

Slovenia, Venice & Lago Maggiore

MAY 13-26, 2019





Dear Compass Traveler,

For something a little different, we invite you to join us as we explore the tiny country of Slovenia—a paradise of soaring peaks and sparkling rivers, fairytale castles, picturesque villages, sophisticated cuisine, and a welcoming culture. This trip also takes us to one of Italy's most awe-inspiring cities, Venice, where art and history live in every corner of this Floating City. And, we save the best for last, as we visit Luigi's village of Cannero Riviera on the shore of Lago Maggiore. It's a magical place that you won't want to leave!

Holly & Luigi

ITINERARY

Monday, May 13

Our trip begins this afternoon with a private transfer from New London, NH, to Boston's Logan Airport for our overnight flight to Slovenia.

Tuesday, May 14

Our professional guide meets us upon our arrival in Ljubljana and we transfer to the lakeside town of Bled with its stunning mountain scenery, magnificent castle, and picturesque island church. This afternoon we ride in the traditional wooden boats called *pletnas* to the small island in the lake. Afterwards, we enjoy a welcome dinner overlooking the lake.

Overnight: Bled—Hotel Lovec (D)

Wednesday, May 15

Today we visit Bled's magical cliff-top castle—a quintessential medieval fortress complete with towers, ramparts, moats, and spectacular views over the surrounding countryside.



Above: Predjama Castle in Ljubljana, built into a cavern halfway up a cliff. Below left: Pletnas on Lake Bled, a glacial lake fed by hot springs.

Later, we visit a farm that makes dairy products typical of the Bohinj region.

Overnight: Bled—Hotel Lovec (B,L)

Thursday, May 16

In Slovenia, beekeeping is considered to be the poetry of agriculture—it is a land of 12,500 bee houses. On our way to Ljubljana today, we visit a beekeeper and the Museum of Apiculture. Later, we visit a functioning lect workshop—a honey-bread bakery—where products of an old Slovenian craft called *lectarija* are produced.

Overnight: Ljubljana—Hotel Cubo (B,L)

Friday, May 17

Ljubljana, tucked between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea, is Slovenia's capital

and largest city. We enjoy an electric train tour of this wonderful city. The old city center is remarkable for its unique Baroque and Art Nouveau architecture—many buildings bear the mark of the great Slovenian architect, Joseph Plecnik. Later, a funicular ride takes us up to see Ljubljana's most distinctive feature, its medieval hilltop castle. After lunch the afternoon is yours to explore more of Ljubljana.

Overnight: Ljubljana—Hotel Cubo (B,L)

Saturday, May 18

This morning we browse the Art Market, where original and creatively designed products are sold and often also created by Ljubljana's artists and craftsmen. Predjama Castle, part of which is built into the middle of a

123-metre high vertical cliff face, was originally home of the legendary outcast knight Erasmus—this is our next destination.

Overnight: Ljubljana–Hotel Cubo (B,L)

Sunday, May 19

The ideal destination for a Sunday morning stroll is the antique and flea market that runs along the river embankment. Afterwards, we travel west to the village of Lipica, where the noble white Lipizzaner horses (named for this town) were originally bred. Our excursion includes a visit to the Lipica Stud Farm, which has been operating in the Karst Region since 1580.

We leave Slovenia for Italy later in the day. Upon arriving in the unique and evocative city of Venice, private water taxis ferry us to Hotel Flora, a 17th century Palazzo.

Overnight: Venice–Hotel Flora (B,L)

Monday, May 20

Today, delight in the history and allure of Venice as we explore the glories of this unique cityscape with our Venetian guide.

Overnight: Venice–Hotel Flora (B)

Tuesday, May 21

This morning, we set off across the Venetian lagoon to visit the island of Murano, renowned for its ancient tradition of glass making. Enjoy free time during our last afternoon in Venice.

Overnight: Venice–Hotel Flora (B)

Wednesday, May 22

We've saved the best for last—Luigi's magical village of Cannero Riviera on beautiful Lago Maggiore. Before reaching Cannero, we visit Italy's most unspoiled, elite wine paradise, Franciacorta. This heavenly patch of fertile land makes a bubbly that's perhaps even more prestigious than the iconic French drop!

Overnight: Cannero Riviera–Hotel Cannero (B, L)



For centuries, the gondola was the principle means of transportation and most common watercraft in Venice.



Top: Cannero Riviera on Lago Maggiore. Bottom: Lago d'Orta, a secluded jewel of a lake west of Maggiore.

Thursday, May 23

This morning in the resort town of Stresa we board a private launch to tour the Borromean Islands. Set like jewels in the middle of Lago Maggiore, the islands have a rich and colorful history—Isola Bella is featured in Hemingway's *A Farewell To Arms*.

Overnight: Cannero Riviera–Hotel Cannero (B)

Friday, May 24

West of Lago Maggiore lies Lago d'Orta. Its scenery is characteristically Italian, while Isola San Giulio is home to a 12th-century basilica and a 19th-century seminary-turned-monastery. Today we enjoy this secluded, tranquil lake.

Overnight: Cannero Riviera–Hotel Cannero (B)

Saturday, May 25

Enjoy a leisurely morning at our beautiful hotel. Then we're off in small vans up, up, up into the mountains behind Cannero for a special farewell lunch.

Overnight: Cannero Riviera–Hotel Cannero (B,L)

Sunday, May 26

We reluctantly bid *Arrivederci* to Cannero and transfer to the Milan Airport for our flight to Boston. Our private motorcoach will transfer us back to New London. (B)



The island of Murano, famed for its glass-making artisans.

INCLUDED FEATURES:

- Escorted by Holly Walker and Luigi Minoletti
- Private motorcoach from New London, NH, to Logan Airport and return
- Accommodations for 12 nights in first class hotels
- Meals: 12 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 1 dinner (noted in itinerary as B, L, D)
- Sightseeing as outlined in the day-to-day itinerary
- Services of a professional, English-speaking tour guide throughout
- Transportation by private motorcoach
- Porterage of one suitcase per person at hotels

PRICE

\$5,995.00 per person
Based on double occupancy
(Single supplement upon request)

Airfare Not Included

TOUR LIMITED TO 20 PARTICIPANTS



For more information, please contact:

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