

**I FEEL
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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Editor

Gorazd Čad

Copywriting

Jasmina Jerant & Sara Tiefengraber

Graphic Design

Špela Drašlar & Barbara Dimec

Quotes

Padraic Gilligan &
Patrick M Delaney,
Managing Partners, SoolNua

Photos

SLOVENIA:

Archive of the Slovenian Tourist Board,
Nea Culpa
LJUBLJANA:

Archive of the Slovenian Tourist Board,
Ljubljana Tourism, J Ugrin, A. Frelih,
J. Kotar, Hiša vizij, D. Wedam, J. Ugrin, M.
Kambič, A. Hribar;

MARIBOR:

Archive of the Maribor – Pohorje Tourist Board,
D. Grógl, S. Zelnik,

M. Petrej, G. Muršec, A. Sedovsek, J. Brložnik,
D. Blut, V. Male, V. Ponikvar, A. Fevzer, J.
Borovnišek, L. Majninger, J. Gantar, Archive of
Narodni dom Maribor, Vladimir Tos

BLED:

Archive of the Slovenian Tourist Board, Archive
of the Tourism Bled, T. Ramujkič, J. Gantar, M.
Lenarcic, M. Bozic, D. Dubokovic, Ž. Intihar;

PORTOROŽ:

Archive of the Slovenian Tourist Board, Tourist
Board Portorož, A. Fevzer, A. Stokelj, M.
Kostanjšek, A. Kosmac.

KRANJSKA GORA:

Archive of Turizem Kranjska Gora, Bogomir
Košir, Mojca Matko, Janez Šmitek, Jošt Gantar
Archive of the Slovenian Tourist Board, Tomo
Jeseničnik, Jošt Gantar

NOVA GORICA:

Mirko Bijuklič, Jure Batagelj

Translation

Jasmina Jerant & Sara Tiefengraber

Production

Toleranca Marketing d.o.o.

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Slovenian
Convention
Bureau

Slovenian Convention Bureau

Vojkova cesta 65

SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Tel: +386 1 569 12 60

E-mail: info@slovenia-convention.com

W: www.slovenia-convention.com



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 Kovačič,
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, Israir, 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/>



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, bee-keeping 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."





IT'S ALL ABOUT LOCATION

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.

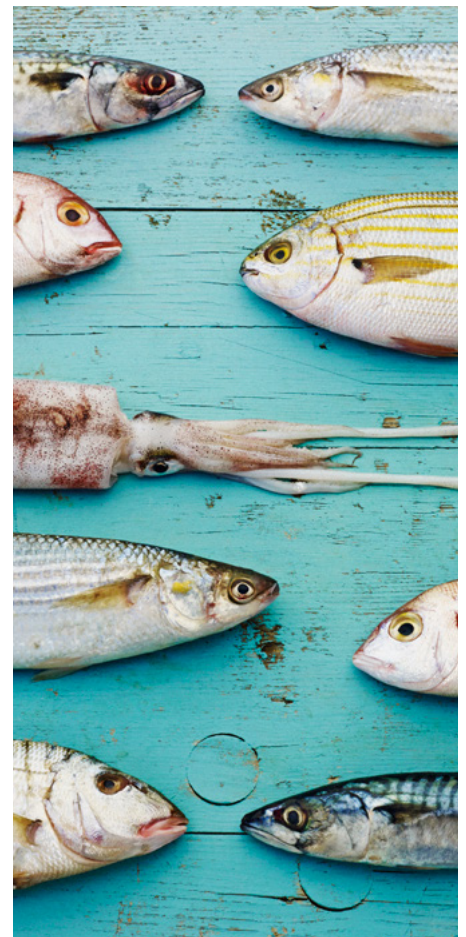
„Throughout its history Slovenia has always been at the crossroads of the Mediterranean, Germanic and Slavic cultures and this has left its mark on our country today. It might be one of Europe's smallest countries, but it has great traditions in food and wine, richly diverse regions and its people are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





WHY PORTOROŽ

With its 130 years tradition of tourism, Portorož is a very popular and recognised MICE destination due to its climate, cultural diversity and rich history. The Slovenian coast, and the city of Portorož, lie in the Gulf of Trieste, an organic part of the Adriatic Sea. Portorož offers a wide range of hotel accommodation, numerous event venues, relaxation facilities, cultural events, entertainment options and delicious cuisine. Most importantly, top-quality and modern conference facilities are available in the majority of venues located within walking distance of the sea. Portorož is characterised by the short distances between all its venues, which allow visitors to reach all the activities, business, social and cultural sites on foot. An expensive yet detailed and thorough renovation of the secessionist Hotel Kempinski Palace Portorož and several historic buildings have ensured that the historic glamour of Portorož can still be felt today.



TOP PLACES WHERE PEOPLE MEET

BERNARDIN CONGRESS CENTRE

The Bernardin Congress Centre was the first and is today the largest convention centre in Slovenia. Its setting creates an environment for spontaneous networking and encourages creativity due to its natural daylight and inspiring sea-view guestrooms, meeting facilities, large exhibition areas and venues within walking distance of the Mediterranean.



KEMPINSKI PALACE PORTOROŽ CONVENTION CENTRE

The Kempinski Palace Portorož is an excellent congress hotel. With experience in incentive travel, conferences and complicated corporate events, it has set new standards and its prestigious congress and banquet hall, the Crystal Hall Ballroom, assures high-class luxury.



ARTS & CONVENTION CENTRE AVDITORIJ PORTOROŠE

The Portorož Arts and Convention Centre Auditorium, established in 1972, is located in the immediate vicinity of the centre of Portorož. It offers conferences, symposiums, seminars, corporate events, and other ceremonies year-round. An outdoor amphitheatre with 1,777 seats is located adjacent to the main building.



LIFECCLASS HOTELS & SPA, CONGRESS CENTRE PORTUS

The Congress Centre is situated in the heart of the Portorož LifeClass Resort. Its 10 meeting rooms, featuring the latest technical equipment, cover an area of 1,600 m² and can host up to 1,200 guests. The centre includes ideal venues for informal meetings over a buffet, a cocktail, or for a reception.



BENEDIKT – SALINERA RESORT CONFERENCE HALL

Its location between the coastal towns of Izola and Portorož makes this a true gem, offering an excellent starting point for exploring the Strunjan theme trail and satisfying those who appreciate natural beauty, peace and the mild Mediterranean climate.



HOTEL MARKO CONFERENCE HALL

This sunlit congress hall is famous for its view of the park which adds to the well-being of participants and successful achievement of goals. During breaks attendees can linger, relax, socialise and enjoy fresh-air in the surroundings covered with lush rich Mediterranean vegetation.



METROPOL CONFERENCE CENTRE

The Metropol Business Centre fulfills the demanding standards of congress-seminar events, including five modern, multi-purpose halls, a reception, office and a large lobby designed for exhibitors and socialising. A variety of incentive programmes can be carried out on the beach.



BARBARA PIRAN BEACH HOTEL & SPA CONFERENCE HALL

The Barbara Piran Beach Hotel & Spa boasts modern conference room, where business guests can be creative and productive due to its excellent working conditions thanks to the hotel's location in a quiet and green corner of the Slovenian coast, yet still close to the centre of Portorož.



MONFORT EXHIBITION HALL

Between Portorož and Piran lies the historic salt warehouse of Monfort, listed as a place of cultural and historical heritage. Built in the time of Napoleon, Monfort is nowadays an exhibition gallery, offering a large, rustic area suitable for larger events.





KEMPINSKI PALACE PORTOROŽ *****

The first five-star superior hotel in Slovenia boasts a very calming, modern and prestigious design with a unique style that accentuates the hotel's historic legendary character and Habsburg elegance.

GRAND HOTEL BERNARDIN *****

The prestigious Grand Hotel Bernardin is located directly by the sea, with a wellness centre, indoor swimming pool with heated sea-water, private balconies overlooking the sea, casino, luxurious private beach and private marina.

REMISENS PREMIUM HOTEL METROPOL *****

An array of walls and scarps lined with stones, painted facades, columns, white stone window frames, window shutters, picturesque chimneys, open staircases and roof tiles form a charming and inviting Mediterranean resort, and serve as Portorož's trademark.

MIND HOTEL SLOVENIA *****

After thorough renovation, this five-star hotel is the newest luxury hotel in Portorož. It is situated right by the promenade overlooking the sea, which gives it a special charm.

GRAND HOTEL PORTOROŽ ****

The Grand Hotel Portorož is one of the town's tourism trump cards, one that visually and logistically represents the centre of Portorož. Probably the most comprehensive hotel, conference and wellness facilities on the coast that cater to a wide range of tastes.

HOTEL RIVIERA ****

This so-called Spa by the Sea features swimming pools with heated sea-water, and the Wai Thai Centre. This modern hotel also offers a magnificent view of the entire Bay of Piran.

HOTEL APOLLO ****

This entirely refurbished active wellness hotel is ideal for those who wish to remain healthy and active since it offers a selection of healthy Mediterranean cuisine, exercise facilities, and a natural and relaxing ambience.

REMISENS PREMIUM CASA BEL MORETTO ****

This four-star hotel, located in the vicinity of the beach and the promenade, was fully renovated in 2017 and now offers guests a perfect setting for rest and relaxation in green surroundings.

HOTEL HISTRION ****

This hotel features rooms and apartments with balconies overlooking the sea or the lagoon. The hotel has direct access to the indoor pool at the Laguna Water Park and the wellness centre.

BOUTIQUE HOTEL PORTOROSE ****

This modern four-star boutique hotel has been renovated in 2019 and offers several different categories of rooms, a conference room, wellness centre and outdoor pool. Guests can enjoy the unique design and rich gastronomical offer.

HOTEL MARKO ****

This family-run hotel by the seaside is embraced by the hotel park and close to the Portorož avenue. Splendid views of the sea and the hotel park can be admired from the outstanding terrace.

HOTEL PIRAN ****

Built in 1913 and renovated in 2013, this hotel is located directly on the coast and offers a magnificent view of the Adriatic Sea. It presents modern equipment, various culinary delights and offers a magnificent view over the Adriatic sea from the rooftop bar Terasa 99.



ESSENTIAL MEETING EXPERIENCES

STAY LOCAL

Recharge and rejuvenate in nature ... and in mud

Slovenian Istria is the most visited tourist region in the country. The present state of the region is the result of the longstanding development of tourism, which had already started intensively prior to the end of the 19th century. The coastline that runs from the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park to Portorož and Strunjan is well known for its health benefits: salt-pan mud and brine from the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park, the beneficial Mediterranean climate and sea-water. People from all over the world come here to boost their health and vitality. Experience the benefits in the natural environment or in one of the several spa centres.



HIT THE STREETS

Discover, discover, discover ...

Within a few kilometres in any direction you can discover beautiful landscapes and astonishing cultural heritage. From attractive vantage points you can enjoy a view of the neighbouring bays in Slovenia, Croatia and Italy, and the Gulf of Trieste framed by the peaks of the Alps. From Portorož, with its relaxed holiday atmosphere, take a stroll along the coast to the unforgettable town of Piran. Then continue along the coast or on the picturesque road to reach the Strunjan Nature Park. South of Portorož you enter the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park, while within close proximity you can explore Istrian villages in the midst of vineyards and hillside olive groves.



HIDDEN GEMS

Search for The Lost Violin

Portorož's neighbouring town Piran, also called the Pearl of the Mediterranean coast, is one of the most photogenic towns in the region and has managed to preserve its unsurpassed charm. The 'Search for the Lost Violin' is an excellent teambuilding experience and a unique and fun way to discover this gorgeous town. Follow the traces of Giuseppe Tartini, the famous composer born in Piran, through the typical Venetian streets, visiting attractions, finding clues and solving various mysteries, with a mission to find the missing Tartini violin. The event concludes with delicious Mediterranean refreshments and a concert played on the once long-lost instrument.



ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

Visit the home of the King of Slovenian fish

For those who would like to spend a day dedicated to fish and seafood dishes, challenge their culinary skills, gain new knowledge about seafood cuisine and delight their appetite, the Fonda Fish Farm is the answer. Situated in the magnificent nature of the Slovenian Istria, in the middle of the Bay of Piran, in the heart of the fishing preserve and the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park, the Fonda Fish Farm delivers a truly unforgettable experience and shares secrets about the selection of young fish spawn and the right type of feed, manual feeding and all aspects of caring for the environment, health and growth of several generations of the Piran sea bass. The farm can be even visited by water on a stand-up paddleboard!

Meet the Slovenian underwater world

The motor boat Subaquatic is the sole vessel on the Slovene Istria that simultaneously offers a

visit to a picturesque underwater world and a marvellous panoramic cruise. The boat can hold up to fifty passengers, twelve of whom can alternate in viewing the underwater world through the large windows in the hull of the boat. The geological composition of the sea bed, flora and fauna of the inshore, underwater overhangs and plantations of mussels can

be studied during the ride. The boat sails the route from Piran-Fiesca-Strunjan and back and boasts a beautiful panoramic experience of the seaboard and an enchanting sea view of Slovenia's coastal towns. A unique opportunity to come face-to-face with Slovenian sea life that is just as curious and excited as you.



ON THE MENU

Culinary art that is a fusion of Mediterranean and Istrian cuisine

With some of the best salt, olive oil, world-renowned, ecologically farmed sea bass from the Fonda family, excellent vegetables and tasty fruit from the Dragonja river valley, it is no coincidence that connoisseurs from all over the world have been flocking not only to high-profile restaurants but also to the area's many small, inconspicuous countryside inns. 'Must-try' typical local dishes include *bobiči*,

riži-biži, *fuži* with truffles, *fritaja* with asparagus, Piran sea bass in salt...

LIFESTYLE

It's all about the salt

The warm moderate Mediterranean climate and the high salt content in the soil and salt pans of the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park create an unusual living environment. The same can be said of the region's lifestyle - the tradition and love for its famous salt is expressed in many unexpected

ways. The salt, praised by chefs from all around the world, is registered as a Protected Designation of Origin, and is not milled or refined, is rich in minerals and tastes extraordinary. Another speciality is Piran sea bass in salt - one of the healthiest and most delicious ways to prepare sea bass. Not forgetting the famous dark chocolate with Fleur De Sel, a true delicacy for connoisseurs. And last but not least, an unusual salty treasure is the Lepa Vida Thallasso Spa, with its unique location right in the midst of the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park.



PRE- AND POST-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOURS

PRE-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOUR

Truffle Hunt

Engage yourself in a search for the "diamond of the kitchen". Istria is very famous for its truffles - a highly esteemed and prized delicacy in the world of gastronomy. Under the supervision and guidance of professionals, one can learn the basics of truffle hunting, while specially trained dogs aid in the search for prestigious white truffles amid beautiful Istrian landscapes. After a successful day of "hunting" it is time for an exquisite truffle-based dinner in the famous restaurant Stari Kaštel.

POST-CONGRESS DESTINATION TOUR

Saltpan worker for a day

The Sečovlje salt pans in Sečovlje Salina Nature Park are the northernmost salt pans in the Mediterranean and one of the most beautiful landscapes in Slovenia. Guided tours are

available for visitors who wish to get to know a little more about the park and its salt-making tradition. The saltpan adventure "Saltpan worker for a day" acquaints visitors with the

work in the salt pans and offers them the opportunity to try traditional saltpan work using traditional tools in the unique environment of the Sečovlje salt pans.



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

1. Portorož has been known as a health resort since the 13th century when monks treated people with seawater and brine.
2. In 1921 Portorož hosted its first large international conference, which is now considered the beginning of the city's meetings industry.
3. The first flight from Portorož over Venice and Pavia to Treviso was performed in 1926 and was 575km-long.
4. The dark chocolate with Fleur de Sal contains at least 62% cocoa solids.
5. Producing salt flower in the Sečovlje salt pans is based on a 700-year-old method.
6. In 2001, the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park and the Museum of Salt-making were proclaimed a cultural monument of national importance.
7. The Bernardin Congress Centre, with a total capacity of 2,600 people, was the first and is now the largest convention centre in Slovenia.
8. The Aquarium, in Portorož's neighbouring town Piran, holds around 200 species from the depths of the submersed world.
9. The Kempinski Hotel's gardens cover over 5000m².
10. There are two casinos in Portorož where people have been throwing the dice of luck for more than a century.



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

As its window to the rest of the world, the coast plays a crucial role for Slovenia. This is the only part of the Slovenian territory that is not only accessible by road and air (four airports: Trieste, Pula, Ljubljana and Portorož), but also by sea - through the modern Portorož marina.



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.
Arts & Convention Centre Avditorij Portorože	6	2 256	220	300	500	2 348	648
Bernardin Hotels	19	1 100	350	350	1 000	2 200	1 085
Portus Congress Centre, LifeClass	10	520	280	230	450	1 600	495
Tartini Piran Theatre	1	263	/	70	180	640	440
Kempinski Palace Portorož	6	225	160	200	250	492	252
Metropol Congress Centre	5	200	140	350	500	400	250
Faculty of Tourism Studies -Turistica	2	192	/	/	/	/	/
Boutique Hotel Portorož	3	130	70	150	150	140	140
Hotel Lucija conference room	1	60	40	/	/	60	60
Hotel Barbara conference room	1	60	40	20	60	50	50

HOTELS			
HOTEL	CATEGORY	NUMBER OF ROOMS	LOCATION
Kempinski Palace Portorož	5* superior	181	Portorož
Grand Hotel Bernardin	5*	241	Bernardin
Mind Hotel Slovenia	5*	144	Portorož
Remisens Premium Hotel Metropol	5*	104	Portorož
Hotel Piran	4*	92	Piran
Hotel Histrion	4*	276	Bernardin
Grand Hotel Portorož	4*	196	Portorož
Hotel Riviera	4*	183	Portorož
Hotel Apollo	4*	87	Portorož
Hotel Mirna	4*	80	Portorož
Hotel Neptun	4*	87	Portorož
Remisens Premium Casa Rosa	4*	90	Portorož
Remisens Premium Casa Bel Moretto	4*	70	Portorož
Boutique Hotel Portorož	4*	83	Portorož
Barbara Piran Beach Hotel & Spa	3*	55	Fiesa

Hotel Vile Park	3*	239	Bernardin
Remisens Hotel Lucija	3*	180	Portorož

TOP REFERENCES

CONGRESS	VENUE	DATE	NO. OF DELEGATES
Festival of Slovenian Film Awards	Arts & Convention Centre Avditorij Portoroše	September 2017	6 500
Microsoft Slovenia	Grand Hotel Bernardin 5*	2010-2018	1 000
European and Mediterranean Film Festival	Tartini Piran Theatre	September 2017	1 000
Herbalife Slovenia	Grand Hotel Bernardin 5*	2010-2018	800
Salsa Summer Festival	Grand Hotel Bernardin 5*	2013-2018	600
Meeting of Dentists of Slovenia	Arts & Convention Centre Avditorij Portoroše	June 2017	500
SOF	Kempinski Palace Portorož	April 2017	500
International Whaling commission	Grand Hotel Bernardin 5*	2014, 2016	400
Chamber of Craft and Small Business of Slovenia: Professional caterers meeting	Arts & Convention Centre Avditorij Portoroše	November 2017	370
Piran Days of Architecture	Tartini Piran Theatre	November 2017	260
Krka	Metropol Hotels	13-19 May, 2015	190
Slovenian Chemical Days	Metropol Hotels	28-30 Sept 2016	150
Bia Separations	Metropol Hotels	25-30 May 2016	120
Studio Moderna	Metropol Hotels	23-30 September 2017	100
Daimler Event	Terrace 99, Hotel Piran	June 2016	90



PORTOROŠE CONVENTION BUREAU
 Contact person: Mr. Fredi Fontanot
 Obala 16, SI6320 Portoroše, Slovenia
 T: +386 (0)5 674 82 63
 E: fredi@portoroz.si
www.portoroz.si

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:

Slovenian Convention Bureau
Vojkova cesta 65, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
Tel: +386 1 569 12 60
E-mail: info@slovenia-convention.com

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

CD CONGRESS & EVENTS MANAGEMENT

Contact Person: Dušica Todorović

Telefon: +386 (0)1 241 71 24

E-mail: dusica.todorovic@cd-cc.si

www.cd-cc.si

DEKON. SI

Contact Person: Luka Zajc

Telefon: +386 (0)1 300 26 23

E-mail: lukazajc@dekon.si

www.dekon.si

TOLERANCA MARKETING

Contact Person: Natalija Bah Čad

Telefon: +386 (0)1 430 51 03

E-mail: natalija@toleranca.eu

www.toleranca.eu



PROFESSIONAL
CONGRESS
ORGANIZER
(PCO)



Slovenian
Convention
Bureau



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



Azra Botonjić

M: +386 30 312 612

T: +386 1 569 12 60

E: azra.botonjic@slovenia-convention.com

www.congress-ambassador.si

SLOVENSKI AMBASADORSKI PROGRAM

“For also knowledge itself is power.”

Francis Bacon

www.congress-ambassador.si

Project organizer and supporting partners:



DESTINATION CLUBS CONTACTS

LJUBLJANA

Ljubljana Convention Bureau



Jan Oršič

T: +386 1 306 44 51,
M: +386 31 810 265
E: jan.orsic@visitljubljana.si
www.visitljubljana.com
www.meetinljubljana.com



Tatjana Radovič

T: +386 1 306 45 84
M: +386 41 977 730
E: tatjana.radovic@visitljubljana.si
www.visitljubljana.com
www.meetinljubljana.com

MARIBOR

Maribor – Pohorje Tourist Board



Bernarda Karo

T: +386 2 234 66 08
M: +386 51 320 162
E: convention@maribor.si
bernarda.karo@maribor.si
www.visitmaribor.si

BLED

Bled Convention Bureau



Vesna Klemenčič

T: +386 4 578 03 00
M: +386 51 620 482
E: meetings@visitbled.si
www.bled.si
www.bled.si/en/meetings/bled-convention-bureau/

PORTOROŽ

Portorož Tourist Board



Fredi Fontanot

T: +386 5 674 82 62
M: +386 40 531 570
E: fredip@portoroz.si
www.portoroz.si

NOVA GORICA

Hit Group



Suzana Pavlin

T: +386 5 336 42 34
M: +386 41 705 189
E: suzana.pavlin@hit.si
www.hit.si

KRANJSKA GORA

Hit Alpinea



Milan Sajovic

T: +386 4 588 44 80
M: +386 51 319 455
E: milan.sajovic@hit-alpinea.si
www.hit-alpinea.si

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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