**KOPER (Slovenia)**

KOP01 – BEST OF LJUBLJANA - 122 EURO

Duration: approx. 7.5 hours, lunch included

An extensive look at Slovenia’s capital of Ljubljana, a city that looks back on 5 millennia of history, is on the itinerary of this enjoyable all-day outing. Following a relaxing 1.5-hour coach ride to the city, you will get to savour its many highlights on foot. Ljubljana is not only home to an old Roman castrum called the Emona, but also boasts a medieval castle and numerous squares surrounded by ornately decorated Baroque-style buildings. Further photo-worthy sights include the Ljubljanica River, the broad expanse of Tivoli Park, Triple Bridge – designed by the Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik – and Prešeren Square in the town centre. Next up is Ljubljana’s open-air market, noted for its fresh organic produce and Slovenian specialities, followed by the medieval town hall and the replica Baroque Robba Fountain, the original of which was moved to the National Gallery in 2006. Time to have a rest then follows on a 1-hour riverboat cruise and later traditional lunch at a Slovenian inn. You will then have about 1.5 hours to spend in the city as you wish, before the coach takes you back to the ship. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair.

KOP02 – VISIT TO KOPER - 59 EURO

Duration: approx. 3 hours

Prepare to lose your heart – even if only a little – when you rendezvous with Koper’s beautiful historical quarter, which remained almost entirely untouched during the communist era and continues to delight all who choose to pay a visit. And as the lovely old streets are best explored on foot, this half-day tour will take you on a guided walk through the old urban centre. You will reach Tito’s Square for an outside look at the 15th-century Venetian Gothic-style Praetorian Palace and the Cathedral of Mary’s Assumption. Next up, you will pass through Muda Gate, a 16th-century triumphal arch leading to the inner part of Koper and onwards to Carpaccio Square, whose name was coined by a Koper-born Venetian painter. The excursion also includes a stop for a tasting of typical snacks before having little time to explore the town on your own. Return to your ship.

KOP03 – THE SCENIC SLOVENIAN RIVIERA - 79 EURO

Duration: approx. 4 hours

What the not quite 50-km length of the Slovenian Riviera lacks in size is more than made up for by the extraordinary beauty of its varied shoreline and the picture-perfect appeal of its coastal resorts. All you have to do is leave the ship, board a coach and then sit back to enjoy seeing panoramic coastal views unfold before your eyes. As you travel towards your first short photo stop in Izola, a small fishing town, your guide will keep you entertained with some background information about the Istrian Peninsula. You’ll also pass through the verdant Strunjan Valley as you head for Piran, a gem of medieval architecture situated on the tip of a thin sliver of land that juts out to sea. You will have 2 hours to spend in the resort doing whatever you fancy – and strolling around its picturesque streets is a treat you won’t want to miss. Venetian-style buildings are a common sight in town, a fact that goes back to a period spent under Venetian rule between the late 13th- and the late 18th centuries. Your scenic drive back to Koper will also take you past the bustling resort of Portorož with its splendid beach and many hotels before dropping you off at the ship.

KOP04 – POSTOJNA CAVES - 92 EURO

Duration: approx. 4 hours

You do not have to be a budding speleologist to enjoy the subterranean thrill afforded by this entertaining half-day tour, which will take you to see Slovenia’s incredible Postojna Caves, the second-largest cave system in the country. The outing begins with a scenic coach journey to reach the caves, which you can then enjoy partly from a little train and partly on foot. Do remember to take a sweater or light jacket as temperatures inside the caves remain at a constant 10 °C, which can be chilly if wearing short sleeves. After boarding the “cave train”, you will begin your exploration of the jaw-dropping caverns. The karstic cave system consists of 20 km of breathtaking galleries, chambers and halls – with wildly varying ceiling heights from very low to a positively gigantic 50 metres at their highest point. Once the train has taken you deep into the caverns, you will have a chance to get off and explore the cleverly illuminated chambers on foot. The train will then return you to the surface, after which the return drive to Koper brings your tour to a leisurely close. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties, who are claustrophobic or using a wheelchair. The visit to the caves is unguided.

KOP05 – SELECT SIGHTS OF LJUBLJANA - 72 EURO

Duration: approx. 5 hours, 15 minutes

Exploring the Slovenian capital is as easy as boarding a coach and first relaxing on a 1.5-hour transfer to the city. You will then take the funicular railway up to the hilltop castle for superb views of the city and a look at the originally 11th-century fortification. After the funicular ride back down, you will set off on a guided walk through the old town on the banks of the Ljubljanica River. This largely Baroque quarter was the only part of the city to be spared by the earthquake of 1865 and the route will include an inside visit at the Baroque Cathedral of St. Nicholas as well as outside views of the Bishop’s Palace, Dragon Bridge, the market and Prešeren Square. A second inside visit follows at the 17th-century Church of the Annunciation, after which you can look forward to further sights like Triple Bridge, Congress Square, the university, the Academia philharmonicorum building and the 18th-century Ursuline Church of the Holy Trinity, another Baroque masterpiece. Free time will then be yours to explore on your own before you return to the ship. Please note: guides will give explanations outside the churches; guests will visit the sites individually. In case of religious celebrations, the visit to the churches will be external. Conservative attire for visiting sites of religious importance.

KOP07 – LAKE BLED & ISLAND - 102 EURO

Duration: approx. 7.5 hours, lunch not included

The beautiful body of water in the Julian Alps of Slovenia’s Upper Carniolan region known as Lake Bled is your destination on this scenic all-day tour, which first takes you on a relaxing 2-hour coach ride to reach this magic place. On arrival, you’ll board a kind of wooden boat called a pletna for a 30-minute pleasure cruise, surrounded by majestic mountains and dense forests, to reach the charming central island with its lovely 17th-century Church of St. Mary, often used as a wedding venue. According to legend, ringing the so-called “wishing bell” twice will make a wish come true. The popularity of the island has also spilled over to the historical town of Bled, which sits on the banks of the Alpine lake. You’ll have about 2 hours’ time in town, perhaps indulging in a slice of the town’s signature cream cake, heading up to the cliff-side castle (both at extra cost) or simply relaxing and enjoying the splendid views. The scenic return journey to the port and your ship then brings the tour to a close. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair.