



DETAILED ITINERARY

SIGHTS, SOUNDS AND BEARS

Day 1 - Travel to Slovenia and Lake Bled

Once we have gathered everyone's belongings and confirmed that nothing has been left behind, we will proceed to check in at our accommodation in Ljubljana, where we will stay for one night. This charming city, known for its vibrant culture and historic architecture, serves as a convenient base before our next adventure. After settling in, we will embark on a journey to the picturesque town of Bled, located approximately 50 kilometres away. Upon arrival in Bled, we intend to spend the remainder of the afternoon and into sunset immersing ourselves in the stunning scenery and local attractions. Our primary photographic focus will be the Assumption of Maria Church, renowned for its breathtaking location on a small island within Lake Bled. This iconic church not only offers a striking visual opportunity but also provides insight into Slovenia's rich cultural heritage. Exploring this captivating area allows us to appreciate both its natural beauty and historical significance while creating lasting memories through our photography.



Day 2 - Postojna Cave, Predjama Castle and Night-time hide

Although it may not seem that way at first glance, this day promises to be more relaxed than day one. After a leisurely rise and a delicious breakfast, we bid farewell to our hosts and set off towards the charming town of Postojna. Renowned for its stunning natural formations, the Postojna Caves hold the title of the most visited cave system in Europe, attracting visitors with their breathtaking beauty and fascinating history. The cave railway, an integral part of this experience, has been delighting guests for over 140 years, allowing them to traverse the stunning underground landscape with ease. Following our exploration of the caves, we will visit Predjama Castle, which is situated nearby; this remarkable structure is celebrated as the largest cave castle in the world and offers a unique glimpse into medieval architecture.





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After relishing our day filled with adventure and discovery, we will make our way to our accommodation for the next four nights, taking some time to settle in before looking forward to an exciting night session at the bird hide. Here, while it is quite common to spot hedgehogs roaming about, there's also a chance—if fortune favours us—to catch sight of elusive badgers and martens as they emerge under cover of darkness.



Day 3 - Bear Hides

On our first day at the bear hides, we begin with a hearty breakfast, which sets a positive tone for the adventure ahead. This initial gathering allows us to share our expectations for the experience and discuss various photography techniques that will enhance our chances of capturing stunning images of these magnificent creatures. We will also address the gear we deem most suitable for this undertaking, ensuring that everyone is equipped with the necessary tools for success. During this morning session, we have the freedom to explore our surroundings at our own pace, which offers an opportunity to familiarise ourselves with the local area and engage in conversations about effective communication while in the hides.

After enjoying lunch together, we embark on our bear photography expedition, guided by our knowledgeable host who will take us to locations where bear activity has been carefully monitored. The presence of young bears in particular areas may influence our itinerary, as these encounters are often prioritized to ensure a rewarding experience while respecting wildlife dynamics.





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Day 4 - The Križna Cave and Bear Hides

In the morning, we will embark on an optional excursion to the stunning Krizna Cave, renowned for its breathtaking underground lakes and unique rock formations. This trip includes a boat ride through the caves, offering an extraordinary perspective of this natural wonder; however, due to the nature of the activity, it may not be suitable for everyone. Therefore, participation is entirely optional, allowing guests to choose their preferred level of engagement. For those who decide not to join the cave adventure, the lodge will provide a tranquil environment for relaxation before our second day spent in bear hides. The schedule for observing bears remains largely unchanged from the previous day, ensuring continuity in our wildlife experience. Following lunch, we will make our way to the hides once again, alternating between different locations as necessary to enhance our chances of observing these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat. This thoughtful approach allows everyone to tailor their experience according to their interests and comfort levels while still enjoying what nature has to offer.



Day 5 - Editing Session and Bear Hides

The schedule for the final day in the bear hides closely mirrors that of Day 3, with a notable addition: a final editing session immediately after breakfast. This morning session will provide participants the opportunity to refine their observations and reflections from the previous days, ensuring that their insights are well-articulated before embarking on another immersive experience. Following this productive start, the programme resumes with similar activities in the bear hides as experienced previously. After lunch, we will set off for the hides once more, alternating between different locations as necessary to maximise our chances of sightings and enhance our overall experience.





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Day 6 - Travel Home

After a well-earned rest, we sit down to enjoy our final breakfast, relishing the last moments of our trip before embarking on the journey home. Following our meal, we gather our belongings and prepare to return the rental vehicle that has accompanied us throughout this adventure. The drive back to Ljubljana Airport is filled with reflections on the experiences we've shared, and we make it a point to allow ample time for our return, aiming to arrive at least 2-3 hours prior to our flight's departure. This buffer not only ensures that we can navigate any unexpected delays but also allows us time for final checks and perhaps some last-minute shopping at the airport shops. As we travel through Slovenia's picturesque landscapes one last time, we reflect how this trip has provided not just memories and photographic opportunities but also a deeper appreciation of the culture and beauty of this remarkable country, Slovenia.

Tuition, Field Craft, Techniques

Besides the two scheduled editing sessions on day 1 and day 4, there will be continuous tips and advice on Photography, Lightroom, Photoshop and Field Craft and we will also learn about the animals we encounter from our host. I encourage everyone to listen and learn during the tuition sessions and a laptop isn't essential, as I will have my own, meaning you can make the most of this opportunity whilst still keeping your luggage light. I can provide (if required) a recording of what is covered during these sessions, after the trip.

What To Expect (A Summary)

What to bring (this will not be provided by your host)

- Your photographic equipment - check recommendations
- Any medication you may need for the duration of the tour.
- We will be sheltered by the hides, so adverse weather is not something we need to be concerned with, but please bring what you would consider to be suitable clothing.
- Optional: Binoculars

Walking during the workshop

There may be some short walks when approaching the attractions and the hides and you may want to explore some other areas on foot. Apart from this, there should be no further strenuous walking.

Transportation and Parking

Transfers between the airport (Ljubljana) and all guest house is included. Also included is the transportation from the lodge(s) to the attractions and the hides. You will not need to hire a vehicle.

Food - IMPORTANT! Please take note:

On the first night, we will dine at a local restaurant of our choice at our own cost, taking in some of the local smells, tastes and visuals - estimate EUR20-40

The next morning, breakfast is included at our lodge and we will also eat a light lunch (at our own cost) - estimate EUR10-20

For the remainder of the tour, *all meals are included* and will be served at the guest house - any allergies and special requirements will need to be advised and arranged prior to departure.



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Photographic Experience

Whatever your knowledge and experience, you are welcome! All levels of photography are catered for.

RECOMMENDED

Your photographic equipment of choice

- A wide-angle lens for landscape photography
- A telephoto lens (200mm - 600mm)
- A Tripod or beanbag (the hides have bolts for gimbal and other heads)
- A pair of comfortable walking boots
- Weatherproof clothing (just in case)
- A rain cover for camera/lens (just in case)
- Water bottle. It can get really hot in the hides.
- *NOTE: Flash is not permitted*