



Kranj within hand's reach

Natural and cultural attractions of Kranj



EUROPEAN
DESTINATIONS
OF EXCELLENCE
SUSTAINABLE
TOURISM PIONEER



I FEEL
SLOVENIA

Welcome to Kranj,

**a city with a history spanning over 6000 years,
its cultural pulse and green inspiration.**

Kranj is a town between two rivers, anchored on a rock, a meeting point of attractive contrasts.

The historical town centre, surrounded by its modern and technologically developed outskirts, is at the threshold of the magnificent Alps. Here, people are always with one foot in the town and the other one in the nature. Discover both: cultural experiences and an urban vibe with sports activities, and green sceneries in its surroundings. Efforts to protect and conserve the olm make the new SOS Proteus Infor Centre in the Tunnels under the old town an excellent example of tourism with a positive impact on the environment and the community. Kranj destination has been awarded two prestigious titles. These are the 2023 European Destination of Excellence title and Slovenia Green Destination Platinum label.



INDEX OF ATTRACTIONS

Fountain	4	Jenko's Residence	23
Town Hall	5	Vstraniše (Public Toilet)	24
Gallery of Prešeren Award Laureates	5	Janez Puhar's Cabinet	25
Prešeren Monument	6	Globus and Kranj City Library	26
Prešeren Memorial Museum	6	City Municipality of Kranj	26
Prešeren Grove	7	Creina Hotel	27
Church of St. Cantianus	10	Slovenski Trg Square	27
Ossuary	11	Brdo Castle and Park	30
Tunnels under the Old Town of Kranj	12	Ponds at Bobovek	32
Olm in Kranj	13	Šum Waterfall	32
Digital Walk in the Tunnels	14	Mavčiče Lake	33
Kokra River Canyon	15	Udin Boršt Forest	33
Majdič Grove	15	Hill of Jošt	34
Khislstein Castle	16	Hill of Šmarjetna Gora	34
Pungert	17	Mount Storžič	35
Toll House	17	Jamnik	35
Plečnik Stairs and Fountain	18	Flower of Cycling Routes around Kranj	36
Prešeren Theatre	18	Cycling Routes under the Storžič Mountain	36
Bežek villa	19	Welcome in Kranj	37
Layer House	22	Kranjska hiša	38



i Tourist information
centre Kranjska hiša

📍 Glavni Trg 2, Kranj
🕒 Mon–Sun: 9am–6pm
25 December and 1 January: 12am–5pm

w: www.visitkranj.com
e: info@visitkranj.si
p: +386 (0)4 238 04 50

How to get around Kranj?

KRsKOLESOM



Explore the town and its surroundings on foot or by bike that you can rent at various locations around Kranj. Stop by the Tourist Information Centre and we'll help you with the bike rental.



KRANVAJ

Take a free ride with a mini electrical bus in the pedestrian zone of the old town centre. You can catch it on its regular route, wave at it in the street or order it by phone, No. 00386 31 383 700.



BUS



A city bus can take you to some natural sights in Kranj surroundings.



LET'S MEET IN THE SQUARE

Let's meet at Glavni Trg, like true Kranj residents do. All important events take place here, fairs and the celebration of the greatest cultural holiday in Slovenia with its traditional Prešeren fair, which attracts several thousand visitors to Kranj. Glavni Trg is surrounded by some most important town buildings. Let's take a walk between them.



FOUNTAIN

In the middle of Glavni Trg, there is a fountain that used to supply water to the townspeople. The fountain from 1995 is a copy of the previous one and the work of architects France Vardjan and Jernej Hudolin. The fountain is marked by two authors of important Slovenian symbols. Bronze reliefs by the sculptor Marko Pogačnik, author of the Slovenian coat of arms, depicting Sava and Kokra rivers that embrace the town, and then there are the words dedicated to Kranj by our greatest poet France Prešeren that are engraved on the fountain.

Location: Glavni Trg



No. 6



TOWN HALL

The Town Hall consists of two buildings. Particularly striking is the older corner house featuring a spire with a clock and a classicist pillars with a Roman sarcophagus, discovered in nearby Šenčur. One of the two persons buried in it was holding a coin from 4th century BC. The interior of the building is impressing with its late Gothic columned hall from the first half of the 16th century. Closely attached to the older house is a more recent building, one of the finest mansions in Slovenia from the 16th and 17th centuries and the current entrance to the Town Hall. Its most visited part is the hall with a wooden coffered ceiling, under which many Kranj couples have made their vows.

 No. 10

Location: Glavni Trg 4

Opening hours: Tue–Sun: 10am–6pm, closed on Mondays and major holidays. Outside opening hours, tours are available for booked groups.

Entrance fee: adults € 3, children, youngsters and pensioners € 2,3, families € 6

The house, a living museum in itself, invites us to visit its permanent exhibitions. You can see the archaeological exhibition Iron Thread, the ethnological exhibition Folk Art in the Gorenjska Region and the collection of works by the sculptor Lojze Dolinar. The gallery in the ground floor hosts occasional museum and art exhibitions.

GALLERY OF PREŠEREN AWARD LAUREATES

A gallery of national significance that exhibits works by the recipients of highest art awards in Slovenia, offering the best insight into contemporary artistic creativity, has found its place in the old Pavšlar House. The 16th century town house is decorated with murals both on its façade and inside the house. The vaulted hallway, wooden Renaissance ceiling on the first floor and honeycomb brick paving evoke solemn feelings and a touch of the past, when visiting these excellent exhibitions.

 No. 9

Location: Glavni Trg 18

Opening hours: Tue–Fri: 10am–6pm, Sat: 10am–1pm, closed on Sundays, Mondays and holidays

Entrance fee: free



Cheerful Prešeren's city

On the 8th of February when we celebrate Slovenian cultural holiday in honour of France Prešeren, whose last name means 'the cheerful', characters from the 19th century walk the streets of Kranj and awaken the heritage of the times when our greatest poet lived here. Cultural centres open their door wide, letting in a fresh breeze of contemporary cultural creativity.



Prešeren Monument



Prešeren Memorial Museum



France Prešeren is the person to whom the most monuments in Slovenia are dedicated. The largest of all is found in Kranj, reaching impressive five metres in height. Sculptors Frančišek Smerdu and Peter Loboda used four tons of recycled bronze to make it. On the day the monument was unveiled in 1952, Kranj houses were decorated with flags, the Kranj post office received a special stamp and postmark, and visitors from all over Slovenia visited the event with half the price of public transport. Today, the impressive monument on the square in front of Prešeren Theatre welcomes visitors to outstanding theatre performances.

Location: Glavni Trg 6



No. 16

In the house that has two addresses, France Prešeren rented his office and lodging. There he lived with his sister and a scribe, in a nice town office he received both noble clients and common people whom he helped free of charge. Even today the door of the house is open to everybody. As a permanent exhibition with a modern layout, this memorial museum displays the poet's original works and furniture.



No. 4

Location: Prešernova ulica 7, Tavčarjeva ulica 8

Opening hours: Tue–Sun: 10am–6pm, closed on Mondays and major holidays. The museum also opens outside opening hours for booked groups.

Entrance fee: adults € 3, children, youngsters and pensioners € 2.3, families € 6

France Prešeren



1800–1849

His path of life led the greatest Slovenian poet from Gorenjska to Ljubljana, which was for most of his life the place where he created, but he spent his last and professionally most successful years in Kranj. Here he finally started his independent law practice and published his collection of poems that took the Slovenian language to a higher level. As a respected lawyer and poet, he was willing to help the poor, he cheered up children with sweet figs and adult people with humorous verses. His words are also in the Slovenian national anthem and nowadays they are heard at all important events.



Prešeren Grove



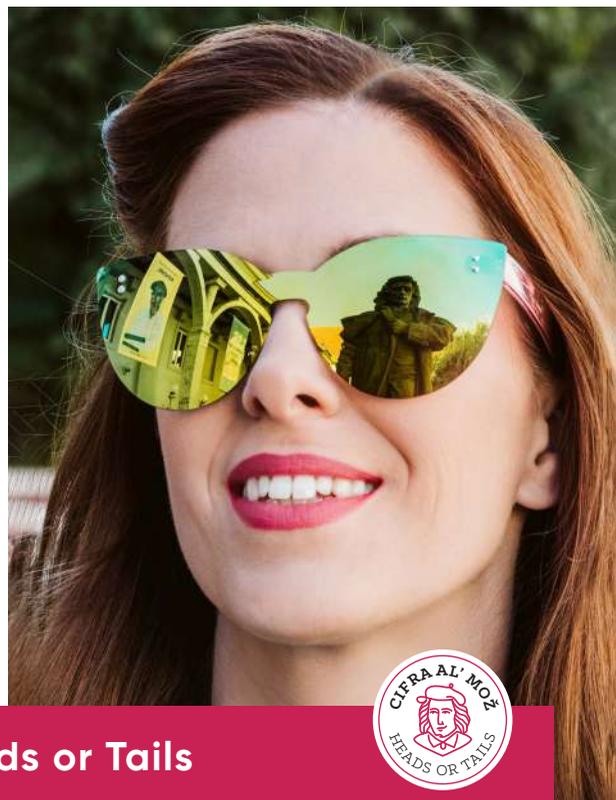
A former cemetery, converted into a memorial park.

As one can read on the monument, France Prešeren's tombstone was erected by his admirers who had collected funds for it for several years. It is surrounded by tombstones of poet Simon Jenko, inventor Janez Puhar, the magnificent tomb of Majdič family and one of the earliest monuments for the victims of fascism in Europe and the first in Slovenia. The park is a true oasis of peace inviting you to take a stroll there.

Location: med Gregorčičevo
in Partizansko ulico



No. 44



Heads or Tails

A rebel and a mystery person in a barret. The man on Slovenian coin. A champion in poetry and lawsuits. Follow him through the back doors of important houses, peek behind the scenes, determine your fate by flipping a coin and get to know Kranj along the way.

Through our HEADS OR TAILS experience with a camera obscura, one can literally turn the world upside down, write a letter to themselves and fall fatally in love with Kranj and its dividedness. Should it be heads or tails?

Book a guided tour

Tourist information centre
Kranjska hiša
p: +386 (0)4 238 04 50







CITY OF CULTURE

The streets of Kranj are the liveliest during festivals and outdoor events that are appealing to all tastes throughout the year.

The pulse of the city is enlivened by the colours of street art and melodies of street musicians as well as lively action at the venues of the cultural quarter. Thanks to artist residencies, Kranj is always sparking with creativity.

CENTURIES OF MYSTERY

During many centuries, the centre of spirituality in Kranj has been the site of the church of St. Cantianus. Archaeological research revealed that this was the place of a pre-Slavic sacral building. The subsequent church was surrounded by a cemetery, which still stirs spirits today, when one descends under the pavement to the ossuary. When climbing up the stairs of the bell tower, spaces and views are revealed that until recently were hidden from public view.



CHURCH OF ST. CANTIANUS

The church of St. Cantianus is one of the most prominent Gothic buildings in Slovenia, serving as the model for many later churches in the near and distant surroundings.

The church was renovated in the Baroque period. When an exceptional Gothic base was discovered under the layers of paint, the more modern paintings were removed. Inside the church, Gothic ribs are connected with richly ornamented bosses, while the church interior is finely complemented with 15th century frescos of angels holding instruments. With its imposing appearance and spatial placement it is the central building in the townscape.



No. 15

Location: Glavni Trg 7

Opening time: every day from 7:30am to 7pm, in June, July and August until 8pm.

Entrance fee: free

Experience a view from the bell tower

Climb between six hundred years old thick walls to forty metres above Kranj and catch the sight that extends from the town on the rock to the highest Slovenian peaks. A walk up the 163 stairs of the bell tower will tell you a lot about the history of the only church in Slovenia that boasts five bells in a row, and the sixth steel bell which serves as death knell. Just before you reach the viewing platform, you will be surprised by one of fifteen melodies, played by the glockenspiel or carillon between two full hours.



The bell tower is open to public every day between 9am and 6pm. Tickets can be purchased at the Kranjska hiša tourist information centre.

Additional information:



Entrance fee:
€ 6, families and groups € 4/person



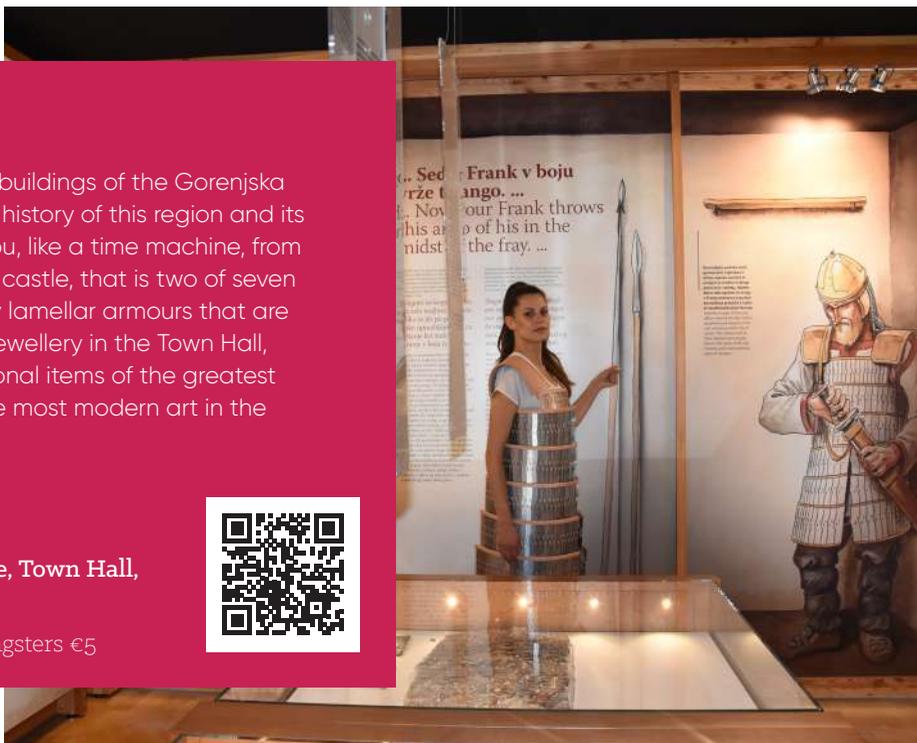
Museum Path

The Museum Path meanders among the buildings of the Gorenjska Museum, where you meet the interesting history of this region and its people. A joint museum ticket will take you, like a time machine, from armours of late Antiquity in the Khislstein castle, that is two of seven almost completely preserved 6th century lamellar armours that are special on a global scale, to old-Slavic jewellery in the Town Hall, a medieval skeleton in the Ossuary, personal items of the greatest Slovenian poet in Prešeren's House, to the most modern art in the Gallery of Prešeren Award Laureates.



Tickets can be bought in Prešeren's house, Town Hall, Khislstein castle, or online.

Entrance fee: adults € 7, children and youngsters €5



OSSUARY

A chapel with an ossuary was located in the cemetery by the church of St. Cantianus as early as in the 13th century. The cemetery was later abandoned and transferred to a new location, while the chapel was demolished. After archaeological excavations in the 1970s and 1980s, the ossuary was set up underground behind the church, next to the remnants of a late Antique baptistry. The key to enter the Ossuary is available at the reception of the Gorenjska Museum in the Town Hall.

Location: Glavni Trg, next to the church of St. Cantianus

 No. 13

Opening hours: Visits after prior booking or when visiting the Town Hall.

Entrance fee: adults € 3, children, youngsters and pensioners € 2.3, families € 6

RETREATING UNDER THE TOWN

Kranj is a town of duality, which can be surprising at every turn. If you thought that the main sights of Kranj can immediately catch the eye, you will be amazed to discover underground mysteries under the town.

TUNNELS UNDER THE OLD TOWN OF KRANJ

There are 1300 metres of secret tunnels under the town. Having lost their original purpose a long time ago, they still give a hint of the Second World War. In the tunnels, there was the shelter where townspeople took refuge during alarms warning of military aircraft. Although they are man-made, a special natural environment similar to karst caves emerged. They are inhabited by interesting animals like cave crickets and bats, and real stalagmites and stalactites form in them. Tunnels under the old town of Kranj are one of its greatest landmarks.

Location: Ljubljanska cesta 2



No. 38



Discover Kranj underground

Get to know Kranj underground networks, hidden under the old town, and join a guided tour. It will be a special experience to feel the ground tremble under your feet in a simulated air raid! You can also visit the exhibition of minerals and fossils in tunnels. Don't forget warm clothes, as the temperature in the tunnels is 10°C throughout the year.



Book a guided tour

Duration: 1 hour

Price: €6/person

Booking: in person at our Tourist Information Office and via our website.

More information:





SOS PROTEUS INFO CENTRE

Experiencing the olm in the capital of Gorenjska.

It was a great dream of Kranj townsman and cave biologist Marko Aljančič to present the life of the most famous cave animal to the general public. As early as 1960, he set up a laboratory in Tular cave in Kranj to study the olm. His son Gregor Aljančič continues his father's work as head of both Tular Cave Laboratory and SOS Proteus Info Centre. The Centre's mission is to raise public awareness about threats to the olm and the importance of preserving vulnerable cave fauna and subterranean resources of drinking water. To avoid a negative impact on nature, the centre displays rescued olm that groundwater floods have washed to the surface, where they would not have a chance to survive.

The unique underground Info Centre in the Tunnels under the old town of Kranj operates responsibly and sustainably. Kranj is committed to these principles as a holder of Slovenia Green Destination Platinum sustainability label and 2023 European Destination of Excellence title.

Location: Ljubljanska cesta 2



št. 38

A tour with researchers

At SOS Proteus Info Centre, researchers from Tular Cave Laboratory explain how each of us can contribute to the protection of the olm and groundwater. By visiting, you become a direct supporter and ambassador of the olm. Tular Lab namely invests all the funds raised into the research and conservation of the olm.



Book a guided tour

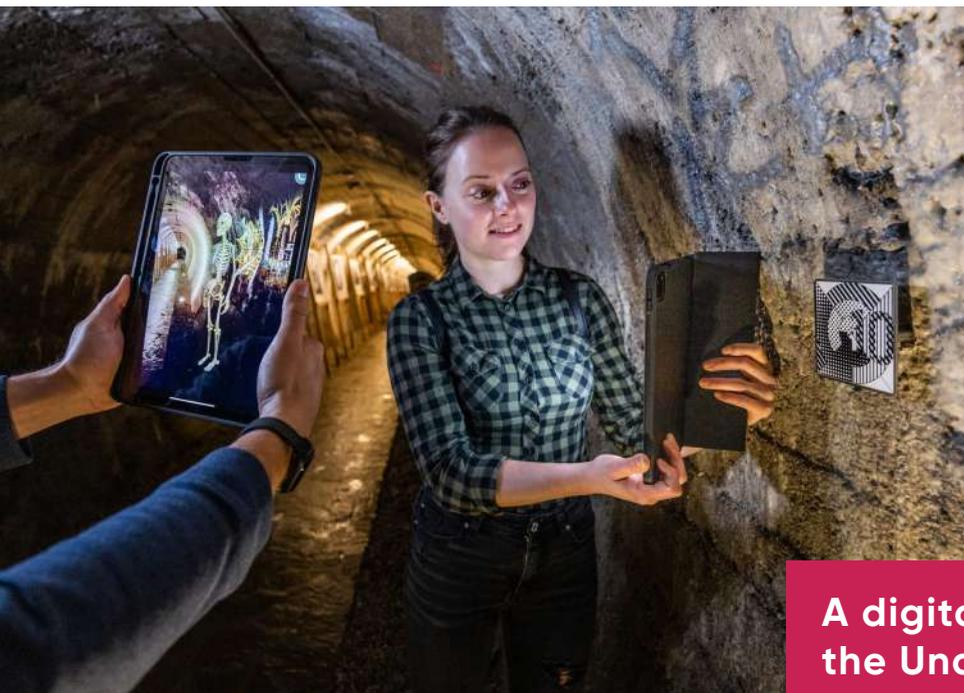
Duration: 1 hour

Price: children up to 3 years – free
children up to 16 years, seniors (over 65 years)
and groups of more than 8 people – €10
individual guests – €15

Book here:



Booking: in person at our Tourist Information Office
and or via its website.



A digital walk: The Town Hides, the Underground Reveals

With the help of a tablet, start the time machine in the Kranj underground and explore the town in a different way. Discover the most important archaeological finds, see what is above you and explore the houses of important Kranj residents. With the help of technology, you will be addressed by the greatest Slovenian poet France Prešeren. Find out from where drinking water comes to Kranj and look at the 3D model of the fountain and a hidden underground water tank. 15 digitalized points will reveal even more mysteries of the town above you.



Rezervirajte vodeni ogled

Find out more:

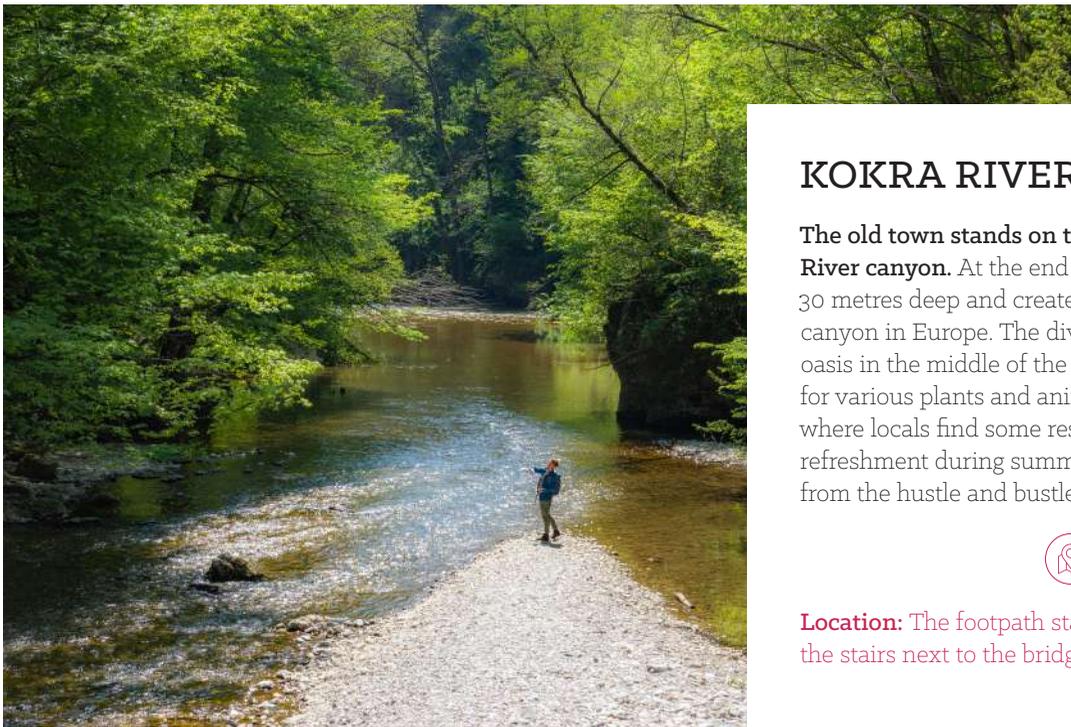
Price: 9 €/person, for up to 8 persons

Reservations: in person at the Tourist Information Office and or via its website.



Events in the tunnels

Tunnels under the old town of Kranj become the most alive when filled with the energy of events and activities. Every autumn, they are the scene of Halloween with spooky characters and set designs, and in November, the traditional Wine Route winds through them, bringing together best Slovenian winemakers and fine wine lovers.



KOKRA RIVER CANYON

The old town stands on the rock above the Kokra River canyon. At the end of the ice ages, the river cut 30 metres deep and created the second highest city canyon in Europe. The diverse area is like a green oasis in the middle of the town, providing a home for various plants and animals. Discover a corner where locals find some rest and relaxation, and often refreshment during summer, just a few steps away from the hustle and bustle of the city.



No. 1 - natural sights

Location: The footpath starts with a descent down the stairs next to the bridge across the Kokra River.

Book a guided tour

Tourist information centre
Kranjska hiša
p: +386 (0)4 238 04 50



MAJDIČ GROVE

Kranj has its very own island. The Majdič grove is connected to the town centre via the Sava embankment, suitable for pedestrians and cyclists. Its green setting is complemented with new urban furniture and information panels instructing visitors about points of interest on this island, such as the mill, owned in the 16th century by baron Khisl, which can be read on a huge millstone. Later the island was bought by the Majdič family. The tradition of trade and fair activities are still alive on the island, as it can be seen in the shopping mall that is situated here.



No. 50

Location: Island on the Sava River



ON A SOLID FOUNDATION

Kranj is a town with a solid foundation and 6000 years of history, so it is one of the areas with longest continued settlement in Slovenia. Even today, one can discover the remnants of ancient 6-metre high walls that protected the town from attacks. They are symbolically marked with granite paving stones at Maistrov Trg square. If you pay attention during your walk through the town, you will find four of the nine fortified towers, today intended for new content.



KHISLSTEIN CASTLE

Khislstein Castle is situated in the middle of the town centre. Integrated in the town walls, which at this point are preserved in the form just as they were 1500 years ago, it rises above the Sava river. It used to be a fortified area, while today you can observe the garden and the Khislstein Summer Stage, one of the nicest Slovenian open-air venues, from these walls. The castle architecture reflects the stories of centuries that modified its appearance. In the 13th century, a fortification was already there, while the castle building was built over several centuries, until the 17th century when it got its present-day appearance. Today, the Gorenjska Museum has its premises inside the castle.

Location: Tomšičeva 44



No. 29

PUNGERT

Now a popular spot for families and music lovers during summer evenings, it used to be the town orchard.

Its name originates in the German word Baumgarten, revealing that townsfolk used to tend their gardens here. Pungert is the location of one of the four preserved and renovated medieval towers, this one used to house town dungeons and later even apartments. At the time of the plague, a church was built here, dedicated to patron saints that are protectors against this deadly disease. Today, the renovated tower gives most joy to children, with events and an outdoor playground. Near the tower, there is a special viewing platform, overhanging the Kokra river canyon and symbolizing the fortified tower that used to stand there. Its glass railing gives you the view of the river flowing thirty metres underneath.

Location: Trubarjev Trg 6



No. 22



TOLL HOUSE

One of the most important townspeople traditionally had his residence here, the toll keeper who collected tolls from people who entered the medieval town. The wonderfully painted front is the most exceptional feature of this 16th century house, while its jettied first floor and position above the canyon hint at times gone by. The late medieval town house is the place where rich history is intertwined with a modern beat. Locals like to meet inside or on the terrace of the popular Mitnica bar.

Location: Tavčarjeva ulica 35



No. 11

Master of arches and façades

The greatest master of Slovenian architecture was active also in Kranj. Although Jože Plečnik is mostly known for his work in Ljubljana, he left a distinctive mark on Kranj as well.



Stairs and Fountain



At the place of the south medieval town gate, the visionary architect conceived a **monumental entrance to the town**. The steep hill path was transformed into a stairway, and the former fountain replaced with an obelisk, with water from a bronze cock on the top flowing into terraced stone basins. The cock symbolizes the sun deity, because it sings before sunrise and thus awakens the city. It is said that here Plečnik reinterpreted his own stairway in the Paradise garden of the Prague castle.

Location: Cankarjeva ulica 14



No. 20



Prešeren Theatre



In 1952, the building of the former public venue house was rebuilt according to Jože Plečnik's plans. The most recognizable feature is his decoration of the front, to which he added monumental arches, columns and lamps with a design that is typically his. Today the building is the home of Prešeren theatre, known for its niche programme that has received awards both in Slovenia and abroad.

Location: Glavni trg 6



No. 19

Jože Plečnik

1872–1957



The most prominent Slovenian architect of the 20th century was born in Ljubljana where he created most of his rich oeuvre, while some of it can be seen also in Vienna and Prague. Although his creations can be found all around Slovenia, Plečnik left the greatest imprint in his home city. He transformed the once sleepy town into a comprehensive architectural and urbanistic work of art that is featured on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Some of the master's works can also be admired in Kranj.



Bežek villa



Jože Plečnik designed the villa for the Kranj physician and art lover, Jože Bežek, on the initiative of his brother Nikolaj. The interior of the villa was adapted to the needs of the doctor's practice. The practice and the waiting room and a kitchen with a guest room were on the ground floor. On the upper floor, Plečnik designed the doctor's apartment and a wooden staircase connecting both floors – he paid special attention to this staircase. Today, the villa is the seat of the Mountaineering Society and the Gorenjska Tourist Association. In front of the villa, there is a bust of the Kranj resident Nejc Zaplotnik, a successful Slovenian mountaineer, who had a fatal accident in the Himalayas in 1983.

Location: Koroška cesta 27



No. 42

Architectural walk

In Kranj, fans of architecture can take a guided tour through the history of the 20th century. With an expert guide, you will see the most important architectural achievements of modernism created by Plečnik and his students, among them the exceptional Edvard Ravnikar.

Book the guided tour

Tourist information centre
Kranjska hiša
p: +386 (0)4 238 04 50





Prešeren
Fair
.....

Cheerful
Carnival
.....

Week of
Slovenian
Drama
.....

International
film festival
Krafft
.....

January

February

March

April

May

June

.....
Cheerful
Summer

.....
Youth
Week

Kranfest
.....

Kranj Grand Prix
cycling festival
.....

National
championship in
beach volleyball
.....

Cycling race
L'etape Slovenia
by Tour de France;
.....

IFSC Climbing
World Cup
.....

Wine Route in the
Tunnels under the
Old Town of Kranj
.....

Cheerful
December
.....

July

August

September

October

November

December

.....
Jazz Camp
Kranj

.....
International
Festival of Fine
Arts Kranj

.....
Jenko Days

.....
Festival of Carniola
Sausage and Beer

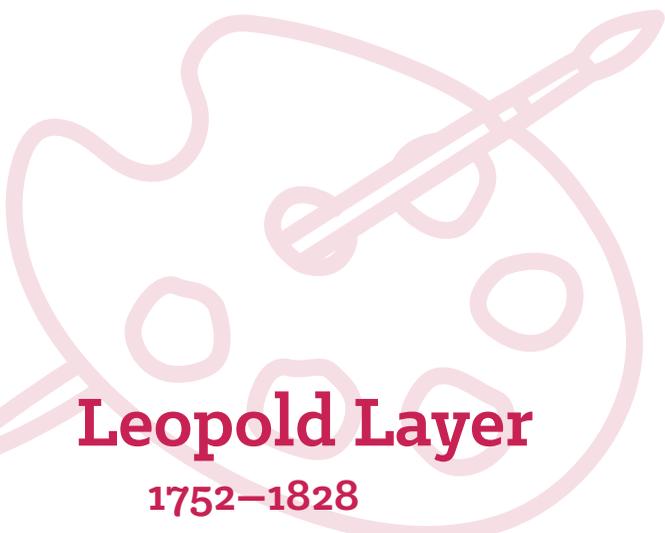
EVENTS IN KRANJ

The city with the biggest festival on the national day of culture never rests. All year round, you can enjoy the melodies of jazz and other rhythms, art exhibitions, theatre performances and food festivals at various open-air and in-door venues.



Place of creation

From interiors of old houses, artistic inspiration breezes into the streets and to the souls of residents and visitors, as renowned artists used to live in Kranj and they still inspire. With their works, poets, painters, sculptors, actors and directors as well as architects and builders have left an important imprint that continues to fascinate today.



Leopold Layer

1752–1828

One of the best-known painters in Slovenia was born in a famous family of painters from Kranj in mid-18th century. Leopold Layer is known for his skilful depicting of emotions on the faces of people and his portraits decorated almost all the great town houses in Kranj. During the French rule, when he lost many Austrian clients, he used his artistic talent for forging money and thus earned himself a prison sentence. According to a legend, he painted his most famous picture “Mary Help of Christians” that adorns the main Slovenian pilgrim church in nearby Brezje, out of gratitude, when the fall of Napoleon saved him from life imprisonment. His works can be seen in the Gorenjska Museum and many nearby churches.



Layer House



Leopold Layer used to paint in a two-storey house in one of the oldest Kranj streets. Its picturesque front with classicist decoration and a stone portal catch the eye from afar, and the interior that hides artistically painted rooms and arches invites you to enter. Today, the Layer House is the meeting point of cultural and social activities in Kranj. A lively café invites you to the terrace, while artistic events and live music bring fresh energy in the town’s cultural quarter all year round.

Location: Tomšičeva 32



No. 33

Artists and other visitors are welcome in Kranj's cultural quarter

The cultural quarter of Kranj stretches from the Khislstein Castle, a newly renovated music school, the Mergentaler street gallery, the Layer House and Škrlovec Tower to Jenko's Residence, Puhar's Cabinet, the Krice Krace house and David Almajer's pottery shop. Take a walk along this creativity route or find the artists that reside in the Layer House residences, visit Jenko's Residence and experience the dynamic atmosphere of Kranj's artistic and social hub.

Simon Jenko

1835–1869

Two great personalities who wrote their poems here, prove that Kranj is a genuinely a town of poets. While Prešeren's poem Zdravljica (the Toast) became the national anthem, Jenko's poem Naprej zastava slave (Forward, Flag of Glory) became the anthem of Slovenian army. From his natal village of Podreča near Kranj, Simon Jenko went to Ljubljana and Vienna and then back to Kranj. He worked here until his death, when he was only 33. Jenko's tombstone stands next to the Prešeren's in Prešeren Grove. His name was given to a school and a street in Kranj, and each year, the best Slovenian poets receive the Jenko Award.



Jenko residence

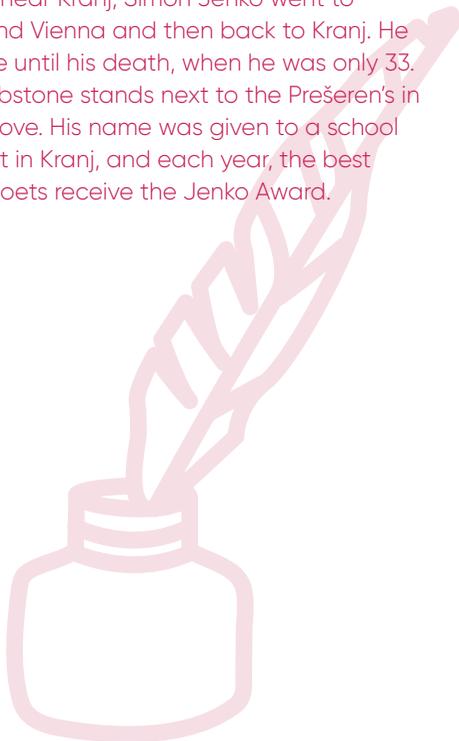


The house where Simon Jenko once lived is home to an inspiring residence, with a small exhibition about the poet and a handy library. It is often transformed into an artists' corner for meetings organized by the city's cultural institutions. As a visitor, you can hire the space for an event or an overnight stay, soak up its creative spirit and explore Kranj stories from the time when Simon Jenko lived.

Location: Pot na kolodvor 2



No. 35



Place of innovation

People of Kranj have always been resourceful and progressive. From the first “selfie” in the world and the first name for the toilet in the Slovenian language to today’s masters of new technologies and currencies that prompted the first bitcoin roundabout in the world, Kranj people have always been one step ahead of their time. They have left many footprints in Kranj and their names still serve as an inspiration for new generations.

Janez Bleiweis

1808–1881

One of the most popular Slovenians in the 19th century was born in Kranj and worked here.

Bleiweis was a politician, author, veterinarian and physician, who has gone down in history as the Father of the Nation. In the role of the editor of Agricultural and Handicraft News, he educated simple folks and consolidated the use of the Slovenian language. He played a leading role in the Slovenian national awakening. As the former Member of the Regional Assembly of Carniola, he is remembered by a memorial plaque on the facade of his birthplace in Tavčarjeva ulica 25 and his bust stands at the junction of Bleiweisova and Koroška Streets.

Bleiweis birthplace



Vstraniše



The town toilet is situated in the old centre of Kranj, on the spot where Šifrer’s pub used to be. This public facility is covered with reproductions of Bleiweis’ Agricultural and Handicraft News with the addition of interesting paintings. Among the 19th century articles that cover the walls, one can read the one that introduced the Slovenian name for the toilet, “vstraniše”.

Location: Glavni Trg 17

Janez Puhar

1814–1864

The man of many talents was born in Kranj, and with his inventions he was valued here and elsewhere. A priest by profession, with his thirst for knowledge and a passion for innovations, he became the first Slovenian photographer. In 1842, he made world history with the invention of photography on glass. In two self-portraits, he presented the first "selfie" to the world. Today Kranj has two memorial plaques in his honour, and the tradition of photography is continued by the oldest Slovenian photographic society, named after him.

Janez Puhar memorial plaque



No. 36



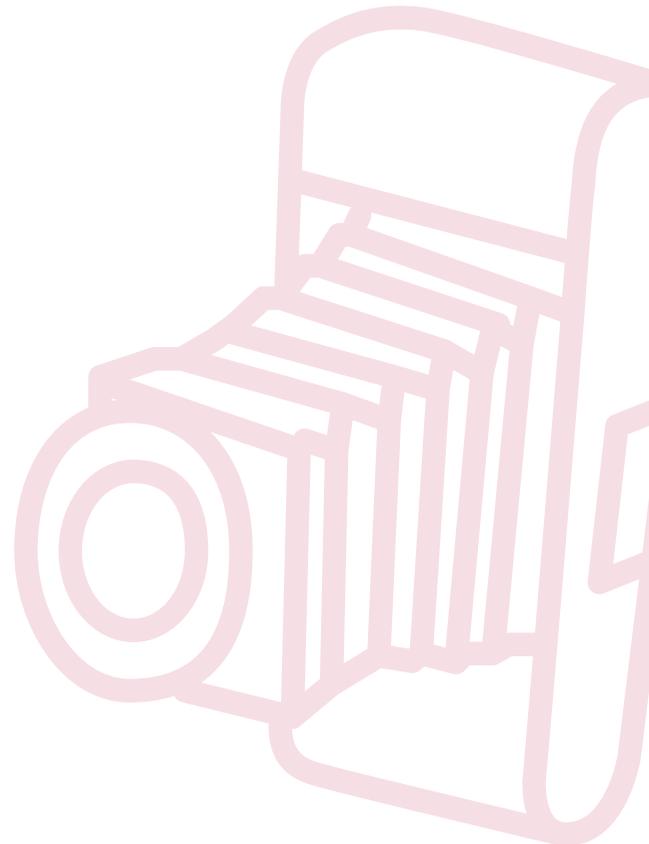
Janez Puhar's Cabinet



The great master and inventor got his memorial house in the cultural quarter of Kranj. You can meet him in the rooms infused with the spirit of the times. In the room of illusions, optical illusions are playing tricks on you and reveal Puhar's vision to you. Unlocking Puhar's codes in the escape room, you can discover the town in a different way. In the 19th century photography studio you can put on clothes of the time and then you can take home your very own portraits made on glass.

Location: Tomšičeva 13

Book a visit



Edvard Ravnikar

1907–1993

The architect who laid the foundations of Slovenian Modernism graduated under the mentorship of the UNESCO architect Jože Plečnik, and then developed his unique architectural language.

Even today, his name is known at all levels, from urbanism to industrial design and theoretical discussions. With his charismatic personality and comprehensive approach to the work of an architect and urban planner, Ravnikar steered the development of Slovenian architecture. He left a profound impact on Kranj as well.



Globus and Kranj City Library 

Globus, a department store that first opened its doors in 1973, is among the most representative works of Edvard Ravnikar. The first building with a steel facade in former Yugoslavia was impressive also because of a car park on its top floor. Globus has been entered in the Register of Slovenian cultural heritage, and after its renovation it became the place of the modernly equipped Kranj city library. There you can find your own reading corner with the best view, or visit Prešerniana, the largest collection of Prešeren's works.



City Municipality of Kranj 

One of the most representative buildings of the former Yugoslavia is situated at Slovenski Trg. The building of the District People's Committee, today called OLO palace by Kranj residents, was designed by Ravnikar in 1955 in a modernist style which introduced the aesthetics of Scandinavian minimalism to the city. The hall facility includes the front square as its entrance space, while its ceiling construction is suspended to the roof with steel tensile bonds, creating a feeling of floating. The building is the very pinnacle of the architect's legacy, being the most prominent work of Slovenian modernism.

Lojze Dolinar

1893–1970

One of the central figures in Slovenian 20th century sculpture lived in Kranj for only a short time, nevertheless he left an important mark here. The Monument to the Revolution is the last of the great monumental works for which he was famous. The sculptor's collection of statues and prints can be visited in the Town Hall in Kranj.



Slovenian Square



Hotel Creina



At the meeting point of the medieval and modern parts of the city another important building by Ravnikar found its place, welcoming the visitors of Kranj. Hotel Creina has been declared a historical and cultural monument for its exceptional architectural value, but even today you can stay in it and, exploring its interiors and exteriors, get to know the architect's boundless talent.

Location: Koroška cesta 5



No. 4 - prenočišča

Slovenski Trg, formerly Square of the Revolution, is situated at the entrance to the old centre of Kranj.

The square is a popular venue and visitors like to take a look at the model of the city that stands here. In 1961, the Monument to the Revolution by Lojze Dolinar was unveiled. It consists of the statue of Revolution with a female figure as the symbol of revolutionary zeal, the relief The beginning of the uprising, a sculptural composition with three figures, Workers' strike, and the composition National liberation struggle that depicts two figures attacking an enemy's bunker.

Location: Slovenski Trg



No. 39

A view of Kranj reveals a varied townscape. Towers that protrude from the town's outline are aligned with mountain peaks in the background.

Performances and workshops take place in former fortified towers. Climbing up to bell towers, you will discover unexpected views. When you have a coffee on the terraces of some bars, this will give you many different views of the old town centre. Reading in some cosy corner of the Kranj City Library is more comfortable when looking at the green surrounding hills.

VIEWS OVER KRANJ



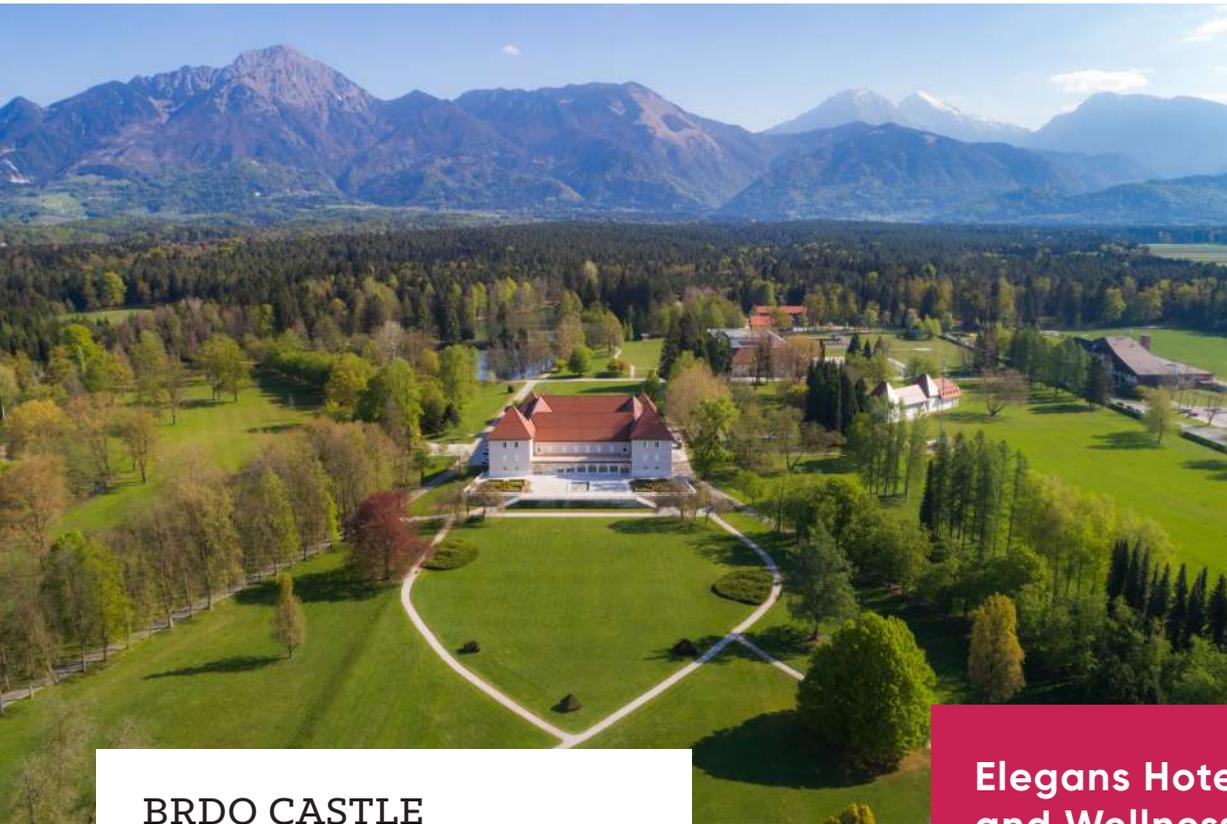


BRDO ESTATE

One of the most important areas for state visits in Slovenia, the estate with its 500-year history is just a few minutes away from Kranj. In the Renaissance castle, the highest state representatives host high-level meetings, but most of the year the estate is open to visitors who discover Slovenia at a small scale through its most recognisable symbols – white Lipizzaner horses, wooden hay racks and painted beehive panels.

Location: Brdo pri Kranju

Distance from the city: 4,5 km



BRDO CASTLE

The first Renaissance mansion in Carniola is the central monument of the Brdo estate today.

Jurij Egkh, the governor of the Gorizia region and vidame of Kranj, had it built in the place of the old castle. The Egkh family also arranged the first orchards, ponds and a garden. The castle had many owners, from counts and dukes to the famous royal family of Karađorđević, and after the Second World War Yugoslav president Josip Broz Tito chose it as his residence. Today, the castle is a state facility, hosting most high-level delegations from different countries. The former Renaissance image has been lost over time, but the castle has acquired a rich collection of furniture, art and other valuable pieces.

Elegans Hotel and Wellness

Set in the beautiful natural surroundings of Brdo estate, the recently renovated hotel indulges guests with superior accommodation and superb local organic cuisine. The exclusive wellness programme includes the first-ever snow room in Slovenia, a wide range of saunas and many other experiences.



Find out more:



PARK BRDO

At the Brdo estate, one can find unspoilt nature, rich history and interesting experiences all in one place.

The magnificent castle is surrounded by an impeccably landscaped park with alleys and ponds, a famous bee house, an old orangery and a wine bar. The greatest credit for the beautiful appearance of the park goes to the family Zois, which owned the castle from mid-18th century to the beginning of the 20th century. A walk through the diverse world of flora and fauna is a delight in itself, and it is a special experience when you take a ride in a Lipizzaner-drawn carriage. Park Brdo is a real treasury of Kranj's aristocratic history, today still kept alive with events on the top level. Its modern convention centre has been awarded for its outstanding architecture, and it has twice been the venue for the main events during the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Picnic basket in Brdo

In summer, you can treat yourself to a special experience in Park Brdo. Driving an electric golf cart, discover hidden places of the park and select one, where you spread out a blanket and enjoy delicacies prepared by chefs from the Brdo estate. Listening to the sound of the brook, birds singing and watching the Lipizzaner horses in the distance, relax and enjoy the delicious food from the basket. Local farms ensure that it is always packed with specialties such as trout, game from the forests around the castle, freshly pressed olive oil, home-made jam and the like.



Find out more:



GREEN SURROUNDINGS

In Kranj, one always has one foot in town and the other one in nature. The green countryside invites you to explore it in all seasons. Enjoy some trekking, cycling, hiking or water sports. Only a few steps from the town, there are hidden parks, walking paths, waterfalls and lakes worth discovering.

PONDS AT BOBOVEK

Less than an hour's walk or a short drive take you to the natural reserve, a treasure trove of history and biology.

In the roundabout on the way you will be greeted by a statue of mammoth, as they lived here 180,000 years ago. Fossils and a Roman burial site were also found among archaeological remains. Many animals have found a refuge in the ponds, marshes and swamps of this protected area, and the green oasis is a perfect place for a swim in the summer and a break from the city bustle.

Location: Bobovek

Distance from the city: 3,9 km

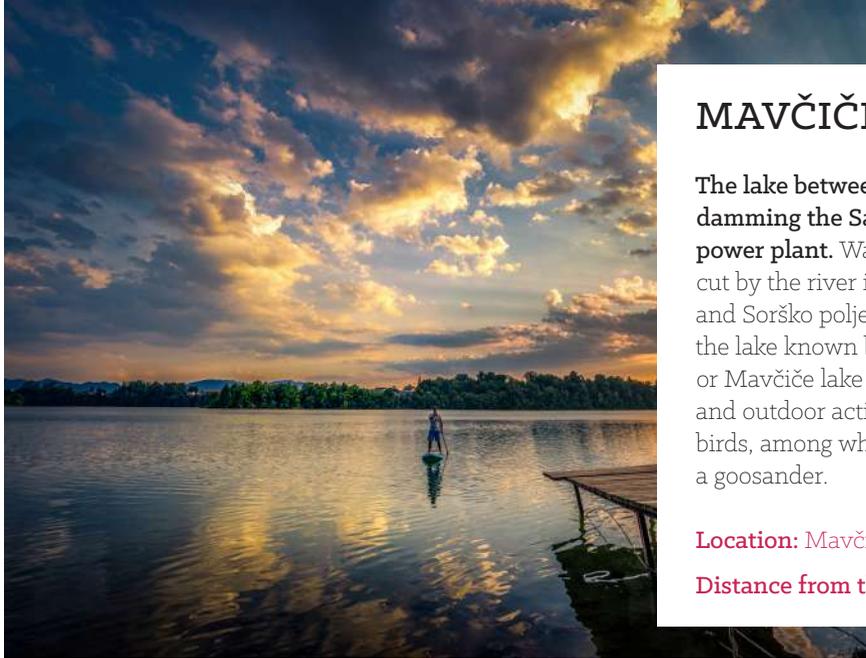


ŠUM WATERFALL

The sound of the waterfall can be heard from far away. Twenty metres high, it falls over a steep rock that stands in the way of the Nemiljščica stream. To reach the Šum waterfall, go from Zgornja Besnica village to Nova vas and follow the steep path for a few minutes. The path from Nova vas also leads to the former Roman thermal baths, described already by Valvasor in the 17th century. Pools were later built at the thermal spring for rheumatic patients to relieve their pain. The remains of pools are still visible today.

Location: Zgornja Besnica near Kranj

Distance from the city: 8 km



MAVČIČE LAKE

The lake between Kranj and Mavčiče formed after damming the Sava river to construct a hydroelectric power plant. Water flooded a spectacular gorge that was cut by the river in the gravel deposits of the Kranjsko and Sorško polje plains, and its place has been taken by the lake known by three names. Trboje lake or Kranj lake or Mavčiče lake is a popular destination for relaxation and outdoor activities. It is the home of numerous water birds, among which you can spot a rare species of ducks, a goosander.

Location: Mavčiče pri Kranju

Distance from the city: 7,5–8 km

JEPRCA TEACHER TRAIL

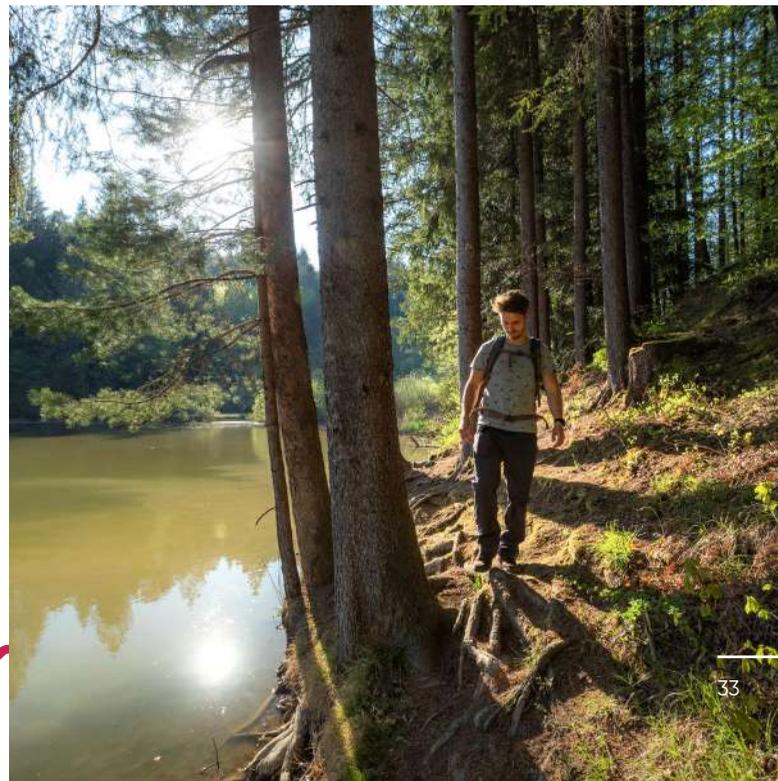
This interactive footpath links green spaces and settlements by the Sava river. Part of the path follows the very edge of the canyon. The route is designed as a tribute to the poet Simon Jenko who was born in the nearby village of Podreča. It features natural and cultural sights that can be visited within half an hour's moderate walk. Prolong your walk and stop on the way at one of the chalets by the Kranj lake to enjoy some delicious fish.

UDIN BORŠT FOREST

Landscape park between Kranj, Tržič and Naklo is protected as a cultural monument and is a true natural landmark. In this unique area created during the Ice Age, you can observe interesting karst phenomena such as dolines, karst caves, chasms and sinkholes. The enchanting forest, which is under special protection, is interspersed with numerous themed hiking trails, and the nature park, located just a stone's throw from the city, is a popular place for a stroll.

Location: Kokrica near Kranj

Distance from the city: 7,5 km





JOŠT

Sveti Jošt (Saint Judoc) above Kranj (845 m) is a favourite spot for locals seeking a retreat to nature and relaxation. Its foot is a short distance from the centre of Kranj. It offers infinite possibilities for exercise or enjoying the beautiful views and great food. You can reach the top on foot, by bike or by car. There you will find a popular pilgrimage church, famous for its Holy Stairs, built from the pebbles of the Holy Stairs of Rome, and Dom na Joštu that is not a usual mountain hut. It is run by chef Matjaž Sedej, educated and trained in France. He likes to bring prestigious Slovenian chefs here and together they create world-class dishes. On all days except Mondays and Tuesdays, when the kitchen is closed, you can reward yourself with one of traditional Slovenian dishes with the chef's modern signature.



ŠMARJETNA GORA

The hill of Šmarjetna Gora can be seen from a distance. With its distinctive outline, it rises 646 metres above sea level, right above the city of Kranj. At its foot, there are ski jumping facilities, where world-class ski jumpers train. You can get to the top of Šmarjetna Gora on foot or by car or bike. You'll be rewarded with a magnificent panoramic view extending from Kranj's plains to Slovenia's highest Alpine peaks. If you happen to arrive on its observation deck in good weather, you can see as much as a fifth of Slovenia. Šmarjetna Gora has always been an attraction for people looking for shelter and the control of the plain. The remains of castles and settlements have been discovered here. The top of the hill features the church of Saint Margaret, dating back to at least the 13th century, which has always been a destination for many pilgrims. There is also hotel Belevue, serving refreshments and excellent daily lunches. Even the earliest hikers can enjoy a drink in the hotel's self-service bar, before the hotel restaurant opens.





STORŽIČ

Mount Storžič is a majestic two-thousander that stands out among the panorama of mountain peaks. It rises to 2132 metres, being the highest mountain in the western part of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps. From every side, the top looks like a cone, which is supposedly the origin of the mountain name. It has been conquered by many people from Kranj and is also a favourite destination for any visiting mountaineer.

CLIMB WITH A WORLD-RENOWNED MOUNTAINEERING COUPLE

The most visited approach to mount Storžič is from the Mače village via Kališče hut and the east ridge. To climb to the top, one has to conquer a 1400 metre difference in altitude, so proper fitness is a good idea. World-famous mountaineering guides Marija and Andrej Štremfelj can make sure that your climb will be carefree and safe. They will share with you their tips and adventures from climbs all over the world, including Mount Everest, being the first couple in the world to reach its top, thus making it into the Guinness Book of World Records.



Find out more:



HIKING ROMANCE UNDER THE FULL MOON

Jamnik is less than half an hour's drive from Kranj. The hike does not require any special fitness, as the 399-metre height difference can be covered in one hour of moderate walking. Embark on a romantic evening hike to Jamnik under the full moon, when mountains most intensely change their hues and only the moonlight illuminates the way. A professional photographer guide will make sure you are on the safe side and catch the right shots, while snacks and refreshments will keep your energy up.



Find out more:



JAMNIK

Jamnik (830 m) is stunning and one of the most photographed viewpoints, not only in the region, but the whole of Slovenia. Locals and foreign visitors alike love to walk up to the church of St. Primus and Felician and enjoy the view of the Ljubljana Basin flanked by the Karawanks and the Kamnik-Savinja Alps.

A grassy hill with a spectacular viewpoint, known as the Balcony of Gorenjska, has circulated around the world on social media. The Jamnik church with mountain peaks in the background is a popular motif for photographers and can be captured from the surrounding viewpoints.



FLOWER OF CYCLING ROUTES AROUND KRANJ

In Kranj, people always have one foot in the middle of the bustling city and the other one in nature. Six scenic cycling routes lead through the varied countryside and past cultural heritage sites to nearby towns. The Ljubljana cycling route takes you to the Slovenian capital, Kamnik and Škofja Loka routes to two of Slovenia's oldest medieval towns, Bled route to the pearl of the Slovenian Alps, the enchanting lake Bled, Tržič route to a small town with a rich heritage of craftsmanship, and the Jezersko route to a lake that mirrors the surrounding peaks. Choose a route for yourself!

Find out more:



CYCLING ROUTES UNDER THE STORŽIČ MOUNTAIN

These cycling routes are a joint project of four municipalities to connect the picturesque surroundings of the impressive two-thousand-metre peak that rises above Kranj. You can ride a mountain bike, a trekking bike or road bike on several cycling routes, from 20 to 30 kilometres in length. The starting point of all routes is at the open-air swimming pool in Kranj. The trails are designed for recreational cycling and lead past villages, landmarks, meadows and through forests, offering magnificent views of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps.

Find out more:





WELCOME IN KRANJ

Kranj offers endless possibilities for experiences between the urban and the rural. Alpine air and city flair are intertwined here at every turn. Whether you are exploring the cultural pulse of the city, the green paths or the surrounding peaks, you'll always find excellent catering and accommodation options on the way. Our restaurants combine tradition with modernity to make your stay authentic yet full of freshness.



Pamper your palate with a visit to one of Kranj cafés, pubs or restaurants.



Enjoy the comfort of drifting off to sleep in your own room or suite in one of Kranj's hotels, holiday farms or other accommodation facilities.

Find out more:



Find out more:





TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE KRANJSKA HIŠA

For recommendations and first-hand insights, visit our Tourist Information Centre, where you will find friendly advice every day of the week. Find out more about events and things to do in Kranj and its surroundings and make the most of your visit.



**Tourist Information Centre
Kranjska hiša**

- 📍 Glavni Trg 2, Kranj
- 🕒 Mon–Sun: 9am–6pm
25 December and 1 January: 12am–5pm

w: www.visitkranj.com
e: info@visitkranj.si
t: +386 (0)4 238 04 50

Find out more:





LIVING ROOM

The living room of Kranj is a place full of ideas for exploration. Watch a film about Kranj, take a look at the gallery, browse through the booklets about Kranj, the Gorenjska region and Slovenia. Free wi-fi is available to all guests.

Discover more:



TICKET PURCHASE

Any information about cultural, sporting and other social events is available here in one place. You can get your tickets right here, where many regular and one-off events in the city are organized. You can also find out all about how to use the KrsKOLESOM bike rental system.

Discover more:



SOUVENIRS AND GUIDES

Carefully selected souvenirs and gifts can be found here, created by master handicraftsmen who make use of modern techniques to evoke Kranj's history and heritage. In addition to textiles, toys, jewellery and local delicacies, there are also maps and guides for exploring the town and its surroundings.

Discover more:

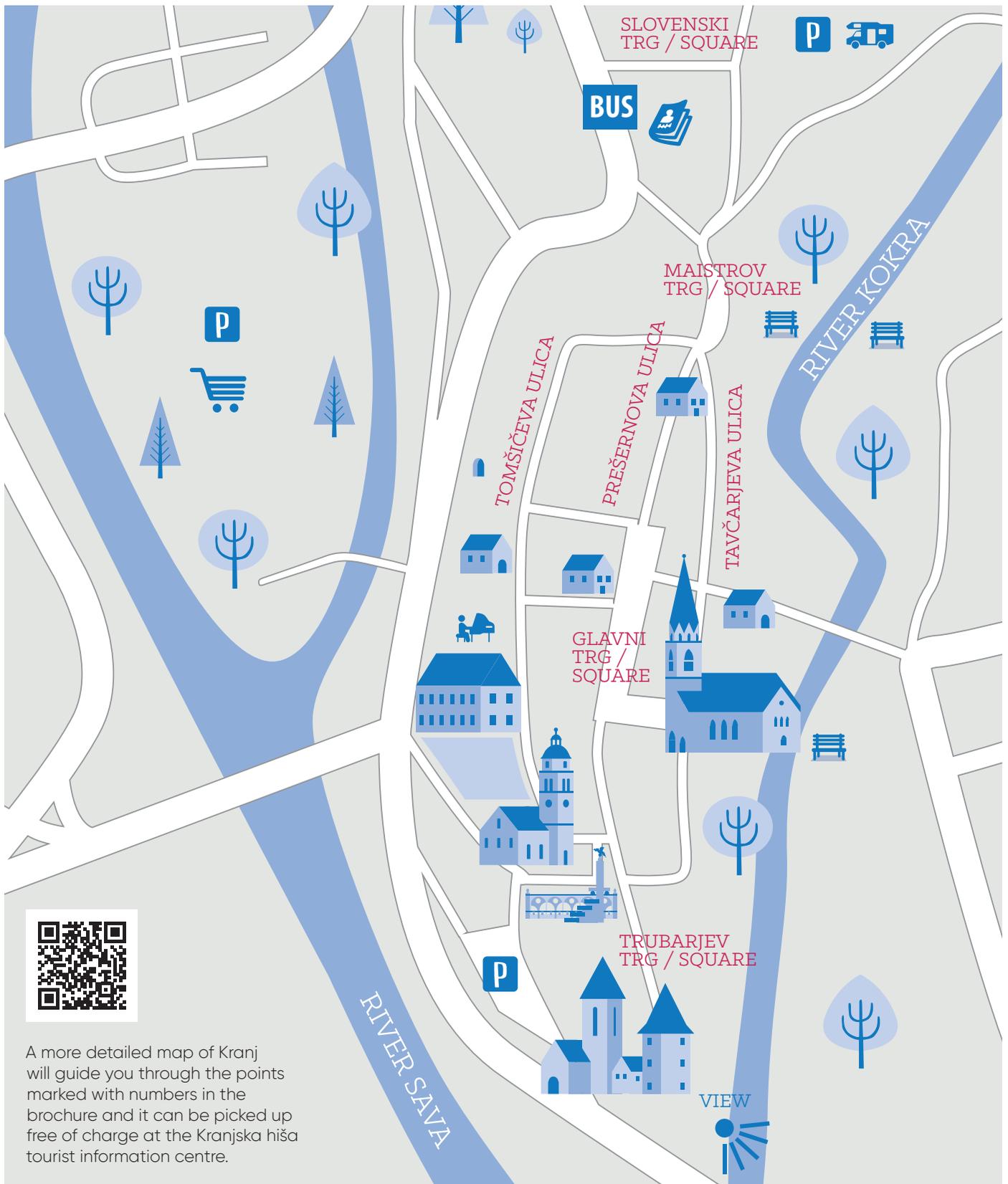


GUIDED TOURS

There's a wide range of regular guided tours to get to know the rich history of the city and to see its iconic spots, above and below ground. Discover Kranj's experiences and tours, enjoy exciting views over the rooftops and take a peek into the tunnels beneath the old town. For any additional information and reservations, please visit our Information Centre or our website.

Discover more:





A more detailed map of Kranj will guide you through the points marked with numbers in the brochure and it can be picked up free of charge at the Kranjska hiša tourist information centre.