

**Day 1 - 12 Sept. Wednesday Ptuj**

Overnight and welcome dinner in hotel in Ptuj Thermal Spa Hotel. (D,)

**Day 2 - 13 Sept. Thursday / Ptuj – Jeruzalem Wine Road**

Ptuj is one of the oldest towns in Slovenia. Its history reaches back to the Stone Age, but the city experienced its greatest flowering in the Roman period. It is a city of fairs, wine cellars and thermal springs. Visit Ptuj Castle Museum and old town center where you visit the oldest wine cellar in Slovenia and sample some wine before driving to the Jeruzalem rolling hills for lunch on the farm

Jeruzalem area is covered by vineyards, roads lined by poplar trees, historic cottages, and quaint churches. In afternoon experience the magic of nature, and the people of Prekmurje. The Mura River and the floating mill which grinds cereals once again. This is the Island of Love. Cross the river on ferry the old-fashioned way. The ferry moves on the river with help of the river current. Overnight in Ptuj Thermal Spa Hotel. (B,L,)

**Day 3 - 14 Sept. Friday / Ptuj – Maribor – Ptujška gora – Ptuj**

Morning visit of Maribor embraced in its grapevine growing hills and the Mariborsko Pohorje mountain. Located near the Slovenian border with Austria, along side of the Drava River. Maribor is the capital of Štajerska, the Slovenian Styria. Visit Vinag winery and taste some wine before visit the oldest vine in the world. Free for lunch in center of town. Then on to Ptujška gora to visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Mercy. This Mary's pilgrimage shrine is a beautiful example of Gothic architecture and one of the most beautiful Slovenian cultural monuments. Dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight in Ptuj Thermal Spa Hotel. (B,D,)

**Day 4 - 15 Sept. Saturday / Ptuj – Celje – Žalec – Logarska dolina – Ljubljana**

Today visit Celje, the third largest city in Slovenia. Admire amazing »City under a city« the ruins of Roman Celea discovered only a few years ago. Next will be Zalec. To strengthen the image of Zalec as a centre of hops Europe's first "beer fountain." was built. Green Gold Fountain in the center of the town. Taste some good beer from the fountain before lunch at the Vršnik farm in the hills of Roganov kot. Continue to Landscape Park Logar Valley, (Logarska dolina) In the Logar Valley you can admire pristine green nature at every step in this alpine glacial valley. At the end of the valley is the Rinka waterfall. Magnificent 90 m high arc of water is the highest single unbroken waterfall in Slovenia. After visit drive to Ljubljana, the political and cultural heart of the Slovenian nation. Overnight in Ljubljana center. (B,L,)

**Day 5 - 16 Sept. Sunday / Ljubljana – Brezje – Bled – Bohinj – Ljubljana**

Attend morning Mass at Brezje in the Basilica of St. Mary Help of Christians of Brezje, Slovenian National Marian Shrine. Then explore Lake Bled, the jewel of Julian Alps. Visit Bled Island and the Castle. Lunch in a local restaurant deep in Triglav National Park arriving to Lake Bohinj. The largest permanent lake in the valley of the Julian Alps, will greet you in all its glory, a picture of peace and serenity. It's brooding and mystical feel are encouraged by the steep mountain faces that rise out of the lake on the northern side, with mountain peaks also dominating the background. After learn about the way mountain people lived. Life in Bohinj mountain pastures is presented through various artefacts which reveal a wealth of ethnological heritage in this area in Alpine Dairy Museum. Drive back to Ljubljana for overnight. (B,L,)



### **Day 6 - 17 Sept. Monday / Ljubljana – Postojna – Cerknica Lake – Ljubljana**

After breakfast walking sightseeing tour of the city. In Ljubljana the old meets the new; and it seems that history has spent all of the settlement's five millennia preparing it to become the nation's capital. It has managed to retain traces from all periods of its rich history; from the legacy of Roman Emona; through to the Renaissance, Baroque and Art Nouveau periods characterised in the romantic bridges adorning the Ljubljanica river. Free for lunch before visiting the famous Postojna Caves. A fantastic web of tunnels, passages, galleries and halls, the astonishing diversity of Karst. Visitors get to see 5km of the cave on 1½-hour tours. On the way back to Ljubljana stop at Lake Cerknica, one of the largest intermittent lakes in Europe. During the dry season, the lake disappears, which enables paddling, fishing, hiking or grass mowing in the same area in just one year. Dinner and overnight in Ljubljana (B,D,)



### **Day 7 - 18 Sept. Tuesday / Ljubljana – Ribnica – Kočevski Rog – Novo Mesto - Ljubljana**



Today experience Dolenjska in all its beauty - full of winegrowing hills and forests. Visit Handicraft Center in Ribnica which is best known for woodenware making and pottery, which boast a tradition of several hundred years. It is one of the oldest and at the same time a very unique cottage industry. Then on to Kočevski Rog, virgin forest. Kočevje is one of the best preserved natural areas in Central Europe. 90% of its area is covered in forest, some of it a primeval virgin forest that has never been cultivated or interfered with by humankind. Drive through the forest to visit a memorial site of victims of communist crimes. Next is Novo Mesto, the city on a bend of the Krka River and Capital of Lower Carnolia (Dolenjska). On the farm in the center of Biotehnics and Tourism you will see how students cultivate the land and try the food that students will prepare for you. Overnight in Ljubljana.

(B,L,)

### **Day 8 - 19 Sept. Wednesday / Ljubljana – Vršič – Soča – Kobarid – Brda – Portorož**

Vršič pass is the highest road pass in Slovenia connecting Kranjska Gora (Gorenjska region) with Bovec (Primorska region). The road, built by Russian war prisoners during the 1st World War, runs through the heart of the Julian Alps and the views from the road simply call out for a stop-over. (weather permitting). On the other side of the pass, descend to the Soča Valley that was the first destination in Slovenia to earn the title European Destination of Excellence (EDEN). The River Soča, which has a distinct emerald green colour, is considered to be one of the most beautiful rivers in Europe. The mountainous landscape above the River Soča was the scene of the largest mountain battle in history during World War I. Visit Kobarid Museum after lunch in a local restaurant. In afternoon drive to Goriška Brda, hidden corner of Western Slovenia often referred as the »Tuscany of Slovenia« due to its hilltop villages and rolling hillside lined with grapevines. Visit one of the wineries and taste some wine before we descend to the coast to the Slovenian sea resort of Portorož for overnight. (B,L,)



### **Day 9 - 20 Sept. / Thursday – Portorož – Piran – Cruise – Portorož**

Explore Piran a typical medieval city on the Slovenian coast. Get to know its rich history and culture. In Piran, you will feel as though you have stepped right into a picture postcard. You will be charmed by the narrow streets within the old town walls. Then on the leisurely panoramic cruise with lunch while you admire highlights of the Slovenian coast. Rest of the day at your leisure. Free for dinner in Portorož. (B,L,)

### **Day 10 - 21 Sept. Friday / Portorož – Saltworks – Fish Farm – Portorož**

After breakfast visit to Secovlje saltworks, the oldest economic activity in the area. A seven hundred year old tradition of salt production is carried on in order to preserve natural and cultural heritage. You learn of salt production walking through salt fields consisting of evaporation ponds and crystallisation ponds and in the Museum of Salt Making. Saltworks are on the list of Ramsar wetlands of international importance. Next is a visit to a private fish farm, with a demonstration of manual fish feeding, explanation of the particular fish farming methods used, presentation and history of the Fonda Piran Sea Bass brand. Degustation of their products with local wine. The rest of the day at your own pace. Dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight in Portorož. (B,L,D,)



### **Day 11 - 22 Sept. Saturday / Portorož – End of Tour**

After breakfast end of tour. (B)

