

# Ljubljana - Capital of Slovenia

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Ljubljana, Slovenia  
Saturday, June 4, 2016

*It's the job that's never started as takes longest to finish. J.R.R. Tolkien*

## Thursday 2nd of June 2016

What a lovely surprise Ljubljana is. A beautiful town with exquisite architecture, streets lined with outdoor cafes that serve good coffee, set on the blue/green Ljubljanica River. There is a large population of university students living here and the majority of them seem to be musicians going by the number with violin cases strapped to their backs as they ride past on bicycles. The old part of town is closed to vehicles, leaving the cobblestone streets for pedestrians to stroll around and enjoy the sights. Slovenia is proud of the fact that nearly 40% of its land area is covered in forest, and they are serious about reducing rubbish and encouraging recycling. All street bins are labelled with the type of rubbish to be deposited, requiring you to separate various types of recycleable goods such as paper, plastic, metal, organic, and general residue into the correct bin.

We spent the first part of the day doing a self guided walk around the "must see" sites, before separating for a while to do our own preferences and then purchasing some supplies at the market to cook for tea in our apartment.

Fine and sunny 25 degrees. Walked 11 km.

## Friday 3rd of June 2016

We were thinking of taking a side trip to Lake Bled today, but it was a 2.5 hour trip each way which would have taken up most of the day, and we still had sights to see in Ljubljana. The morning was spent exploring the castle on top the large hill in the centre of town. The castle has been extensively renovated to be a fully functional convention venue, wedding venue and has a few high class restaraunts on site as well as being a museum. A very modern funicular with a fully glazed carriage is provided to save one from climbing up hundreds of stairs to get to the top. The view from the tower on top of the castle is spectacular, with views towards snow covered massifs in the distance.

We adjourned for lunch at a riverside cafe before checking out the Universtity / National Library, which was said to be the masterpiece of Joze Plecnik, the Christopher Wren of Ljubljana.

As luck would have it, Friday is food market day in Ljubljana. The whole town had descended on the market square to sample various international foods, very much like the summer food festival Wednesday night events at Vic Market in Melbourne. The food was fantastic and relatively inexpensive. Afterwards there was a supervisor at the rubbish bins ensuring that we put the correct items into the correct receptacle.

We have noticed how stylish people are in this town, dressing very well for dinner, so we did the same and it felt good to do things the European way. I have been enjoying espresso coffee which is always served with a glass of iced water, while Anna has stuck to her Coke Zero, preferably served in a can or bottle - and not in a glass!

One observation we have made about Europeans is that while they dress very well and take environmental issues seriously, a huge proportion smoke cigarettes, including inside cafes and restaraunts. We are not used to seeing this as it is a while since people were allowed to do this at home.

All in all, we have been impressed with Slovenia and its lovely capital and feel we would like to come back again to explore it further. The people are friendly and helpful without being overbearing.

25 degrees - clear with some dark thundery clouds in the afternoon but no rain. Walked 7km.

## Comments

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*Great photo's kids. Enjoying them very much. xx*

— From Jennie, on Jun 5, 2016 at 05:17AM

*It is a pleasant suprise isn't it? I wasn't expecting the beauty. Keep the blogs coming. Looks like you're having a fantastic time!*

— From Steph, on Jun 7, 2016 at 08:56AM

## Pictures & Video

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Typical Ljubljana old town street scene



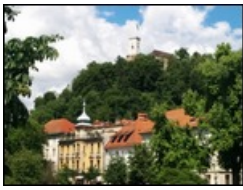
Ljubljana laneway



Opera House



Ljubljanica River and cafes



Castle on the hill



Castle Tower



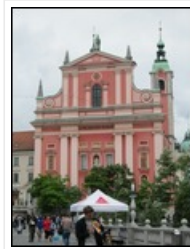
View from the Castle Tower  
Comments!



Crowded Friday Night food market



Another street scene  
Comments!



Triple Bridge with  
Ljubljana Cathedral  
behind





Ljubljana laneway



Opera House

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Ljubljana River and cafes

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Castle on the hill

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Castle Tower

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View from the Castle Tower

Comments:

*I like in that the majority of the buildings are 'medium rise' so giving a 'coherency' to the city - it all sort of fits together.*

— From Craig McArthur, on Jun 9, 2016 at 09:51PM

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Crowded Friday Night food market

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Another street scene

Comments:

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*Ah, thanks, I love seeing were the old style homes fit into the town. It gives a better expression as to the history and were, (if you had the money) you would buy your second home to savour the true 'flavour' of the town*

— From Craig McArthur, on Jun 9, 2016 at 09:55PM

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Triple Bridge with Ljubljana Cathedral behind

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