



Essential Slovenia

2020



Essential Slovenia

A Small Package of Perfection

Flexible Essential Trip – Classic Private Journey – 8 Days

Start on any day of the week

Take a close-up look at a jewel of a country, lovely Slovenia. Slovenia has it all – coast, mountains, lakes, castles – and all within an hour or so of each other. On this in-depth exploration, range from the political and cultural capital, Ljubljana, through the countryside from the Julian Alps to the Adriatic Coast, admiring tidy villages and towns, grand mountain vistas, and aquamarine rivers and lakes. Visit a stud farm of the original Lipizzaner horse, attend a wine-tasting in the “Tuscany of Slovenia,” explore a cave system and a cave castle, and dine in an award-winning restaurant.



Daily Itinerary

Day 1	Arrive Ljubljana, Slovenia
Day 2	Ljubljana
Day 3	Ljubljana • Bled
Day 4	Bled • Kobarid & Soca Valley
Day 5	Kobarid • Goriska Brda region
Day 6	Goriska Brda • Piran • Portoroz
Day 7	Portoroz • Postojna Caves • Predjama • Ljubljana
Day 8	Depart Ljubljana



Tour Highlights

Ljubljana	Capital of Slovenia, Ljubljana Castle, Triple Bridge, Old Town, Cathedral of St. Nicholas, Church of the Annunciation
Bled	Bled Castle, Lake Bled, traditional boat ride to Bled Island
Radovljica	Beekeeping Museum
Soca Valley	Triglav National Park, Zelenci Lake, lunch in a mountain hut
Kobarid	Dinner at award-winning restaurant, private tour of WWI Museum
Goriska Brda	"Tuscany of Slovenia," wine tasting
Lipica	Original stud farm of the Lipizzaner horse
Piran	Old Town tour, Venetian architecture
Portoroz	Port of Roses, Slovenia's largest resort town on the Adriatic
Postojna Caves	Extensive cave system with special train
Predjama Castle	Only cave castle in Slovenia

Daily Itinerary

Day One

Arrive Ljubljana, Slovenia

Upon your **arrival to Ljubljana**, you are met at the airport and transferred to the hotel in the city's Old Town. Depending on what time you arrive, the day is yours to enjoy however you please.

In the evening, meet up with your guide for an introduction to the country and its capital, and to discuss the program. Have dinner tonight with your guide before overnight at the hotel.

Meals: D – *Cubo Hotel or similar*

Day Two

Ljubljana

This morning after breakfast, embark on a guided city tour. Though the area has been settled since Roman times, Ljubljana was officially mentioned by name in the year 1144 and received town rights in 1220. Shortly thereafter it fell under Habsburg rule, where it remained until 1918 when it became part of Yugoslavia.

This long period of relative stability allowed the town to thrive culturally and architecturally. Partially destroyed in 1511 and again in 1895 by earthquakes, the city is a stunning

mix of baroque, Renaissance, neoclassical and Austrian art nouveau styles, epitomized by homegrown architect Jože Plečnik's work, found throughout the city.



photo: D Wedam



Since Slovenia's entrance into the European Union in 2004, Ljubljana has come into its own as a capital city. Small by European standards with a population of 250,000 people, its 50,000-strong student population (drawn to the excellent reputation of the University of Ljubljana) has ensured that the arts, culture and nightlife of Ljubljana are constantly fresh and always flourishing. Look for the dragon motif – the city's symbol – manifested in many different ways.

Sights in the city include the **art nouveau neighborhoods**, Ljubljana Castle, Triple Bridge, Old Town, Cathedral of St. Nicholas, Church of the Annunciation, Roman ruins, and Republic Square, where Slovenian independence was announced in 1991. Take in the exteriors today as you explore the city with your guide.

Built high on a naturally fortified hill, bits of **Ljubljana's castle** predate the disastrous 1511 earthquake while other parts of it were built in the 19th century. In 2006, a funicular railway was constructed to connect Castle Hill with the Old Town. The woods and paths around the castle have become a favorite spot for urban hiking and panoramic views of Ljubljana.

The **Triple Bridge** is exactly what it sounds like – three bridges that make up one major crossing of the Ljubljanica River. It connects Ljubljana Market Colonnade with Presernov, the city's main square, and is the most frequently crossed bridge in Ljubljana. The center bridge has stood in this place since 1842.

The other two were added by Jože Plečnik during his transformation of the city in the 20th century. This bridge has become a symbol of Ljubljana and is one of the most frequently photographed points in Slovenia.

Wander through the medieval streets and the connecting squares of **Ljubljana's Old Town** at the base of Castle Hill. Make sure to pay attention to the baroque facades of many of the buildings; don't forget to stop in one of the many restaurants and cafes that line the streets here and indulge in a coffee and some people-watching.

Built in the early 18th century, the Cathedral of St. Nicholas was designed by Andrea Pozzo and detailed

by the Italian masters Giulio Quaglio, whose frescoes were recently cleaned and restored, and Angelo Putti, who sculpted the four bishops of Emona in relief in order to connect the church to Ljubljana's Roman past. Along those lines, a new detail was added in 1996 to celebrate a visit from Pope John Paul II – two large carved bronze doors depicting the development of Christianity in Slovenia. The immense cupola and imposing dome make the church one of the finest examples of Italian baroque outside of Italy.



Located on Presernov,



Ljubljana's central square, the bright, salmon-colored Church of the Annunciation is one of the city's most recognizable landmarks. Built in a neoclassical style around 1646, the church features a large copper statue of the Madonna and an enormous altarpiece, built by baroque Italian artist Francesco Robba. As with most other landmarks in Ljubljana, 20th century architect and artist Jože Plečnik left his mark here as well, in the form of a cross kept in its own small chapel.

The afternoon is free to explore on your own.
Meals: B, L – *Cubo Hotel or similar*

Day Three Bled

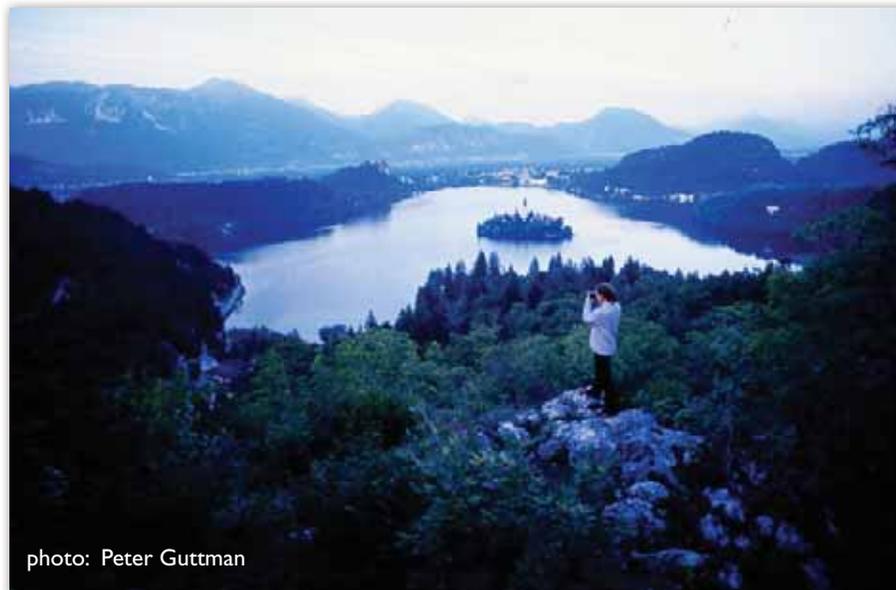


photo: Peter Guttman

Check out from the hotel this morning and set out for Bled. The town of **Bled, Slovenia**, first appeared in annals in the year 1004, though almost certainly the area has been settled since before recorded time. Visitors from around Slovenia are attracted to Bled's setting in northwestern Slovenia's Julian Alps, and to Lake Bled, a glacial lake popular with outdoor sports enthusiasts.

At over a mile long and three quarters of a mile wide, **Lake Bled** is a stunning spot of icy blue surrounded by the mountains and hills of

northwestern Slovenia. The lake is glacial in origin and in its center stands the only natural island in Slovenia, where a church was built in the 15th century. The area is a popular resort destination, with cabins and small hotels sprouting up on the lake's shores; visitors in the summer are likely to see boaters and swimmers enjoying the water.

Board a traditional wooden *pletna* boat and glide across the lake to lovely **Bled Island**, propelled by a gondolier with two long oars. The 17th century island Church of the Assumption is seated over a place where churches have been consecrated for over 900 years.

Take a leisurely walk to **Bled Castle**, where an 11th century Romanesque tower is still standing watch over the town and the lake. Much of the castle has been rebuilt since then, but the tower is a reminder of Slovenia's ancient past. The castle is now a museum dedicated to its own history with rooms displayed as they might have looked in the 15th and 16th centuries.

After lunch, take a drive to **Radovljica**. Situated on a promontory above the Sava River, the charming town of Radovljica boasts stunning views of the Alps and one of the best-preserved medieval squares in Slovenia. Here, visit the **Beekeeping Museum** which has been practiced in Slovenia for centuries. Opened in 1959, the Museum of Apiculture documents the history of traditional Slovenian beekeeping, from the early days when hives were carved into hollow tree trunks to the modern era. A highlight is the



impressive collection of beautiful handmade and hand-painted hive panels, many of them dating from the mid-18th century. There's also a working hive where you can observe and learn more about the Carniolan species of bees indigenous to Slovenia.



photo: Ubald Trnkoczy

Today's hotel is the palatial former summer residence of Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito. After check-in, the evening is yours to enjoy the amenities or explore further.
Meals: B, L, D – *Vila Bled or similar*

Day Four

Soca Valley and Kobarid

In the morning, head out through the verdant Julian Alps to **Triglav National Park**. Running along part of the Italian border, Triglav (Slovenia's only national park) is named for the country's highest peak, part of the snowcapped Julian Alps. A component of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) project, the park is not only a nature reserve, but a place where

scientists can study human impact on environments and learn better how to use sustainable development.

On the northwest edge of Triglav, **Zelenci Lake** wells up from its lime-rich bed with a deep blue-green color. Clear, cold streams pour from the lake, which remains at a temperature of some 41 degrees year round. A wooden footbridge leads travelers around the lake and its surrounding wetlands.

Crossing Slovenia's highest mountain pass, Vrsic, stop for lunch in a mountain hut. Cross through the beautiful Soca Valley, stretching from Triglav to Nova Gorica. The blue-green Soca River and its tributaries rush over the rocks, creating a lovely waterfall downstream.

Continue southwest to **Kobarid** for dinner and overnight. Kobarid is best known as the location of the 1917 Battle of Caporetto (the town's Italian name at the time), described in Ernest Hemingway's novel, *A Farewell to Arms*. The WWI battle came as Austro-Hungarian and German troops broke through the longstanding Italian front, using canisters of poison gas over the Italian foxholes as the opening salvo. The area has been populated since prehistoric times, and archaeological sites from Roman times are found here.

This evening enjoy a feast of locally grown ingredients prepared by chef Ana Ros at the award-winning Hisa Franko restaurant, listed in the Top 50 Restaurants in the World 2018. Overnight is in the nearby town of Bovec.

Meals: B, L, D – *Dobra Vila, Cubo Alpin, or similar*



Day Five

Kobarid • Goriska Brda region

After breakfast, take a private tour of the **Kobarid WWI Museum**. The museum outlines the tragic history and events of the 1917 Battle of Caporetto. Displays include battle plans, weapons, battlefield artifacts, films, and photos of the devastating attack, during which at least 10,000 Italians and some 70,000 troops from the Central Powers were killed or wounded.

Following the museum experience, head to the Kolovrat range to observe the **battlefield itself**. Here the stark structures of the Italian line of defense are jumbled together on both sides of the border.

Continue to the **Goriska Brda region**, affectionately known as the “Tuscany of Slovenia.” With vistas of rolling hills, cypress trees and vineyards as far as the eye can see, the Goriska Brda region encompasses both western Slovenia and northeastern Italy. The region is famed for its wines, particularly whites such as chardonnay, pinot grigio and sauvignon blanc.

Stop for a wine tasting in one of Slovenia’s most renowned private vineyards, where one of Slovenia’s best-known winemakers offers samples of the local wine. Overnight is in the town of Medana.

Meals: B, L, D – *Belica Hotel or similar*



Day Six

Goriska Brda region • Piran • Portoroz

After a hotel breakfast, head to the **village of Lipica** near the Italian border. Here, tour the **original stud farm of the Lipizzaner horse**, one of the oldest breeds in the world. Visit the farm's stables and the museum that displays the history of the farm and the Lipizzaner breed, as well as the cultural significance of the farm. Following, see the **magnificent white and gray horses in action** in a exhibition of their beauty and performance capabilities at a show in the farm's arena.

The next stop is the old **town of Piran**. Situated at the tip of a narrow peninsula on the Slovenian coastline, Piran's history can be dated back to pre-Roman times, when Illyrian tribes first settled in the area. Long a part of the Venetian Republic, the town's construction was heavily influenced by Venetian architectural styles and methods popularized during the 14th century, unusual for many cities in Slovenia. Today, Piran's Old Town is one of the best preserved along the Adriatic Coast, and its classic orange and red tiled roofs, vividly colored old buildings, and freestanding bell tower modeled after St. Mark's campanile give the town the feel of a mini-Venice.

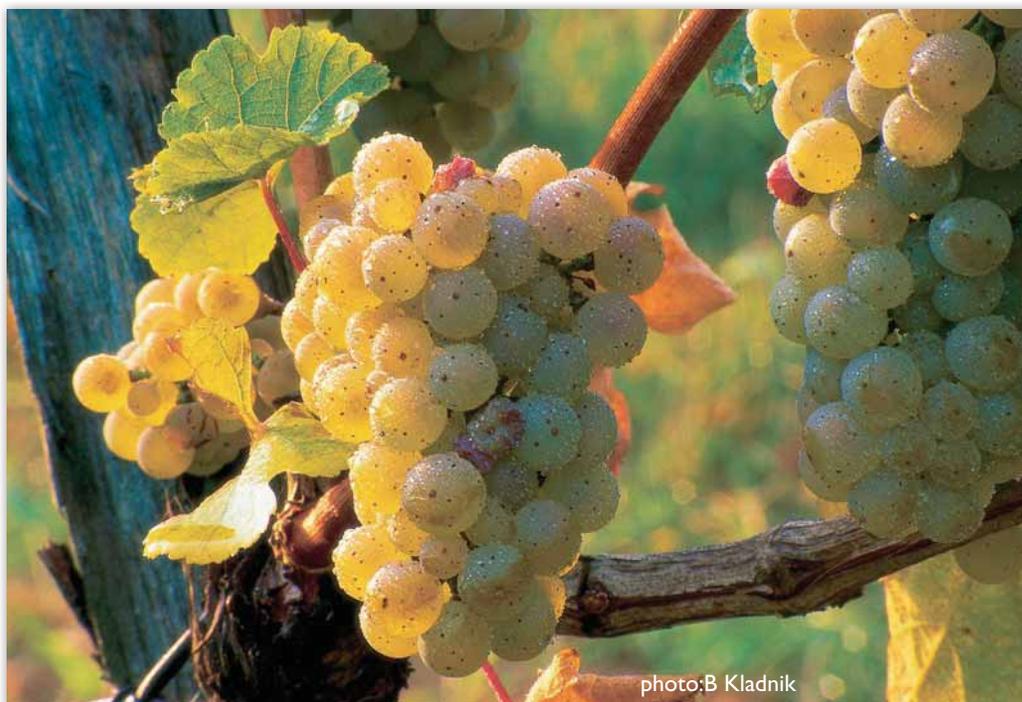
After strolling the narrow streets of this typical Istrian coastal town, climb the hill to the Church of St. George for **beautiful views of the harbor**.

Continue on to Portoroz. Located on the southwestern side of the Gulf of Trieste, **Portoroz**, or "Port of Roses," is Slovenia's largest resort town on the Adriatic. Like Piran, its neighbor to the north, Portoroz was inhabited by Illyrians, ancient Romans, and Byzantines until it was assimilated into the Venetian



Republic in the 7th century AD. During the 13th century, the city gained fame as a popular health resort, due to the supposed restorative properties of its mineral-rich mud and salt water baths. Casinos and gambling were introduced during the early 20th century, but didn't fully take off until the 1960s in an effort to stimulate the region's economy. Today, Portoroz is still well-known for its spas and casinos, but has also gained notoriety for a burgeoning arts scene, hosting the annual Festival of Slovenian Film and Forma Viva, an international biennale for contemporary sculpture.

Check in to the hotel and enjoy an independent dinner and overnight.
Meals: B, L – *Hotel Kempinski or similar*



Day Seven

Portoroz • Postojna Caves • Predjama • Ljubljana

After a late breakfast on the way to Ljubljana, begin touring with a visit to the **Postojna Caves**, an underground world of caverns adorned with glittering stalactites and stalagmites. First described in the 17th century, the caves are located below the large limestone Krast Plateau that gave the world the term karst topography. Visitors to the awe-inspiring cave ride a special train through its halls and tunnels, and have the opportunity to admire one of its denizens, the rare *proteus anguinus* salamander, sometimes referred to as the “human fish” because of its human-like skin.

Also visit **Predjama Castle**, perched dramatically at the entrance to a cave high in an overhanging cliff. The only cave castle in Slovenia, its basic features were formed in the 12th and 13th centuries, but the Renaissance gave it a final stamp with the construction of the imposing Kobenz gate tower.

Continue to Ljubljana and enjoy a celebratory farewell dinner.
Meals: B, L, D – *Cubo Hotel or similar*



Day Eight
Depart Ljubljana

Following breakfast, the journey concludes with a transfer to the airport.
Meals: B



Private Journey Prices

Three and four star hotel basis throughout, hotels as listed in the itinerary
2 traveler minimum, from \$6,695 per person, twin share
Single supplement, from \$1,195
Solo traveler rate on same hotel basis, inclusive of single supplement, \$9,895

Flexible Essential trip prices may vary by season and start day, and are subject to hotel availability for your travel dates. Additional nights are available on request. Contact us at 1-800-424-7289 for more information.



Your Private Journey Includes

- Shared accommodations in well-located superior tourist class hotels throughout the itinerary. All room types are standard entry-level doubles or twins; please call for room category upgrade pricing and information.
- Meals per the itinerary, including 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 5 dinners. Meals not mentioned are left independent to allow exploration.
- Services of experienced, English-speaking local guides in each city.
- One arrival and one departure airport transfer. (Additional arrival and departure transfers are available at additional cost.) MIR arranges for travelers to be met on arrival and seen off on departure whether we make your airfare arrangements or not.
- Ground transportation throughout itinerary by private van or car (type of vehicle depends on the size of your party). Note, one vehicle and driver will be used throughout the itinerary.
- Guided sightseeing tours and entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary.
- Complete pre-departure information including detailed packing list, reading list, *Touring with MIR* handbook with country-specific information, maps, and travel tips.
 - Assistance booking your custom flight arrangements (on request; please note that international airfare is not included in the land tour cost).
- Final document packet including luggage tags, final updates, and more.

Not Included

- International airfare or taxes/fuel surcharges.
- Meals not specified as included on the itinerary.
- Single supplement charge, if requested or required.
- Items of a personal nature (phone calls, email, laundry, alcohol, excess baggage, etc).
- Baggage handling.
- Gratuities to local guides, drivers, porters and other service personnel.
- Visa/passport fees if required (U.S. passport holders do not require any visas for this program).
- Expenses incurred as a result of delay, modification or extension of a tour due to causes beyond MIR's control.
- Travel and trip cancellation insurance.

Interested in travel insurance?

To learn more about all the benefits of purchasing a Travel Guard travel insurance plan, please visit www.travelguard.com/mircorp or contact Travel Guard at 1.877.709.5596.



Start Planning Next Year Now

2021 Flexible Essential Trip – Classic Private Journey – 8 Days

At the time of writing, the land itinerary for this program next year is projected to be generally as depicted for this year. Please call if you're ready to book now.

Private departures of this land itinerary can begin on the day of your choice in 2021. Please note you will need to depart the U.S. at least one day prior to your tour start date due to airline flight schedules.

Private Journey Prices – 2021

Three and four star hotel basis throughout, hotels as listed in the itinerary
2 traveler minimum, from \$6,795 per person, twin share
Single supplement, from \$1,295
Solo traveler rate on same hotel basis, inclusive of single supplement, \$9,995

Flexible Essential trip prices may vary by season and start day, and are subject to hotel availability for your travel dates. Additional nights are available on request. Contact us at 1-800-424-7289 for more information.

Flexible Essential Trips – Classic Private Journeys

Flexible Essential Private Trips are compact, well-designed private tour itineraries – researched and ready to book on the dates you choose. They work perfectly as brief overviews of a country or as effortless extensions to group tours – great for solo travelers, couples, or private parties who prefer to travel independently but appreciate a savvy pre-designed program.

Important Notes: Is This Trip Right For You?

While the accommodations are designed to be comfortable for travel in this part of the world, they will vary from small, moderate three star to four star hotels, some quite small, with basic amenities and services. (Please see **Hotel Upgrade** pricing section above if interested in upgrading hotels.) It is important to keep in mind that the countries of the Balkans may not be up to the standards North American travelers expect. Services are improving in the region; nevertheless you may encounter problems with plumbing, bureaucratic service, road conditions, unpaved sidewalks, uneven surfaces and steps and availability and quality of public restrooms. Some areas, relatively speaking, have seen few travelers, and the infrastructure is not yet fully developed.

While this program is designed to be the most comfortable possible for travel in this region, this is an adventuresome trip. It is rated as **rigorous touring** due to the daily walking involved, some long driving days, the conditions of some roads, and the overall shortcomings of the tourism infrastructure. This itinerary features a significant amount of touring on foot. Many streets are of cobblestone, and some attractions are only accessible via steep staircases. Museums rarely have elevators. Flexibility and a sense of humor are essential components of the enjoyment of your trip.



Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this schedule is accurate. However, trip itineraries are always subject to change. We do our best to inform you in advance of any changes, but due to the nature of travel in these countries, this may not always be possible.

Are You Prepared?

A Travel Guard travel insurance plan can help cover your vacation investment, offset expenses from travel mishaps and provide you with emergency travel assistance. To learn more about all of the benefits of purchasing a Travel Guard travel insurance plan, please visit www.travelguard.com/mircorp

Please read the U.S. State Department's Travel Advisory regarding travel to Slovenia here: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/slovenia-travel-advisory.html>

If you are not already enrolled in STEP, Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, a free service to enroll your trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate, please consider enrolling. For more information: <https://step.state.gov/step/>

Weather

This region of Europe enjoys a transitional maritime/continental climate, with warm summers and fairly mild winters. Spring and summer are the best times to travel here, particularly when driving overland. These are all agricultural countries, with the landscape varying from cultivated fields to forests. In May and June, temperatures throughout typically range from lows in the mid 50s to highs in the mid- to upper 70s. In July and August highs often get into the 80s and above, with September and October bringing cooler temperatures again, and the possibility of more rain.

Please remember, weather at all times of year has an element of the unpredictable. This information comes from weatherbase.com and is based on data from previous temperatures on record. It is always advisable to check with weatherbase.com closer to your departure date for current conditions and forecasts for the specific region you will be visiting.

International Airfare

MIR's in-house, full-service air department is available to assist with your air travel needs. Check with MIR before booking air on your own, as we are happy to research and compare the best fares available through multiple channels. Airfare varies depending on a wide variety of factors, such as dates of travel and seasonality, seat availability, special airline promotions, how restrictive ticket changes are, how long the fares can be held without purchase, routing considerations such as stopovers, and more. Tour dates are based on the land tour only. Our preferred carrier for this tour is Lufthansa, as they offer convenient itineraries and competitive rates from multiple cities across the U.S. to Slovenia.

Please call us at 800-424-7289 to discuss air options and routings for this program, and to request a quote for your specific plans and dates of travel. We will be happy to put together a no-obligation suggested air itinerary and estimate for you at your request.

Visas

U.S. passport holders do not require a visa for Slovenia. Citizens of other countries may require visas; please contact us for more details. Visa prices are always subject to change.



Also Nearby...

For more tours in Eastern Europe and Western Russia, you may want to check out the following:

Flexible Essential Trips – Classic Private Journeys

Essential Russia, 7 days. A compact and compelling survey of Russia's political capital, Moscow, and its cultural capital, St. Petersburg, this tour communicates the character of Western Russia in a succinct and meaningful series of experiences.

Essential St. Petersburg, 7 days. St. Petersburg, home of the czars and their courts, is a rich repository of extravagant palaces, brilliant museums and renowned theaters overflowing with music and dance. Its fashionable boulevards and serene canals glisten in the "White Nights" of summer and dazzle on sunny winter days.

Essential Ukraine, 8 days. Ukraine is the new borderland between Europe and Russia. Explore this resilient region influenced by Polish princes, Cossack *hetmen*, Turkish khans, Russian communists, and Ukrainian poets and nationalists.

Essential Poland, 6 days. On this focused tour, visit four Polish UNESCO sites in six days – Warsaw's Old Town, Krakow's Historic Center, the Auschwitz/Birkenau camp and the Wieliczka Salt Mine.

Small Group Tours

Balkan Odyssey: Crossroads of Cultures, 16 days. From low-lying Belgrade up through the Dinaric Alps, down to the Dalmatian Coast of Croatia and back up to mountainous Macedonia, this overland journey ties together seven wildly divergent Balkan countries – Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, North Macedonia, and Kosovo.

Bulgaria & Romania: Frescoes & Fortresses, 16 days. Explore the complex history and fascinating culture of Bulgaria and Romania, two Balkan countries whose rugged terrain and consequent isolation have helped preserve their heritage. Discover the luminous frescoes of the painted monasteries, breathe in the fragrance of the Valley of the Roses, and spend an afternoon visiting with villagers in a tiny Transylvanian town.

Belarus, Ukraine & Moldova, 14 days. Traverse a little-known region that has changed hands from its earliest history. Belarus, Ukraine, and Moldova are three of the least-frequented and least familiar countries in Europe. Time slowed drastically here after the devastation of World War II, but these beautiful countries are emerging from the shadows.

Russia's Imperial Capitals & Ancient Villages, 11 days. Discover where Russian art, architecture, and culture began. In between the urban centers of Moscow and St. Petersburg, experience the Russian countryside. The oldest and loveliest churches in Russia, Sergiev Posad's wooden crafts and Fedoskino's glowing lacquer boxes all put a shine on Russia's Golden Ring.

Kaliningrad & The Baltics, 13 days. This overland journey roves the countryside and urban centers of four distinct nations: the three independent Baltic countries – Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia – and Kaliningrad, an exclave of Russia.



Conditions of Participation

Your participation on a MIR Corporation trip is subject to the conditions contained in the 2020 Tour Reservation Form and Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement. Please read this document carefully and contact us with any questions.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

Payment Terms: Non-refundable deposits are accepted by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Final land payments may be made by check or credit card for reservations made directly with MIR. If booking through a travel agent, please contact your agent to find out what form of payment they accept. (MIR can accept final payment from travel agents by agency check only.) Air fares are subject to change until ticketed; payment policies vary by carrier.

If you cancel your trip please notify MIR in writing. Upon MIR's receipt of notice the following charges apply to land tours (policies for air tickets, custom group trips vary).

Flexible Essential Trips

Cost of cancellation, if received:

61 or more days prior to departure, deposit due or paid in full of \$750;

31-60 days prior to departure, 50% of land tour cost;

30 days prior to or after trip departure, no refund.

References

We encourage you to speak directly with satisfied past travelers. Please request a list of references.

Why MIR?

Regional knowledge is crucial to the success of any trip to our corner of the world. MIR combines detailed information about geography and infrastructure, history and art, language and culture, with the depth of knowledge that comes only from decades of regional experience. You may wonder how we differ from other tour operators...

Destination Specialization

MIR focuses exclusively on the exceptional region at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. This area has been our overriding passion since 1986; we don't do the rest of the world. Our hard-earned expertise gained over the last three decades can take you from end to end of the largest country in the world – Russia – and to all of its neighbors. We specialize in travel to Siberia, the Silk Route, St. Petersburg & Beyond. Our destinations include: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, the Baltics (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania), the Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia), Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia), Turkey, Mongolia, China, Tibet, and Central/East Europe (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia).

30 Years of Experience

A travel company doesn't last more than 30 years in the business without a solid track record. MIR has helped thousands of individuals achieve their travel goals. Our dedication and experience have earned us their trust and the trust of many well-respected institutions. Today MIR is the preferred tour operator for museum, alumni and special interest organizations across the country.



Recommended & Respected

MIR has twice been rated one of the “Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth” by *National Geographic Adventure*. Several of our tours have won awards in top travel publications, such as *Outside* magazine and *National Geographic Traveler*. Our trips have been featured in books such as *Riding the Hula Hula to the Arctic Ocean* and *1,000 Places to See Before You Die*.



More Questions?

Please feel free to call us with questions at 1-800-424-7289, 8:30am-5:30pm Pacific Time.

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