitentiary. See the movie that describes the castle's history. Walk through the complex (an audio guide is available). Pop into the souvenir shop.

The *beautiful chapel at Ljubljana Castle*

#### #2 VISIT LJUBLJANA'S "PINK CHURCH"

The prettiest photos of Ljubljana I saw online before our visit featured this gorgeous pink church. So of course it was one of the first places in the city we visited. The Franciscan Church of the Annunciation occupies a spot on Preeren Square. Built in the middle of the 17th century, the church was originally painted red on the outside. With time, the color faded to an attractive pink, and it's been kept that way since! The inside of the church is beautiful as well, with frescoes on the ceiling and the walls. The Baroque altar was designed by Francesco Robba, an Italian sculptor.

*It's worthwhile stepping into the Franciscan Church to view the interior!*

#### #3 ADMIRE THE LJUBLJANA CATHEDRAL

The Ljubljana Cathedral is also called the St. Nicholas Cathedral. The church was built in the early 18th century, but the green dome was not put in until 1841. The Cathedral is *located just a short distance from the Town Hall*. The Cathedral is located very near the Town Hall, in the Cyril and Methodius Square. Its dome and towers look lovely from across the river! The green dome and *twin towers of the Ljubljana Cathedral*. The entrances to the Cathedral have recently-sculpted bronze doors. The main door is decorated with a relief depicting Slovene history. The side door is decorated with portraits of Ljubljana bishops from the 20th century. Although the doors are new, they blend in!

The side door to the *Ljubljana Cathedral*. The Baroque interior of the Cathedral is gorgeous. Frescoes decorate the ceiling and walls. They were painted by Giulio Quaglio in the early 18th century.

#### #4 WALK THROUGH THE TOWN HALL

Ljubljana's Town Hall is a handsome building, with a Venetian inspired facade and a lovely clock tower. It was originally built Gothic in the late 15th century, but has undergone many changes since.

You can walk around in the public spaces just inside, and visit even more areas as part of a tour. There's a beautiful old well in the center of the courtyard. In the foyer, you can see a coat of arms from the original building, featuring the dragon, Ljubljana's symbol. Admire the statue of Hercules with a lion. It used to be part of an outdoor fountain before it was moved here. Also in the Town Hall is Robba's Narcissus Fountain statue, the Greek God looking at his reflection in the water. The coat of arms from the *original Town Hall has been preserved!* Outside, in the Town Square, stop to view the Baroque Robba Fountain.

Reminiscent of Bernini's famous Four Rivers statue in Rome, Robba's statue features the three rivers of Carniola.

#### #5 ENJOY PEOPLE WATCHING IN PREEREN SQUARE

Ljubljana's main square is a throbbing hub of activity, most of the day (and night!). The site of soap box speeches, festivals, and music performances, it's a great place for people watching! The square was rebuilt extensively after the earthquake of 1895. Four major streets flow into the square, and it is lined with beautiful buildings, including the Franciscan Church. In the square, you'll see the bronze statue of France Preeren, with a muse hovering over him. Preeren was the national poet of Slovenia. There's also a bronze model of Ljubljana in the square. The statue of Preeren in the square

#### #6 WALK ON THE FAMOUS TRIPLE BRIDGE

Ljubljana has lots of bridges, and none is more famous than Triple Bridge. Located just adjacent to Preeren Square, the Triple Bridge is one of the busiest spots in the city. There's actually been a bridge in the middle spot since the 13th century. In 1842, the wooden bridge was replaced by a stone bridge, and was named Franz's Bridge. The original bridge was named after *Austrian Archduke Franz Karl*. By the early 1900s, the single bridge became a traffic bottleneck. In 1929, Joe Plenik, a famous Slovenian architect who is responsible for designing many structures in Ljubljana, designed the pedestrian bridges on either side of the original bridge, to form the Triple Bridge. The new bridge opened in 1932, and today is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Ljubljana.

#### #7 PHOTOGRAPH THE DRAGONS AT THE DRAGON BRIDGE

The dragon is the symbol of Ljubljana. It's on the city's coat of arms and its flag, and on the four corners of the Dragon Bridge over the Ljubljanica River. The bridge was opened to traffic in 1901, and features 16 smaller dragon statues as well. The story goes that the dragon lived in the marshes around the Ljubljanica river. Jason of the Argonauts happened to set up camp in the area on his way back to Greece whilst waiting for the weather to clear. When the dragon made its presence known, killing one of Jason's soldiers and breathing fire on to the camp, Jason set out to find its lair. Eventually he was able to overcome and kill the dragon. Although Jason eventually returned to Greece, he and his men are credited with laying the foundation for what is now Ljubljana. The Dragon Bridge is for motorized traffic, and it's quite busy during the day. But it's definitely worth the 5-minute walk from Preeren Square, to get some photos and view the bridge.

#### #8 BROWSE THE LJUBLJANA CENTRAL MARKET

Ljubljana's Central Market is actually made up of three parts: an open market in the Vodnik Square and the Pogaar Square, covered stalls between the two squares, and a series of stores that stretches from the Triple Bridge to the Dragon Bridge, along the riverfront.

The open market features fresh produce. The market building that runs along the river was designed by Joe Plenik. The two-story building has a colonnade on the street side and large windows overlooking the river at the back. The open market features fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh flowers and plants, and cured meats and other dried foods. Plenik's Market features a variety of stores, including arts and crafts, and cafes. Browsing the market and watching locals shop is fun! The market is open everyday, generally until 4 p.m. on weekdays and 2 p.m. on weekends. If you're in Ljubljana on a good weather Friday between mid-March and October, don't miss the Open Kitchen in the Pogaar Square: Slovenian chefs gather here to prepare dishes from all over the world, and it's an amazing experience!

#### #9 ADMIRE MORE OF PLENIK'S ARCHITECTURE

If you enjoy architecture, you'll read and hear a lot about Joe Plenik in Ljubljana. Apart from designing the Triple Bridge and the Central Market, Plenik has many other works scattered about the city. Slovenia's most well-known architect, Plenik created masterpieces not just in his hometown, but also in Vienna and Prague. But from 1920, until his death in 1957, Plenik devoted himself to Ljubljana. His ale cemetery is truly a must-see. From the impressive gate to the chapels that feature building methods and symbols from different cultures and religions, the cemetery design is both thoughtful and inclusive. Plenik's renovation of Kranje is also considered a masterpiece. Formerly a monastery, it was converted into an outdoor concert venue. The complex is beautiful, and a must-visit in Ljubljana. The Cobbler's Bridge is another bridge designed by Plenik. The bridge acts as a venue for performances, and its design, with the many pillars, adds to the ambiance.

#### #10 CRUISE THE LJUBLJANICA RIVER

The river is a huge part of Ljubljana's beauty, and getting out on to the water is a great way to enjoy the sights long the banks from another perspective. Covered tourist boats run all year, as long as the water levels are not too high. For the best of both worlds, consider a walking tour plus river cruise. You can also take canoes out on the river, or go stand-up paddleboarding.

#### #11 CHECK OUT THE ART AT METELKOVA MESTO

Metelkova is a 15-minute walk from Preeren Square but a must-visit if you love street art. The site used to be a military barracks during the Yugoslavian era. It became a squat in 1993 and is now an autonomous cultural center. One of Ljubljana's popular tourist attractions, Metelkova offers amazing displays of street art. The district also hosts cultural events such as concerts and art shows. There are lots of shops, restaurants, and bars in the area.

#### #12 TAKE A GREEN BREAK

Ljubljana contains a wealth of green spaces, and was declared a European Green Capital in 2016. There are little parks in the historical center, where you can see folks relaxing under trees on nice weather days. Green spaces are plentiful in Ljubljana. Tivoli Park, the city's largest park, is just a 10-minute walk from Preeren Square. Bordering it are two hills, with lots of hiking trails. A little further out you'll find the Botanical Gardens of Ljubljana. Established all the way back in 1810, the garden contains several thousand plant species, some native to Slovenia and some from other parts of Europe and beyond.

#### #13 VISIT A MUSEUM

Ljubljana has lots of museums if you love history and culture and art. Or you happen to have some rain when you visit. The National Gallery holds a fabulous collection of art, all the way from the middle ages to the present. The House of Illusions is a quirky museum, especially for kids (and the young at heart). The National Museum of Contemporary History is fascinating if you wish to learn more about the 20th century history of Slovenia.

#### GETTING AROUND IN LJUBLJANA

Ljubljana is a compact capital city. You can walk everywhere in the historical center. Most of the major sights are within a 15-minute walk of Preeren Square.

But there's also a bus service you can use within the city. City buses run until about 10.30 p.m., other than a few night services. You can buy a bus card at newsstands or tourist information centers. Taxis are available as well.

## Day 4

BOUTIQUE TRAVEL ADVISORS  
BLED, SLOVENIA

### Secrets of Romantic Bled Island & Slovenia's Largest Glacial Lake Bohinj (With Optional 2-hr Hike)

Mikloieva cesta 3, Bled, Slovenia

10:00 AM

Start Time

5:00 PM

End Time

7hr

Duration

Bled, the magnificent Alpine resort with the only true island in Slovenia. For centuries it has been the symbol of natural beauty and home to fairy tales. Ascend the old 12th-century castle, perched on top of a steep cliff with spectacular views of the lake,

the famous Bled island and the surrounding peaks. The castle is not only home to fairy tale weddings, cultural events and important protocol meetings, but also a museum of manual printing and a wine cellar. A boat ride with 'Pletna' traditional boat made by local, is among the must-do things when visiting Bled. Not only because of the authentic boat experience, but a true journey back in time.

Standing paddlers will take you to the island with 99 stone steps on the way to the Assumption of Mary church and the fortune bell. Make sure not to skip tasting Bled cream cake, the notorious local dessert, famous all around Slovenia, before leaving town.

Our next stop is Bohinj, Slovenia's largest glacial lake, located in the Triglav National Park area in the heart of the Julian Alps - the most extensive and highest mountain range in Slovenia is also the most south-eastern part of the Alps. A perfect place for different outdoor activities. Take a swim, a canoe ride, go skiing, canyoning, or horse-back riding, or simply go for a pleasant walk around the lake area to soak in Bohinj's pristine natural environment and relax by its crystal clear waters. We'll also taste the exquisite sour milk and other traditional local delights.

#### Included activities and/or entrance fees:

- Bled castle
- Pletna boat ride
- Slovenian snack

## Day 5



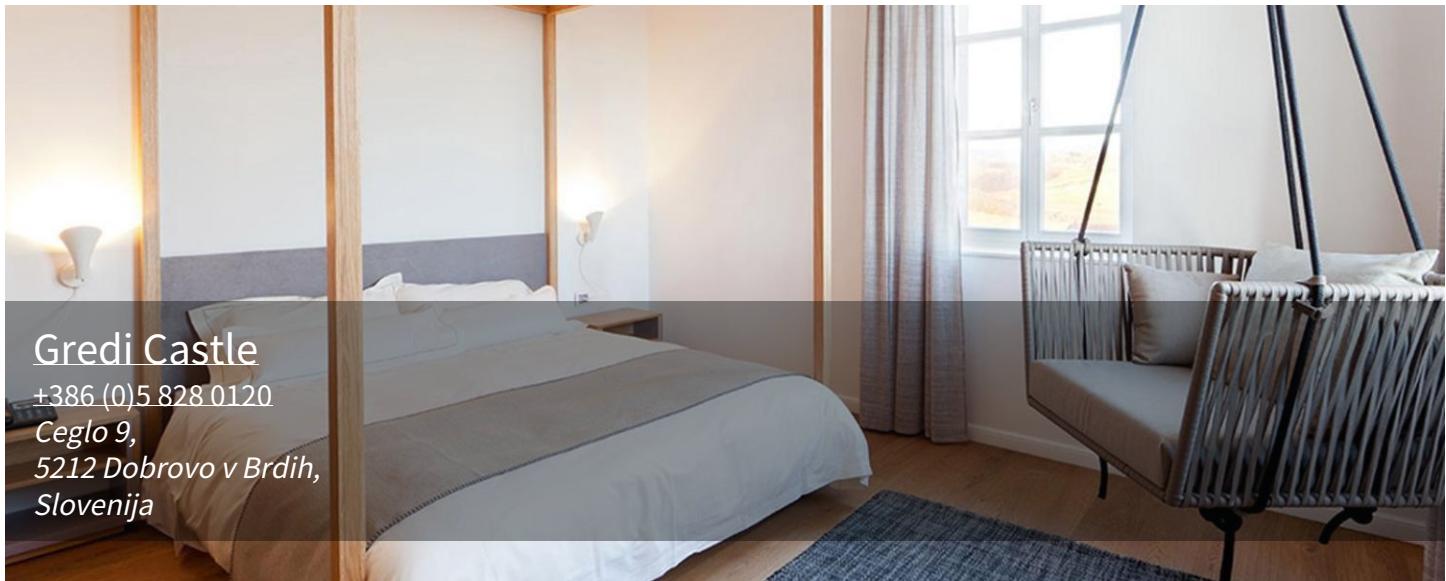
### Discovering the Sunning Soa Valley - A Natural Treat for the Eyes and Soul Bovec, Tolmin 5230, Bovec, Slovenia

11:15 AM	1:30 PM	2hr 15min
Start Time	End Time	Duration

This pristine gorge is one of the most beautiful natural sights on the Soa River and an important natural treasure of the [Triglav National Park](#). The emerald green pools are intertwined into a 750-meter-long meticulously smoothed-out gorge that is only a few meters wide and 15 meters deep. is the green home to people, plants, and animals alike. This is where a green dream come true; in the prettiest Alpine valley on earth.

We'll admire the Great Soa Gorge on foot and embark on some parts of the famous Soa Trail from the wooden hanging bridge at the start of the gorge and savor the emerald beauty at the end of the gorge, where the rapids of the Soa River become calm. This is where you'll like to sit the most and from the shores admire the daring swimmers, who dive into the icy cold river in the hot weather.

The water from the Soa source in trenta is among the highest-quality springs in Slovenia. Drinking from springs is especially rejuvenating. See if the legend about the Count's water is true, heralded by some as the [most healing waters on earth](#).



## Gredi Castle

+386 (0)5 828 0120

Ceglo 9,  
5212 Dobrovo v Brdih,  
Slovenija

2 Nights

Duration

Welcome to Hotel Gredic, your Dobrovo “home away from home.” Hotel Gredic aims to make your visit as relaxing and enjoyable as possible, which is why so many guests continue to come back year after year.

Guest rooms offer a minibar and air conditioning, and Hotel Gredic makes getting online easy as free wifi is available.

You can also take advantage of some of the amenities offered by the small hotel, including room service, sun umbrellas, and baggage storage. In addition, guests can enjoy a pool and a lounge during their visit. As an added convenience, there is free parking available to guests.

When you’re feeling hungry, be sure to check out Belvin, Gostilnica Pr’noni, and Agriturismo Toros, which are some Italian restaurants that are popular with locals and out-of-towners alike.

Should time allow, Vila Vipolze is a popular attraction that is within walking distance.

Hotel Gredic puts the best of Dobrovo at your fingertips, making your stay both relaxing and enjoyable.

## Day 6



Transfer · Private Transfer

10:00 AM

## Departure

**Departure Location**  
Ljubljana Hotel

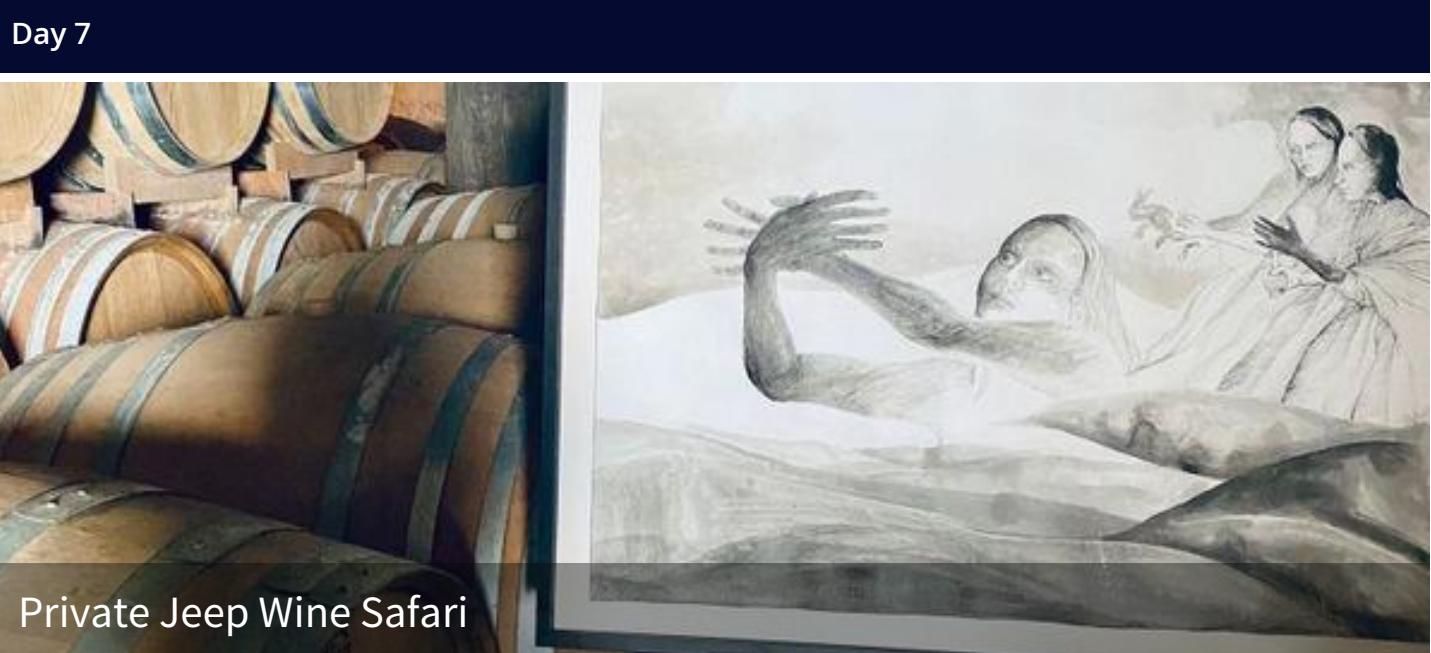
**Arrival Location**  
Vipavski Kriz

**Vehicle**  
Private Transfer

## Notes

Private transfer with an optional stop in Vipavski Kriz, a small charming village with houses, clustered inside a defense wall around a castle from the late 15th century where time literally stops!

The village is located in narrow Vipava Valley, with breath-taking nature and amazing local wine producers.



2:00 PM

Start Time

## Meeting Point

Hotel Lobby

The guide will meet you at your accommodation at 14:00.

The thing is super simple. If you want to experience the authentic Brda and Collio, and meet the people who create the best wines in the region, then you simply have to come with us on an adventure that you'll remember forever. Local guides and wine lovers know all the secret routes, from one side of the border to the other (as well as back). They have known winemakers since time immemorial, they know their families, their stories, and above all, they know what will surely enchant you. And it won't just be a breathtaking view from the home terrace! They are friends and they are a team that will make sure that you experience everything they live at least once and share their love for Brda with you.

You will not see lions, zebras and giraffes on this safari. We "locals" have prepared a special experience for you - a wine safari. We will take you through spacious vineyards, where you can taste home-made delicacies, but we will not forget to stop by friends, Brda winemakers, where you will learn first hand what the secret of magical tastes of our top wine.

## *Includes activities and/or entrance fees:*

- A warm welcome at the lookout tower Gonjae
- Jeep ride on hidden trails in Brda
- Picnic with local Brda delicacies in cherry orchard / olive grove / vineyard
- Tasting at the local boutique winery

## Day 8



### Visit to the Postojna Cave, Predjama Castle, Lipica Stud Farm and the Town of Piran *Opatija, Opatija, Croatia*

8:30 AM

Start Time

6:00 PM

End Time

9hr 30min

Duration

In the morning we will head to the [Postojna Cave](#) to enjoy its spectacular stone formations. The guided tour of Postojna Cave will consist of a ride by electrical train and a walk through beautiful underground passages and chambers with spectacular drop stones, pillars, limestone curtains, and other natural stone forms.

Continue to the idyllic village of Predjama, where you will be amazed by our fairy tale medieval Predjama Castle, famous for its dramatic setting in the gaping mouth of a cavern halfway up a hillside. Learn about the legend of the knight Erasmus "Slovenian Robin Hood". Continuing to Lipica stud farm for a photo stop.

A pleasant ride to the Slovenian coast. A walking city tour around the narrow cobbled streets of Piran, a small picturesque Mediterranean town, known also as the pearl of the Slovenian coast.

#### Included activities and/or entrance fees:

- Postojna cave and Predjama castle entrance fee
- Prosciutto and wine Teran tasting

## Day 9



### Transfer · Private Transfer

9:00 AM

Departure

**Departure Location**  
Slovenia Hotel

**Arrival Location**  
Venice Train Station

**Vehicle**  
Private Transfer

#### Notes

Transfer from Slovenia Hotel to Venice Train Station

~2 hours



### Rail · Trenitalia

12:26 PM

Departure

2:39 PM

Arrival

2hr 13min

Duration

**Departure Location**  
Venice Train station

**Arrival Location**  
Florence Train Station

**Train Number**  
8419

**Train Type**  
Frecciarossa

**Service Class**  
Business Class



## Palazzo Portinari Salviati Residenza D'Epoca

6 Via del Corso, Uffizi, 50122 Florence, Italy

**12:00 PM**

Check In

**10:00 AM**

Check Out

**4 Nights**

Duration

Located in Florence, a 2-minute walk from Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Palazzo Portinari Salviati Residenza D'Epoca provides accommodations with a bar and private parking. Among the facilities of this property are a restaurant, a 24-hour front desk and room service, along with free WiFi throughout the property. The hotel has an indoor pool and a concierge service.

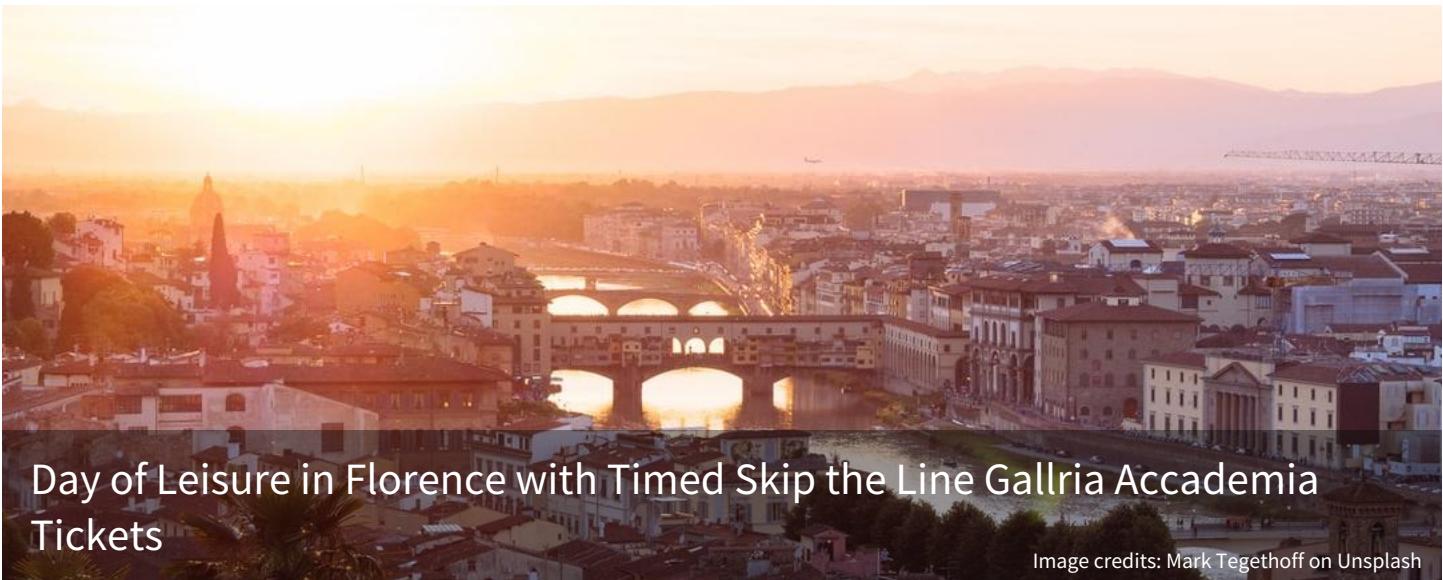
The hotel will provide guests with air-conditioned rooms offering a closet, an electric tea pot, a fridge, a safety deposit box, a flat-screen TV and a private bathroom with a bidet. Each room has a coffee machine, while selected rooms will provide you with a kitchenette with a microwave. At Palazzo Portinari Salviati Residenza D'Epoca all rooms come with bed linen and towels.

### Room Selection

**Room Category**  
Prestige double room

**Room Notes**  
Includes Breakfast

## Day 10



### Day of Leisure in Florence with Timed Skip the Line Gallria Accademia Tickets

Image credits: Mark Tegethoff on Unsplash

Today is at leisure for you to visit the Galleria Accademia at your own pace (Skip the Line timed entrance tickets provided)

## Day 11



### The Boboli Gardens - Private Painting Class : Private Painting Class at Giardini di Boboli Gardens

+39 333 820 1999 (she's also available on whatsapp)

Piazza de' Pitti, 1, 50125 Firenze FI, Italy

<https://www.uffizi.it/giardino-boboli/>

Image credits: Gabriella Trombini on https://maps.google.com/maps/contrib/111634224910531393481

Please meet your teacher, Anita, at 3:30pm at the Fountain of Neptune.

Her phone number is +39 333 820 1999 (she's also available on whatsapp)



## The Giuseppe Verdi Opera Trovatore · Opera Tickets - Row K, Seats 6 and 7

055 2779.276

*Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Auditorium*

*Address*

*Piazzale Vittorio Gui, 1*

*50144 Firenze*

<https://www.maggiofiorentino.com/en/come-raggiungerci/>

The Teatro del Maggio is in the center, close to the old city walls, next to the historic Stazione Leopolda. The garden that welcomes visitors is Piazzale Vittorio Gui, named after the founder of the Florentine Orchestral Stable and the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino.

In March 1851, while still in Venice for the success of *Rigoletto*, Giuseppe Verdi suggested a new opera project to the poet Salvadore Cammarano, a trusted collaborator of the previous *Alzira*, *Battaglia di Legnano* and *Luisa Miller*. The proposed source is Antonio Garcia Gutierrez's *El Trovator*, a romantic drama performed in Madrid in 1836 and never translated into Italian until then. Despite the enthusiasm of the Maestro, the works are slow, perhaps due to a lack of sharing of the subject by Cammarano. To complicate the situation the sudden and unexpected death of the librettist, in July 1852 with the libretto almost completed, which forced Verdi to ask for the intervention of Leone Emanuele Bardare to retouch some parts of the drama. As already experienced in *Rigoletto*, also in *Trovatore* the composer focuses on an unconventional character: the gypsy Azucena, the undisputed protagonist of the opera. Dominated by conflicting passions - the thirst for revenge for the atrocious death of her mother, who was burned alive on a charge of witchcraft, and the love for her adopted son Manrico - Azucena requires a dramatic voice capable of defining the character's dark character, continuously poised between hallucinations and explosions full of pathos. Represented for the first time on January 19, 1853 at the Apollo Theater in Rome, *Il Trovatore*, for the happiness of melodic inventions, the passionate lyricism and the engaging orchestration, always careful to emphasize the characters of the four protagonists, soon became the most loved opera in Verdi's time.

## Day 12



Rail · Trenitalia

10:20 AM

10:58 AM

38min

Departure	Arrival	Duration
Departure Location Firenze S. M. Novella	Arrival Location Bologna Centrale	Train Number 9490
Service Class Business		Train Type Frecciarossa



2:00 PM	1:00 PM	4 Nights
Check In	Check Out	Duration

The Grand Hotel Majestic "già Baglioni", the oldest and most prestigious hotel in Bologna, sits in the heart of the city on Via dell'Indipendenza, within walking distance of Piazza Maggiore and the famous Due Torri. This superb five-star deluxe hotel is situated in a Palazzo designed by architect Alfonso Torregiani during the first half of the 18th century and built by order of Cardinal Prospero Lambertini, who later became Pope. The palazzo is in fact, built on top of an ancient Roman road, part of which can be seen within the hotel. The 109 rooms have a mix of antique furniture with modern amenities, a perfect blend of classic Italian style, elegance and hospitality. The 4th floor refurbishment has enriched the hotel with a new range of Junior Suites and Deluxe Room. The style in this case is classic eighteen century classical French.

#### Room Selection

**Room Category**  
Classic Double

**Room Notes**  
Includes Breakfast



## Bologna Food Tour - Full meal with several food stops

+39.329.179.06.47

<http://reservations@doeatbetter.com>

11:45 AM

Start Time

### Meeting Point

Piazza di Porta Ravagnana, in front of Feltrinelli bookshop

### Highlights

- Bologna with eyes and palate
- Walking food tour with at least 4 stops
- Try a Rich Appetizer Composed of Local Cured Meats and Warm, Hand baked Bread
- Have classic tortellini or tagliatelle, impossible to miss when in Bologna

### Description

Our bologna food tour will escort you to the discovery of bologna and its history through the classical dishes of emilia-Romagna traditions. We will begin with a rich appetizer composed of local cured meats and warm, hand-baked bread, or with a delicious platter of mixed pizza. Then we will have classic tortellini or tagliatelle, impossible to miss when in bologna, and typical fried meat with cream, parmesan cheese, and smoked ham.

The meal and the bologna food tour end with a slice of cake (or an artisanal gelato) and an espresso.

This is a walking food and wine tour, ideal for exploring bologna with eyes and palate. For our most exigent guests, we also offer the drink card, a pass for tasting one or more glasses of wine, and/or ale at each of the 4 food stops.

Maximum: 10 people

### Add Ons

Drink card - US\$16.56 per person

Ebook (+40 Italian recipes) - US\$4.04 group

## Day 14



### Truffle Hunting Experience

11:45 AM

Start Time

Transfer on your own to Costigliole d'Asti where you'll meet your truffle guide.

If you are a truffle lover this is the right place for you. The Alba truffle is the most expensive food in the world. It grows wild and cannot be cultivated. The truffle hunting will start with a short explanation of the local traditions and the environment. During the truffle hunting you will see how the search and discovery of the black or white truffle works, like the truffle hunting dog studies the territory with its nose and when it finds a truffle under the ground, it begins to dig.

Return to the House of the Trifolau (truffle hunter) where you'll have the possibility to visit his house: picking item, furniture, images and memories of the past. The tour will end with a truffle tasting and wine.



Private transfer to Lake Maggiore



3:00 PM

Check In

12:00 PM

Check Out

2 Nights

Duration

Villa e Palazzo Aminta Beauty and SPA opens seasonally from March 24 to November 6. The Villa e Palazzo Aminta is a luxurious Italian villa overlooking Lake Maggiore and the Alps. With its own private beach, the hotel is an oasis for discerning, sophisticated travelers seeking relaxation. The setting is spectacular, just opposite the famous Borromeo Islands, while the hotel's architecture is an excellent example of the area's fine homes. Every bedroom and suite is personalized with stucco works, chandeliers and precious furniture.

#### Room Selection

##### Room Category

Deluxe Double Room with partial lake view

##### Room Notes

Includes Breakfast

#### Day 15



10:00 AM

Start Time

#### Meeting Point

Hotel Pier

Meet at our private pier in order to discover the beautiful Lake Maggiore and by boat taxi visit the 3 islands of Madre, Pescatori, and Bella.

The captain picks you up from our private dock to the 1st Island and when you finish to visit it you call him to come back to fetch you to the 2nd destination.

**Booking does not include the ticket entrance to any of the Islands and to be paid in cash to the captain.**

Boat charges will be added to your room to pay at check out.

#### Day 16



#### Milan, Milano Malpensa Airport to Newark, Newark Liberty International Airport

[1-800-864-8331](tel:18008648331)

*United Airlines (UA)*

<https://www.united.com/en/us/checkin>

Image credits: Ross Parmly on Unsplash

UA

Carrier/Flight

MXP •

EWR •

8 hr, 50 min

Duration

#### Notes

**United Airlines Reference Number:**

Please find additional details & confirmation of your flight reservation in the Documents tab of your travel app.

**United Airlines**

- [Flight Status](#)
- [Manage Your Booking](#)
- [Baggage Information](#)
- [FAQs](#)
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Boutique Travel Advisors is not responsible for flight changes. Please check in for your flights within the permissible time frame (typically 24 hours prior to departure) to confirm the accuracy of your flight information. Flight confirmations are subject to change and/or cancellation by the airlines.

Seat assignments will be assigned if available at the time of booking. If you would like assistance with securing seat assignments after booking, please let us know. Our fee is \$25 per confirmation number to assist with seat assignments. Please note that airlines often charge for seat assignments. If you choose to obtain your own seat assignment please update us with your chosen seat assignments so we can upgrade our records.

***Given the unpredictability of today's environment, BTA strongly recommends arriving to the airport at least 3 hours in advance for international travel and 2 hours in advance for domestic travel.***