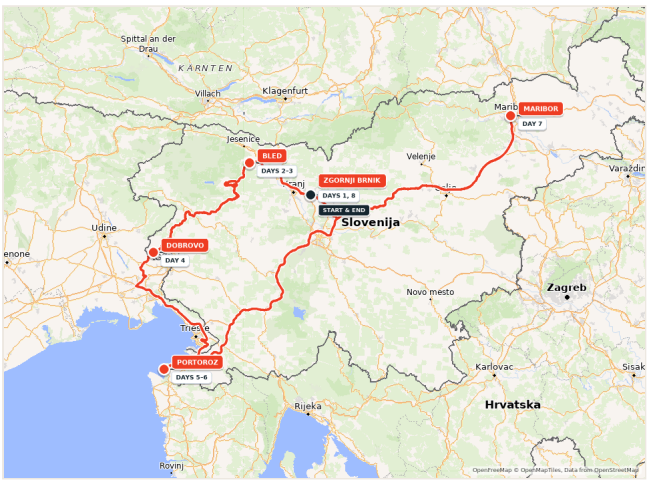
ENCOUNTERS TRAVEL

Your passport to adventure

Classic Slovenia Self-Drive

COUNTRY(IES)	Slovenia
TOUR TYPE	Overland
TRANSPORT	Self-drive hire car
GROUP SIZE	Min: 1 | Max: 0
DURATION	8 days
STARTS	Ljubljana, Slovenia
ENDS	Ljubljana, Slovenia
MEALS	Breakfasts - 7, Lunches - 0, Dinners - 0

TOUR ROUTE MAP **8 Days**



ROUTE: **Zgornji Brnik** (Start) → **Bled** → **Dobrovo** → **Portoroz** → **Maribor** → **Zgornji Brnik** (End)

HIGHLIGHTS

Lake Bled boat trip; Vogel cable car; Lake Bohinj; Vintgar waterfalls; cross the Vrsic Pass; Goriska Brda wine country; Adriatic Coast; Piran; Postojna Caves; Zice Charterhouse; Wine tasting at the Maribor Old Wine House; Timber rafting on Drava River

Itinerary

DAY 1 — Arrive in Slovenia & Continue to Bled

Collect the rental car at Ljubljana Airport and drive towards Lake Bled, beginning the self-drive journey with a short run into the Julian Alps. Check into the hotel on arrival and use the rest of the day to settle in, rest after the flight or explore the lakeside independently. No fixed sightseeing is scheduled, leaving a gentle introduction to Bled and its mountain scenery.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive Ljubljana Airport to Bled**
  Drive from Ljubljana Airport to Bled in your rental car, continuing the self-drive journey through the surrounding countryside.
- **Free Time in Bled**
  Enjoy free time in Bled for a lakeside walk, café stop or independent sightseeing according to the time available

before departure.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Hotel Park	None

DAY 2 Bled Island, Bohinj & the Julian Alps

Take a traditional Pletna boat across Lake Bled to the island and visit St Mary's Church with its wishing bell. Later, drive to Lake Bohinj and explore the lakeside before taking the return Vogel cable car from Ukanc for high views across the Julian Alps. There is time to take in the surroundings at each stop before continuing along the route. Enjoy the journey at a relaxed pace.

ACTIVITIES

- **Pletna Boat Ride to Bled Island**
  Take a traditional Pletna boat across Lake Bled to Bled Island, enjoying the short crossing and views of the surrounding Alps.
- **Visit St Mary's Church on Bled Island**
  Visit St Mary's Church on Bled Island, where the well-known wishing bell is part of the historic island setting.
- **Drive Bled to Lake Bohinj**
  Drive from Bled to Lake Bohinj in your rental car, continuing the self-drive journey through the surrounding countryside.
- **Explore Lake Bohinj**
  Spend time around Lake Bohinj, choosing from lakeside walking and independent exploration of Slovenia's largest natural lake.
- **Ride the Vogel Cable Car**
  Ride the Vogel cable car from Ukanc to the upper station above the Bohinj Valley, with wide views across the Julian Alps.
- **Drive Lake Bohinj to Bled**
  Leave Lake Bohinj by rental car and continue to Bled, covering this overland section at your own pace before the next stop.
- **Visit Bled Castle**
  Visit Bled Castle above the lake, exploring the historic hilltop complex and its broad views over Bled and the Julian Alps.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Hotel Park	Breakfast

DAY 3 Vršič Pass, Soča Valley & Goriška Brda

Drive from Bled to Kranjska Gora and stop beside Lake Jasna before climbing the mountain road over Vršič Pass. Descend into the Soča Valley and take time to discover the emerald river scenery, then continue south to the vineyard-covered hills of Goriška Brda. The journey combines scenic travel with time to explore the main highlights along the way. Enjoy the journey at a relaxed pace.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive Bled to Kranjska Gora**
  Travel by rental car from Bled to Kranjska Gora, following the planned road journey and watching the landscape change along the way.
- **Stop at Lake Jasna**
  Stop at Lake Jasna near Kranjska Gora for free time beside the water, with mountain views and walking paths around the lakes.
- **Drive Kranjska Gora to Soča Valley via Vršič Pass**
  Leave Kranjska Gora by rental car and continue to Soča Valley via Vršič Pass, covering this overland section at your own pace before the next stop.
- **Explore the Soča Valley**
  Explore the Soča Valley at your own pace, following the mountain road beside the river and stopping for its striking Alpine scenery.
- **Drive Soča Valley to Goriška Brda**
  Continue the self-drive journey from Soča Valley to Goriška Brda, using the rental car for this road section between the two locations.
- **Free Time in Goriška Brda**
  Spend free time in Goriška Brda among its hilltop villages and vineyard landscapes, with tastings and special meals left optional.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Hotel Gredič	Breakfast

DAY 4 Wine Country to the Adriatic Coast

Spend the morning exploring Goriška Brda independently among its villages and vineyard landscapes, then drive south through the Karst region towards the Adriatic. Continue to the Slovenian coast and use the rest of the day to discover Portorož, Piran or nearby Istrian shoreline at your own pace. The journey combines scenic travel with time to explore the main highlights along the way.

ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in Goriška Brda**
  Spend free time in Goriška Brda among its hilltop villages and vineyard landscapes, with tastings and special

meals left optional.

- **Drive Goriška Brda to Slovenian Coast**
  Drive from Goriška Brda to Slovenian Coast in your rental car, continuing the self-drive journey through the surrounding countryside.
- **Explore the Slovenian Coast**
  Explore the Slovenian coast independently, with Portorož, Piran and the surrounding Istrian shoreline available at your own pace.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Hotel Histrion	Breakfast

DAY 5 Slovenian Coast at Leisure

Enjoy a free day on the Slovenian coast with no fixed sightseeing or transport required. Choose your own pace between relaxing by the sea, walking or driving along the shoreline, or spending more time in Piran and neighbouring coastal towns. The experience flows naturally from one stop to the next, with time to enjoy the setting along the way. Enjoy the journey at a relaxed pace.

ACTIVITIES

- **Free Day on the Slovenian Coast**
  Enjoy a completely free day on the Slovenian coast, choosing between the beach, coastal walks, Piran or independent drives.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Hotel Histrion	Breakfast

DAY 6 Postojna Cave & Monastic Slovenia to Maribor

Leave the Slovenian coast and drive inland to Postojna Cave for the included guided visit, combining the underground train with a walk among extensive karst formations. Continue to Žiče Charterhouse and explore the former Carthusian monastery using the included admission, then drive on to Maribor for the night. Enjoy the journey at a relaxed pace. Take time to enjoy each stop.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive Slovenian Coast to Postojna Cave**
  Travel by rental car from Slovenian Coast to Postojna Cave, following the planned road journey and watching the landscape change along the way.
- **Guided Postojna Cave Tour**
  Join a guided visit through Postojna Cave, combining the underground train with a walk among its extensive karst formations.

- **Drive Postojna Cave to Žiče Charterhouse**
  Leave Postojna Cave by rental car and continue to Žiče Charterhouse, covering this overland section at your own pace before the next stop.
- **Visit Žiče Charterhouse**
  Visit Žiče Charterhouse, a former Carthusian monastery in a quiet valley, with admission to explore the historic complex.
- **Drive Žiče Charterhouse to Maribor**
  Continue the self-drive journey from Žiče Charterhouse to Maribor, using the rental car for this road section between the two locations.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Hotel Bau	Breakfast

DAY 7 Maribor Wine, Drava Rafting & Mining Heritage

Continue to Velenje and descend into the Slovenian Coal Mining Museum for the included underground visit. Afterwards, return to the rental car and drive to Ljubljana for the final overnight stay of the self-drive journey. The journey combines scenic travel with time to explore the main highlights along the way. Enjoy the journey at a relaxed pace. Take time to enjoy each stop.

ACTIVITIES

- **Wine Tasting at Old Vine House**
  Visit Maribor's Old Vine House and take part in the included wine tasting beside the historic vine on the Lent riverfront.
- **Drive Maribor to Koroška**
  Drive from Maribor to Koroška in your rental car, continuing the self-drive journey through the surrounding countryside.
- **Timber Rafting on the Drava River**
  Spend around two hours timber rafting on the Drava River in Koroška, combining the river journey with traditional entertainment and local character.
- **Drive Koroška to Velenje**
  Travel by rental car from Koroška to Velenje, following the planned road journey and watching the landscape change along the way.
- **Visit the Slovenian Coal Mining Museum**
  Visit the Slovenian Coal Mining Museum in Velenje, descending underground to learn about the region's mining history and working life.
- **Drive Velenje to Ljubljana**
  Leave Velenje by rental car and continue to Ljubljana, covering this overland section at your own pace before the next stop.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Grand Hotel Union	Breakfast

DAY 8 Self-Drive to Ljubljana Airport

Leave Ljubljana in the rental car and make the short drive to Ljubljana Airport, timing the journey around your onward flight. Return the vehicle at the airport and continue to the terminal for check-in and departure. The route is straightforward from the capital and provides a simple finish to the self-drive journey, with enough time allowed for the vehicle return process.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive Ljubljana to Ljubljana Airport**
  Continue the self-drive journey from Ljubljana to Ljubljana Airport, using the rental car for this road section between the two locations.
- **Tour Ends – Ljubljana Airport**
  Your tour concludes at Ljubljana Airport. From here, continue independently with your onward travel arrangements.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
N/A	Breakfast

INCLUDED

- 7 nights accommodation in 4-star hotels
- Daily breakfast
- Rental vehicle for the entire tour with pick up/drop off at Ljubljana airport
- Rental includes unlimited mileage, GPS navigation, airport surcharge, CDW with basic insurance, theft protection, road fees (Slovenia), VAT
- Bled Island with St. Mary's Church entrance fee
- Pletna boat trip
- Bled Castle entrance fee
- Vogel cable car (round trip)
- Postojna caves entrance fee
- Ljubljana funicular with Ljubljana Castle entrance fee
- Mining museum entrance fee
- Timber rafting on the Drava river
- Wine tasting at Old Wine house
- Zice Charterhouse entrance fee

EXCLUDED

- International flights (available on request)
- Visa fees (if applied for your nationality)
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Fuel (whether electric charging or petrol)
- Tips
- Any other items not mentioned above
- Optional tours and activities not mentioned in the itinerary (eg. Vingar Gorge entrance fee, special dinner at Bled Castle restaurant, Wine tasting in Goriska Brda, Special dinner at Hisa Franko Restaurant (2 Michelin stars), Predjama Castle entrance fee, Special dinner at Ljubljana Castle restaurant)

Notes

Covid-19

Our Safer Encounters audits have been completed in Slovenia before operation of this tour. Additional cleaning is done to all hire cars before pickup. Hotels also have additional hygiene and distancing protocols in place. More information will be provided before departure.

Tour Options

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements , full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

No additional options available for this tour.

Important Notes

1

Car Hire

This is a self-drive tour with car hire included from start to finish (pick up and drop off at Ljubljana Airport). Drop off can be arranged in Ljubljana city centre if you are adding extra days at the end of the tour.

Rental contract:

Your rental contract is with the local car rental company, not with Encounters Travel. You will need to sign a rental agreement when picking up the vehicle.

Vehicles available:

For environmental and emmissions reasons we like to offer electic vehicles on all our self-drive tours wherever possible, and the standard website pricing for this tour is based on a compact Renault Zoe hatchback. These are suitable for 2-4 people, though 4 adults plus luggage would be a squeeze. Larger vehicles are also available,

including electric Tesla 3, Tesla S models. Other cars, and MPVs suitable for larger families are also available. Please contact us for options and pricing.

Rental inclusions:

Your rental price includes unlimited mileage, GPS navigation, airport surcharges, CDW with basic insurance, theft protection, road fees (Slovenia), and VAT.

Child seats are available on request for an additional fee - please let us know the age and size of your children.

Pricing is based on one driver. If you would like additional drivers adding to the rental, please contact us in advance.

Deposit:

You will need to give your credit card details to the rental company when you pick up the vehicle. They will make a temporary charge to your card which will be refunded when you return the vehicle.

Driving licenses:

Please check that you have your full UK (or home country) driving license with you as well as an International Driving Permit (IDP). IDPs are quickly and available before you travel - check the International Driving Permit website for more information on how and where to obtain one in your country, and how long you need to allow to obtain it.

Drivers must be aged 21 or over and have held their license for at least 2 years.

Fuel:

Electric vehicles do not require re-charging before drop-off. If you are hiring a petrol car, please check with the rental company for their rules and ask about the nearest fuel station to the airport.

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2 Rules of the Road in Slovenia

The following rules of the road apply in Slovenia:

- Drive on the right and overtake on the left
- Vehicles from the right, and emergency vehicles have priority
- You should not indicate when joining a roundabout, but do indicate before leaving it
- Do not use your horn in built up areas except for dangerous situations or if you are transporting someone in need of medical attention
- If you are involved in any type of collision, you must inform the police and obtain an accident report for insurance purposes. Dial 112 in an emergency (operators will be able to speak English)
- A vignette on the vehicle windscreen is required as proof of payment if you are using Slovenian motorways (included in rental vehicles)
- Police can issue on-the-spot fines of up to EUR 1200 for motoring offences including breaking speed limits
- Seat belts must be worn at all times in the front and rear
- Children less than 150cm must use child seats or seat belts adapted to their size. Air bags must be deactivated if a child is transported on the front seat in a rear facing child seat.
- The legal alcohol drink-drive limit in Slovenia is 0.05% (lower than the 0.08% in England, Scotland and Wales). Police can carry out random roadside tests or require a test if they suspect drivers of being over the

limit.

Speed limits:

- 30km/hr in some built-up areas with increased pedestrian numbers or schools - indicated by the sign 'Zone 30'.
- 50km/hr in built up areas
- 90-110km/hr on open roads (check for signs and assume 90km/hr if unsure)
- 130km/hr on motorways

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3 Electric Car charging

We like to offer Electric cars as the standard option on this tour. Slovenia is well suited to electric vehicles with the relatively short distances travelled each day meaning that there is no need to look for charging points during the day. Instead you can re-charge the vehicle at your overnight stop. Cables will be provided with the vehicle. We select hotels which have their own charging points for electric vehicles to make this a straightforward process.

The hire car company will give you information about how to charge the vehicle and how to monitor the charge while you are driving if you are unfamiliar with electric cars.

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4 Accommodation

The accommodation selected for this tour is a mix of modern and more boutique style 4-star hotels. We have aimed to choose hotels with a good location and their own electric charging points if you are driving an electric vehicle. Specific hotels are subject to availability and will be confirmed after booking. SImilar hotels in the same locations may be used if necessary. If you have specific requests for hotels, either from those listed on our website or alternatives please contact us before confirming your booking so that we can check availability and advise of any price changes.

Pricing is based on 2 people sharing a twin or double room with breakfast included. Any single travellers in your party will need to add the single room supplement option.

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5 Language - Slovene (Slovenian)

The Slovenian language is a South Slavic language and is spoken by approximately 2.5 million people worldwide. You'll find you won't have much of a problem with the language barrierr as English is well communicated by many Slovenians, especially in the capital city Ljubljana.

Below you will find some important phrases that will have you sounding like a local in no time!

Good afternoon - Dober ve?er
Good night - Lahko no?
Goodbye - Adijo
Hello - Zdravo
How are you? -
Kako si Good - Dobro

Thank you - Hvala vam

You're welcome - Prosim vas

Please - Prosim

Sorry - Oprosti

Yes – Da

No - Ne

What's your name? - Kako ti je ime?

My name is... - Ime mi je...

Can you help me? - Mi lahko pomagaš?

What time is it? - Koliko je ura?

Where is...? - Kje je...?

I want... - Ho?em...

How much is it? - Koliko je to?

Left - Levo

Right - Prav

Open - Odprto

Closed - Zaprto

Do you speak English? - Govoriš angleško?

I don't understand - Ne razumem

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6 Passports and Visas

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities.

Some foreign nationals require a visa to enter Slovenia, though many do not (including UK, EUR, US, CA, AU, NZ, SA). More information is available here.

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7 Time

Slovenian Time is GMT plus 1 hour. Daylight saving adjustments of 1 hour are applied, starting at the end of March and finishing at the end of October. Exact dates vary from year to year.

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8 Money

The currency in Slovenia is the Euro (EUR). 1 Euro = 100 Euro cents. Banknotes: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200. Euros Coins: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 Euro Cents and 1, 2.

Credit Cards and Travellers Cheques are widely accepted in major cities and tourist resorts. ATMs are also accessible at all our destinations and generally offer the best exchange rate. A mixture of debit, credit cards and cash are the best forms of currency. You should split this up and keep some separately as a backup in case you lose your main money/cards.

It is difficult for us to specify the amount of money that you will spend per day, however, as a general rule EUR 25 to 50 per day can provide you with additional meals, tipping, snacks & drinks. Should you wish to purchase many souvenirs or other luxuries, of which there is a diverse range, you will have to budget for these.

9 What to take

Luggage: Suitcases, rucksacks or fabric holdalls are all fine to bring with you on our Self Drive tours. You should also bring a small daypack/bag to take out during the day. Your main luggage will normally be left in the hotel during your sightseeing trips or within the vehicle if you making stops between cities; you will not need to carry it far, and there are nearly always hotel porters to assist.

Luggage limits: There is no luggage limit for this tour, though since you are travelling around a lot we would normally recommend trying to bring as little as possible. Most airlines restrict you to between 20kg and 25kg for your hold luggage and between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage. Please check with your airline before travelling to the airport.

Clothing: In the region from late March to May, spring brings with it average temperatures of around 15C, though the weather does gradually warm up with sunny days interspersed with rain showers. From May to the end of October, the climate is hot and sunny, getting cooler as the year progresses. By the end of October you can expect the first of the winter snows. So you must pack for cool and potentially wet conditions late in the year. Most of our tours to the Balkans take place during the summer months when shorts and t-shirts will be the general attire.

Other items: We also recommend you bring a sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, a basic first aid kit, toiletries, money belt, small torch, camera and charger.

Drivers License: As this is one of our self drive tours, it is important that you bring along your drivers license.

10 International Flights

We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people with varying travel plans, we don’t include your international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to suggest flights to go with the tour. Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we’ll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from.

Airport transfers are included on small-group and tailor-made tours, but not on self-drive tours where you will collect your car from the airport at the start of your tour and drop it off at the end of your time in Slovenia.

Most tours tour starts and ends in Ljubljana (LJU).

We do also sometimes advertise flight inclusive packages from selected airports. Where these are shown on our website, prices are correct at the time of quoting, but are subject to continued availability of the fare used. Prices will be reconfirmed at the time of booking, and we will also provide the flight times and airline details before tickets are issued.

Flight inclusive prices are based on the cheapest Economy ticket class available which is generally non-refundable and non-changeable unless the flight is cancelled for reasons such as Covid-19, in which case the airlines are more flexible. More flexible ticket options, as well as Premium Economy and Business Class tickets are available on request for an additional supplement. Any changes made to flight inclusive bookings will be subject to the airline

rules on your ticket.

Flight CO2 Emissions:

Traveling by air is an amazing way to explore the world, but flights also contribute to carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions that impact the environment. By considering the airline's CO2 emissions when you choose your flight, you can help minimize your travel footprint.

When selecting your international flights and airline, we do therefore recommend that you try and also take into account the flight CO2 emissions. Some airlines and flight search websites (eg. Google Flights, Skyscanner) do publish this information, so you can compare between your flight options and make an informed decision. Thankfully, many airlines are working towards sustainability efforts, and choosing a greener option allows you to contribute to positive change while still enjoying your incredible adventure.

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11 Tipping

Tipping is common practice in many Balkan countries, and is always appreciated when good service has been provided. For basic restaurants, taxis and local markets, leave the loose change. For more up-market restaurants we suggest 5% to 10% of your bill.

Tour guide/tour leader: You will encounter a number of tour guides whilst on your tour and if you think you tour guide and/or tour leader has worked hard and provided a good service then s/he will appreciate a tip of a few Euros. How much you tip is subject to your satisfaction with their service and your personal budget. You should not feel pressured to tip any particular amount. As a guideline, we can suggest that for good service, a tip of EUR 3-5 per day for local tour guides or local tour leaders would be fine.

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12 Booking & Payment

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You may make a deposit or full payment online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer (full payments are due 8 weeks before departure). We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer, or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please contact us if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

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13 Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and are committed to providing our customers with financial protection to provide peace of mind and to allow you to book with confidence.
We have therefore partnered with Trust My Travel Ltd., which provides financial protection services to over 2000 partners around the world. Funds paid to us by our customers are protected via an Insurance policy held by Trust My Travel. Each traveller and the description of services sold is declared against Trust My Travel’s insurance policy directly against our financial failure. In the event of our insolvency, you will be refunded for any unfulfilled products and/or repatriation to the UK (where applicable). Please see our website or booking conditions for more

information.

14 Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.

The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudge: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.
- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.
- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from newly acquired items before leaving home.
- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).
- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.
- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Encounters Travel shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

15 Follow Us Online

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.

www.facebook.com/encounterstravel

https://x.com/encounterstravl (yes, without the 'e')

16 Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this event).

Considering travel insurance for your trip? World Nomads Travel Insurance offers coverage for more than 150 adventure activities as well as emergency medical, lost luggage, trip cancellation and more.

If your tour includes car hire, or if you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

If you are taking expensive camera gear or other electronic equipment with you then please check the coverage and the fine print of your policy to ensure that you have sufficient cover.

IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.

Covid-19

Before purchasing any travel insurance, please check the coverage provided for situations related to Covid-19, and for the rules about government travel advice. Your normal policy may not be suitable.

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17 Before you travel

It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current official government travel advice for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's 'Travel Aware' campaign which provides further useful and invaluable information.

travel aware
gov.uk/travelaware

18 Reduce Plastic Waste with Water-to-Go Filter bottles

Traveling responsibly means minimizing plastic waste, but staying hydrated on the go is essential. At Encounters Travel we are committed to reducing single-use plastics, which is why we've partnered with Water-to-Go. Their portable filtration system removes over 99.9% of contaminants from any non-saltwater source, turning even questionable water sources into safe drinking water.

Given that tap water is un-safe to drink in many of the countries in which we operate, we recommend purchasing a Water-to-Go bottle prior to departure. This will help you avoid the use of single use plastic bottles and keep you hydrated on the go.

Save big! Get a huge 25% off your Water-to-Go bottle and other Water-to-Go products (such as filters, lids, and carriers). Use code **ENCOUNTERS25** at checkout (valid in the UK, USA and Canada).

How Water-to-Go Technology works:

- Their reusable, BPA free water bottles contain their own unique 3-in-1 filtration technology effectively providing clean safe drinking water from any non-salt water source around the world.
- Three different (1 traditional and 2 nano) technologies are combined in one filter cartridge to remove up to 99.9999% of microbiological contaminants in water.

The three technologies used in a Water-to-Go filter are:

- Mechanical filtration – A tiny pore size, so small contaminants can’t fit through.
- Electrical – A positive charge reduces the pore size even further and attracts contaminants like a magnet, trapping them inside the filter.
- Activated Carbon – Unlike most carbon based filters, instead of using adhesives to glue the carbon particles together, (which vastly reduces the carbon’s efficiency) it is contained within the membrane, helping to reduce contaminants whilst eliminating bad tastes and odours. Try filtering water from your tap at home and taste the difference!

Water-to-Go filter bottles deliver safe, healthy water worldwide

- Water-to-Go filters remove bacteria, viruses, waterborne disease, protozoa, heavy metals such as lead as well as harmful chemicals.
- Their filters remove Chlorine and Fluoride from tap water.
- The filter will eliminate harmful contaminants from the water but allow beneficial minerals such as sodium and magnesium to pass through leaving you with the healthiest water possible.
- Water-to-Go filters have been independently tested against internationally recognised standards by industry specialists including The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK), BCS Laboratories (USA), Bangalore Test House (India) and IMI (China).

Use Water-to-Go products and you'll be healthier, wealthier and helping to make the world a better place!

- Depending on filter size, each Water-to-Go filter is able to replace 260 or 400 single-use plastic water bottles!
- They ensure you have access to safe water anywhere in the world without ever having to buy environmentally damaging bottled water.
- Their water bottles deliver safe, clean drinking water at just 5p per litre.
- The filter membrane is biodegradable and the shrouds are recyclable.
- The water bottles are used and approved by everyone from backpackers to commuters, gym users to expecting mums. Perfect for everyday, outdoor and travel.

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19 Private & Tailor-made Tours

While our group departures offer a fantastic way to explore with like-minded travellers, we understand that some guests prefer a more exclusive experience. Most of our group tours can be booked on a private basis, allowing you to enjoy the same expert-led routes with your own dedicated party. The primary advantage of choosing a private arrangement is the flexibility it provides; we can easily customise the itinerary to include your preferred style of accommodation or adjust the pace to suit your needs. Private tours can be run on the same start days as our group tours, or on other dates. However, some activities within our trips are restricted to particular days of the week - we will advise you on anything like this that we need to work around. Pricing will be based on the number of travellers in your party, and any customisations you may like to make.

For those seeking something truly unique, our specialist sales team is available to collaborate with you on a completely tailor-made tour, designed from the ground up to match your specific interests, accommodation level and requirements.

To request a quotation for a private or tailor-made tour, please contact us.

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20 Voltage

Sockets are two round pronged and 220 volts (Type C). Universal adaptors are available in most airport shops if you don't have one already. Standard European adapters will work fine, though sometimes they may feel a little loose in the sockets. All hotel rooms have electrical sockets where you can re-charge cameras, phones etc. Hair dryers are normally available on request from the hotel reception if not in your room already.
If you have US appliances (110 volts) you will need a voltage converter as well as a plug adapter.

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21 Health and Vaccinations

You should ensure you are fully insured for medical emergencies including emergency evacuation and repatriation. UK travellers visiting other European Union countries including Slovenia should also carry the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) as it entitles travellers to reduced cost, sometimes free, medical treatment in most European countries. The new GHIC card will soon replace the EHIC.

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures vary according to the country you are visiting and where you are travelling from. We recommend you contact your GP/medical practitioner or a travel clinic for current information on vaccinations needed for your destination.

You should ensure that you are up to date with vaccines and boosters recommended for your normal life at home, including for example, vaccines required for occupational risk of exposure, lifestyle risks and underlying medical conditions. No additional courses or boosters are normally recommended for Slovenia though you could conside Tetanus and Tick-borne Encephalitis.

More information is available here: Slovenia

Malaria map - there is low to no risk of malaria in Slovenia, none in tourist areas.

Yellow fever certificates are not required.
