

# EXPERIENCES ON *the Slovenian coast*



Here are some top tips for unforgettable excursions near our three coastal resorts – **St. Bernardin Resort in Portorož, San Simon Resort in Izola and Salinera Resort in Strunjan!**

We are sure you will find plenty of ideas for trips that will stay with you for a long time. Many of the trips that you will find in the brochure are organised; for more detailed information please contact the reception staff or our entertainment coordinators who will be happy to give you useful tips. If you are going on an individual trip, we recommend that you check the opening times and information about possible entrance fees.

**We wish you an unforgettable holiday and unique experiences!**

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# EXPERIENCES ON THE COAST THAT YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS

## Sečovlje Salina Nature Park

The Sečovlje Salina Nature Park is a popular excursion spot where you can observe many birds as you walk around, and then visit the Salt Production Museum and the Saltern House, where you will learn more about salt panning as a traditional craft.



## Moon Bay

The fairy-tale Moon Bay is part of the Strunjan Nature Park, and can be found beneath the 80-metre-high Flysch walls of the Strunjan Cliff. It is located on a four-kilometre-long stretch of coast between Simon's Bay and Strunjan Bay, or more precisely between the Strunjan and Ronek capes. It is the longest stretch of unspoilt coastline in the Gulf of Trieste.



## Piran Aquarium €

The aquarium is located by the inner boat harbour of the Port of Piran and boasts 3 pools of 100, 300 and 2000 litres. You can see as many as 200 different sea animals in them. To mention a few: common octopus, annular sea breams, colourful wrasse, dentex, stone loach, bullhead, grouper, and the list goes on and on. Of course, the aquarium is also home to a wide range of seaweed.

Photo: Archive of the Piran Aquarium

Photo: www.slovenia.info, Jan Čadež

## Sečovlje Museum of Salt Making €

The Salt Production Museum is located in a restored saltern house on the Giassi canal in Fontanigge, and exhibits the museum's salt pan collection. [The museum](#) is divided into three parts: the single-storey house in which the salt worker's family lived, the former ground-floor warehouse, featuring the room where salt used to be stored, and the restored bread oven, which is a real specialty of the Sečovlje salt pans. You can also see the salt fields and the canal for supplying sea water, and learn about the old way of extracting salt from the sea.



## House of the Sea – Izolana €

Izolana, house of the sea, presents the history of Izola through documentary photographs that mainly highlight the sea and the seaside character of the city, as well as the key industry that developed it as a strategic position – fishing. History tells us that until the 20th century, fishing was carried out on wooden ships, which were built and repaired at local shipyards. Therefore, in addition to fishing, shipbuilding as an industry was also quite well developed. Find out how ships were made and their special features in Izola's most famous museum.



Photo: www.visitizola.com

## Izola's secret

There is a somewhat forgotten secret buried deep beneath Izola, waiting to be discovered. A secret companion, an Izola guide and invisible friend, will take you on a digital journey with the help of a special app that can be found at [www.visitizola.com](http://www.visitizola.com). First, you will have to make your way through various challenges, then you'll test your negotiation skills and how photogenic you are. Through each challenge, you will discover a piece of Izola's secret and the stories told by the city centre.



Photo: www.visitizola.com

Legend: € Label for paid admission

### Seashell Cemetery (Ankaran)

A stretch of coastline where you can find a huge variety of shells is located between Ankaran and the Port of Koper. This location, which is very interesting for children, is quite hidden. Experts have found more than 230 species of molluscs here. Among the most beautiful are the conch shell, scallop, warty venus and the snail houses of hexaplex, abalone, cerith, murex, pelican's foot, etc.



### Day trip to Padna

Padna is an old Istrian village with stone houses huddled next to each other and around the village church of St. Blaise. Next to the church stands a 26-metre-high stone bell tower, which was built by the people of Padna in 1885. On the renovated premises of the former Padna school, there now resides a gallery dedicated to Božidar Jakac, where a collection of his graphics and drawings is on display. That's right, one of the most prominent Slovenian painters of the 20th century spent his childhood right here in Padna.



### Truffle hunting €

Are truffles really an aphrodisiac? Why did dogs replace pigs in truffle hunting? Are they really only harvested early in the morning? The truffle hunter and her dog will open the door to the mysterious world of truffles. Together, you will go into the forest to a hidden corner where, with a bit of luck, you will find this fragrant mushroom among the roots of the mighty trees. After the hunt, we will treat ourselves to some typical Istrian fuži pasta with truffles, accompanied by a glass of wine from a local winemaker. ([Istraterra](#) organisation)

### On Foot From Portorož to Piran

The footpath from Portorož to Piran offers a pleasant walk for all lovers of the sea. The path is away from the hustle and bustle of traffic, with only the sound of the waves keeping you company, as this walking path runs right along the shore.



### Porečanka

The route of the narrow-gauge railway, the so-called Porečanka, will take you all the way to Portorož along the route of the mountain railway line that operated between Poreč and Trieste between 1902 and 1935, and was one of the longest narrow-gauge railways in Europe. Today, the former narrow-gauge railway has been transformed into a modern recreational path named the "Path of Health and Friendship".

# NATURAL AND CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS

## Strunjan cliff

The most characteristic feature of the Strunjan Nature Park is the 80-metre-high Strunjan Cliff, which, together with the overgrown edge and the 200-metre strip of sea below it, has been declared a nature reserve. The precipitous walls and the pebble beach at the foot of the cliff are completely untouched, and are moulded only by natural processes as the sea, rain and wind constantly transform the crumbling layers of rock, drawing new features upon them.



## Stjuža Sea Lagoon

Stjuža is the only Slovenian sea lagoon. Today, the lagoon area is an important part of the Strunjan Stjuža Nature Reserve, which is included in the Natura 2000 network, mainly to protect the habitat for aquatic birds. The name Stjuža comes from the Italian word “chiusa”, which means “closed”. The Strunjan River created the shoal by depositing sediment at its mouth. After the construction of an embankment to artificially close the bay more than 400 years ago, the lagoon was connected to the sea only by a canal.



## Škocjan Inlet Nature Reserve

The Škocjan Inlet Nature Reserve is a nature reserve at the confluence of the Badaševica and the Rižana rivers, and is our largest designated wetland of ecological importance and outstanding botanical, zoological and landscape values. Herons, cormorants, geese, ducks and many others whose names I have never heard before nest here. The bay is also home to Camargue horses and Istrian cattle, nutria, rabbits, frogs, fish, rodents and other species.



## Forma Viva (Portorož)

The creation of this collection of outdoor stone sculptures began in 1961, encouraged by Slovenian artists Jakob Savinšek and Janez Lenassi. Over more than 50 years of continuous work, sculptors from over 30 different countries left more than 130 stone sculptures standing around the city, surrounded by a grove of indigenous Piran olive tree varieties and a beautiful view extending from the park to the Bay of Portorož and the surrounding area.



## Church of St. Bernardin (Portorož)

The central part of Bernardin is decorated with a bell tower and part of the former monastery church of St. Bernardin, which dates from the 15th century, and now silently bears witness to the place's rich cultural heritage. What remains of the former monastery are the distinctive bell tower, the presbytery of the church, and a supporting wall with mighty arches. The monastery and the church date back to the 15th century and are dedicated to St. Bernardin of Siena.



## Tartini Square (Piran)

At the end of the 13th century, this square became the central square of Piran, and in the second half of the 19th century, it got the look it still has today. Part of the harbour was filled in, creating a spacious market platform around which all the important buildings in Piran are built, in particular the municipal and court palace. The square is, of course, named after a famous and internationally recognised local, violinist and composer Tartini, who took the name of his birthplace and introduced it to the world.



### City walls (Piran)

The city centre was probably already walled in the 7th century. The walls then moved south-eastwards, with new quarters appearing within the walls. Most of the preserved walls date back to the 15th to 16th centuries and became part of the medieval city structure. Of particular historical value is the remnant of the walls on the Mogron hillside.



### Besenghi degli Ughi Palace (Izola)

The palace consists of three floors and was built in a relatively short period for the time (1775–1781). It was owned by the prominent and wealthy Istrian Besenghi family, who entrusted the construction of their palace to the Milanese architect Filippo Dongetti. Today, the palace is the seat of the Izola Music School and is also used for wedding ceremonies. It is one of the best-preserved late Baroque architectural monuments in Slovenia and one of the most beautiful buildings on the coast.



### Benečanka (Piran)

This beautiful building is located at the junction of IX Corps and Tartini Square. It is undoubtedly the finest example of Venetian-Gothic architecture in Piran. It was built in the 15th century and boasts the distinction of being the oldest surviving building in Tartini Square. It boasts some beautifully designed architectural elements and rich stone decoration. The Gothic balcony is a particular highlight of the building.



Photo: www.visitizola.com, Luka Kase

### Simon's Bay Archaeological Park (Izola)

Simon's Bay Archaeological Park: after the founding of the Roman colony of Aquileia in 181 BC, a large part of Istria came under Roman rule. The process of Romanisation is mainly reflected in the intensive settlement of the coastal zone and the hinterland. The Roman seaside villa with a harbour in Simon's Bay is one such settlement complex.



Photo: www.visitizola.com, Luka Kase

### Socerb Castle

This compact medieval village under the edge of a rock is absolutely wonderful with its castle and karst-type homesteads. Strmec Castle (Socerb) is the only major fortified building in the Kraški rob area above the coast, and it fascinates every visitor. The area of Socerb Castle is even registered as a monument of national importance. From the castle, you can also admire the beautiful view of the Bays of Trieste and Koper – which was the (albeit strategic) reason for its construction. Beneath the castle is a karst cave connected to the castle courtyard.



Photo: www.visitizola.com, Luka Kase

### Izola Lighthouse

The lighthouse marks the shallows of the Petelinji Rt peninsula. It is located on the city beach of Izola, and from its top, you get a wonderful view of the open sea and the Alps. In Izola, there is mention of a lighthouse on the Petelinji Rt peninsula (Punta del Gallo) on the Rocks of St. Peter. It was installed on a wooden platform and started operating in 1876. As early as the end of the 1850s, two lighthouses on wooden beams were installed in the sea outside the city.



photo: www.slovenia.info, Jaka Arbutina

# AGRITOURISM FARMS, WINE-MAKERS AND OLIVE GROWERS

## The Medljan Agritourism Farm €

The Medljan Agritourism Farm also invites you to a riding school or guided horseback riding in Slovenian Istria, nature walks, cycling, and care for up to two horses. They organise authentic home games such as horseshoe throwing and slingshot shooting, and their kitchen can prepare delicious Istrian dishes served with tasty local wine. ([www.medljan.net](http://www.medljan.net))



## The Lisjak Oil Mill €

At the Lisjak Oil Mill in Koper, Matej Lisjak offers tours of the oil mill with various types of olive oil tasting, which can also be accompanied by local wine and food. For olive enthusiasts, we recommend the Vintage Gourmet Tour – an educational journey in the footsteps of old indigenous olive tree varieties growing on the most beautiful viewpoints of the Slovenian Coast and the Istrian countryside. ([www.lisjak.com](http://www.lisjak.com))



## The Brič Estate €

The Brič Estate, located in Slovenian Istria, right on the Slovenian-Croatian border, on a hill above the unspoiled valley of the Dragonja River, is home to one of the most modern wine cellars in the wider area. The entire project and the architectural design of the cellar are the work of renowned European architect Prof. Boris Podrecca. The wine cellar is classified as one of the 100 most beautiful wine cellars in the world. ([www.vinabric.si](http://www.vinabric.si))



## The Švab Restaurant €

The family-run Švab Restaurant in Hrastovlje is famous for its homemade Istrian cuisine. They prepare dishes based on old recipes, just as mothers, aunts and grandmas have done for centuries on the Istrian fireplaces. All year round, you'll find seasonal produce and home-prepared and home-baked bread. And, of course, Istrian Malvasia, Refosco and Dry Muscat. You will be served by the fireplace, in the dining room or on the large terrace. ([www.gostilnasvab.com](http://www.gostilnasvab.com))



## Mahnič Farm €

In Dragonja, not far from the main road, stands the Mahnič Farm, which welcomes you into its embrace with its produce, watched over all year round by grandpa Gvido, grandma Franka and Adrijano. From the terrace of their traditional guesthouse, individuals and organised groups who feel very much at home here can enjoy a unique view of the salt pans, the sea and nearby Kaštel. With great wine served by Ingrid and exceptional homemade food from the hands of grandma Franka and Adrijano, many people wish that the day would never end. ([www.kmetija-mahnic.com](http://www.kmetija-mahnic.com))



## Butul Farm €

The Butul Farm in Manžan is a small farm that is ideal for a superb culinary experience for small groups, as all their ingredients are produced on the farm. They also serve their own natural wines, produced using natural vinification and maturation processes. ([www.butul.net](http://www.butul.net))



### Zaro Wines €

Respecting the natural features of the Izola wine-growing region, the Zaro family revives the tradition of viticulture and the original wine-growing practices of Slovenian Istria. Visit them in Izola and in their vineyards and taste their wines with a character that satisfies the greatest connoisseurs. ([www.vinozaro.com](http://www.vinozaro.com))



### Marezige Wine Fountain €

The first wine fountain in Slovenia offers a unique and unforgettable experience for wine lovers and gourmets. With a wonderful view of the Slovenian coast, you can enjoy some excellent open wines from local wine cellars, and premium wines from the Vinakoper winery. Food lovers can taste Istrian cuisine in the pavilion, where they offer truffles, chocolates, sea salt products and many other locally produced delicacies. ([www.vinska-fontana.si](http://www.vinska-fontana.si))



### Gramona Farm €

In the hinterland of Piran, on a family farm, a great experience for foodies awaits you. In the olive grove above the Sečovlje Saline Nature Park, you will taste freshly produced delicacies, discover the secrets of tasting award-winning organic olive oil and enjoy the view of the Sečovlje Saline. ([www.gramonafarm.com](http://www.gramonafarm.com))

### Fonda Fish Farm €

The Fonda Fish Farm was founded by the Fonda family, which has centuries-old roots in the area of Piran. For generations, their existence has been deeply intertwined with the sea and the land. The fish farm was founded by Ugo Fonda and after his death it was taken over by his daughter Irena and son Lean. Visit them to learn about their work and try the Fonda Piran sea bass. If you want, you can even spend a whole day with them and get a greater level of insight into the operation of the fish farm! ([www.fonda.si](http://www.fonda.si))



## CYCLING AND HIKING

### Parenzana – the Path of Health and Friendship

The symbol of friendship is represented by the path of health and friendship (Parenzana), which runs along the former narrow-gauge railway line from Poreč all the way to Trieste. It will take you through old villages and towns by the sea, among hills and vineyards, and through local olive groves. Parenzana is considered the queen of all the marked and mapped [cycling routes in the area of Istria](#)



photo: Jaka Jeraša



photo: Jaka Jeraša

### Undemanding cycling route from Izola to Sečovlje

This cycling route is suitable for all cycling enthusiasts: recreational cyclists, young families, and the elderly. We set off from Izola, at the intersection of Leninova and Prešernova, in the direction of the hills, where we quickly see a sign for the aforementioned cycling route. We continue towards Strunjan and then towards Portorož, through the illuminated Šalet tunnel. Then we follow the cycling signs and continue past olive groves and vineyards in the direction of Portorož, all the way to Dobrava and on to Strunjan. Further on, we get to the 550-metre-long, illuminated Valeta tunnel, at the end of which we reach the descent towards Lucija. We can continue the route past Seča, where we cross the main road and continue past Parecag all the way to Sečovlje.

### An Adventure Across the Izola Hinterland for the Physically Fit

The scenic cycling tour through the Izola hinterland is 53.9 km long and leads from the Izola autocamp, via the Belvedere, and along the top of the Roneka cliff, from where it descends to Strunjan. It continues along the main road right next to the Strunjan salt pans to Salinera and up the slope to Beli Križ. Then you descend to Bernardin and continue along the main road to Portorož, where you join a bicycle trail. The route continues through Lucija to the village of Malija, then uphill again towards Korte, where a colourful view of the vineyards and the surrounding countryside opens up. The cycling adventure continues in the direction of Šmarje and slowly descends towards Dragonja, from where it climbs again towards Sv. Peter and Nova vas nad Dragonjo. This is followed by a descent through Šmarje and the continuation of the route through Gažon, along the Markovec road to Semedela. At the end, we have one last climb towards Markovec, from where we descend again to Izola, where we return to the starting point.



photo: Jaka Jeraša

## Porečanka

Take a walk along the route of the narrow-gauge railway, the so-called Porečanka, will take you all the way to Portorož along the route of the mountain railway line that operated between Poreč and Trieste between 1902 and 1935, and was one of the longest narrow-gauge railways in Europe. Today, the railway has been transformed into a modern recreational path named the "Path of Health and Friendship".



## Korte – Padna – Šmarje

The hills above Izola invite you on a pleasant circular route through Korte, Padna, Šmarje and other places, and a visit to the living museum of Vrešje House in Krkavče is a must, where you can also stop by the Krkavče Stone.



## Piran circular footpaths

The Piran circular trails are routes by the sea and through the beautiful hinterland on which you will get to explore the most beautiful parts of Portorož, Piran, Seča and Strunjan. All three trails by the sea are circular and you can combine them into one path. You can decide to walk along one individual trail, combine two trails, or even combine all three into one 28-kilometre-long journey. The picturesque and well-maintained trails allow hikers to explore Portorož, Piran, Seča with the Sečovlje salt pans, and Strunjan, as well as the Strunjan Nature Park where you can admire the Strunjan salt pans, the hinterland with its vineyards and olive groves and, in the autumn, go and see the orange-coloured plantations of Istrian golden apples – persimmons. The paths are well-maintained, safe, regularly serviced and, above all, perfectly marked. The trails are also suitable for families with children and for recreationists. Along the way, you will find nine large system signs, as well as other smaller directional signs. And for even better orientation, you will find many floor markings along the way. The starting point of all three routes is in Portorož, with the directions then splitting off to Piran, Strunjan, or Seča. The individual circular trails are seven to twelve kilometres long. You can walk each of the trails in two to three hours. The trail map is also available at tourist information centres in Portorož, Piran and Padna.

## Depending on your level of fitness, there are trails of different lengths and degrees of challenge:

- Strunjan trail – 3.5 km,
- Piran trail – 3 km,
- Circular trail around Portorož – 5 km,
- Lucija trail – 4 km,
- Coastal trail – 13 km,
- Seška trail – 4 km,
- Footpath of three countries – 5 km,
- Path through the olive groves – 4 km,
- connecting path Between the Bays, which connects Fiesa and Portorož – 2 km and
- the path Through the Tunnel of the Trieste-Poreč Former Narrow-Gauge Railway – 3.5 km.

# WATER ACTIVITIES AND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BEACHES

## Windsurfing in Koper

Koper is a very popular windsurfing destination offering a variety of conditions for all skill levels! Beginners can try windsurfing in the safety of the bay, on calm, flat water, while more experienced windsurfers can choose to ride the moderate waves outside the bay. There are also various group and individual courses available, where you will be welcomed by experienced windsurfing experts who will be happy to share their wealth of knowledge and practical experience with you.



## Diving

For those of you who are interested in diving and would like to get to know the underwater world, the renowned diving centre [Divestrong Bernardin](#) offers the opportunity. They offer the right diving equipment, training courses, beginner diving courses, diving instructor courses and much more. With their help, you will be able to discover the underwater secrets of Piran Bay, which, in addition to marine animals and plants, hides in its depths a crashed seaplane, a lost artefact and a huge old sewage pipe.



## SUPing

Although SUPing looks very simple, this recreational activity is actually an excellent workout for the whole body, because during SUPing, every muscle is at work. It's also highly suitable for families, as you can take your little ones, and even your pet dog, with you on the SUP board! First master the skill of keeping your balance, then let this simple but exhilarating fun take over!



## Jet-skiing, water-skiing or kayaking

If you are a fan of water sports such as kayaking, jet-skiing or water-skiing, you can rent equipment at the Portorož Water Sports Centre. You will find the centre on Portorož's central beach!



### The Grand Hotel Bernardin beach

The Bernardin beach in Portorož is one of the most popular and well-kept beaches on the Slovenian coast, and it has been a proud long-time holder of the Blue Flag, which ensures orderly and safe swimming for all visitors. In addition to the sun loungers on the grassy and sandy areas of the beach, the little ones will enjoy the children's playground, while parents will be delighted by the comfortable seating in the many cafés, where you can enjoy delicious culinary specialities.



### The San Simon beach

San Simon Beach in the San Simon Resort, which consists of the Hotel Haliaetum, the Hotel Mirta and the dependances, has a well-maintained beach that is partly paved and partly sandy. The beautiful bay with sand and a nice low approach to the sea is highly suitable for the little ones. The promenade leads to the beach under the Belvedere and then to Moon Bay on the left, and to Delfin Beach and the centre on the right.



### Hotel Vile Park and Histriion beach

The beach of Hotel Vile Park and Hotel Histriion also features a swimming pool, next to which is a hotel bar serving a wide range of refreshing drinks, and newly installed play equipment for children. The beach and pools are open during the summer season. Guests of the Hotel Histriion, Hotel Vile Park, Apartments Vila Barka and Grand Hotel Bernardin can access the beach free of charge. Sun loungers and beach umbrellas are available at an extra cost. Every year, the swimming pool complex is awarded the Blue Flag, which indicates that the bathing area is safe and well-maintained.



### Salinera Resort beach – Strunjan

The Salinera Resort beach is located among pine trees, Mediterranean greenery and grass, and it also has 12 energy points. The energy points, which are an integral part of the park, have a positive effect on improving an individual's mental and physical well-being. During the summer holidays, the Resort organises various activity programmes for games, modelling and drawing. Your children will certainly not be bored.

### Izola City Beach “Lighthouse”

At the end of the peninsula is the beautifully well-kept Izola city swimming pool complex. The beach has showers, a sandbox and children's trains. You can walk to the swimming pool complex from the centre or drive from the side of the shipyard.



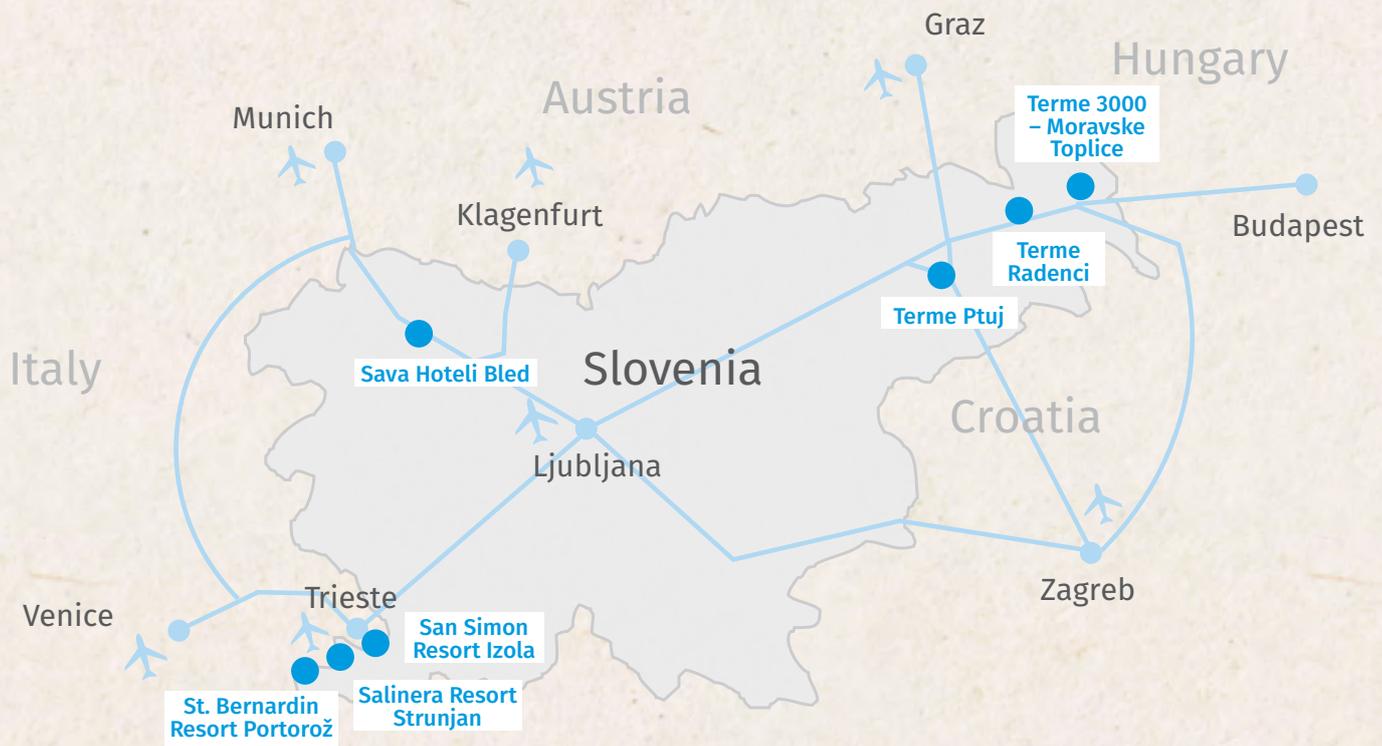
### Natural beach at Moon Bay

The natural beach at Moon Bay will simply enchant you with its beautiful sea and intimate corners. The natural beach is the right choice for those who like quiet and unspoilt beaches. The bay can only be reached on foot.



Photo: Jaka Ivancic





## HOTELS & RESORTS

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