

In Slovenia, the sun
shines approximately
2,000 hours per year
and there is plenty
of snow in winter.



HI Connect program in Slovenia

Hi there!

Do you want an exchange adventure in Slovenia? We are more than happy to provide you all the basic information that you need for an unforgettable voluntary work through the HI Connect program in one of Slovenian Youth Hostels.

Continue reading and be inspired with *Slove*nia.

HI Slovenian team



Visit beautiful Slovenia

Slovenia is a small country full of contradiction. The Alpine world connects with Mediterranean world and the Karst meets Pannonian Plain. The diversity of this small country does not fail to surprise every time, even the most demanding travellers. You can enjoy both, the smell of the sea and the beauty of high mountains. Where else can you go skiing and then dip your toes in the warm Adriatic Sea, all in one day? Mountain meadows offer you the most stunning views of river valleys and gorges carved by nature. The huge karst caves will open the secrets of the underworld to you. And the tastings of the homemade cuisine and excellent wine is just the icing on the cake.

Slovenia may
only have
46km of coastline
but it is pure heaven.



What to see and do in Slovenia

The capital, **Ljubljana**, has everything that larger capitals can offer, but it succeeded in keeping the charms of a relaxed smaller city. It's a picturesque and vivid city with many surprises stored – you will not be sorry. The cultural happenings with many events is marked by rich tradition and modern creativity.

Bled with the surrounding natural beauty is one of the most beautiful Alpine resorts, known for the mild climate and thermal lake water. The beauty of mountains reflects on the surface of the lake and it's truly beautiful. Sun, peace and fresh air surround you with feel-good mood in every season of the year for a relaxing or an active holiday.

Postojna cave is an underground cathedral where centuries mean nothing. With its 20-kilometre long halls, it is one of the longest and richest caves in the world and excellent for tourist visits.

Stud farm Lipica is one of the oldest stables in the world and the birth place of the Lipizzaner horses. The tradition of raising white horses is over 4 centuries long and placed in the unique karst world and is one of the natural and cultural monuments of Slovenia.

Maribor, the second largest city is just an hour away from the capital and is university and cultural city with many galleries, museums, concert, shops, a famous park, sporting objects and more. It is developing high class tourism, which is based on excellent wine and well preserved city centre.

Slovenia warmly welcomes every visitor with beautiful nature and kind people. Everywhere you go you will find something new – let this be thermal water in Radenci or Triglav National Park in all its beauty.

The Slovenian capital, Ljubljana, translates as "The Loved One".

In Slovenia, there is a vineyard for every 70 people.

There are still over 400 brown bears in Slovenia.

The world's oldest vine, 400 years old, is located in Maribor.

Getting to and around Slovenia

Slovenia is situated in Central Europe and borders Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia. It is only a few hours drive away from Venice or Vienna. Slovenia is easily accessible from all neighbouring countries, as it has good road and rail connections and daily flights from many European cities. Since it is a coastal country, you can also get to Slovenia by sea. More at: www.slovenia.info

Ljubljana castle (Nea Culpa, www.slovenia.info)



Bled (Franci Ferjan, www.slovenia.info)



Lipica horses (Bobo, www.slovenia.info)



Postojna cave (Dragan Arrigler, www.postojnska-jama.eu)



Maribor (Jurij Pivka, www.slovenia.info)

About

Hostelling International Slovenia

Hostelling International Slovenia is a **non-governmental organisation** with an aim to promote peace through travelling and cultural exchange. Our target group are young people, especially those wanting to experience nature and other cultures through travel – and we believe this leads to more understanding and, because of that, a more peaceful world.

HI Slovenia is based in Maribor where it has its main office and has more than **40 Youth Hostels** spread all over Slovenia. Hostels are very different but all of them work with **young people**. We are a leading organisation stimulating **youth mobility** through **youth travel** and **youth hostels**. We try to show travelling as a way of **non-formal learning** to gain more experience for the future life.

More at: www.youth-hostel.si

Voluntary opportunity

Currently there are tree Youth Hostels in Slovenia, which provide mobility activities for volunteers and HI staff. Each of them has its rules and requirements. For more details please get in touch with the person in charge for selected hostel.

Youth Hostel pod Voglom

Volunteering at the Hostel pod Voglom is carried out from 1 to 6 months. Hostel will provide you with a free accommodation in the premises for employees together with breakfast and a hot meal every day.

We expect the volunteer to be ready to learn about the functioning of the whole system. This means that volunteer gets to know a work that covers everything from work in the kitchen, rooms, bar, restaurant, work at the reception desk and gets a chance to attend some (or all) outdoor activities we do at that time:

- Work in the kitchen includes assistance in preparing food, dishwashing, cleaning the kitchen after the work,
- in rooms you help the maids in maintenance and cleaning,
- in the bar and restaurant you get to know the work that includes guest service, preparation and cleanliness of the working space, the organization of larger groups in the restaurant at the main meals, preparing breakfast, serving lunch and dinner to guests,
- reception is the heart of all work processes. Here you will find out basic activities, such as reception of guests, making reservations, personal contact with guests in the form of help and giving information. Every work, mentioned above, is coordinated here. In addition to the hostel, we also run a sports agency for various sports activities, so there are also bookings for both individuals and larger groups, which need to be coordinated with our sports guides. Volunteers can join the group in these activities so you can also get to know this line of work.

As you can see, we have a large organization that includes a lot of different work processes, so there is plenty to learn. Come to us and get an amazing mobility experience.

Triglav National Park is one of the oldest parks in Europe.



Youth Hostel Proteus

Youth hostel Proteus is part of the forestry, carpentry and nursery school. It consists of two main buildings – a school dormitory and a hostel dormitory. The hostel also offers a big dining room for students, groups and for other people who want to grab a bite or do some work.

Volunteering at the Hostel Proteus is carried out from 14 days to 1 month. Volunteer would work 30 to 40 hours per week. We offer accommodation in a single room with shared bathroom. You will have breakfast and one warm meal every day. We also have kitchen for guests, which you can use.

Description of general volunteer work:

- in the kitchen we need help with preparation and cleaning,
- we always need some help cleaning and housekeeping rooms, bathrooms, classrooms, common places,
- we need help at the reception desk during high season. We don't need help at the reception during school season,
- during school season the volunteer can run some cooking classes for dormitory students, maybe teach them how to prepare some of your traditional dish. You can also join one of teachers at health food lessons in classroom.

Description of voluntary work with unaccompanied refugee minors:

- help with learning (English, foreign languages, Maths...),
- meeting other cultures through interactions with the young, making new friends,
- organizing workshops (cooking workshops, skills workshops),
- helping with workshops and activities,
- helping with cooking a meal for 30 people (lunch, dinner).

There are over 10,000 caves in Slovenia. The best known is Postojna.



Youth Hostel Bovec

Bovec is a small town in Slovenia, located between high mountains and famous Soča river. It is a great destination for people looking for adrenaline release, river and land sports, tasty traditional food, historical and natural monuments. Volunteering at the Hostel Bovec is carried out from 45 days to 3 months. Hostel will provide you with a free accommodation and pocket money for food. Hostel has a guest kitchen you can use and cook for yourselves.

Description of volunteer work:

- promotion of the town, natural and cultural heritage, festivals, tradition...
- organizing events for hostel guests (animation, chit-chat evenings, socializing on the open and closed terrace of the hostel, organising picnics...),
- help at the reception (reception work and tending to guests needs, help with bookings, information and awareness raising among guests...),
- help with administrative work and promotion of the hostel (getting to know the online social networks, updating web sites ...),
- tending to the facility (maintaining the neatness of the exterior and interior),
- help with preparation of breakfasts,
- maintenance of facility (janitor work, maintenance such as painting walls...),
- tending the surroundings (gardening and similar).

Half of Slovenia's
total surface
area is forest,
10,000km².



Costs

Hostel will provide you with a free accommodation and half board for every day of the mobility activity. If the food is not provided in the hostel, you will get a pocket money for food. For more details of your dietary habits and needs please get in touch with the person in charge in selected hostel. It is also important to have health insurance and personal spending money.

Selection process

A motivation letter and CV is required due to quality preparation of the program tailored to your ambitions, expectation, knowledge, skills and experience so that the experience will be as beneficial as possible for all parts involved. Hostel reserves the right to refuse a candidate.

Language requirement

You need to have at least an intermediate level of English language to maximise your experience at the time of mobility activity. Hostel will organise a Skype meeting with you prior to your visit. This will enable to the responsible person to survey your expectations as well as assess your level of English. Knowledge of another language is a plus.

Programme evaluation

You will be required to complete a programme evaluation and to share your experiences with hostel management to help us improve future exchange participant experiences. And please share your positive HI Connect experience with other travel and volunteering enthusiasts.

Useful Slovenian phrases

English

Slovenian

Welcome	Dobrodošli
Hello (General greeting)	Zdravo
Hello (on phone)	Prosim
How are you?	Kako se imaš?
Reply to 'How are you?'	Dobro, hvala, in ti?
What's your name?	Kako ti je ime?
My name is ...	Ime mi je ...
Where are you from?	Od kod si?
I'm from ...	Sem iz ...
Pleased to meet you	Me veseli
Good morning	Dobro jutro
Good afternoon	Dober dan
Good evening	Dober večer
Good night	Lahko noč
Goodbye	Nasvidenje
Good luck!	Srečno
Cheers!	Na zdravje!
Have a nice day	Lep dan ti želim!
Bon appétit	Dober tek!
Have a good journey	Srečno pot
Yes	Da
No	Ne
Maybe	Mogoče
I don't know	Ne vem

Slovenian language has the most dialects per capita in the European Union.

Next to singular and plural, Slovenian also uses dual grammatical number.

English

Slovenian

I understand	Razumem
I don't understand	Ne razumem
Do you speak English?	Ali govorite angleško?
Do you speak Slovenian?	Ali govorite slovensko?
Yes, a little	Ja, malo
How do you say ... in Slovenian?	Kako se reče po slovensko ...?
Excuse me	Oprosti
Sorry	Oprosti
How much is this?	Koliko to stane?
Please	Prosim
Thank you	Najlepša hvala
Reply to thank you	Ni za kaj
Where's the toilet?	Kje imate stranišče?
I miss you	Pogrešam te
I love you	Ljubim te
Help!	Na pomoč!
Fire!	Gori!
Stop!	Ustavi se!
Call the police!	Pokliči policijo!
Merry Christmas	Vesel božič
Happy New Year	Srečno novo leto
Happy Easter	Vesele velikonočne praznike
Happy Birthday	Vse najboljše za rojstni dan
One language is never enough	En jezik ni nikoli dovolj