



## TOUR PROSPECTUS

This prospectus sets out the contents of the tour and together with the Booking Conditions and Booking Form is the basis of our contract with you.

# Slovenia

## 2 - 15 September 2017

### Tour 1744

This small country the size of Wales, is situated on the sunny side of the Alps. Superb and varied scenery and low traffic volumes make this an ideal cycling destination. The tour starts from Palmanova in Italy then, cycling on quiet roads, crosses over the border to Kobarid in Slovenia and through the beautiful Cepovan Valley to Komen in the heart of Slovenia's vineyards. From Komen, the route heads north through Idrija and Cerklje to Kranj, for two nights, allowing for a day trip by train into Ljubljana, Slovenia's attractive capital city. From Kranj, the route heads west to Lakes Bohinj and Bled and Triglav National Park, with superb views of the Julian Alps before climbing the Vrisic Pass. After descending to the turquoise Soca River, the road parallels the river south to Bovec. The last night in Slovenia will be spent in the village of Medana on the Slovenia/Italy border, one day's cycling back to Palmanova.

#### Itinerary

Sat 2 Sept	Meet at Marco Polo Airport (Venice) at 1300 for vehicle transfer to Palmanova. Assemble bikes. Stay 1 night.
Sun 3 Sept	Cycle from Palmanova to Kobarid. 60km/845m ascent. Optional visit to Kobarid's evocative war museum. Stay 1 night.
Mon 4 Sept	Cycle to Komen in the heart of Slovenia's vineyards. 87km/1235m ascent. Stay 1 night.
Tues 5 Sept	Cycle to Idrija. 63km/1318m ascent. Stay 1 night.
Wed 6 Sept	Cycle to Cerklje. Visit Partisans' Hospital. 61km/1359m ascent. Stay 1 night.
Thur 7 Sept	Cycle to Kranj, a well-preserved medieval town. 52kms/1321m ascent. Stay 2 nights.
Fri 8 Sept	Day at leisure. Optional train ride to Ljubljana cost not included.
Sat 9 Sept	Cycle to Ribcev Laz on the shore of beautiful Lake Bohinj. 67km/1115m ascent. Stay 2 nights.
Sun 10 Sept	Circular cycle ride to famous Lake Bled. 64km/1238m ascent.
Mon 11 Sept	Cycle to Kranska Gora via the beautiful Radovna river valley in Triglav National Park. 61km/1316m ascent. Great views of Slovenia's highest peaks. Stay 1 night.
Tues 12 Sept	Cycle to Bovec, riding up and over the spectacular Vrisic Pass, perhaps two hours climbing over 25 hairpin bends. Stop several times on the long descent to take in the magnificent views before following the amazing turquoise Soca river as it winds southward to Bovec. 50km/777m ascent. Stay 1 night.
Wed 13 Sept	Cycle to Medana. 84km/1300m ascent. Stay 1 night.
Thur 14 Sept	Cycle to Palmanova. 100km/412m ascent. Stay 1 night.
Fri 15 Sept	Vehicle transfer to Marco Polo Airport, Venice where the tour ends.

#### Luggage carrying

Transport will be provided for the transfer of the group and bikes from Marco Polo Airport Venice to Palmanova, and from Palmanova to Marco Polo Airport at the end of the tour. Luggage will be transferred between all accommodations.

#### Accommodation and meals

On 11 nights, rooms will be in 2-4 star hotels of the Slovenia Tourist Board grading system with en-suite facilities, two people sharing a room. Two nights will be in a guesthouse, also with en-suite facilities, two people sharing a room. Breakfasts and evening meals are included except on four nights when breakfast only is included. Vegetarian/fish options might be available if requested; please make your needs clear on the Booking Form.



### Passports, Visas and Health

EU citizens must hold a passport that is still valid for at least six months at the end of the tour.. Holders of non-EU passports are advised to check whether they require a visa.

There are no compulsory health-related requirements for UK residents, but you are strongly advised to check that your tetanus protection has not expired.

### Price - £1455

The price is based on a minimum number of 14 participants taking part in the tour and is calculated at a rate of 1.12 Euros to £1 sterling (based on exchange rates published on [www.x-rates.com](http://www.x-rates.com) on 21 October 2016; please note Booking Conditions, clause 3). If there are insufficient bookings by 25 June 2017, we will contact you and return all monies paid, though in certain circumstances the tour may still run at below minimum numbers but at the same price.

#### Price includes:

- Airport transfers between Marco Polo airport and Palmanova
- 9 nights hotels, half board, sharing rooms
- 2 nights hotels, breakfast only
- 2 nights guest house, breakfast only, sharing rooms
- Vehicle for the transfer of luggage
- CTC Cycling Holidays & Tours costs

#### Price does not include:

- Travel to the start of the tour
- Evening meals on 4 nights
- Drinks with evening meals
- Lunches or refreshments at morning and afternoon stops
- Gratuities for driver
- Any other personal expenses
- Travel Insurance

### Payment schedule

A deposit of £150 per person must accompany the Booking Form, with the final balance of £1305 per person to be paid ten weeks prior to departure, by 25 June 2017.

### Cancellations

Should you be forced to cancel your booking for any reason you must notify us in writing. Cancellation charges are as follows:

Written notice received:	Cancellation charge:
Before 25 June 2017	Deposit (£ 150)
25 June 2017 through to departure	100% (£1455)

### To make a booking

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form together with your deposit and the relevant part of the Travel Insurance Declaration Form **directly to the Tour Manager** (address on Booking Form).

### Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking that you are adequately insured for this tour.

Whether you already hold a policy or will be taking out a new one, the cover it offers must be comparable to that stated in clause 7 of the Booking Conditions, and you must complete the enclosed Insurance Declaration Form and return it with your Booking Form.

CTC Cycling Holidays & Tours Ltd can accept no responsibility for any costs you may incur due to insufficient insurance cover.

## TOUR MANAGER'S INFORMATION SHEET

The information below is given by the Tour Manager to help enquirers decide if the tour is suitable for them.

## **Slovenia** **2 - 15 September 2017** **Tour 1744**

### **The area covered by the Tour**

Slovenia is a small country the size of Wales. It is separated from Austria by the Alps to the north and shares borders with Italy to the west and Croatia to the south and east. The chosen route takes in three different geographical regions: the mountainous area to the north and west of Ljubljana, including Triglav national park and the Vrisic pass; the pre-alpine rolling hills southwest of the capital; and the wine growing Karst plateau close to the Italian border.

### **Rides and rest days**

The tour is classified as enthusiast, and the itinerary will suit those preferring a good standard of accommodation and luggage transfers. There are several long climbs, but the distances are modest, and cycling conditions, i.e. surface, traffic and the availability of refreshments, are excellent. The daylight hours are long so there will be ample time to complete the rides at a leisurely pace if this is your style. Your luggage will be transferred, but the vehicle will not be in attendance throughout the day.

Slovenia is an 'outdoor' orientated country, and, unlike some of its close neighbours, the traffic volumes are low and the standard of driving is cycle friendly. In towns the pavement is often dual use with a marked lane for cyclists. It is recommended that you look for and use this facility.

The terrain is hilly, with over 1000m of accumulative ascent on several days. Daily distances, though, are moderate. It is not practical to ride as one group; riding in smaller groups of similar speed and ability is recommended, re-grouping occasionally. There will

be a rest day at Kranj with the option of a visit by train (not included in the tour cost), to Ljubljana, Slovenia's small and interesting capital city.



### **Travel**

This tour is being run on a land only basis, giving you the opportunity to arrange your own flights from your preferred airport. There are direct flights to Marco Polo Airport (Venice) with British Airways, Easyjet and Monarch Airlines from Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton, Manchester and Birmingham. The pickup time from Marco Polo Airport to Palmanova will be at 1300. The return time will be advised once everyone has booked flights.

On 'land only' bookings, it is very important that you note that neither your Tour Manager nor CTC Holidays & Tours are responsible for you in any way until the appointed time at the designated meeting point. Should you fail to arrive at the appointed time for whatever reason, we will not be responsible for any additional expenses you may incur in order to meet up with the tour group. Before finalising travel arrangements to meet the tour, you should ensure that you have read and understood our booking conditions. Should this tour not attract sufficient bookings to reach the minimum operating size, we may cancel the tour at any time up to 10 weeks before departure. It is therefore recommended that you book fully flexible and refundable transport and accommodation or wait until you have been informed that this tour is going ahead, as in the event of the tour being cancelled, we will not be responsible for any losses incurred.

### **Accommodation / Meals**

A good standard of accommodation has been chosen. There are many delicacies of traditional Slovene cooking as well as excellent wines, apple cider and brandies. If you are vegetarian, choices will be limited. Fish is usually available.

### **Group information**

The maximum group size will be 16 including the Tour Managers.

## **Weather and clothing**

South of the Vrisic Pass the climate is Mediterranean and should be pleasantly warm; sunscreen is advisable. In the Alpine region the weather is more unpredictable. Be sure to bring waterproof/windproof cycling gear.

## **Cycles / Equipment**

Touring cycles, hybrid bikes or MTBs with semi-slick tyres will be suitable. You should ensure your cycle is well maintained, paying particular attention to wheels, tyres and brakes. It is advisable to fit a calibrated cycle computer, as this will aid navigation. Lights will not be necessary. Each participant will be expected to carry sufficient spares and tools to deal with punctures and minor repairs. You will not need to carry luggage, but a rack top pack or bar bag will be useful for carrying wet weather gear, camera, snacks and your map. Road surfaces are generally good.

## **Money**

The currency used in Slovenia is the Euro. Prices for refreshments and alcohol are similar to those in the UK.

## **Maps**

An overall map of the route will be provided, along with GPX files, detailed route instructions and profiles, approximately three weeks prior to the start of the tour.

Both the 'Rough Guide to Slovenia' and the 'Lonely Planet Slovenia' are useful sources of information, as are the following web sites:

[www.slovenia-tourism.si](http://www.slovenia-tourism.si)

[www.bled.si](http://www.bled.si)

[www.burgen.si](http://www.burgen.si)

[www.ljubljana.si](http://www.ljubljana.si)

## **Travel Insurance**

In addition to travel insurance, EU nationals should carry a European Health Insurance Card. This enables you to take advantage of emergency medical services free or at a discount under a reciprocal provision that exists between EU member states. Your travel insurer may refuse to meet the extra costs of medical treatment if you do not carry this card.

## **About the Tour Managers**

We are both enthusiastic cyclists and have been CTC members for 25 years. We have led tours to many worldwide destinations, and each year we look forward to the reunion with regular travelling companions but also get great satisfaction from introducing new members to the unique camaraderie of CTC holidays. We do not have a set style of leadership but adapt to suit the needs of the group. We encourage all prospective participants to contact us to talk through the tour prior to booking.

We have organised and led several tours to Slovenia.

### **John and Pat Ashwell**

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