Introduction

Ljubljana is a town well suited for RIPE Meeting attendees with just a couple of hours to spare to explore the city’s charming attractions, artful architecture, countless boutiques, cafes, galleries and bars.

Just 300,000 “zmajčki” (little dragons) call Ljubljana home and nearly 60,000 of those are students, giving this modestly sized town a vibrant nightlife mixed with old-world European charm.

Ljubljana’s culture is heavily influenced by its geography. Slovenia borders Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia, and the cross-cultural references can be seen in historical sites like the Prešeren Square and on the Dragon Bridge and, of course, in its food.

Other must-sees in Ljubljana include the Ljubljana Castle, St. Nicholas Cathedral, St. Peter’s Church, the Franciscan Church of the Annunciation, Tivoli Park and the Triple Bridge.

Use this guidebook to make the most of your time in Ljubljana. Many of these recommendations come courtesy of our RIPE 64 hosts, go6.si and Arnes.
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Health and Safety

The fact that there is no write up about Ljubljana safety tips is indicative of the fact that it’s a very safe city! The only cautions from travellers that we found were the obvious ones: be aware of pickpockets in crowded areas (like the bus station).

Ljubljana is a highly developed European city and doesn’t pose any great health risks. Water is entirely safe to drink and hygiene standards in restaurants, bars and cafés are as high as you’d expect.

Butt Out

Smoking in public places is banned in Slovenia, so feel free to enjoy a meal, a coffee or a drink in a smoke-free environment. If you need to smoke, go outside and smoke in the designated areas.

Medical Services

If you become ill or need medical attention while in Ljubljana, there are many hospitals and clinics available:

Barsos-MC (242 07 00; info@barsos.net; Gregorčičeva ulica 11; 08:00-15:00 Mon, Wed, Fri; 08:00-14:00 Tue-Thur). Recommended (and tested!) private clinic charging EUR 20-30 per consultation.

Dental Clinic (Stomatološka Klinika; 431 31 13; Zaloška cesta 2; 08:00-12:00 Mon-Sat)

Central Pharmacy (Centralna Lekarna; 244 23 60; Prešernov trg 5; 7.30-20:00 Mon-Fri, 8:00-13:00 Sat)

Emergency Medical Assistance Clinic (Klinični Center Urgenca; 232 30 60; Bohoričeva ulica 4; 24hr) East of the Hotel Park in Tabor.

Ljubljana Pharmacy (Lekarna Ljubljana; 230 62 30; Prisojna ulica 7; 24hr) All-night pharmacy near the Klinični Center.

Medical Centre (Zdravstveni Dom Center; 472 37 00; Metelkova ulica 9; 7:30-19:00). For non-emergencies.
Getting Around

Although the city can be easily explored on foot or bike, there may be times when you prefer a bus. There are 21 bus lines running through the city: the main lines are 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, and 11. Lines 2, 6 and 11 end at midnight and the rest end between 21:30 and 22:00. The main lines run every 15 minutes with more infrequent service on Sundays and public holidays.

You can only pay bus fare using an Urbana Card - these are available at newsstands, kiosks and post offices or the LPP ticket offices.

If you have a smart phone, you can use the Trola app (Android only) for the bus schedule, Vlaki app for the train system, or the City Bikes app to rent a bike through the Urbana Card system from the bike points in the city.

Taxi

Taxis can be hailed on the street or booked in advance: the latter is the cheaper option. It costs about EUR 1 to get in the taxi and EUR 0.75 per kilometre if hired in advance (EUR 1 if hailed from the street).

You can call a taxi on any of the following numbers: +386 31 311 311, +386 41 445 406, and +386 51 809 908.

Bicycle

Ljubljana is a very cycle-friendly city with bike lanes and bike traffic lights throughout.

You can hire a bike for about EUR 5 per day from Ljubljana Bike. They have ten locations across the city, including the train station, Slovenian Tourist Information Centre, Celica Hostel and the start of Miklošičeva cesta.

Ljubljana also has a citywide bike-share called Bicikelj with pick-up points all over the city.

To subscribe or find out more, visit: http://en.bicikelj.si
Phrases

The Slovene alphabet has 25 letters. It does not have the letters W, Q, X and Y. But you have to learn three new letters: Č (pronounced as ch in English), Š (sh), and Ž (zh, as in vision).

a - pronounced as “u” in hut
e - as the “a” in cap
i - pronounced short as in “pink” (ee)
o - (aw) on, off
u - (oo) “put”
Č - “tch” as in chicken
Š - as in shake
Ž - measure

Yes = Da
No = Ne
Please = prosim
Thanks = hvala
Hi! = Živijo!
Goodbye = Nasvidenje
How are you? = Kako si (singular) / Kako ste (plural)
Fine, thanks! = Dobro, hvala!
Who? = Kdo?
What? = Kaj?
Where? = Kje?
When? = Kdaj?
Why? = Zakaj?
How? = Kako?
How many/how much? = Koliko?
Excuse me, where is...? = Oprostite, kje...?
Restaurant = restavracija
Market = tržnica
I don’t understand = Ne razumem
This gentleman will pay for everything = Ta gospod bo plačal vse
Ladies = zenske

Men = moski
Food = hrana
Coffee = kava
Cream = smetana
Milk = mleko
Tea = čaj
Beef = govedina
Pork = svinjina
Chicken = piščanec
Fish = ribe
Horse = konj
Courgette = bučke
Potato = krompir
Onion = čebula
Garlic = česen
Carrot = korenje
Beans = fižol
Leek = por
Pepper = paprika
Mushrooms = gobe
Cabbage = zelje
Sweetcorn = koruza
Tomato = paradižnik
Apple = jabolko
Pineapple = ananas
Raspberry = malina
Strawberry = jagoda
Grapes = frozdje
Orange = pomaranča
Pear = hruška
Plum = sliva
Places to Eat

Slovene cuisine is greatly influenced by its neighbouring countries, but still has its own strong identity. Traditional food here is often simple and hearty although there are still places to eat that offer more international cuisine. Meat tends to feature heavily in Slovene menus with puran (turkey), govedina (beef) and konj (horse) being the most common.

Some traditional dishes include: domača šunka s hrenom (home-cured ham with horseradish), tatarski biftek (beefsteak tartare), govedina v solati (beef vinaigrette), francoska solata (cubed potatoes and vegetables with mayonnaise), bohinjski sir (Bohinj cheese), burek (pastry filled with cheese, meat or apple), Gibanica (layered dessert pie with apple, walnut, poppy seeds and cottage cheese), riba v marinadi (marinated fish), kraški pršut (thinly sliced dried ham), bograč (a stew made of various meats and wine), šara (stew with mutton and vegetables), and pečeno štajersko zelje (cabbage filled with minced meat and oats and topped with sour cream).

Recommended Restaurants:

Čompa (1)
Trubarjeva 40, seven minute walk
T: +386 (0)1 431 8111
Locally sourced fish, meat and a good choice to sample the best of Slovenian cuisine. EUR 20-30.

Shambala (2)
www.shambala.si
Križevniška 12, 10 minute walk
+386 (0) 1 426 3014
If you want a break from the hearty Slovene fare, try Shambala for an original take on Asian fusion with heavy Vietnamese influences. EUR 10-15.

Gostilna As (3)
www.gostilnaas.si
Čopova ulica 5/A, five minute walk
+386 (0) 1 425 8822
Caviar with your baked potato? Yes please! Gostilina As is one of the more upscale options in town. Menu is Mediterranean influenced. Known for their show stopper desserts. EUR 20-30.
Recommended Restaurants and Bars

View the map online: http://g.co/maps/e9265
Gostilna Kratochwill (4)

www.kratochwill.si/index2.html

Kolodvorska ulica 14, four minute walk
+386 (0) 1 433 3114

Micro brewery with very good beer, especially the strong, dark porter. Food is good and pairs well with beer. Modest and simple decor, fair prices. This is also the place where IPv6 “happens” in Slovenia: Go6 expert council holds their monthly secret meetings here on the first floor. EUR ??

Moysushi (5)

www.moysushi.com

Mestni Trg 17
+386 (0) 59 93 5540

A reasonably priced sushi bar in the old town, also open for lunch. Friendly staff, quick service. EUR 5-10.

Gostlina Sokol (6)

www.gostilna-sokol.com

Ciril Metodov trg 18, five minute walk
+386 (0) 1 439 6855

Sokol may technically qualify as a tourist trap, but even locals rave about it and you won’t find better Slovene food anywhere in town; try the Game Plate, loaded up with venison and boar. Go6 Institute takes most of their Slo IPv6 summit international guests to this restaurant for dinner – can’t miss. Try their home-brewed beer. EUR 7-21.

Julija (7)

No website

Stari trg 9, eight minute walk
+386 (0) 1 425 6463

Intimate ambience with excellent Slovenian food. Cheese dumplings, goulash with polenta, Slovenian dessert gibanica (swiss cheese, apple, poppy seed in pastry). Good value for money. EUR 3-19.

Roxly (8)

www.roxly.si

Mala Ulica 5, three minute walk
+386 (0) 1 430 1021

Roxy is a great place to soak in the view of the castle while enjoying dinner from its international-themed menu. By night, it’s also a great place for cocktails and live music (mainly blues and rock). It’s open until 3am. Closed Saturdays and Sundays. EUR 6-18.

Spajza (9)

www.spajza-restaurant.si/en/

28 Gornji
+386 (0) 1 425 3094

Impressive central European food in a cosy, informal atmosphere. The menu features local seasonal produce and ingredients. Highly recommended. EUR 10-20.

Marley & Me (10)

www.lunchcafe.si

Stari trg 9
+386 (0) 8 380 6610

An unpretentious café near town hall where friendly staff serve hearty plates of steak, pasta and seafood for lunch and dinner. Open daily. EUR 3-22.

Pri Vitezu (11)

privitezu.si

Breg 18-20
+386 (1) 426 6058

This upscale venture, run by celebrity chef and serial restaurateur Luka Lesar, offers one of the city’s most refined dining
experiences, with prices to match. Closed Sundays. EUR 30-50.

**Cantina Restaurantes Mexicana (12)**
www.cantina.si  
Wolfova 4, Knaflev Prehod  
+ 386 (0) 1 426 9325

Decent Tex Mex, big portions, good value for money and one of the best courtyards in the city. EUR 5-17.

**Foculus (13)**
www.picerija.net/foculus.htm  
Gregorčičeva 3  
+386 (0) 1 421 9295

Recently voted Ljubljana's best pizza place, Foculus has more than 66 wood-oven pizzas on the menu (including 20 for vegetarians and eight with seafood). Open daily until midnight. EUR 6-9.

**Loving Hut (Vegan) (14)**
www.lovinghut.com  
Koprska 72  
+386 (0) 7 063 1500

The world’s fastest growing (and perhaps only) international vegan fast food chain has set up shop in Ljubljana. So, if you’re a vegan, this hip food truck is where you should go. Closed Sundays. EUR 2.50-6.

**Gostilnica Rimska XXI (15)**
www.r-g.si/xxi  
Rimska 21  
+386 (0) 1 256 5654

Go here for traditional Slovene cuisine. The seasonal menu features the best of the country, including game, fish and woodbaked meats. Beer, juice and brandy are homemade too. Closed Sundays. EUR 6-20.

**Gostilna Na Gradu (16)**
www.nagradu.si/en/  
Grajska planota 1, 15 minute walk  
+386 (0) 8 205 1930

This long-awaited restaurant in the castle opened in September 2011 and, so far, reviews are very good. Locally sourced menu featuring regional Slovenian dishes. Great view too, of course.

### Desserts

**Zvezda (17)**
Wolfova ulica 14

A famous café specialising in luxuriously rich cakes and ice cream and very strong coffee.

**Slascicarna pri Vodnjaku (18)**
Stari trg 30

Another go-to café for cake, ice cream and hot chocolate and a memorable atmosphere.

**Čupiterija (19)**
No website  
Mestni Trg 4  
+386 (0) 5 971 2368

It’s Gaudi and Dali inspired interior might provoke sensory overload, but this funky bar serves up the best mojitos in the city.
All about Burek

A snack of champions (via Turkey originally), the Burek is a crispy, layered pastry stuffed with meat or cheese. Try it at Nobel Burek (Miklosiceva 30) or Olimpija (Slovenska 58).

Places to Drink

Definitely worth checking out.

**Dvorni Bar (20)**
www.dvornibar.net
Dvorni Trg 2
+386 (0) 1 251 1257

A pleasant café by day and one of the trendiest wine bars by night. More than 100 wines on the menu.

**Movia (21)**
www.movia.si
Mestni Trg 4
+386 (0) 1 425 5448

A charming hole-in-the-wall wine bar run by a vineyard of the same name. A select food menu is available to pair with the wine you choose. A bit hidden inside a covered courtyard. Closed Saturday and Sunday.

**Klub Top (22)**
www.klubtop.si
Tomsiceva 2
+386 (0) 4 066 7722

Located on the top floor of the Nama department store, the view alone is worth the price of admission (if you come after 23:00 that is, before that it’s free). Tuesday is student night. A good choice for Wednesday night when there’s no official social arranged.

**Sir Williams Pub (23)**
sirwilliamspub.webs.com
+386 (0) 5 994 4825
Tavčarjeva 8a

What you’d call a “classy” pub. This pub/literary café has a large selection of English and Slovene books to read, live music, and one of the best beer selections in Slovenia.
Parlament Pub (24)
Šubičeva 1
+386 (0) 1 251 3243

A good place to start or end an evening on the town. It’s known for having cheap beer and 3-for-2 cocktails. Popular with the younger crowd. The entrance and terrace are at the back of the building on Plečnikov Trg.

Cutty Sark (25)
www.cuttysarkpub.si
Knafljev Prehod 1
+386 (0) 5 168 6209

One of the most popular bars in Ljubljana. Interesting décor, a summer terrace and a good selection of local and international beer.

Guinness Pub (26)
www.guinnesspub.net
Gosposka 3
+386 (0) 1 426 6293

Guinness and Kilkenny on draught. Comfortable seating. What more could you want?

Patrick’s Irish Pub (27)
www.irishpub-ljubljana.si
Prečna 6
+386 (0) 1 230 17 68

Popular with locals, expats and tourists. Your typical Irish pub atmosphere pouring popular brew choices. Cheery bar staff and sports on the big screen, too.

As Lounge (28)
www.gostilnaas.si
Čopova 5, Knafljev prehod
+386 (0) 1 425 8822

This fabulous lounge is the third string to the three-string bow that is As. Featuring lots of laid-back browns and oranges with comfortable sofas and a mix of well-heeled clients, enjoy loads of cocktails and DJs in a chill-out environment that’s one in a million.

Žmauc (29)
Rimska 21
+386 (0) 1 251 0324

A favourite among locals, filled with interesting characters. Manga-inspired design. Great coffee and drinks.

Bi-Ko-Fe (30)
www.bikofe.com
Židovska Steza 2
+386 (0) 1 425 9393

A must-see for its award-winning interior design made using recycled and refurbished furniture and materials. Live DJs keep the place bumping on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights, and from time to time musical acts (some quite well-known) perform cover-free shows for the cool crowd. Tested by the host – very nice one.
Slovene Wine

You can encounter all kinds of vinous pleasures at any of the traditional gostilnas or wine cellars found in almost every street in Ljubljana. To make your choice easier, try wines such as Teran, Rumeni Muskat, Malvazija and Rebula from the coastal region. Cviček, a Slovene wine with a light taste and low alcohol is a specialty of the Posavje Region along with wines such as Renski Rizling, Traminec, Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Ranina.

Green Moon (31)
No website
Poljanska 3

The one (and only) Mayan-themed cocktail bar in Ljubljana. Great place to dance and party the night away. More than 40 cocktails to choose from, some of which come in pitcher size...

Slon Lounge (32)
www.hotelslon.com
Slovenska 34
+386 (0) 1 470 1155

The city’s “village pub”. Sink into an overstuffed armchair and sip coffee or cocktail, whatever’s your poison. Great for informal gatherings.
Things to See

Ljubljana manages to pack a lot of interesting tourist attractions into such a small space. The city has 15 museums, 41 galleries, 11 theatres, 4 professional orchestras, and an antique flea market on Sundays – and that’s just the beginning...

A Walk through the Old Town

Start with Prešeren Square, named after Slovenia’s national poet, France Prešeren. Then follow the river east to Dragon Bridge (Zmajski most), one of Ljubljana’s most photographed sites. Crossing the bridge will bring you to Tržnica, an open-air market where locals shop for baked goods, meat, cheese and local produce. Keep walking down the Ciril Metodov Trg, past the cathedral to Mestni Trg, the Robba Fountain and the striking 16th-century town hall. Continue to Stari Trg and you’ll find several paths leading to the castle.

Ljubljana Castle

It’s hard to miss. This impressive medieval castle was reconstructed in the 16th century after a massive earthquake brought it to the ground in 1511. It sits atop Castle Hill and provides visitors with an excellent view of the city. You can pay a bit more to climb the castle’s tower for spectacular panoramic vistas. You can reach the castle by catching the “tourist train”, the funicular railway or by foot (but beware, it’s a very steep climb).

Slovenian National Gallery

www.ng-slo.si
Prešernova 24

If you’re interested in art and culture, it’s worth a visit to the country’s national gallery. The impressive neo-Renaissance building was designed by Czech architect František Edmund Škabro and houses the best of Slovenian art from the thirteenth to twentieth centuries. The other permanent exhibition focuses on European works of art, with some notable paintings from Italian Renaissance artists. Closed Mondays.

Contemporary History Museum

www.muzej-nz.si
Celovška 23

Located in the pretty Tivoli Park, the museum provides insight into the major changes that occurred in the country over the course of the twentieth century. Its poignant displays of the break-up of Yugoslavia will leave you with a profound impression of how the turmoil affected the area. Closed Mondays.

Saint Nicholas Cathedral

The cathedral, with its green dome and twin towers, is an easily identifiable Ljubljana landmark. It sits on Ciril-Metodov trg and is the church of the Archdiocese of Ljubljana. Architect Andrea Pozzo built the baroque church with its side chapels shaped in a Latin cross between 1701-1706. The dome was added in 1841. The interior of the church is adorned with baroque frescos painted by Guilio Quaglio. A historical depiction of Slovene history was added in the 20th century to commemorate the 1250th anniversary of Christianity in the country.
Tivoli Park

Tivoli Park blankets five square kilometres of Ljubljana, making it the city’s largest green space. French engineer Jan Blachard designed it in 1813 during the city’s period of French imperial administration. The park has a fishpond, a small botanical garden and a playground. A broad central promenade was later added during renovations that spanned from 1921-1939. A stroll through the park’s many chestnut trees, flower gardens, statues and fountains is a relaxing way to unwind for both locals and visitors. The Tivoli Castle, National Museum of Contemporary History and the Tivoli Sports Hall are all located in the park.

Further Afield

Slovenia is a fairly small country with much to discover so you can make some great day excursions. Here are some ideas that you can either book with a tour agency or arrange yourself. Visit the RIPE 64 website for more information.

Bled Lake – The Pearl of the Slovenian Julian Alps
Departures: 14 April, 15 April, 21 April and 22 April

A half-day guided tour of Bled, one of Slovenia’s most popular resort towns for its alpine lake with an island in the middle.

Relax at the Spa Terme Olimia
Departures: 13-15 April, 20-22 April

A relaxing start or end to your RIPE Meeting week.

A Day in Venice
Departures: 14 April, 15 April, 21 April, 22 April

A full-day guided tour from Ljubljana including a walking tour and vaporetto boat ride.
Useful Info

RIPE 64 takes place at the Grand Hotel Union at Miklošičeva 1, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia.

T: +386 (0) 1 308 1270

For more information about RIPE 64, visit: ripe64.ripe.net

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