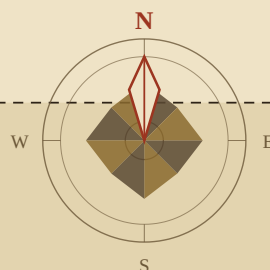


MADE TO EXPLORE

THE TRIGLAV ROAD

*Around the mountain on the flag, from Bled to
the Soča and back*

8 stops · 300 km · by campervan



LEGEND

- the driving route
- ... car train through the tunnel
- stage stop
- △ summit above 1,900 m

SCALE — KILOMETRES

0 10 20 30

1

BLED

Gorenjska — the lake from the postcards

THE MOUNTAIN Bled is the picture of Slovenia: a green lake, an island with a church, a castle on a cliff and Triglav behind it, to the west. The island is reached only by pletna, the village's rowing boat, and in the church you pull the wishing bell. Above, the castle of 1011 is the oldest in the country. And in the café you eat kremšnita, the cream cake that became a national symbol in 1953.

THE CAMPER Campsite at the western end of the lake, under the cliff, the best-placed in Slovenia and the fullest. In summer you book months ahead. Bled in August is the most crowded place in the country.

FREE The six-kilometre walk around the lake is free. The pletna and the castle are not. Five kilometres away, the Vintgar gorge — a 1.6 km wooden walkway above green water — has a small ticket and is worth doing early, before the coaches.

WHERE TO SLEEP Campsite · Camping Bled, Kidričeva cesta · GPS 46.36100, 14.07793

Bled → Bohinjska Bistrica → Lake Bohinj, 25 km · ~30 min by camper. The road follows the Sava Bohinjka upstream.

2

BOHINJ

Triglav National Park — the other lake

THE MOUNTAIN Bohinj is twice the size of Bled and ten times emptier: no island, no castle, no cake, just water between mountains. It lies inside the national park and it is the lake you climb Triglav from. At its far end the Savica waterfall bursts out of the wall at 78 metres — the source of the Sava Bohinjka. And the Vogel cable car climbs to 1,500 metres, from where you see the whole mountain.

THE CAMPER Two campsites at the lake, at Ukanc and Ribčev Laz. Quieter than Bled, still full in August. The road ends at Ukanc — beyond it you cannot go by vehicle.

FREE The lakeshore, the beach at Ukanc and the path along the northern bank are open. Savica has a ticket and twenty minutes of climbing; Vogel has a cable car with a ticket, but the view from the top is why you came.

WHERE TO SLEEP Campsite · Camp Bohinj, Ukanc · GPS 46.27905, 13.83617

Bohinj → Bled → Jesenice → Kranjska Gora, 70 km · ~1½ h by camper. You go back the same way to Bled, then up the Sava Dolinka valley.

3

KRANJSKA GORA

Sava Dolinka — the gateway to the pass

THE MOUNTAIN Kranjska Gora is Slovenia's ski resort and the village at the foot of the Vršič. Three kilometres away, Zelenci: an eye of emerald water two metres deep, where the Sava rises, the country's longest river. Five kilometres away, Planica, the valley of the ski-flying hills, where 200 metres was first jumped. The mountain above is Jalovec, not Triglav — Triglav is beyond the pass.

THE CAMPER Campsite at the entrance to the village, with power and water. It is the last place to sleep before the pass; up there you do not stay the night.

FREE Zelenci is free and ten minutes' walk from the car park. Planica is seen from the road, and the visitor centre has a ticket. The village is small and walked on foot.

Kranjska Gora → Vršič, 12 km and 800 metres of climb. Fifty numbered hairpins, cobbled on the upper ones.

4

VRŠIČ

1,611 m — the pass with fifty hairpins

THE MOUNTAIN The Vršič is the highest road pass in Slovenia and was built in 1915 by Russian prisoners of war to supply the Soča front. In March 1916 an avalanche buried several hundred of them. The wooden chapel at the eighth hairpin was raised by the survivors for the dead, and it is where Slovenia and Russia still meet once a year. From the pass, Triglav is ten kilometres east, closer than anywhere else on the route.

THE CAMPER The hairpins on the northern side are tight and cobbled — a 7-metre camper does them, but in second gear and without hurry. Parking at the top is small and full by midday. The pass is closed from November to April.

FREE The Russian chapel is free and stands at the edge of the road. From the pass, the path to Sleme, an hour, gives the best view of Jalovec and the Trenta valley. It costs nothing.

| Vršič → Trenta, 12 km down the southern side, wider and gentler.

5

TRENTA

The Trenta valley — where the Soča rises

THE MOUNTAIN The Soča comes out of the rock at the end of a gorge, at 990 metres, into a pool so clear you do not see the bottom but the stones on it. From here down, the river is a colour no other river in Europe has — a milky turquoise that comes from dissolved limestone. Trenta is the valley of the source: a few villages, the Juliana alpine botanical garden, and the park museum.

THE CAMPER Campsites down the valley along the river, small and simple. The one at Trenta is closest to the source.

FREE The path to the source of the Soča is free and takes twenty minutes, the last part on cables. The river can be touched anywhere from the road. The Juliana garden has a small ticket.

WHERE TO SLEEP Campsite · Camping Trenta pri Štruklju, Trenta · GPS 46.38886, 13.74735

| Trenta → Soča → Bovec, 25 km down the river valley · ~45 min by camper. The road stays on the water the whole way.

6

BOVEC

The middle Soča — the capital of fast water

THE MOUNTAIN Bovec is where the Soča becomes a playground: rafting, kayaking, canyoning, zip lines, all on a river that stays cold and green even in August. Five kilometres away, the Boka waterfall drops 106 metres straight out of the wall, the highest in Slovenia, and is seen from the road. Above the village, Mangart, the country's third summit, has a tarmac road to 2,055 m — the highest in Slovenia.

THE CAMPER Campsites on the riverbank at Bovec and Čezsoča. The Mangart road is narrow, with tunnels, and tolled; the camper does not go up — take a car or skip it.

FREE Boka is seen from the bridge, free, a few steps from the car park. The river is open everywhere; only the activities cost. Fort Kluže, on the road to Log pod Mangartom, has a small ticket and tunnels in the rock.

WHERE TO SLEEP Campsite · Kamp Klin, Bovec · GPS 46.33077, 13.64252

| Bovec → Kobarid, 20 km downstream on the Soča · ~30 min by camper. The river widens, the valley opens.

7

KOBARID

Caporetto — the Soča front

THE MOUNTAIN Kobarid is Caporetto in Italian: here, in October 1917, the German and Austrian armies broke the Italian line in Italy's greatest defeat of the war, and Hemingway wrote about the retreat in *A Farewell to Arms*. The museum in the village is the best war museum in the Alps. Above it, the Italian ossuary holds 7,000 dead. And three kilometres away, the Kozjak waterfall falls into a cave of green limestone, like a cathedral.

THE CAMPER Campsite at the edge of the village, on the bank of the Soča. Kobarid is the best place in the valley for two nights.

FREE Kozjak is free and half an hour on foot, past Napoleon's bridge. The ossuary on the hill is free. The museum has a ticket, and it is the only one on the route we say plainly is worth it.

WHERE TO SLEEP Campsite · Kamp Koren, Kobarid · GPS 46.25144, 13.58699

| Kobarid → Tolmin, 20 km downstream · ~30 min by camper. The last stretch of mountain Soča.

8

TOLMIN

The Tolmin gorges — the lowest point of the park

THE MOUNTAIN The Tolmin gorges are the lowest entrance to the national park, at 180 metres: two rivers, the Tolminka and the Zadlaščica, cut deep into limestone, with the Bear's Head — a boulder wedged between the walls above the water — and the Devil's Bridge sixty metres above the gorge. Here the mountain Soča ends; below this it is a lowland river, then Italy. And Triglav, from the south, is twenty kilometres away, further than from anywhere else on the route.

THE CAMPER Campsite at Tolmin on the bank of the Soča, at the confluence with the Tolminka. From here the loop closes by car train from Podbrdo.

FREE The gorges have a small ticket and an hour's walk. The village and the riverbank are open. Most na Soči, five kilometres away, has a reservoir as green as the river.

| Tolmin → Most na Soči → the Bača valley → Podbrdo, 30 km. At Podbrdo you drive the camper onto the train; you come out at Bohinjska Bistrica, beside the lake you started from.

THE ROUTE IN BRIEF

Distance	~300 km
Driving time	~7 h in all, without stops
Recommended time	6–8 days
Stage stops	8
Countries	SI
Highest point	Vršič, 1,611 m
Direction	a loop, clockwise
Best months	Jun · Sep

GOOD TO KNOW BEFORE YOU LEAVE

The loop closes with the vehicle on a train, through a tunnel under the mountain.

The campsite at Bled is booked months ahead in summer.

The Slovenian vignette depends on the vehicle's height.

WHEN TO GO

Ideal: June and September. The Vršič is open, the Soča is as warm as it gets, and Bled is not yet or no longer full.

Workable: July–August, with Bled and Bohinj booked months ahead, and the Vršič early in the morning, before the motorbikes.

Avoid: November–April. The Vršič is closed and the loop cannot be driven; only the two lakes remain.

May and October: the Vršič usually opens in May and closes in November, but with snow about. Check the pass on the morning you leave.

VIGNETTE AND ROADS

The Slovenian vignette is electronic and bought online against the number plate. The class is not by weight but by the height of the vehicle above the front axle: under 1.30 m is class 2A, over 1.30 m is class 2B, which costs about double.

An ordinary camper is 2B. A van-based camper with a low cab may be 2A — measure before you buy. Buying the wrong class is fined at a check.

The vignette is compulsory on motorways and expressways. The loop itself, through the mountains, is on untolled roads; you need it coming and going.

The Mangart road is tolled separately. The Vršič is not.

WHERE YOU SLEEP

Free camping is banned in Slovenia, and in the Triglav national park it is enforced and fined seriously. On this route there is no point: there is a campsite at every stop and they are good.

Bled and Bohinj are booked months ahead in summer. The rest of the loop — Kranjska Gora, Trenta, Bovec, Kobarid, Tolmin — usually has room without.

The campsites on the Soča are on the water's edge and are among the finest in the Alps. The water is 8–10 degrees even in August; it is not for swimming, it is for looking at.

Nights at Trenta and on the Vršič are cold even in summer. Heating on.

THE CAR TRAIN THROUGH THE TUNNEL

What it is Between Bohinjska Bistrica and Podbrdo a six-kilometre rail tunnel runs under the mountain. There is no good road alongside. The train takes cars and campers on open wagons: you drive on, pull the handbrake, stay in the vehicle, and come out the other side in ten minutes.

Why it matters The loop closes without retracing a single road. Without the train, Tolmin back to Bled is a 120 km detour through Idrija, or the whole route again backwards.

How it works The train runs several times a day in both directions, to a fixed timetable. The ticket is bought at the station, per vehicle, a few euros. Height and length limits are posted at the station — a 7-metre camper of 3.2 m height fits; check yours beforehand.

The direction The route runs Podbrdo → Bohinjska Bistrica, so you come out at the lake you started from. It can be done the other way, but then you begin with Tolmin and end with Bled, and the ending is weaker.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How is the Slovenian vignette calculated for a camper?

By the height of the vehicle above the front axle, not by weight: under 1.30 m is class 2A, over 1.30 m is class 2B, which costs about double. Measure before you buy.

What is the Podbrdo car train?

A train that carries vehicles on open wagons through a six-kilometre tunnel, between Podbrdo and Bohinjska Bistrica. You stay in the vehicle

and come out the other side in ten minutes; without it, the loop needs a 120 km detour.

When is the Vršič pass open?

Usually from May to November. From November to April it is closed and the loop cannot be driven — only the two lakes remain.

Can you wild camp in Triglav National Park?

No. Free camping is banned in Slovenia and is enforced and seriously fined in the park. There are campsites at every stop on the route.

THE RULE OF THE ROAD

“It is the only country with its mountain on the flag.

This route does not climb it — it goes round it, and sees it from every side.

What you climb is a pass, what you come down is a river, and what you pay is the vignette.”

Documentary check: September 2026. Places, hours and conditions change — check them before you leave.