

SLOVENIA & CROATIA

API TOUR, 12 DAYS

Professional visits to beekeepers, Lake Bled – Alpine jewel, mystery Karst, Secovlje Salt pans, Ljubljana – a green European capital, culinary delights, picturesque cities of Croatian Istria, Brioni national park...

May 14th – May 25th 2017

Slovenia lies in the center of Europe, where the Alps meet the Mediterranean area and the Karst changes into sumptuous forests. You will be captivated by the blue Adriatic Sea and the mysterious Karst with its subterranean caves. The beautiful world of the mountains, nature parks, ravines, plateaus and crystal clean waters that pour in picturesque lakes will amaze you.



DAY 01: Arrival to Ljubljana airport – Lake Bled – Visit to a beekeeper – miniature beehouses – Bled

After arrival at Ljubljana airport, drive to magnificent **Lake Bled** - one of Europe's most beautiful Alpine resorts in Europe. Walk around the lake and sightseeing. Boat ride with the traditional wooden boat "pletna" to the small island on the Lake of Bled, where you can ring the bell at the Church of the Assumption for good luck (entrance not included in price). Do not miss to try their famous cream cake, called "kremšnita". Afternoon, **visit to a beekeeper** and introduction to the mysterious life of bees. An experienced beekeeper will introduce you to his apiary, beekeeping and the importance of bees and bee products, a visit to the beehive with plantation of nectar producing plants, a presentation of an escaped swarm and a tasting of honey products. Afterwards **visit to producer of miniature bee houses**. Accommodation and dinner in farm house in Bled region.

DAY 02: Bled – Beekeeping Center Lesce OR Museum of Apiculture – Skofja Loka – Visit to a beekeeper – Bled

In the morning, visit **to Museum of Apiculture** where Slovenia's entire beekeeping heritage is presented with a special emphasis on the 18th and 19th centuries. The museum has approximately 600 original hive fronts; the motifs painted in present the lives and beliefs of people from that time **OR** visit to Beekeeping education center in Lesce. Modernly equipped and designed beekeeping education centre combines the education, development, presentation and promotion of beekeeping. It preserves rich Slovene beekeeping heritage, but at the same time, it also follows contemporary technology standards of beekeeping. There is also an apitherapy bee house. Drive to **Skofja Loka**, a town, established more than a thousand years ago. Archaeological finds, however, testify to the presence of settlements in the Skofja Loka area from at least the 20th century BC. Afterwards, **visit to a beekeeper** with very long tradition. Introduction to his beekeeping and degustation of bee products, especially their famous honey brandy and honey with red beet, which could be used as a medicine and it's their invention. Accommodation and dinner in farm house in Bled region.

DAY 03: Bled – Velika planina – Mozirski gaj – Tourist farm

After breakfast, drive to **Velika planina**. It is located nearby Ljubljana and only few kilometers from the town Kamnik. There is a cable car, which takes you amongst the green pastures of the mountain plateau in the heart of the Kamnik Alps. Enjoy **light trekking tour** in unspoiled nature, we suggest to try traditional shepherds' food, curdled milk and buckwheat mush with cracklings. Continuing drive to **Mozirski Gaj**, also known as the flower park, as it is noted for its millions of different flowers that make such a magical display within this charming green space. Meeting with the president of local beekeeper's association and tasting of his honey liquids. Drive to tourist farm in Styria region, accommodation, dinner and overnight.

DAY 04: Visit to a beekeeper – Herbal & beekeeping farm – Tourist farm

In the morning **visit to a beekeeper** who owns small and unique museum of apiculture and collection of old farm tools. Continue way to the **herbal & beekeeping farm**, which is set in unspoiled nature. Walk through their honey plants garden and introduction to some of the herbs along with their effects to human body. At the end, enjoy a cup of tea and delicious homemade baked goods. Drive back to tourist farm. Dinner and overnight.

DAY 05: Visit to the pumpkin oil mill – Open air museum Tigeli – Visit to a beekeeper (Semen) – Jerusalem wine road – Tourist farm

After breakfast, visit to the **pumpkin oil mill**, which uses its long-lasting tradition, knowledge and experience to offer top quality and unique non-refined oils to all the customers, who value their health. Introduction & tasting of homemade pumpkin seed oil. Drive to the **open-air museum Tigeli**, where visitors can follow the process of beekeeping, see the collection, and participate in bee wax sculpting or crafting workshops. The museum has won many prestigious awards for honey making on international fairs in Slovenia, a territory known for its tough competition. In the afternoon **visit to a beekeeper**, who owns over 600 beehives. In a typical Slovenian bee house, he is practicing apitherapy with breathing of aerosol. Continue way to **Jeruzalem Wine Road** with tasting of some great local wine. This region is not only famous for their wines but also for the beauty of the surrounding landscape. Along the Jeruzalem Wine Road, nature glows in vibrant colors in every season, providing a suitable setting for the genuine hospitality of your hosts along the wine road and the outstanding quality of the wines produced here. Return to tourist farm. Dinner and overnight.

DAY 06: Tourist farm – Slovenian Beekeepers Association – Ljubljana

In the morning visit to a **Slovenian Beekeepers' Association**, which was established 140 years ago, and comprises 200 beekeeping societies. A significant part of their efforts is dedicated to informing the public about the importance of beekeeping. Introducing with the activities of the Center, multivision presentation, visit of plantation of nectar producing plants and beehives, built in unique Carniolian style. Drive to **Ljubljana**, capital of Slovenia and European Green Capital 2016, which brings together the characteristics of east, west, north, and south in its own special way. This town of lively cultural events stretched out below Ljubljana Castle boasts various theatres, museums, galleries, an opera house, and one of the oldest philharmonic societies in the world. We enjoy a walk through the old town centre, across Plečnik's well-known Triple Bridge, down to the cathedral, past Francesco Robba's fountain, and the town hall. Drive to farm house near Ljubljana (farmhouse Pr'Lazarju), dinner and overnight.

DAY 07: Visit to a beekeeper – Apitherapy bee house near Novo mesto – Postojna Cave & Predjama castle – Karst region

After breakfast, **visit to a beekeeper** and enjoy honey tasting. Visit to a **female beekeeper & potter**, who owns apitherapy apiary and standing hives, besides that, she has 10 bee colonies at her own balcony. She runs first urban beekeeping club, with her mobile teaching beehive she organizes educational visits for kids, too. Drive to **Karst region**, a picturesque Karst region covered by olive trees and vineyards. A visit to **Postojna Cave**, the largest and the most visited show cave in Europe with 20 kilometers of passages, galleries and chambers. Ride with electrical train through the marvelous underground world. Next stop is at nearby **Predjama castle** with

dramatic setting in the gaping mouth of a cavern halfway up a cliff. Accommodation, dinner and overnight in farmhouse in Karst region.

DAY 08: Karst region – Bovec – visit to a beekeeper specialized in bee hive front panels’ paintings – Most na Soci (boat ride with lunch) – Karst region (Farm house)

After breakfast drive to **Bovec**, a small mountain pearl of Slovenia and of the Triglav National Park, surrounded by high peaks of the Julian Alps. Bovec is a Slovene outdoor activity centre. Get charmed by diversity of sports activities and proximity of the mountains, ideal for hiking. **Visit to a beekeeper**, artist specialized in beehive front panels painting. Continue way to **Most na Soci**. Embark on the boat and enjoy boat cruise and light lunch on Soca River. During the excursion, the captain stops the boat and tells the legend of the creation of the lake, including a princess, a cave, a dragon and an almost happy conclusion. Return to tourist farm at Karst region. Dinner and overnight.

DAY 09: Secovlje Salt Pans – Rovinj, CROATIA (free at leisure)

Morning tour to the **saltpans in Secovlje** and its open-air museum of salt making. The Secovlje salt works are the only remaining salt works where sea salt is still harvested by using a traditional method, used in the 14th century. Drive to **Rovinj** (Croatia). Rovinj is situated on the west coast of Istria and one of the most popular and most developed tourist resorts in Croatia. Enjoy some free time at leisure. Dinner in local restaurant. Drive to hotel in Rovinj area, accommodation and overnight.

DAY 10: Rovinj – Pula – Boat trip to Brioni national park (optional) – Rovinj

Morning drive to **Pula** with numerous monuments of Roman architecture. Visit to the famous Roman Forum, Hercules’ Gate and Twin Gates, the Temple of Augustus in the town centre. **Afternoon free at leisure OR half day tour to the National park Brioni**, former Tito’s residence. Boat ride to islands. You will enjoy the beautiful nature, flora and fauna. Return to Rovinj and dinner at local restaurant. Drive to hotel in Rovinj area and overnight.

DAY 11: Rovinj – Pliskovica karst village (SLOVENIA) and visit to a beekeeper– dry ham & wine tasting – farmhouse

After breakfast, drive back to Slovenia and visit of a typical karst wine growing village of **Pliskovica**, where wine trade is a well-developed activity. **Visit to a beekeeper specialized in beehives transport system**. Introduction to their beekeeping activities, their technique of beekeeping, especially of their unique transport system for beehives. Visit the wine cellar and enjoy a wine tasting along with dry ham. Drive to farmhouse in Karst region.

DAY 12 Portorož – Ljubljana airport

Morning transfer to Portorož and Ljubljana airport for flight back home. End of the tour.

Have a great Api tour!

Package price (from 15 – 19 pax):

Price calculated in December 2016
Price is per person, based on twin room.

1.650 EUR

Included in the price:

- ✓ Transportation in air-conditioned 20 seater coach as per programme
- ✓ Accomodations in farmhouses: 2 nights in Bled, 3 nights in Sv. Jurij, 2 nights in Rovinj, 3 nights in Karst, 1 night in Ljubljana on twin/double rooms BB
- ✓ Tourist tax
- ✓ 11x breakfast and dinners
- ✓ Entrances and fees as per program (175 EUR)
- ✓ Professional English speaking guide
- ✓ Organization and assistance

Not included:

- ✓ Supplement for single room 180 EUR
- ✓ Lunches and drinks
- ✓ **Half day tour to Brijoni National Park 35 EUR**
- ✓ Travel assurance in case of sickness before departure
- ✓ Travel insurance
- ✓ Everything not listed in "Included"

**PLEASE KINDLY NOTE, NO RESERVATION HAS BEEN MADE*

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