

# Slovenia

*Julian Alps • 6 car tours • 75 long and short walks*

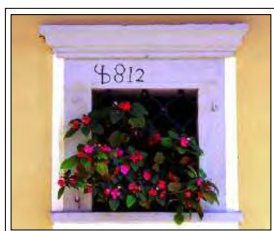


**GPS**

This is a sample from the  
PDF edition of  
*Landscapes of*  
**SLOVENIA**  
*and the Julian Alps*

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*a countryside guide*  
Fifth edition



*David and Sarah*  
*Robertson*

This shorter sampler includes some of the introductory text, the introductions to each of the main sections (Picnicking, Car Touring and Walking) with an example of each. There is a total of 136 pages, plus two pull-out touring maps, in the full book.



SUNFLOWER BOOKS



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#### Touring map/transport information

*inside back cover*





# Getting there and getting about

**Flying** to Brnik, Ljubljana, the only international airport with flights from the UK and Ireland, is the best option for a short visit. Adria Airways, Slovenia's national airline ([www.adria.si](http://www.adria.si)), easyJet and Wizzair depart from many British airports. Most international car hire firms have offices in large towns and at the airport, and there are also independent rental agencies. Package tours are on offer too — the usual centres being Bled, the Bohinj Valley, Kranjska Gora and the coastal resorts.

It is quite feasible to **take your own transport** from Britain if you are planning a longer stay. The journey from the Channel ports to Slovenia can take less than two days. Roads through Belgium and Germany are toll-free, but to drive on Austrian and Slovenian motorways you must buy a 'vignette', available at or before the border from petrol stations. See [www.amzs.si](http://www.amzs.si) for all relevant driving regulations.

While the best way to enjoy Slovenia and reach all our walks easily is by car, we have also tried to cater for those who do not have their own transport. The provincial **bus service** (see information on the reverse of the touring map) is both reliable and reasonable, and all towns are linked by the bus network. Some walks start from town centres, but for those in remoter locations we have always indicated if buses ([www.ap-ljubljana.si](http://www.ap-ljubljana.si)) stop nearby. The tourist information centres will provide you with up-to-date timetables to supplement the information on the touring map. **Taxis** are only available in some towns.

For those visitors based in Ljubljana, **trains** and buses radiate out to all regions. Walks around Bled and Bohinj are easily accessible as a day out from the capital. **Coach tours** are less than ideal for walking, but do give an introduction to this beautiful country. Many start from Bled or Ljubljana and go to some of the areas and attractions we visit on our walks.

**Cycling** is a wonderful way to explore Slovenia. By camping and staying in hostels or B&Bs, nearly all our walks are easily accessible. Bikes can be carried on trains and, if there is room, on buses. Contact Cycling UK ([www.cyclinguk.org](http://www.cyclinguk.org)) or the Slovenian Tourist Board for further information (see page 41).

Although there are no border controls, you should always carry your **passport** as a means of identification.



# Picnicking

Outdoor eating is an important part of any holiday and in Slovenia there are many wonderful, easily-reached picnic spots. We have indicated on the touring map the more attractive roadside picnic areas, but we would suggest that you park your car and venture away from the road.

Below are our favourite picnic places. Some are just off the road, while to reach others requires a bit more effort that will be rewarded by seclusion and views. All are easily accessible, some following one of the walks described in the book for a short distance, others making excellent short walks in themselves.

The symbol **P** printed in green on the appropriate walking or touring map indicates the location of the picnic, and many of them are illustrated. The symbol **○** indicates a picnic in full sun. **All picnickers should read the Country code on page 40 and go quietly in the countryside.**

Enjoy the country's many delicious breads and the wide variety of cheeses, smoked meats and fruit, washed down by the inexpensive local beer or wine (not the driver!), fruit juice or bottled water.

## **1 Lake Bled: north shore** (map page 44 or 47, photograph page 44)

☞ (Car tour 1) Park in Bled. 5-25min on foot. Picnic in the park or further along the shore on the lakeside benches. *Not our most secluded spot, but who can resist a picnic enjoying the tranquil views of the castle, Otok and the church.*

## **2 Lake Bled: Osojnica viewpoint or south shore** (map page 44 or 47, photographs pages 16, 45)

☞ (Car tour 1) From Bled drive through Mlino and then turn right after the Bled Hotel to return to the lakeside. Park near the entrance to the campsite (fee). There are then two possibilities. a) 35min on foot. Wear stout shoes. Follow Walk 1 on page 44 from the 37min-point to the Mala Osojnica viewpoint. *From here*

*you enjoy picture-postcard views across Lake Bled to the mountains beyond* (photograph page 45). b) 12min on foot. Follow (a), but omit the climb to the viewpoint; continue around the lake to our 'Lovers' seat'. *A fairy-tale scene and the 'classic' view of Otok and Bled Castle shown on page 16.*

## **3 Triglav face to face** (map page 58, photographs opposite)

☞ (Car tour 1) Follow the driving directions for Walk 7, stopping on the way to visit the picturesque waterfalls of Peričnik (visited on Alternative Walk 7 and shown on page 12). 15min on foot. Follow Walk 7 to just beyond the 'piton' memorial, where there is a pleasant grassy area (paid parking). *Enjoy the awe-inspiring grandeur of Slovenia's highest mountain, Triglav, from near the foot of its towering north face.*



*Top: view to Triglav and V. Draški Vrh from Viševnik (Walk 6);  
above: the summit of Triglav from V. Draški Vrh (Alternative walk 6);  
right: the 'piton' memorial to the Partisan mountaineers in the Vrata Valley (Picnic 3, Walk 7)*

### **Triglav — 'Old Three Heads'**

The only national park in Slovenia is called after its highest and most famous mountain, Triglav. This centre-piece of the Julian Alps, at 2864m (9394ft), has three beautiful peaks. In folklore it was considered a three-headed god keeping a watchful eye on the earth, sky and the underworld. The summit was first reached in 1778, and the mountain features on the country's national flag.

It is expected that all true

Slovenians should climb to the summit at least once in their lives, and many do so every year. The ascent involves a minimum of one overnight stay in a mountain hut and is, therefore, beyond the scope of this book. For any intrepid mountaineers there is plenty of information available on routes, and guides can be hired from local tourist agencies and the Alpine Association (PZS; see page 38).



## 10 Landscapes of Slovenia and the Julian Alps

### 4 Vršič (map page 66) ○

🚗 (Car tour 1) Park at the top of the Vršič Pass. 🚌 (summer only) from Kranjska Gora or Bovec. Approximately 30min on foot. Walk up the gravel track beside the Tičarjev Dom and follow signs to Poštarski Dom. Picnic on one of the nearby grassy hills. *Enjoy stunning mountain scenery opposite the amazing Ajdovska Deklica (Girl's Face), on the cliffs of Prisank.*

### 5 Kugy Monument

(map page 69)

🚗 (Car tour 1) Park off the road at Bend No. 48 on the south side of the Vršič Pass. 🚌 Buses stop nearby. 2min on foot. Follow the signposted footpath (Walk 12) to the statue, and picnic nearby. *Wonderful views of the Trenta Valley and of Jalovec (2645m), one of Slovenia's most difficult mountains to climb.*

River Soča — Velika Korita (Car tour 1, Picnic 6)





# Touring

The geography of Slovenia, which dictates the layout of the road system, has inevitably affected the way that we have written up our tours. Where possible, we have designed a circular drive, but in some areas this is not feasible. On each car tour we have started from one base where there is accommodation, but we have also suggested other places where you might like to stay.

In our descriptions we concentrate on the landscape and on taking you to some enchanting picnic spots and walks. For historical details and other interesting facts about the country, you need a good general guide (see page 41), although the tourist information centres which you will find in most towns provide colourful brochures about each district.

Slovenia's **roads** are of a good standard, but on some tours you will find short stretches without asphalt. These unsurfaced sections are generally well maintained but do make for slower motoring. **Road signs** are easy to follow, but do *not* rely on navigating by road numbers, as these are only shown on kilometre marker posts. **Service stations** are numerous. We have found that Slovenians are considerate drivers but, if you are admiring the view, do pull over and allow the following vehicles to pass.

The **pull-out touring maps** (one covering just Car tour 1 in the Julian Alps and the other most of the rest of the country) are **designed to be held out opposite the touring notes** and contain all the information you need when driving in the countryside. In towns, where the route is difficult to follow, our written directions are very specific. At appropriate intervals

*The colourful port at Piran (Car tour 3);  
see also photograph pages 26-27.*



**Parking charges:** There is a parking charge for all car parks in the vicinity of **Lake Bohinj**. If you are staying at least two nights in the Bohinj area, you can buy a Mobility Guest Card which allows unlimited parking in addition to other benefits ([www.bohinj.si/en/soft-mobility/parking/](http://www.bohinj.si/en/soft-mobility/parking/)). These can be purchased at your accommodation or the tourist offices.

we have shown cumulative distance in kilometres and have included an overall estimated driving time. On the motorways, for which you must purchase a ‘vignette’ (available at the borders and at petrol stations), the speed limit is 130km/h (80 miles per hour), but on all other roads do not expect to average more than 56km/h (35mph). Allow ample time for stops and extra time for any detours. **Symbols** used in the text are explained in the key on the touring maps.

We usually pack a picnic for our excursions, but you will find plenty of places, especially *gostilna* (pubs) and *gostišče* (inns with accommodation) along the way, where you can stop for a drink or a meal.

**All motorists should read the Country code on page 40 and go quietly in the countryside. *Srečno! Good luck!***



## Car tour 1: A CIRCUIT IN THE JULIAN ALPS

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**Bled • Mojstrana • Kranjska Gora • Vršič • Trenta • Soča • Bovec • Kobarid • Tolmin • Most na Soči • Bača pri Modreju • Podbrdo • Bohinjska Bistrica • Ribčev Laz • Bled**

*219km/137mi; 5 hours' driving*

On route: Picnics 1-12; Walks 1-24

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**T**his is a long drive, but it is quite possible to divide it into two days with an overnight stay in the Soča Valley. The roads range from fast motorway near Bled to the hairpin bends of Vršič and narrow streets through villages. We have started this tour from Bled, as it is *the* tourist magnet, but it is a busy town and you may prefer quieter places like Kranjska Gora, Bovec, Kobarid or the Bohinj Valley. It is easy to find accommodation, and campsites are numerous.

*Otok and Bled Castle, from the southern shore of Lake Bled (Picnic 2b, Walk 1)*





Leave **Bled**★ (i♣♣♣♣♣♣♣ WC; Walks 1-6; Picnics 1 and 2) on the Jesenice/Ljubljana road, driving downhill to cross the Sava Dolinka and, ignoring signs for Radovljica, join the motorway signposted Jesenice/Kranjska Gora (vignette required). Enjoy the panorama of mountain scenery as you speed along the valley past the large industrial town of Jesenice. The huge bucket wheel turbine you will see on the opposite side of the road was built in 1899 and used in the local iron foundry until 1986. Less than 2km beyond the service station, leave the motorway following the signs for Kranjska Gora. (If you keep straight on you will end up in Austria, the border being only a short distance away at the tunnel entrance.)

Soon (27km) you pass the attractive villages of **Mojstrana** (M) and **Dovje** (♠♣), from where you can see Triglav, the country's highest mountain (see box on page 9). To get to Picnic 3 or Walk 7 drive through Mojstrana and up the unsurfaced but excellent road in the Vrata Valley to Aljažev Dom (map page 58), perhaps taking in Alternative walk 7 to Slap Peričnik. It is also well worth while turning right off the main road to make a short detour through Dovje, a village untouched by tourism; in the picturesque centre you will see the display of replica beehive panels shown on page 6.

Following the Sava Dolinka further up the valley you come to **Gozd Martuljek** (♣♣♠♣). Walk 8 visits the nearby waterfalls. You pass numerous barns and hayracks set haphazardly but picturesquely amidst the meadows as you drive on to **Kranjska Gora**★ (40km i♣♣♣♣♣♣♣ ♣♣♣♣; Walks 8 and 9). If you are not stopping, you can bypass the town by following signs for Vršč

but, if you need to buy anything, do so here — there are no other shops of any size before Bovec, 45km away! Kranjska Gora is an important winter resort but is especially famous for its international ski jumping centre at Planica. Like many ski resorts there has been unsightly building, but the centre still retains some of its old character. At Borovška Cesta 63 is Liznjek House, with an interesting household collection and furnishings unique to this area.

Beyond the town you soon pass the translucent blue **Lake Jasna**★ (♠♣♣♣♣), beside which is a statue of the mythical chamois, Zlatorog, perched on a boulder (see box on page 21). Take a deep breath now as you begin the famous ascent to Vršč, a pass at 1611m. This route seems to have gained a fearful reputation, but if you drive with caution, the steep hairpins will present no problem. The first two bends are a foretaste of things to come as the road winds up through thick forest. It is fun to check your progress (each bend is numbered and the altitude recorded).

At Bend 8 (♠) stop to see the beautifully restored chapel built by the Russian prisoners during World War I to commemorate their 400 comrades who died in an avalanche whilst building this amazing road. After Bend 10 the trees thin and the splendour of the route begins to reveal itself, with huge cliffs towering above. Stop between Bends 16 and 17 at an excellent viewpoint (♣♣). There is a small military cemetery after Bend 21 and, soon after, you are at **Vršč**★ (52km ♣♣♣♣♣ WC; Walks 10 and 11; Picnic 4).

There now follows a steep descent for 10km. Look out for the signposted lay-by, **Razgledna Točka**

## 18 Landscapes of Slovenia and the Julian Alps

(📍) — a flat area on the site of an old military cableway. It has an excellent viewpoint indicator. At Bend 48 there is parking and a footpath to the **Kugy Monument★**, a statue of the pioneer climber and author, Julius Kugy (👤; Walk 12; Picnic 5), and at Bend 49 you can take a short detour (4km) to **Izvir Soče** (🌿; Walks 11 and 12), the source of the river Soča.

Having conquered Vršič, you now descend gradually through the valley towards Bovec, following the cascading blue, blue Soča. You can visit the **Alpinum Juliana★** (🌿), founded in 1926, a garden containing some 900 examples of alpine flora, not long before you come to **Trenta** (65km *i*ΔM; Walk 12). The village is home to the **Trenta Museum★**, dedicated to the Trenta mountain guides, which houses excellent displays and information about the Triglav National Park.

Continue on to **Soča** (74km 🏠Δ🌿), a collection of houses alongside the road. Stop for a look inside the church of Sv. Jožef to view the modern frescoes, painted by Tone Kralj in 1944, which show Michael the Archangel fighting with Satan and two figures symbolising Hitler and Mussolini. Just beyond the village, turn left into the **Lepena**

**Valley** and park beside the river (Picnic 6; photograph page 10). Here the Soča emerges from **Velika Korita**, a narrow and dramatic ravine. It is possible to walk along the edge, but do be careful as the gorge overhangs in many places and the limestone rock can be quite slippery. The Soča, from here all the way to Tolmin, is a playground for canoeists and rafters as they pit their skills against the river's currents and rapids.

The valley widens and, after you cross the Koritnica, you come to a war cemetery with a huge cross, where you turn left to **Bovec★** (84km *i*🏠🏠Δ🌿📍; Walk 13). This small town, the scene of terrible fighting during World War I, is now the most important centre for tourism in the Soča Valley. Here you may sample rafting, paragliding, flying and skiing, not to mention hiking!

Beyond Bovec, you cannot miss the amazing sight of **Slap Boka★** (Picnic 7). This waterfall is almost 30m wide and flows straight out of the face of the Kanin Mountains, dropping more than 100m.

Everywhere you go in Slovenia you will be amazed by the wonderful floral displays. Flowers pour out of window boxes, cover stairways and

*Špik from the Hotel Špik (Walk 8)*



*Top: view to Triglav from the 37min-point  
in Walk 12 from Trenta;  
middle: suspension bridge over the river  
Soča, below the Kugy Monument;  
bottom: Poključka Soteska (Walk 5)*

surround vegetable plots. Amidst this blaze of colour are neat log piles ready for the winter. You pass through the villages of **Žaga**, **Srpenica** and **Trnovo** (a good place to watch kayakers) before reaching **Kobarid**★ (105km ; Walks 15-17), set below the impressive peak of Krn.

From Kobarid you can continue on the fast road down to Tolmin but, for a much more interesting drive, cross **Napoleon's Bridge** and turn right on a quiet road beside the river. (But turn left here to Drežnica for Walks 14 and 18a and 18b.) You may see cows being led out to pasture and the countryside will be alive with people tending their fields and gardens. There are wayside churches and, in the little village of **Volarje**, old houses covered in vines.

**Tolmin** (121km ) is the administrative centre of the Soča Valley, with modern shops and offices. However, the old town nucleus remains, and traditions and festivals survive. The Tolmin Gorges are a great attraction and not to be missed.

Beyond Tolmin the Soča widens out, becoming an aquamarine lake (; Picnic 8) just before **Most na Soči** (124km ). Here, if you would like a break from driving, you can put your car on the train (details on the touring map) and enjoy a very scenic journey as you are transported up the valley to Podbrdo and then through a tunnel to Bohinjska Bistrica, where you continue the tour.

If you are not taking the train, drive through Most na Soči, past the railway station, and turn left in **Bača pri Modreju**. Continue up the







### *Češnjica from Rudnica (Walk 23)*

narrow valley, winding through the houses in the interesting village of **Klavže**. To reach the start of Walk 19, leave the main tour just after **Hudajužna** and turn left uphill to Stržišče. **Podbrdo** (148km 🚶🚗) is an interesting town. It is industrial as you enter, but becomes more attractive as you drive up the road beside the dammed stream. Beyond, climb a series of zigzags and then

bear left in **Petrovo Brdo**. Suddenly you emerge from the trees to an idyllic alpine scene. You have arrived in **Sorica!** (156km 🚶🚗). Do make a short detour down to the church where there is a parking space just beyond the shrine, and a bench by the statue of the artist Ivan Grohar. There is an interesting waymarked village walk to explore.

To continue, take the left turn







# Walking

Slovenians love the ‘great outdoors’, and one of their favourite activities is hiking, whether it be along easy forest tracks through the lower hills and valleys or up into the mountains. There are over 10,000km of waymarked tracks and paths in Slovenia. We hope you will enjoy these, our favourite walks, and continue exploring, devising your own routes in this remarkable and unspoilt country. There are 41 main walks (plus several completely different alternative hikes) in this guide, 30 of these in the most popular hiking regions, the Julian and Kamniško-Savinjske Alps. We have also included walks from some of the other areas of Slovenia such as the Karst and the Pohorje Massif. These do not have the drama of the high mountains, but their attraction lies in the diversity of landscape and the fascinating natural features.

## G Grading, waymarking, maps, GPS

We hope everyone who reads this guide will find walks to suit his/her ability. We have assigned them **grades** (with a quick overview in the Contents) according to distance covered, height climbed, roughness of paths and any particular difficulties. Here is a brief overview of our gradings.

- easy-moderate — ascents/descents of no more than about 300-500m/1000-1800ft; good surfaces underfoot; easily followed
- moderate-strenuous — ascents/descents may be over 500m/1800ft; variable surfaces underfoot — you must be sure-footed and agile; possible route-finding problems in poor visibility
- expert — only suitable for very experienced hillwalkers
- ⚠ *danger* of vertigo — you must be sure-footed, with a head for heights (but none of our walks demand special climbing techniques)

Do compare your pace with ours on one or two short walks before tackling a long hike: **times** shown at the start of the walks and at various waypoints are *purely walking times and do not include any stops; be sure to allow plenty of extra time.*

All walking in Slovenia is done on paths or tracks, most of which are **waymarked** with target marks (a red circle with a white centre; see photograph page 13), red dashes and/or signposts. For safety's sake, *it is essential to stay on these routes*, which are shown on our maps by an unbroken black line.

You will notice a ‘No. 1’ sign on many walks. This marks the Slovenian Alpine Trail that starts in Maribor, crosses the Pohorje Massif, the Kamniško-Savinjske and Julian Alps and eventually ends at Ankaran, not far from Trieste.



### *Extra equipment for mountain walks*

- Waterproof/windproof jacket
- Sunhat/warm hat and gloves
- Map, compass, whistle, GPS or smartphone (the emergency number is 112, but remember that mobiles can be unreliable in the mountains)

### **Safety**


































- Do not overestimate your ability.
- Avoid walking alone; leave word of your intended route.
- Be prepared to turn back if the route proves too difficult.
- Turn back if the weather deteriorates; widespread thunderstorms can develop very quickly, especially in summer.
- **Avoid** mountain ridge walks if storms are forecast.

## **O**rganisation of the walks

All our walks are grouped according to the car tour from which they are most easily reached. This is clearly shown on the pull-out touring maps inside the back cover of the book. Each walk starts from a parking place or from a town centre and, where indicated, they can also be reached by public transport. Most of our main and alternative walks are circular, while the short walks are often out and back.

At the beginning of each walk you will find essential information — distance and time, grade, equipment, how to get there, nearest accommodation and, if applicable, alternatives for shorter or longer walks.

Below is a key to the **symbols** on the walking maps.

 motorway	 spring, waterfall, etc	 monument
 main road	 church, chapel	 cave
 secondary road	 shrine or cross	 quarry, mine
 motorable track	 cemetery	 mine tunnel
 waymarked route	 picnic tables	 stadium
 cart track, path, trail	 best views	 campsite
 difficult path	 bus stop	 picnic suggestion (see pages 8-13)
 main walk	 car parking	 map continuation
 alternative walk	 railway station	 ski lift
 other route	 castle, fort	 cable car
 400 height in metres	 specified building	 observation tower

## **W**eather

The temperate climatic zone in which Slovenia lies means that the winters are cold and the summers hot. In the mountains snow can fall at any time of the year, and you may find some paths still snow-covered in early June.

The warmest months are July and August, when the

## Walk 2: BLED • SELO • KUPLIJENIK • BOHINJSKA BELA • BLED

**Distance/time:** 14km/8.7mi;  
3h56min

**Grade:** ● easy; on good paths, tracks and roads. One steep climb of 220m/720ft to Kupljenik.

**Equipment:** see page 38; walking shoes

**Transport:** 🚗 or 🚌 to Bled

**Nearest accommodation:** Bled

**Short walk: Bled — Selo — Mlino**

— **Bled.** 5.5km/3.4mi; 1h43min.

● Grade and equipment as above. Follow the main walk to the

Y-junction before the bridge over the Sava Bohinjka (③). Take the right fork and follow the track that winds through the fields where you may see the mobile beehive shown in the box on page 48. After four minutes, when you come to another Y-junction, bear right, following signs for MLINO and OBROČ. Seven minutes later you walk up to an asphalt road where you turn right. You have now rejoined the main walk at the 3h18min-point.

Explore all that is best in rural Slovenia. The changing colours of the seasons make this a walk for any time of year. The fresh green of the spring hay meadows gives way to the bright hues of summer harvest, but our favourite time is autumn, when the apples are picked and the countryside is bathed in a golden light.

**Start the walk** in **Bled** from the SKB BANKA BUILDING (●). Walk up the busy main road, LJUBLJANSKA CESTA, away from the lake, with the shopping centre on your right. Turn right along CANKARJEVA CESTA to pass the Kompas Hotel. Continue up the road by some fine old houses, ignoring a right turn to Straža (12min). Disregard the next turn to Straža as well, and after a right-hand bend, you will come to a SHRINE (①) at a Y-junction.

Take the right fork (signposted to SELO). You leave the modern houses and follow the road through fields and hayracks. To your right is the wooded hillside of Straža. Pass by a pylon and continue along the road. From a bench there is a fine view across Selo to the church at Kupljenik on the far hillside.

Passing some painted BEEHIVES, descend into **Selo** (②; 42min), where you turn left and immediately right at the staggered crossroad, following signposting for KUPLIJENIK. Continue down this road, looking out for corn hanging on the

beautiful barn shown opposite. At the bottom of the hill keep right, passing the exit signs for Selo. Bear left at the Y-junction ahead (③; *the Short walk bears right here*), to cross the bridge over the **Sava Bohinjka** (58min). From the bench on the far side you can enjoy this quiet stretch of river.

Turn right along the track, soon ignoring a left turn to Talez. Keep the field on your left and ignore two tracks off to the right. Continue on to another junction and follow the 'KUPLIJENIK' sign to the right. The track narrows to a stony path and then divides again. Take the right-hand path, climbing steeply up to a SHRINE where there are benches and fine views across to Bled Castle.

Soon the path enters a small clearing, before passing through a narrow band of trees and emerging on a grassy hillside. On your left is a MEMORIAL to a young Partisan of World War II. The path, faint at first, ascends by the trees on your left towards a small painted shrine. Pass the SHRINE, and head up an asphalt

*Corn drying on an attractive barn near Selo*

road. Continue along this road, passing a farmhouse with barns and cherry orchards. When you come to a **WATER TROUGH and TAP** (4; **1h43min**), your climbing is all but done!

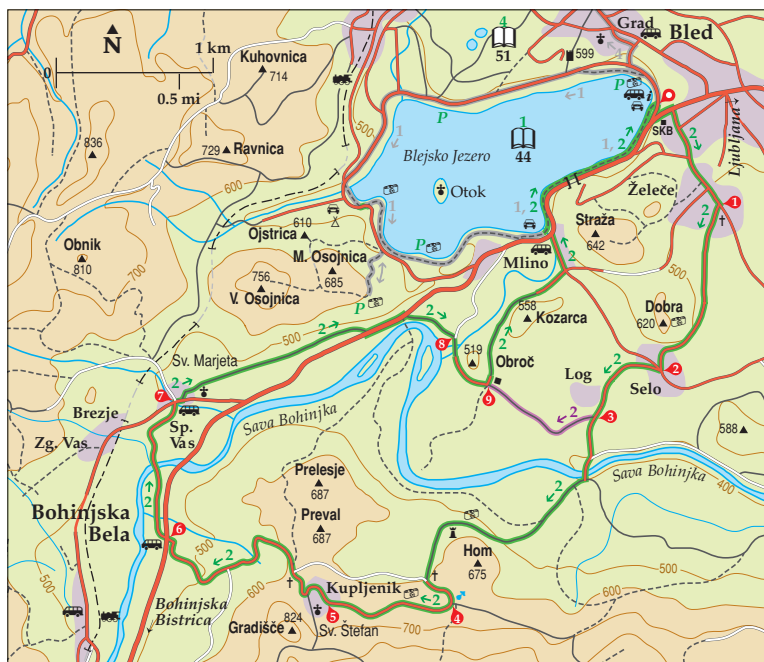
Do not turn left here, but continue along the road that now traverses above the fields, giving wonderful views across to Lake Bled and the surrounding mountains. The small hamlet of **Kupljenik** is ahead and you pass another **MEMORIAL** set between two pine trees. The houses are decorated with flowers and surrounded by apple trees, and above them stands the little church of **Sv. Štefan** (5; **1h58min**). You can peep inside through a small grill.

After one last short incline, begin the descent into the valley. Keep to the left of a **SHRINE** and pass the Kupljenik exit signs. The road zigzags down through meadows dotted with barns. Look out for some **PAINTED BEEHIVE PANELS** on a small hut. In early summer you may find wild strawberries — they are tiny but very tasty! Go straight



across the **MAIN ROAD** (6; **2h26min**) and follow the narrow asphalt road opposite to cross the **Sava Bohinjka** once more. This is a lovely place to stop for a break.

The twisting road beyond the river takes you to **Spodnji Vas**, part of **Bohinjska Bela** (7; **2h40min**). At the top of the hill, in the village centre, there is a shop and bar on your left. If you have time, do explore this attractive village. Turn right down the main village road and after the last house on the left (No 5;







### Bees like bright colours

In most countries you visit you will be able to purchase the local honey, but in few places will the bees be as visible as in Slovenia. You cannot miss the multicoloured ‘chest-of-drawers’ hives — in sheds or on wheels for easy transportation. More rarely seen are the folk art motifs that used to decorate the hives. These picture-story panels are a rare sight nowadays, and you may only

see them in the museums at Radovljica and Maribor — or the replica panels in Dovje (photograph page 6), if you follow Car tour 1.

Do sample the honey — it is fragrant and delicious.

*Photographs: mobile beehive on the Short walk route near Selo (left) and a close-up of the beehive panels (right)*

150m), turn left along a farm track signposted to **MLINO**. You pass a very beautiful **SHRINE** set in the rock face and opposite is the pretty white church of **Sv. Marjeta**. Follow the track through cultivated plots, hayracks and barns and then along the edge of the field below the wooded hillside. After the last barn the track becomes a path that runs parallel to the main road before eventually meeting it. Turn left and walk about 100m beside the main road, then pick up a track that turns off right and downhill. The track meets the Sava Bohinjka again at a bridge that leads to a military camp. Signs warn you not to cross the bridge! Keep straight on, climbing a little, to reach another track on a bend (8; 3h10min).

Very soon you cross a small

**BRIDGE** and the track now becomes an asphalt road. Continue on below the hill of **Obroč**, to a junction with two tracks joining from the right (9; 3h18min). (*The short walk rejoins here*). Keep left uphill, passing the gates of the **WATER TREATMENT WORKS**, then bear left up a track. This climbs steeply before eventually levelling off. Shortly after passing a field on your left, the track forks just before a house. Bear right here, soon meeting an asphalt road at a group of houses (3h32min).

Follow the road round to the right, to a crossroads. Turn left down the hill into **Mlino**, passing the flower-bedecked houses along the narrow street. Soon you will reach **Lake Bled**. Turn right on the lakeside footpath, to return to **Bled** in another 13 minutes (3h56min).



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