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SLOVENIA**

YOUR NEXT STOP SLOVENIA

**WHY ORGANISE A CONFERENCE IN
OUR GREEN COUNTRY**

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Slovenian
Convention
Bureau



WHY ORGANISE A CONFERENCE IN SLOVENIA

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INTRODUCTION

In such a small area of only two million people, we have a very diverse and sustainably oriented offer and can organize meetings in cities, the Alps, the Mediterranean and spas. Slovenia has beautiful untouched nature and exquisite cuisine. We are excellent and hospitable organisers and hosts. We offer a great value for money. It is also important that we are a democratic European country with the euro and inside the Schengen area. It is important that Slovenia is both economically and scientifically internationally connected, as we have many experts in various fields that are involved in international associations. Thus, Slovenia hosts numerous reputable international scientific-professional meetings. Slovenia and its providers are active in the international business environment and are looking for appropriate events for our country. Last year we developed the long-term project Slovenian Congress Ambassador Program. Its congress purpose is to bring even more international business events to Slovenia. In this project, we cooperate with the Slovenian scientific, professional, academic, medical and economic spheres, which are important stakeholders in this field and a number of local partners.



Miha Kovacich,
Director of
Slovenian
Convention Bureau

Most attendees haven't visited Slovenia before, which makes it a very appealing destination for delegates who crave something new, different and off-the-beaten-path. The big advantage of being small is that you can focus on the little things. We utilize details and personal touches, which make your meeting truly authentic. Slovenian Convention Bureau is the central contact point for meeting planners, supplying them with impartial information and advice on all aspects of organizing events in Slovenia. Our experienced suppliers and fitting infrastructure can bring to life even the most demanding international scientific-professional events. Slovenia is a young country and quite new to MICE, but we recognize the importance and value of partnership since meetings industry events are only truly successful when the entire destination community works together in support of the clients' objectives. Our offer and guarantee are strongly supported by the energy and diligence of Slovenians, making for a unique and memorable experience.



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SLOVENIA IS A WELL ACCESSIBLE DESTINATION

- The current non-stop connections comprise more than 160 weekly scheduled flights to 22 destinations in 15 countries (March 2020).
- Any location in Slovenia is easily accessible from all neighboring international airports (Venice, Trieste, Zagreb, Graz, Vienna) with GoOpti and Nomago buses and shuttles.
- Modern, comfortable trains serve the capital as well as almost every major tourist destinations in Slovenia.
- Slovenia's motorway and road network has been modernized over the past decade as to provide an efficient system, improve road safety and ensure broader European integration.

Distances from the neighbouring airports to Ljubljana by road:

Graz Airport, Austria: 187 km
 Klagenfurt Airport, Austria: 85 km
 Zagreb Airport, Croatia: 140 km
 Trieste Airport, Italy: 130 km
 Venice Airport, Italy: 230 km

All flights to and from Ljubljana are operated through the Jože Pučnik Ljubljana Airport (www.fraport-slovenija.si), which is located at 25 km from the city centre. The current non-stop connections network covers 22 destinations, with one or more daily frequencies to Brussels, Belgrade, Berlin, Frankfurt, Istanbul, London, Moscow, Munich, Paris, Warsaw and Zurich. Other destinations are served by 2 to 6 weekly flights. These are operated by 17 regular air carriers: Aeroflot, Air Serbia, Air France, Brussels Airlines, easyJet, Finnair, Isair, Lufthansa, LOT Polish Airlines, Montenegro Airlines, Swiss, Transavia, Turkish Airlines, Windrose and Wizz Air. British Airways will resume operating flights from London Heathrow to Ljubljana in the summer 2020 schedule (4 times / week), while Iberia will start the route from Madrid in July 2020. A number of airlines have increased the flight frequencies (up to 35%) or planned bigger airplanes on existing routes.

Check out the informative schedule for all regular flights (29 Mar – 24 Oct 2020):

[Arrivals - Departures](#).

Read Fraport Slovenija's [press release](#) (5 Mar 2020) on the expanded offer of flights from / to Ljubljana Airport.

Note: the above information was created before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is also affecting the airline industry. At the moment (end of April 2020) Fraport Slovenija has not received any cancellations from airlines which planned their routes to Ljubljana, however in the second half of 2020 / first half of 2021 we expect a gradual return to full operations.





SUSTAINABILITY



FORESTS

58% of land covered
in forests



RECYCLING

58% of municipal
waste is recycled



WATER STEWARDSHIP

over 3.000 m³
renewable water per
citizen collected yearly

VISITOR INFORMATION



CURRENCY

Euro (sign: €, code: EUR)



COMMUNICATION

Official language is
Slovenian, most people are
fluent in English



DISTANCES

Everything is very
close by, city centres are
walkable, the entire country
is easily accessible by
motorway



VISA

Country-specific **visa
information**. Check if you
need a visa in the country
registry at [https://www.gov.
si/en/registries/countries/](https://www.gov.si/en/registries/countries/)



SAFETY INDEX

12th on World safety scale
(2019), with safety index
score 7.44*



ARRIVING IN SLOVENIA

Main airport, train station
and **bus terminal** in
Ljubljana

WELCOME TO SLOVENIA

FRIENDLY PEOPLE, STUNNING NATURE, PURE AUTHENTICITY

Slovenia is the only country in the world where green nature connects and unites the Alpine, Karst, Mediterranean and Pannonic worlds. The **diversity of the landscape** and **unspoilt nature**, together with its **geo-strategic position**, represent the country's main assets which have long been attracting congress organisers. For example, long before the emergence of the conference industry as we know it today, in 1821 Ljubljana hosted the Congress of the Holy Alliance. For four months the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana, became the hub of European politics. This could even be considered as the beginning of the two-hundred-year-long history of the Slovenian meetings industry.

As a congress destination, Slovenia is highly valued for its **compactness** and **safety** and for its **stress-free environment**. Slovenian residents appreciate nature and want to keep it the way it is, but at the same time like to share it with delegates attending various events. Slovenian congress organisers are famous for their kindness and ever smiling faces. They like to help with a personal approach, are flexible, and know how to work in a team.



„Slovenia promotes itself with the brand “I Feel SLOVEnia.” This expresses a balance between nature and the diligence of Slovenians; it speaks of unspoilt nature and our will to preserve it.”



THE CAPACITY TO DELIVER

SLOVENIAN ENERGY

For Slovenian people, satisfaction at work is closely connected to the quality of life. Slovenia is renowned as a diligent and hard-working nation, and this largely defines the basis of the Slovenian congress offer. The energy of Slovenian congress events could be compared to Slovenian athletes who are famous for being energetic, diligent, motivated and open. Slovenians set themselves high long-term goals that they achieve with passion and commitment.

The Slovenian Convention Bureau's approach to facilitating congress events follows a lean management strategy and is constantly adapted to the requirements of conference organisers. Organising a large congress is never something to be taken lightly, but is rather an expression of our calling, competence and intelligent execution. It is a result of our talent, strong purpose, serious work ethic, passion and commitment. It is our devotion and guarantee to bring your congress to Slovenia.



„Slovenian energy is different. It's naturally laid back. Relaxed. Calm. Not all sparkly on the outside but then quickly running out of fizz. It's slow release, enduring, in it for the long haul. Slovenian energy is there when you need creative input in planning your event. And it is there throughout the event journey, right until the end when your attendees give you a standing ovation for a job well done.“





WHY SLOVENIA

A SAFE AND WELCOMING CONGRESS DESTINATION

Through years of development, Slovenia has become a recognisable congress destination and a reliable partner for the most demanding conferences. Slovenia possesses many natural resources, and its good position between the Mediterranean, Central and South-East Europe offers many opportunities, complementing the reasons for organising events in Slovenia.

10 reasons for organising an event in Slovenia

People: The conference industry equals people, and in Slovenia you are assured of positive, inspiring and creative energy. Slovenians believe in teamwork, and since every team is only as strong as its weakest link, they are aware that the knowledge and experience of the country's employees is its biggest asset.

Diversity & Compactness: Slovenia's great climatic and natural diversity is one of the main reasons why meeting planners like to hold events in Slovenia. This allows everyone to find a suitable location, ranging from the sunny coastal region to picturesque Alpine valleys.

Environmental responsibility & Stress-free destination: Slovenian people are aware how important environmental protection is in order to ensure a stable and safe future for everybody. Therefore, much attention is paid to nature preservation. Events organised by the Slovenian Convention Bureau take into account the goal of reducing environmental emissions.

Safety: Slovenia is known as an oasis of safety. It is safe to walk around any large city, while in the countryside there are still places where people do not lock their front door. All of this is confirmed by indexes that position Slovenia in the group of safest countries in the world.

Slovenian gastronomy: Is a key part of ensuring quality events and is an area to which the Slovenian Convention Bureau is committed. Slovenian cuisine is characterised by its extreme creativity and diversity. Slovenia is divided into 24 different gastronomical regions.

Success in science: Slovenian scientists excel in their fields. Some of the country's scientists recently achieved a great breakthrough. Researchers from the Faculty of Medicine in Ljubljana published a research paper proving that the Zika virus from an infected mother can infect the brain of a foetus and can cause permanent brain damage and microcephaly. This is just one of many other important discoveries made by Slovenian researchers.

Satisfaction of participants: The Slovenian Convention Bureau and its partners are aware of the importance of carefully listening to event participants, recognising their needs and then professionally, creatively and quickly transforming those needs into top-notch events.

Clean environment: There is no need for concern in regards to drinking water in Slovenia. The country has more than four times the amount of Europe's average supply of drinking water. In addition, Slovenia has the best scores among EU members when it comes to waste management. Ljubljana can boast being the first EU capital that in 2014 adopted a strategy of complete waste recycling.

Price competitiveness: The Slovenian congress product is competitive pricewise and comparable with other Central European destinations.

A door to the region: Slovenia's greatest asset is its location between Western and South-Eastern Europe (SEE) and its historical connection to SEE. For this reason the Slovenian Meetings industry has a competitive advantage through knowing its culture, mentality and the

regions other characteristics.

„Slovenia shares a border with Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia. Like Switzerland, Slovenia has majestic mountains and lush river valleys but is not landlocked and has a magnificent coastline on the Adriatic. The capital city, Ljubljana, is a largely traffic-free city built on either side of a river with a stunning medieval castle.“



WHAT SLOVENIA OFFERS

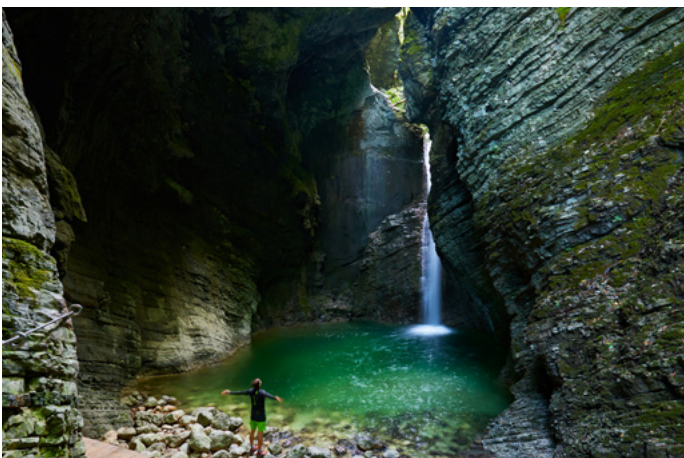
THE GREEN HEART OF EUROPE

Slovenia is a land with wonderfully unspoilt nature that is valued highly by its residents and congress guests. The country's incredible gifts of nature, at the intersection of the Mediterranean, the Alps and the Panonian Basin, are the main conditions for the development of green and responsible congress tourism. Slovenia is considered one of the richest countries in water resources in Europe.

For the above-stated reasons, staging a congress in Slovenia means your event is held in a healthy environment where people live closely tied with nature. All the key congress destinations - Ljubljana, Maribor, Bled and Portorož - strive for quality of the environment and quality of living. The bounty of green areas, and the good quality and abundance of clean water, allows congress guests access to diverse and active experiences in connection with the country's extremely rich cultural heritage.

As event organisers, the Slovenian Convention Bureau strives to organise congresses and events that use natural and social resources in an economic and sustainable manner. These are based on green supply chains, locally produced food, sustainable water management, careful waste handling and authentic experiences through connecting with the local environment. Wherever you choose to hold your event in Slovenia, you will be standing with one foot in the city and the other in the countryside.

„Slovenia is a green country. Our cities have rich culture and human scale and our countryside has mountains, forests, rivers and lakes. Our food and wine compare with the best. Slovenia offers the perfect haven, an awesome place to escape to, yet is on your doorstep, right in the heart of Europe.“





BEING SLOVENIAN

SLOVENIAN ICONS

Slovenians identify themselves through various symbolic icons that have shaped the nation over centuries into what it is today. When Slovenians talk about Triglav – Slovenia's highest mountain, linden trees, beekeeping and Slovenian food, they are actually talking about themselves.

Slovenians are particularly proud of their language and culture. Approximately 2.4 million people speak the Slovenian language as their mother tongue. The Slovenian language is also special due its use of the dual form, which is very rare. Despite the relatively small surface area of Slovenia's language territory and small number of speakers, linguists have recognised 46 clearly distinguished dialects. The Slovenian language ranks among the South-slavic languages, but, at the same time, it has a lot of similarities to those of the Western-slavic branch. In addition, Romance, Germanic and Ugrofinnic languages have had an impact on the Slovenian language.

Slovenians also have a great passion for ski jumping. This is a sport that many are convinced was actually invented in Slovenia. The Planica Nordic Centre, with its charisma, remains an important symbol of Sloveneness. It is a reflection of the love of Slovenian people for sport, while the events held at Planica are a true national celebration of sport and undoubtedly the biggest sporting events of the year.

„When working in a destination there needs to be a collaborative spirit amongst all suppliers. We are small enough as a MICE community to be truly connected to each other and proud enough as a country to care about getting it right.“





CONFERENCE ESCAPES

OFF THE-BEATEN TRACK

Slovenia's geographical and climatic diversity make it easy and quick to get from one side of the country to the other. The interesting locations listed below are approximately an hour away from the capital. In the morning you can be in the midst of a congress event, and in the afternoon be in the midst of the most attractive Slovenian natural and cultural landmarks.

The Slovenian Karst: The Karst plateau gave name to the Karst topography and Karst phenomena all over the world. Supposedly, it was in the Slovenian Karst where scientists for the first time described various Karst specialities: underground drainage systems with caves, sinkholes and water abysses. 'Must see' places in Slovenia include the Postojna Cave and the Lipica stud farm.

Recommended as a pre- or post-congress tour.

Lake Cerknica: This intermittent lake fills with water in spring and in autumn. When full, its surface covers an area of up to 38km² and it becomes the largest lake in Slovenia. In summer, however, the lake significantly shrinks in size due to its numerous subterranean reservoirs and caverns which drain its water.

Recommended as a pre- or post-congress tour.

Sečovelje Salina Nature Park: The largest Slovenian salt evaporation pond was the first Slovenian wetland put on the list of Ramsar wetlands of international importance (1993), while traditional salt making has been put on UNESCO's List of Intangible Heritage. Nowadays, a smaller area of the 700-year-old saltworks still harvests salt 'on the petola' and is one of only four remaining places in the world where this technique is still used. In the uninhabited part of the saltworks there is a rich treasury of flora and fauna.

Recommended as a venue for special events.

The Soča Valley: The Soča River, with its distinct emerald green colour, is considered to be one of the most beautiful rivers in Europe. The river and its tributaries excite lovers of natural beauty and seekers of adventurous water sports, such as wildwater kayaking, rafting, canyoning, etc.

Recommended as a teambuilding location and for incentive programmes.

Planica: The modern Nordic Centre is a symbol of Slovenia and an excellent venue. The centre boasts a renovated and newly-refurbished ski jumping hill, cross-country skiing trails, and congress halls. Since the first ski jumps in the early 1930's, more than 60 world records have been made at Planica.

Recommended as a venue for special events.

"Slovenia is a young country, new to MICE, so most attendees have not been here before. This makes the country appealing for today's delegates who crave something new, different, and off-the-beaten track."





SLOVENIA IN THE HEART OF EUROPE

Slovenia is an easy and quickly accessible destination. It is a diverse destination for business meetings where organisers can choose among numerous geographical features. It is easy to combine various destinations and excursions due to the country's compactness and good road connections.

Travelling by car

The easiest way to discover Slovenia is by car. Slovenia can be reached via one of the border crossings with Italy, Austria, Hungary or Croatia, or once here you can rent a car from one of the car rental agencies. Slovenia's motorways are modern and clearly signposted. They are well-equipped with petrol stations, service stations, inns with overnight accommodation and motels.

Travelling by train

Modern and comfortable trains serve almost every important tourist destination. Connections abroad are excellent: direct services connect Slovenia with Italy, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, the Czech Republic, Germany and Switzerland. Railway travel is convenient and inexpensive.

Travelling by plane

There are regular scheduled flights available between Ljubljana and most major European cities. Various major international airlines as well as some low fare airlines fly to Slovenia.

Citizens of European Union member states, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein can cross the border with a valid personal identification document, but stays must not exceed ninety days. A Schengen visa is available to anyone who requires a visa in order to visit

Slovenia. It can be obtained at Slovenian consulates in the applicant's own country, or at the consulates of all Schengen member states, which issue visas under the same conditions, taking into account the interests of other member states.

At www.slovenia.info, you can find information about accommodation, transport, museums and attractions.





INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SLOVENIA

1. Slovenia is in the world's top for the number of published books per resident. It has published 1,780 books per million residents and is only exceeded in this area by Great Britain.
2. Slovenia has incredibly diverse and well preserved nature. In 2004 Slovenia established a Natura 2000 network which covers 37% of the national territory and puts the country in first place in Europe.
3. Slovenia is also in the world's top according to general participation in sport, which amounts to 64% of the population, and ranks alongside Scandinavian countries.
4. Among 163 out of 195 countries in the world, Slovenia ranks 8th in the 2019 Global Peace Index, immediately after the Czech Republic and Denmark.
5. Slovenia is symbolised by its forests. With 60% forestation, the country is known as the third most forested country in Europe, and the share is increasing since around a million new trees are planted annually.
6. Slovenia has one of the largest populations of brown bear in Europe. Their number is estimated between five to seven hundred.
7. On the gender equality scale by the World Economic Forum 2019, Slovenia ranks in 11th place. Iceland is in first place, followed by Norway, Finland, Sweden and Ireland.

„Throughout its history Slovenia has always been at the cross-roads of the Mediterranean, Germanic and Slavic cultures and this has left its mark on our country today. It might be one of Europe's smallest countries, but it has great traditions in food and wine, richly diverse regions and its people are hard-working, progressive, naturally friendly and welcoming.“





WHY LJUBLJANA

The EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL 2016, Ljubljana has congresses written in its DNA. In 1821, long before the emergence of the meetings industry as we know it today, Ljubljana hosted the Congress of the Holy Alliance. It brought together important sovereigns, politicians and diplomats of the time to draw a new political map of Europe after Napoleon's downfall.

Due to its geographical location, the Slovenian capital has always had a linking role between South East and Central Europe. Ljubljana has many attributes of a big city, while creating the impression of a smaller and friendly town, which makes it so relaxing. The city is compact, picturesque, attractive and friendly to delegates attending conferences, corporate events or incentives programmes. With its accessibility and the well-developed and diversified meeting infrastructure, Ljubljana is Slovenia's major congress destination, having the highest share of (international) meetings. Ljubljana is extremely safe and it is one of the most sustainably-oriented cities in the wider region.



TOP PLACES WHERE PEOPLE MEET

GR – LJUBLJANA EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION CENTRE

A competitive advantage of this modernist complex of buildings is its location at the city centre edge, the ease of access being one of the sustainable elements that distinguish it. Conference delegates attending an event at this highly flexible venue can also enjoy a range of shopping, entertainment and recreational offers nearby.



CANKARJEV DOM – CD CONGRESS CENTRE

CD is one of the highest-quality and most interesting convention centres in Europe, whose cultural-artistic and congress programmes have been harmoniously complementing each other for 35 years. Cankarjev dom, set in the very city centre, is a flagship for both cultural and humanistic activities and the meetings industry in Slovenia.



LJUBLJANA CASTLE

A mighty medieval fortress overlooking the lively city centre and a landmark of Ljubljana, the castle is an idyllic setting for special events staged both outdoors – in the courtyard, and in its indoor halls. A striking panorama unfolds from the tower's top. Guests can easily reach the castle from the Old Town by means of a funicular railway.



GRAND HOTEL UNION

The Grand Hotel Union, located just a stone's throw from the Old Town quarter, boasts the largest hotel convention centre in Ljubljana. It is the flagship property of Union Hotels Collection, comprising also of uHotel, Hotel Lev and Central Hotel.



HOTEL LEV

Hotel Lev has been welcoming guests for more than half a century. The hotel recently introduced a new concept that is now offered to event organisers as a combination of an 'out of the box' conference and unconventional meeting setting that will surpass delegates' expectations.



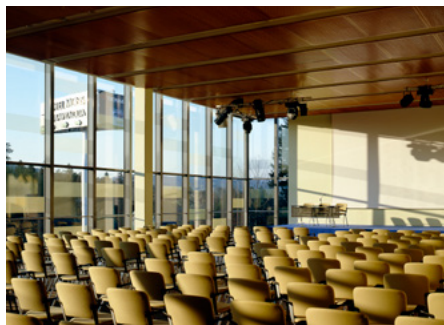
BEST WESTERN PREMIER HOTEL SLO

In the most central location of this vivid and charming capital city, the Best Western Premier Hotel Slon captures with its character. The hotel offers comfortable accommodation and recently refurbished multipurpose conference facilities combined with excellent cuisine.



FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON LJUBLJANA MONS

Set in a green environment at the outskirts, yet close to the urban centre, this modernly designed hotel provides a relaxing and productive setting for an array of meetings and events. The nearby woods and meadows offer lots of options for recreation in natural surroundings.



HOTEL CUBO

The boutique Hotel Cubo follows the modern design trend for meetings, believing that the power of an event lies in the active co-creating and contact of participants, which is also encouraged by the arrangement of conference rooms.



AUSTRIA TREND HOTEL LJUBLJANA

This property is found in a business-residential district close to the Stožice Arena and Stadium, 4 km from downtown. Its flexible and modernly equipped congress centre is complemented by an attentive and professional service. A large 24-hrs fitness centre is among the amenities that distinguish this hotel.



INTERCONTINENTAL LJUBLJANA

As part of its exclusive offer 'Uncover the Unforgettable', the recently opened InterContinental Hotel presents Ljubljana as one of the hidden gems of Europe. The hotel welcomes all congress guests to discover meeting stories at this unforgettable destination.



RADISSON BLU PLAZA HOTEL

One of the newest hotels in town is set in the BTC City quarter. Business delegates can indulge in the nearby vast shopping, entertainment and sports offer. With the congress centre occupying the property's 15th floor, the amazing views that extend as far as the Alps are among its main assets.





GRAND HOTEL UNION ****

The Grand Hotel Union, originally designed in Art Nouveau style, offers comfortable and elegantly appointed rooms to perfectly combine business and pleasure. The adjoining hotel additionally features a panoramic wellness centre and a swimming pool.

HOTEL LEV ****

Combining old charm with new concepts for meetings and events, this city hotel recently underwent an extensive makeover under the motto: Timeless elegance meets retro.

BEST WESTERN PREMIER HOTEL SLOJ ****

The oldest hotel in Ljubljana and one of the city's icons, the Best Western Premier Hotel Sloj prides itself on its elite central location. The hotel's long history is evidenced by its excellent service and facilities that spoil guests in all aspects.

FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON LJUBLJANA MONS ****

Close to one of Ljubljana's most popular and greenest recreation areas – Mostec, yet within 5 km from the city centre, this is an excellent hotel for lovers of the active, green outdoors. The hotel has great conference capacities, with a new wing currently under construction, to be opened in 2020.

HOTEL CUBO ****

Set in a prestigious location with an eye to the castle, this boutique hotel has not only built its reputation through design trends and comfort, but also by focusing on excellent service and a personalised attention each guest can enjoy.

RADISSON BLU PLAZA HOTEL ****

Wrapped in black glass, the 17-storey monumental cube is woven with light strips, which give it a special dynamic. All rooms are decorated in soothing, sober colours, and those on the top floors offer panoramic views over the city.

INTERCONTINENTAL LJUBLJANA ****

This recently opened 21-storey hotel features elegantly appointed guest rooms, a 160 m² presidential suite, a swimming pool, saunas and fitness centre. There are breathtaking views from the 18th floor café and restaurant and the hotel easily meets the highest standards and expectations of its guests.



STAY LOCAL

Find out about Jože Plečnik

Jože Plečnik (1872-1957) was a famous architect who tried to model Ljubljana on ancient Athens. The multitude of his creations in the city, referred to as a whole as “Plečnik’s Ljubljana”, is considered to be one of the 20th century’s most important total works of art. Plečnik’s best known works can all be explored on foot or by bike and include the National and University Library building, the Ljubljanica river embankments and bridges, the most notable among the latter being the Triple Bridge and the Cobblers’ Bridge, the Central Market, the Križanke Summer Theatre, the Bežigrad Stadium, and the funeral complex at the Žale cemetery.



HIT THE STREETS

Ljubljana Treasure Hunt

An interactive way of getting to know the city and your team members. Individual tasks are designed for teams to use their cartography and orientation skills, creativity, and competitiveness. The teams will walk through the historic streets of Ljubljana, among the most famous monuments as well as beautiful hidden places, attempt to solve a series of problems and challenges, answer carefully prepared questions, take photos and perform various tasks during the event in the quickest time possible while competing with other teams within your group.



HIDDEN GEMS

Graffiti Workshop

Graffiti Workshop is an exclusive workshop in Ljubljana, widely known for its rich graffiti and street art presence. The workshop allows you to create your own graffiti and come up with an awesome stencil design idea. You will learn all the practical stuff and be let in on a bunch of spray-painting tricks. All the workshops begin with a lecture on graffiti and street art and a demonstration, including an introduction to spray cans and spray painting in general. After an initial and detailed demo, you will be able to use your creativity under the instruction of Ljubljana’s graffiti maestros from the Institute for Urban Cultures.



ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

The Švicarija Creative Centre

The newly opened Švicarija Creative Centre operates as a part of the International Centre of Graphic Arts (MGLC). Set in Ljubljana’s main park and built on the site of a former wooden guesthouse whose history goes back to 1835, this venue is nowadays a cultural monument. Tivoli Park – by far the most beautiful park in the capital, was designed in 1813 and stretches right into the city centre. With the massive reconstruction of Švicarija (aka Swiss house, named so due to its architectural style) Ljubljana has acquired a new cultural, educational and social centre, residential studios and gallery space. The multipurpose venue, with an adjoining coffee shop, is available for hosting various events. Its enchanting setting above the main Tivoli Park promenade, with an eye to the city centre, blends the best of both worlds – urban and natural.

Museum of Illusions

The Museum of Illusions, located in one of Ljubljana’s central squares, captivates and inspires with its fun and educational experiences where one can taste the limits of perception. Various installations in the form of holograms, puzzles, optical illusions, optical riddles, stereograms, etc. encourage visitors to get their mind wrapped around the phenomenon of perception, the human brain, and science. Offer your colleagues an event with a difference – anti-gravity room, inverted room, infinity disco room, vortex tunnel, etc. The museum offers space for any kind of event, such as press conferences, corporate events, brand launches, team buildings, celebrations, theme parties, and even video shoots. The layout of the items and the carefully selected content bring a special ambiance and colour to each and every event.



ON THE MENU

Taste Ljubljana

Both Ljubljana's city centre and suburban districts boast a wide variety of restaurants, whose culinary styles include traditional Slovenian and numerous other national cuisines, particularly Balkan, Italian, Central European and, more recently, a variety of more exotic cuisines. One of Ljubljana's specialities is the numerous high-end restaurants that offer a selection of special lunchtime menus at affordable prices and a wide selection of high-quality Slovenian wines. Locals and tourists alike flock every Friday from March to October to the 'Open Kitchen', a food market where one can

taste a variety of dishes cooked outdoors on market stalls by Slovenian chefs.

LIFESTYLE

Bicycles, bicycles, bicycles...

Visitors to Ljubljana will quickly notice the high number of bicycles. A love for cycling is indicated by the free city bicycle scheme 'BicikeLJ', through organised Ljubljana cycling tours and an appreciation for the cult Pony bicycle. The old Pony, which now attracts high prices among collectors, has recently been relaunched in a modernised aluminium foldable version. In the European Green Capital, every-

thing is about sustainability. Sustainability goes hand in hand with the city's *Kavalir* (Gentleman) – an electric-powered vehicle that provides free transport around the old-town for everyone interested.

Dive into the cultural scene!

In Ljubljana, culture is imbued in its everyday life and is not considered a privilege. The year-round agenda features a multitude of international festivals and other events, encompassing a wide range of musical and artistic genres, where traditional lives side by side with the alternative. Welcome to join in!



PRE- AND POST-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOURS

PRE-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOUR

Ljubljana Wine Experience

The Ljubljana Wine Experience takes visitors by funicular up to Ljubljana Castle, where they have the opportunity to see the castle vineyard, otherwise not open to the public, where more than a thousand vines grow. The tour then continues to the Old Town -- where visitors, with the help of a wine connoisseur guide, learn about and taste wines from three wine-growing regions. The discovery of the richness of Slovenian viticulture is accompanied by regional snacks that perfectly complement the whole tasting experience.

an hour's drive from the capital. Close to the medieval town of Kamnik, two sights deserve attention. Volčji Potok Arboretum, the most visited botanical park in Slovenia, presents on 85 hectares as many as 3,500 plants from across the world. Worth visiting all year round, it often features seasonal flower shows. An 18-hole golf course is another attractive content.

Velika Planina, a scenic high mountain plateau, is the site of one of Europe's few surviving herdsmen's villages with wooden huts where this traditional Alpine culture is still alive. Its stunning landscape, marked by vast pastures and Karst phenomena, is criss-crossed with many hiking routes.



POST-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOUR

Volčji Potok Arboretum & Velika Planina plateau

The Ljubljana Region offers a host of historical and natural attractions within less than

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

1. The first congress was held in Ljubljana in 1821 – The Congress of Holy Alliance – that consisted of around 650 delegates, among which many dignitaries. The Congress lasted three and a half months.
2. The city's largest theatre-style hall capacity is for up to 2,200 seats.
3. Ljubljana celebrated 2 millennia of the Roman settlements on its grounds in 2014 (Emona was established in A.D. 14).
4. Ljubljana is the European capital with the highest share, 63%, of separated waste collected, and is the first capital in the EU in the 'zero waste' programme.
5. Ljubljana has 542 square metres of public green space per resident, while the city features 80 hectares of well-maintained green spaces.
6. Ljubljana suffered a huge earthquake in 1895 and much of it was rebuilt in the Art Nouveau style, which today appears juxtaposed against the earlier Baroque style buildings that remain.
7. The Ljubljana Botanical Garden holds over 4,500 plant species and subspecies. Roughly a third are endemic to Slovenia, whereas the rest originate from other parts of Europe and other continents.
8. There are 14 museums and 56 art galleries in Ljubljana for its 286,000 residents.
9. Gostilna na gradu, a restaurant at the Ljubljana Castle serving traditional Slovenian fare, also features signature dishes by the famous Slovenian chef Ana Roš - the World's Best Female Chef in 2016.
10. Ljubljana has already exceeded the EU's recycling targets for 2020 by 10%.



HOW TO GET THERE (by air, by road, by train)

The Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport is only 25km from the city centre. Slovenia's road and rail networks have been modernised over the past decade and now provide an efficient car, bus or train system, integrated with the broader European area and specifically neighbouring countries. Railway connections from Ljubljana to major cities across the borders are well served by intercity trains.



CONFERENCE FACILITIES							
VENUE	CONFERENCE ROOMS	MAX. SEATING CAPACITY THEATRE	MAX. SEATING CAPACITY CLASSROOM	BANQUET	RECEPTION	SURFACE AREA IN sq.m.	LARGEST MEETING ROOM IN sq.m.
CONGRESS CENTRES							
GR - Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre	22	2 200	1 200	1 200	2 100	12 323	2 456
Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	22	2.000	560	550	800	36 000	2 000
CONVENTION HOTELS							
Grand Hotel Union and uHotel	21	700	390	390	800	3 150	504
Four Points by Sheraton Ljubljana Mons	8	600	350	450	800	869	621
Austria Trend Hotel Ljubljana	8	600	240	300	450	830	554
HOTELS WITH CONFERENCE FACILITIES							
Hotel Lev	6	300	150	160	400	721	367
InterContinental	4	300	150	200	380	528	363
Best Western Premier Hotel Slon	5	250	100	140	200	490	310
Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Ljubljana	6	200	100	130	250	341	158
City Hotel Ljubljana	5	200	130	120	200	226	166
M Hotel	9	120	64	80	100	285	95
G Design Hotel	8	70	30	0	70	200	421
Hotel Cubo	3	45	18	28	45	125	52
SPECIAL VENUES							
Ljubljana Castle	9	900	120	500	800	2 016	600
<p>Besides the listed meeting facilities, Ljubljana also provides a number of academic venues with the largest plenary capacities ranging from 400 to 200 seats, as well as other venues in business- or historic buildings that are suitable for smaller to medium-sized conferences. Another destination asset is the wide array of diverse special event venues: more than a dozen of them are found within a 15 minutes' walk from the Triple Bridge – often defined as the most central downtown spot. More at: www.meetinljubljana.com.</p>							

HOTELS			
HOTEL	CATEGORY	NUMBER OF ROOMS	LOCATION
InterContinental	5*	165	central
Grand Hotel Union	4*	111	central
uHotel	4*	224	central
Hotel Lev	4*	231	central
Central Hotel	4*	100	central
Best Western Premier Hotel Slon	4*	170	central

Accommodation in Ljubljana			
Austria Trend Hotel Ljubljana	4*	217	city
Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Ljubljana	4*	237	city
M Hotel	4*	147	city
Four Points by Sheraton Ljubljana Mons	4*	124	city
Hotel NOX	4*	34	city
Hotel CUBO	4*	26	central
Gloria Hotel	4*	29	city
G Design Hotel	4*	26	city
Allegro Hotel	4*	17	Old Town
Vander Hotel	4*	20	Old Town
Hotel Galleria	4*	16	Old Town
Antiq Palace Hotel & Spa	4*	20	central
Lesar Hotel Angel	4*	15	Old Town
City Hotel	3*	200	central
B&B Hotel Ljubljana Park	3*	216	central
Ljubljana Resort	3*	60	city
Hotel Emonec	3*	54	central
Hotel Meksiko	3*	52	central
Hotel Stil	3*	45	city
Hotel Mrak	3*	35	central
Urban Hotel	3*	32	central
Ahotel Hotel	3*	28	city
	3*	25	city
Hotel Center	3*	20	central
Hotel Florjančkov Hram	3*	16	city
Adora Hotel & Apartments	3*	16	Old Town
BIT Center Hotel	2*	74	city
Šport Hotel	2*	15	city
<p>Additional accommodation is available in B&B, youth hostels, short-let apartments and Airbnb, many of which are centrally located.</p> <p>5-star: 165 rooms</p> <p>4-star: 1764 rooms</p> <p>3-star: 817 rooms</p> <p>2-star: 89 rooms</p> <p>TOTAL: 2835 rooms (Updated Autumn 2019)</p>			

TOP REFERENCES			
CONGRESS	VENUE	DATE	NO. OF DELEGATES
37th Annual ESPID Meeting	GR - Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre	7 – 10 May 2019	2 400
26 th European Conference on General Thoracic Surgery ESTS	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	27 – 30 June 2018	2 000
7th European Trauma Congress	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	14 – 17 May 2006	2 000
38th Congress of the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations – Apimondia 2003	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	24 – 30 August 2003	2 000
16th World Congress in Fetal Medicine	GR - Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre	25 – 29 June 2017	1 600
11th European Public Health Conference 2018	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	28 November – 1 December 2018	1 500
25th EFMC International Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry	GR - Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre	2 – 6 September 2018	1 500
40th EDTNA- ERCA International Conference (European Dialysis and Transplant Nurses' Association / European Renal Care Association)	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	10 – 13 September 2011	1 500
7th International Congress on Autoimmunity	GR - Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre	5 – 9 May 2010	1 500
42nd European Congress of Paediatric Endocrinology - ESPE	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	18 – 21 September 2003	1 500
European Society of Regional Anaesthesia & Pain Therapy - ESRA	GR - Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre	2 – 5 September 2015	1 360
EuroPrevent 2018 - 13th European Congress on Preventive Cardiology	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	19 – 21 April 2018	1 300
17th Congress of the World Council of Enterostomal Therapists - WCET	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	15 – 19 June 2008	1 300
40th World Scout Conference - WOSM	GR - Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre	11 – 15 August 2014	1 250
35th Congress of the European Accounting Association - EAA	Faculty of Economics	9 – 11 May 2012	1 200
2nd European Road Transport Research Arena – TRA 2008	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	21 – 24 April 2008	1 200
19th European Congress of Pathology	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	6 – 11 September 2003	1 200
9th European Congress of General Practice / Family Medicine – WONCA Europe	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	18 – 21 June 2003	1 100

World Congress of the World Society of Cardio-Thoracic Surgeons – WSCTS	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	13 – 16 September 2018	1 000
CEEISA-ISA 2016 Joint International Conference, »Politics for International Relations«	Faculty of Social Sciences	23 – 25 June 2016	1 000
20th Congress of the Paediatric Rheumatology European Society	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	26 – 29 September 2013	1 000
40th EMAC Conference (the European Marketing Academy)	Faculty of Economics	24 – 27 May 2011	1 000
1st EFFoST Congress on Food Systems	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	4 – 9 November 2008	1 000
1st FEMS Congress of European Microbiologists	Cankarjev dom - CD Congress Centre Ljubljana	29 June – 3 July 2003	1 000

NOTE:

Besides the above-mentioned events, Ljubljana hosts each year a relevant number of mid-sized regional, European or international association congresses attracting from 500 to 1 000 delegates.

The full list is published at <http://www.visitljubljana.com/en/meetings/congress-calendar/>



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AVAILABLE SUPPORT

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCIENTIFIC & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The Slovenian Convention Bureau, jointly with the local convention bureaux, supports international bids for congresses. It prepares everything necessary to introduce Slovenia as a potential host destination in a professional and friendly way.

What can associations and professional congress organisers expect from the Slovenian Convention Bureau and its partners?

- independent and trustworthy consultants that understand the needs of every single organiser
- a simple process for choosing the most suitable location and local partners
- an analysis of the bid requirements - feasibility evaluation
- marketing and promotional support for the candidacy
- help in execution of the candidacy's document and presentation (Bid Book)
- support from the city and local tourist economy
- evaluation of the event's budget
- assistance in preparing the bid document and promotional support for the bid presentation
- destination support (city & key industry players)
- coordination of site inspection visits in the decision-making process
- destination assistance during visits with regard to the organization of a confirmed congress
- marketing support to boost delegate attendance at the congress prior to a chosen destination in Slovenia
- all necessary information about the country, such as presentations, videos, maps, brochures and photographs, plus content marketing (social media).

Last, but not least: the knowledge of the destination, the connection with local partners and a personal approach when considering each potential bid are the benefits that, combined with the team spirit of the Slovenian meetings industry players, can provide you added value and a competitive advantage.



"... The big advantage of being small is that you can focus on the little things. The details. The personal touches that make your meeting really matter. That makes it real. Authentic. Slovenia's cities are small but pack a big punch with history, heritage and a human dimension that connects to the pulse of the people. To the personal touch."



MORE INFORMATION:

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SLOVENIAN MEETINGS INDUSTRY STANDARDS

The standardisation of Meetings Industry suppliers in Slovenia is intended, among other, to simplify and shorten the meeting planner's venue finding process. In a transparent way, client can get a clear insight into who is offering which service, as well as a better overview of the quality of comparable services offered by individual providers. The Slovenian Convention Bureau standards for meetings industry have been first implemented in spring 2008.

CATEGORIES

Category A: LOCAL OR REGIONAL CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU (CVB)

Category B: PROFESSIONAL CONGRESS ORGANISER

Category C: DMC AGENCY

Category D: EVENT AGENCY

Category E: CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION CENTRE

Category F: CONVENTION HOTEL

Category G: HOTEL WITH CONFERENCE FACILITIES

Category H: OTHER CONGRESS SERVICES

Category I: SPECIAL VENUE

PCO - PROFESSIONAL CONGRESS ORGANISER is a key factor in organising congresses and other types of meetings. The PCO deals with a very broad area of tasks and offers a comprehensive technical support for implementing the most demanding events. From the viewpoint of congress service providers, the requirements specified for this category make it the most demanding one

CERTIFIED PCO'S IN SLOVENIA

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SLOVENIAN CONGRESS AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Bringing international congresses to our country is a complex and strategic task, which requires unison and coordination from all the destination's stakeholders.

The **Slovenian Ambassadors Program** is of considerable importance for Slovenia's greater success in the **field of internationalization of science, science, business and sports**.

»We want to establish a platform of Slovenian Congress Ambassadors covering various scientific & medical and other fields that work closely with the Slovenian Convention Bureau and the individual destination bureaus as only with an active and creative cooperation we can be successful on the competitive international market,« emphasizes Miha Kovačič, director of the Slovenian Convention Bureau the reasons for the launch of the programme.

Slovenian Ambassadors Program was launched in 2019 by the **Slovenian Convention Bureau in collaboration with the Slovenian Tourist Board, the Ljubljana Convention Bureau at Ljubljana Tourism, and sixteen joining partners.**

The program helps promote Slovenia as a destination for international scientific-professional and business events, which create great international partnership and connection opportunities.

We have the **required infrastructure** and **experienced suppliers**, who can bring to life even the most demanding international scientific-professional events. To merge our potential and ambitions the ambassador program lends professional support to Slovenian scientists, doctors, professionals, businessmen, sportsmen and other individuals,

who are active in their field and are members of international associations.

In November 2019 first 25 Congress Ambassadors of Slovenia were awarded their honorary titles at the Ljubljana Castle. The ambassadors are successful individuals who are experts in their respective fields and who are ready to promote Slovenia as a destination for international events.

The national and local convention bureaus (destination clubs) offer impartial assistance and support to Congress Ambassadors at every stage of the event, from the initial bid to marketing and promotion. Additionally, ambassadors receive help with destination presentations, co-financing tailor-made site inspections, finding suitable locations and accommodation facilities, selecting social event venues, planning familiarizing trips and providing organizers with promotional materials about Slovenia and individual destinations.

SLOVENIAN AMBASSADOR PROGRAM CONTACT PERSON



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www.congress-ambassador.si

**SLOVENSKI
AMBASADORSKI
PROGRAM**

**“For also knowledge
itself is power.”**

Francis Bacon

www.congress-ambassador.si

Project organizer and supporting partners:



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NOVA GORICA

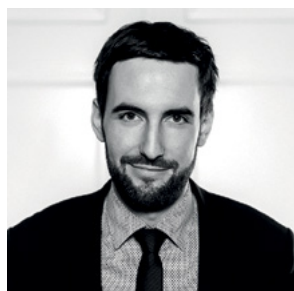
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SLOVENIA MEETINGS

Slovenia is a petite, safe, and green stress-free haven with immense outdoor appeal. It is also incredibly diverse and proficient when it comes to supporting all kinds of meeting needs. We know the importance and value of partnership and Slovenia delivers that through the people who are endowed with natural charm and whose work is marked by a personal touch and team adaptability.

Meetings and events come in all shapes and sizes. There's no such thing as one size fits all. That's why you need a destination partner with flexibility etched into their DNA. It comes naturally to us in Slovenia, we're born with it. Working in meetings and events is full on. It requires a yes-we-can attitude, an ability to run with the punches and, of course, a 24-hour

smile. What we offer is relaxed and calm energy, which is there when you need creative input in planning your event. It's there throughout the event journey, right until the end when your attendees give you a standing ovation for a job well done. With you all the way.

Diligence and hard work are central to Slovenia Meetings and make up the foundation of our offering to the meetings and events market. In a quiet and modest way, representatives of the Slovenia Meetings are extraordinary, bringing real and tangible benefits to all meetings and events held in Slovenia. You'll find that vigour, hospitality and harmonious cooperation are recurring themes in our meetings and events story.



EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

EUOPREVENT

EuroPrevent is the annual congress of the European Association of Preventive Cardiology, where leading experts get together to share knowledge of cardiovascular prevention and rehabilitation for cardiologists, allied health professionals, general practitioners, basic scientists, young researchers and policymakers. Cankarjev dom Cultural and Congress Centre was visited by more than 1.200 healthcare professionals from more than 40 countries who participated in the scientific exchange of 800 abstracts and submitted clinical cases.

"I would definitely recommend Cankarjev dom to other congress organisers as it is a guarantee of success. Our first congress was very successful, and we feel that people will not get bored to return or discover the destination every 3 years. We also know that we have space for growth which is important as the congress is expanding year after year."

- Valerie Thiollet, Team Manager of the Specialty Congress Department at European Society of Cardiology – France



THREE SEAS INITIATIVE 2019

Three Seas Initiative 2019 at GR-Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre was the largest political and business event in independent Slovenia. The event promoted the initiative encouraging institutions and private investors to support the three seas situated amidst the Adriatic, Baltic and Black Sea in their endeavours for energy, traffic and digital infrastructure. The invitation of the President of the Republic of Slovenia Borut Pahor was accepted by nine foreign presidents, the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker and the United States Secretary of Energy Rick Perry.

"With the help of GR-Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre we managed to provide a location in the centre of Ljubljana, which largely contributed to the successful execution of the event. The entire staff and technical team were professional and the setting of the hall, where the majority of the event took place, was exquisite."

- mag. Dobran Božič, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



6TH INTERNATIONAL IMRUA CONGRESS

In April 2019 motorcycle paramedics from Slovenia organized the 6th International IMRUA Congress (International Fire and EMS Motorcycle Response Unit Association). The Congress was attended by EMTs, nurses, paramedics, doctors and firefighters on a motorcycle from all over the world. The event was held at the City Hotel in Maribor, which can accommodate up to 200 conference participants.

"When organizing the 2019 IMRUA congress we were aware that we would receive a large number of foreign participants and therefore had to find an appropriate congress centre. We decided to host our event at City Hotel in Maribor, which turned out to be an excellent decision. Our congress was extremely successful, in a large part due to the professionalism of the hotel staff."

- Marko Kukovec, President of Organizing Committee & IMRUA Vice-President



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