

Ljubljana - with a personal touch

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Introduction

We are architects, travellers, lovers of art, history, nature, and good food. Ever since our student days, we have been writing about architecture and preparing books and guides that present Slovene architecture and art, as well as other sights in Slovenia to the wider public. In this guide, created in collaboration with the team from Beletrina Academic Press, we have chosen all the things we would most like to see on a first visit to Ljubljana. In these pages you will find details of interesting cultural landmarks and unforgettable experiences. We have also sought out stories of local people who have realised ambitious achievements in various fields — from culinary creativity to master craftsmanship. They are all connected by the green corners of the city, from large expanses of native forest to its beautifully maintained parks and gardens.

We invite you to explore the best that Ljubljana has to offer!

Špela Kuhar and Robert Potokar

How to explore Ljubljana with the guide *Ljubljana - with a personal touch*

The guide first briefly describes why Ljubljana is worth visiting, how the city is set out, its historical development, and notable events & festivals. The table of contents lists each area of the city with selected points of interest in the order they appear in the guide. The inside covers contain maps, the front of the city centre, the back of Ljubljana with its surroundings.

The main guide is dedicated to our selection of attractions in individual parts of Ljubljana. These are divided into topics, from architecture, design, nature, museums and galleries, to food and accommodation. In each individual part of the city or surrounding location, the points of interest are listed in order, following the most logical route for visiting. Next to every description of an attraction is a pictogram that clearly indicates what kind of sight it is. Because this guide is being published in the digital age when so much information is available online, we have not included the opening hours of museums and other institutions, as the most up-to-date information is only a click away.



Culture



Handicrafts



Nature



Shopping



Cuisine



Accommodation

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Ljubljana

The capital of Slovenia is a city with just the right amount of everything. It is urban but, wherever you are, the nearest park or forest is never more than a few minutes away. It has a charming old centre where architecture from various periods is interwoven, from Roman and medieval, through Baroque and Neoclassical, to Secessionist, Functionalist, and contemporary. It has a castle on a hill and a river below it along which the town developed. It has its architect, Jože Plečnik, a true master who left his mark on the town in a way only few architects worldwide have marked any single town. His sophisticated architectural legacy is inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List, placing him among the world's greatest architects. It also has Edvard Ravnikar, who marked the post-war period, and a series of other excellent architects who are still enriching the city to this day. Ljubljana has the Cukrarna Art Gallery, the National and Modern Galleries, the centre of urban culture Kino Šiška, and numerous other venues for cultural escape. Nowhere in Slovenia is there such a variety of events as in the capital. In selected small shops and on stands in the streets we come across Slovene creativity. Not to mention culinary offerings which have in recent years seen a true boom. Just visiting the Odrpta Kuhna (Open Kitchen) on summer Fridays in the main market is a unique experience where you can taste local and international delicacies. Ljubljana is also a university city, teeming with life.



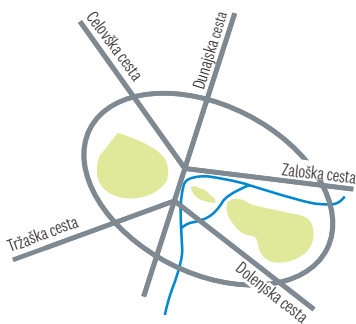
Robba Fountain with the Cathedral of Saint Nicholas in the background



The general layout of the city

Ljubljana is a city with five main traffic arteries leading towards its centre.

Slovenska cesta (Slovene Road) and its northern extension **Dunajska cesta** (Vienna Road), follow the direction of the former *cardo*, the central north-south orientated artery of the Roman town of Emona. The area of South Bežigrad developed along Dunajska, and new business and trade centres (Astra, Plava Laguna, Slovenijales) and new residential estates (Bratovševa Ploščad and BS3) were created north of the Exhibition and Convention Centre in the 1960s and 70s. Other road arteries are four branches that join this central axis. **Celovška cesta** (Celovec Road), the road leading north-west out of town in the direction of Celovec (the Slovene name for Klagenfurt in Austria), connected the former suburban settlements of Spodnja Šiška, Zgornja Šiška, Dravlje and Šentvid. To the east, at the start of **Zaloška cesta** (Zalog Road), are the town's hospitals and the University Medical Centre, further along, the road is surrounded by residential areas (Štepanjsko Naselje, Fužine, Polje) and the largest shopping centre in Ljubljana, BTC City. Along **Dolenjska cesta** (Dolenjska Road), which leads south-east, out in the direction of Dolenjska (Lower Carniola), are detached houses. Over the last decade the built-up area has extended all the way to the shopping centre at Rudnik. South-west out of town, along **Tržaška cesta** (Trieste Road), which leads in the direction towards Primorska or the littoral region of Slovenia and the port of Trieste, the urban sprawl is almost continuous all the way to Vrhnika.



1 View of the town centre from Castle Hill
2 View towards the southwest from Castle Hill



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A short stroll through the history of Ljubljana

Roman Emona

Walking through the town centre outside its medieval core, it is very likely you are walking over remnants of the Roman town. Emona was first a military settlement, named Colonia Iulia Aemona, which from the mid-1st century started attracting civilian settlers and soon became a thriving Roman commercial and administrative town. For anyone interested in this part of the town's history, there are exhibitions on display at the National Museum, the City Museum of Ljubljana, the Emona House Archaeological Park in Trnovo, and the Paleo Christian Shrine Archaeological Park on Erjavčeva Street. Remnants of the southern Roman wall at Mirje were refurbished by the architect Jože Plečnik in the 1920s and 30s.

Medieval Ljubljana

A walk through medieval Ljubljana is a walk through several periods of history, converging in one place. No wonder people feel good in such multi-layered spaces. The narrow winding streets, pretty façades, and interesting variety of bars, restaurants and shops attract many visitors. Ljubljana is first mentioned in written sources in 1144 by its German name Laibach, and in 1146 already with its Slavic name Luwigana. In the Middle Ages it was a flourishing town at the crossroads of important trade routes. Inhabitants were mostly involved in trade and crafts. The Baroque period that came after the Middle Ages so thoroughly changed the town that there is very little original medieval architecture left. The most picturesque example are the houses with triangular gables and narrow passages between the buildings on Gornji Trg (Upper Square) Nos 9 to 17.

Baroque Ljubljana

After the threat of Ottoman raids was over, the town walls were demolished, and the former medieval town began to change. Townsfolk added further floors to their old houses, redecorated façades, hallways and courtyards. Often, they combined two or three narrow houses and refurbished them into more spacious town palaces, decorating their façades. The interiors of these palaces were also made more luxurious. During the Baroque, the strength of nobility grew and they were keen to show off their status by building Baroque mansions with extensive parks outside the former town walls. The most beautiful preserved part of the Baroque town is the area of Mestni Trg (Town Square) with the Town Hall, Robba's Fountain and the Cathedral in the background.

1 Roman mosaic from the Paleochristian Centre
Archaeological Park
2 Centromerkur building (now Emporium) on
Prešeren Square

Neoclassical Ljubljana

Between 1849 and 1857, the Vienna – Trieste railway line was built through Ljubljana. The arrival of the railway encouraged the growth of large industrial companies in its immediate vicinity (tobacco factory, sugar factory, brewery). The increased demand for labour led to the development of workers' settlements. After the opulence of Baroque, the Neoclassical period in art and architecture turned to Classical Antiquity for inspiration. The most beautiful example of Neoclassical architecture in town is the Casino building in the north-western corner of Congress Square. In the late 19th century Neoclassicism evolved into Historicism which also turned to other stylistic eras for inspiration (Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance). During this period, important public buildings were constructed – the National Museum, the Opera, the Philharmonic, the National Gallery, and the State Mansion of Carniola which now houses the seat of the University.



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Secessionist Ljubljana

Art and architecture at the beginning of the 20th century were marked by the Secession, which had different names in different countries. Ljubljana was most influenced by the Vienna Secession and the Paris Art Nouveau movements. In architecture, the Secession was present mainly on façades, less so in new constructional concepts and interior design. It drew inspiration from nature with vines, floral designs, waves, figures, and other organic motifs, and a little later, geometric patterns. The most representative Secessionist buildings in Ljubljana are the Dragon Bridge, the Centromerkur building (Emporium), and the Hotel Union.

Plečnik's Ljubljana

Walking around any part of town, we inevitably come across the work of architect Jože Plečnik. Most of his works in Ljubljana date from the period between the First and Second World Wars. He developed his own unique

classical style for which he is known worldwide. He connected numerous buildings and landscaping elements from various periods into urban features. Many of his adaptations were connected to two main axes. The first along the river Ljubljanica where he set out a series of locks, the market, the Triple Bridge, the Cobblers' Bridge and the Trnovo Embankment. The second axis connected his own house in Trnovo with the Trnovo Bridge, Emona and Vega Streets, the Illyrian Pillar, the Križanke complex, and the National and University Library, ending at Congress Square and Zvezda Park. We suggest a visit to his house in Trnovo for a better insight into his architecture. The freedom to experiment on the architectural interventions of his own house means he was most authentic here.

Modernist Ljubljana

In the interwar period, Ljubljana began to grow from a small provincial town into a major centre that also became





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the focus for Slovene investment. During this period, two architectural influences dominated, on the one hand, the works of Jože Plečnik, on the other, Modernist influences that tried to introduce the modern architectural trends of the era. Modernism was expressed in plain façades without decoration, smooth lines with curved corners and sculptural additions of balconies and statues on façades. The best examples of this style are the Mali Nebotičnik building on Igriška Street, the Dukić residential blocks on Štefanova Street, the Nama department store, and Hotel Slon.

Socialist Ljubljana

In art as well as politically, the period after the Second World War was marked by Socialism. Slovenia, with Ljubljana as its capital, was one of the constituent republics of Yugoslavia. The period immediately after the end of the war was a time of reconstruction, building residential accommodation and industry. The new TR 3 Complex on what was Revolution

Square, now Republic Square, became the symbol of a large and progressive city. It was designed by architect Edvard Ravnikar who placed a modern business and shopping centre in front of the existing parliament, completed with the Cankarjev Dom cultural centre. Alongside Ravnikar, a younger generation of architects emerged who brought further innovations as well as the spirit of Le Corbusier to Ljubljana.

Contemporary Ljubljana

Slovenia became an independent state in 1991 with Ljubljana as its capital. This was reflected in both its urban planning and architecture. The transition from a socialist society into a system of capitalist values took over fifteen years to complete. During this period several abandoned areas were built up and a new shopping centre, BTC City, was created. Other shopping and trading parks were built in the areas adjacent to the inner ring road. Since 2006, the election of a new mayor and town council added a fresh impetus to the revival of the city centre with major improvements and new projects.

1 National and University Library designed by architect Jože Plečnik

2 High-rise buildings on Republic Square

Events, festivals and happenings

There is a broad range of cultural events in Ljubljana throughout the year. The Ljubljana Summer Festival, the Biennial of Graphic Design, the Fabula Literary Festival, the Gibanica Biennial of Slovenian Contemporary Dance, Jazz Festival Ljubljana, Summer in Ljubljana Old Town, the Druga Godba music festival, the film festival Liffe, the international street theatre festival Ana Desetnica, the international festival of contemporary arts Mesto Žensk (City of Women), Svetlobna Gverila (Lighting Guerilla) and ARTish are only some of the festivals in town. As architects, we warmly recommend visiting the festival Open House Slovenia (OHS) which for one weekend a year opens the doors to interesting buildings across the capital, with some only open to visitors during this event. The exhibitions prepared at the end of each academic year by the Academy of Fine Art and Design, the Faculty of Architecture, the Department of Textiles and Graphic Arts at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, and the Academy of Visual Arts are also worth visiting. But it is not only culture that makes Ljubljana special. There are many great sporting events too, including the popular Ljubljana Marathon which takes place in the capital each October.

1 Lighting Guerrilla Festival

2 Exhibition of work by students from the Faculty of Architecture

3 Festival Odprte hiše Slovenije

4 Ljubljana Marathon

5 Trail of Remembrance and Comradeship

6 Jazz Festival



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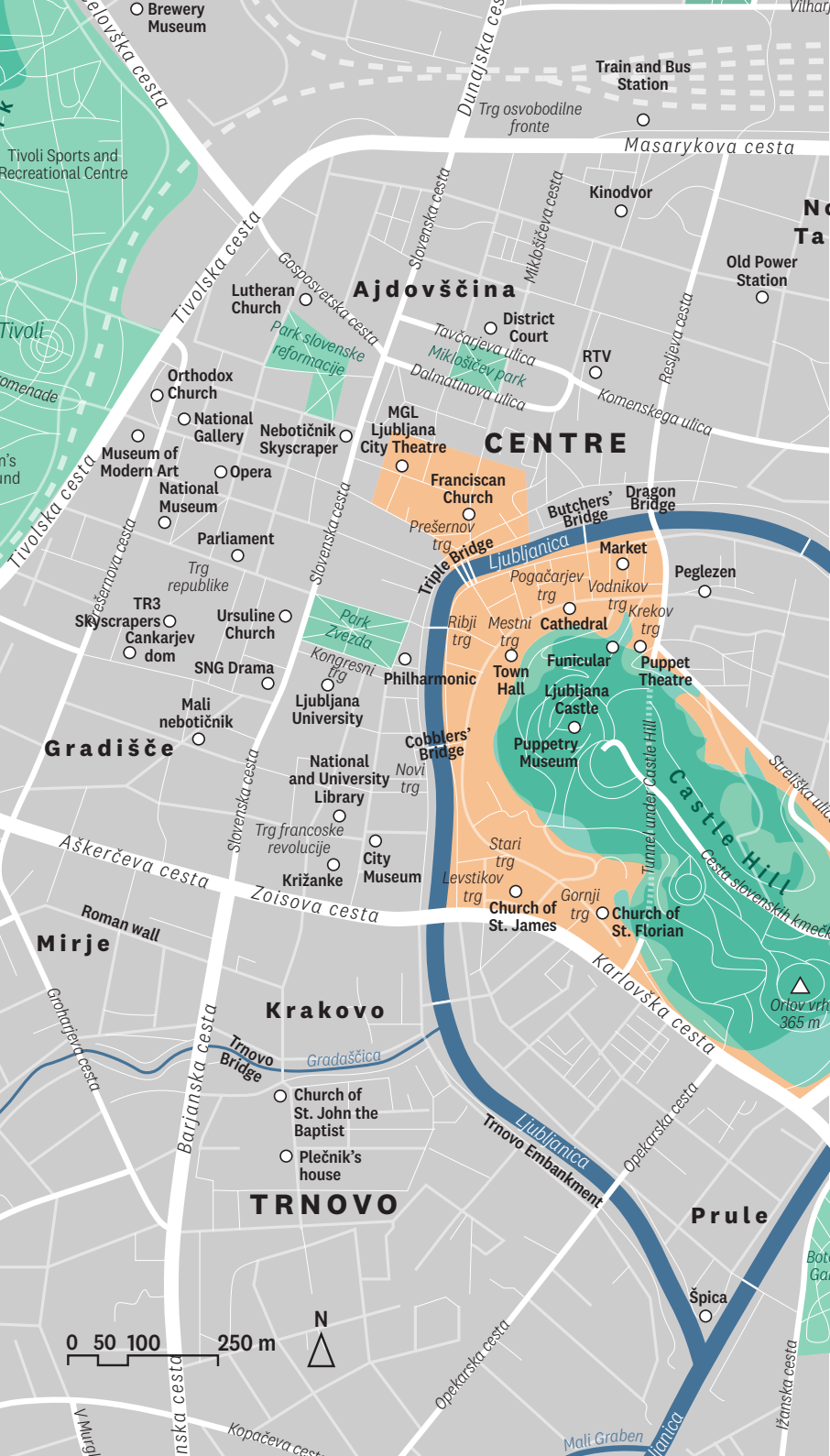
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Brewery Museum

Train and Bus Station

Tivoli Sports and Recreational Centre

Masarykova cesta

Kinodvor

Old Power Station

Ajdovščina

Lutheran Church

District Court

RTV

Park slovenske reformacije

MGL Ljubljana City Theatre

CENTRE

Orthodox Church

Nebotičnik Skyscraper

Franciscan Church

Butchers' Bridge

Dragon Bridge

National Gallery

Opera

Museum of Modern Art

National Museum

Parliament

Slovenska cesta

Triple Bridge

Market

Peglezen

TR3 Skyscrapers

Cankarjev dom

Ursuline Church

Park Zvezda

Philharmonic

Cathedral

Puppet Theatre

Mali nebotačnik

SNG Drama

Ljubljana University

National and University Library

Funicular

Ljubljana Castle

Puppetry Museum

Krekov trg

Gradišče

Kongresni trg

Novi trg

City Museum

Trg francoske revolucije

Križanke

City Museum

Church of St. Florian

Church of St. James

Gornji trg

Aškerčeva cesta

Zoisova cesta

Mirje

Krakovo

Church of St. John the Baptist

Plečnik's house

TRNOVO

Prule

Špica

0 50 100 250 m



Orlov vrh 365 m

V Mušičeva

nska cesta

Kopačeva cest

Opelkarska cesta

Mali Graben

žbanska cesta



Old town centre

The most charming part of town, where remnants of the past mix with the contemporary offerings of Slovene creativity. This is the part of town with the highest concentration of shops and restaurants, and of course, the most visitors. The main natural attractions of the area are the Castle Hill and the river Ljubljanica. The river both divides and with its picturesque bridges connects both parts of the old town. The Triple Bridge is one of the most beautiful urban brushstrokes and only one of the famous architectural monuments in town designed by architect Jože Plečnik. Since a selection of his best works in Ljubljana has been included on the UNESCO World Heritage List, the local architectural heritage has attracted even more visitors.

Ljubljana Castle | 🏰

Watching over the medieval town squares is the iconic Ljubljana Castle. Its origins date back to the 12th century. Its renovation, which has been ongoing since 1970, has been the subject of continuous debate by experts as to whether contemporary refurbishment is appropriate for such an important monument or whether it should be restored according to more traditional principles of conservation. We both believe that the decision to take a contemporary approach was correct, and over the years, architects Edo Ravnikar Jnr., Majda Kregar and Miha Kerin, have tried to find the best and most lasting solutions, elevating the Castle into an important architectural and cultural monument. It is worth allowing yourself to get lost among the endless rooms in the Castle, and climbing the tower is a must, for the panoramic view of the town and beyond. The Castle also has its own wine cellar, with a castle vineyard planted on the sunny side of Castle Hill, reached by walking past the remnants of the old castle fortifications Šance, which were turned into a promenade by the architect Jože Plečnik. A little further below the castle is a beehive, a copy of one that Plečnik designed for the Czech Presidential Residence in Lány Castle. There are many paths up Castle Hill, and you can also use the funicular from Krek Square.

● *Grajska planota 1*

Museum of Puppetry | 🏰

The puppet theatre tradition goes back more than a century in Slovenia. A permanent exhibition above the Estates Hall in Ljubljana Castle presents the main historical milestones, puppet artists and their heroes, the process of creating a puppet show, and various puppetry techniques. It is also possible to view puppet performances in the

castle theatre, and you can try out your own puppeteering skills too.

● *Grajska planota 1*

Strelec Restaurant | 🏰 | 🍴

The Michelin-starred Strelec, located in the Archer's Tower of Ljubljana Castle, is the perfect place for a special lunch or dinner. There are numerous reasons for this: the historical surroundings of the round castle tower that was renovated in the 1950s and painted with scenes from Slovene folk traditions; the view over the city through the windows and original arrowslits; and the restaurant's exceptional menu, created by chef Igor Jagodic. The ultimate fine dining experience, with an exceptional view.

● *Grajska planota 1*

Gostilna na Gradu | 🍴

The Jezeršek family are great promoters of Slovene cuisine. At their castle restaurant they present dishes from all 24 officially recognised gastronomic regions of Slovenia.

● *Grajska planota 1*

Ljubljana Castle Jazz Club | 🏰

Every Friday evening, the unique Rock Hall at Ljubljana Castle becomes the venue for performers of jazz and related sounds such as blues, rock, Latino, funk, and soul. With few other opportunities in Ljubljana to listen to these genres of music, we recommend a visit to the underground venue at the Castle.

● *Grajska planota 1*

Ljubljana Puppet Theatre | 🏰

For all curious big and little dreamers. Performances at the Puppet Theatre spark our imaginations in such a

1 Ljubljana Castle from the terrace of Nebotičnik

2 Strelec Restaurant



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powerful way they should be made essential for everyone. With over a century long tradition in puppetry, the theatre prepares classical and modern shows for children, youth, and adults. It is not surprising it is one of the most visited theatres in the capital. It is housed in the Mestni Dom building, and if you are in front of the building on the hour, look up at the clock on the turret to be greeted by a figure of the folk hero Martin Krpan and his horse, who appear to a tune by Milko Lazar.

● *Krekov trg 2*

The theatre prepares classical and modern shows for children, youth and adults.



Daktari | ☮

A place for coffee and cocktails in the day, by night Daktari turns into a club with various events, live music and literary evenings. It is a space for socialising and creativity. On fine days it spreads out into the square in front of the building and it is fun to watch visitors to the Castle waiting for the funicular next to the round medieval tower, one of the oldest preserved parts of the town walls.

● *Krekov trg 7*

Café Čokl | ☮

Literarily two doors down from Daktari, Café Čokl is frequented by true lovers of good coffee. We like their approach, they buy coffee from fair-trade shops, roast it themselves and, freshly-ground, prepare it for their guests. They also offer organic chocolate, bags of freshly roasted coffee beans to take away, and organic beer.

● *Krekov trg 8*

Peglezen | 🏠

The triangular layout of a narrow house which stood on the site of the present building in the 19th century gave it the nickname Peglezen (the Slovene slang word for a clothes iron, which comes from the German - Bügeleisen). The 1895 earthquake severely damaged the house, and it was later demolished. The architect Jože Plečnik designed the new building, constructed in 1934, as a highlight of the intersection in front of it. Besides its triangular shape, its distinctive feature is the very narrow front façade that ends with a conservatory on the top floor. Standing in front of the building on a round base is a wooden mast painted in the colours of Slovenia's flag.

● *Poljanska cesta 1*

Dragon Bridge | 🏠

At the far end of the colonnade on Plečnik's market stands a very unusual but iconic bridge, one of Ljubljana's most famous landmarks, the Dragon Bridge. The dragons on the bridge have come to embody the dragon from the famous legend about the creation of Ljubljana, but we almost didn't have a dragon bridge at all, as the original plans included four winged lions instead. The Secessionist-style bridge, built in 1901, is one of the earliest arched reinforced concrete bridges in Europe.

Ljubljana

Central Market | 🏠 | ☮ | 🛒

The old ritual of a promenade around town at the weekend has been replaced by a visit to the Ljubljana Central Market. You could say that at 11 am on Saturday, all of Ljubljana is there. The market starts at the Plečnik

1 One of the dragons on Dragon Bridge

2 Plečnik's Market along the Ljubljanica



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Arcade, which houses a fish market on its lower level, and extends to the fruit and vegetable stands on Vodnik and Pogačar Squares, the ground floor of the Seminary (Semenišče) and the flower market in the passage between the Seminary and the Cathedral. Plečnik designed the arcades along the river Ljubljanica as a long stretch of alternating open and closed spaces, seeking inspiration from the Roman town of Emona and medieval Ljubljana. There is a break in the arcades in the middle where today the modern Butcher's Bridge (Mesarski most) crosses the river. Originally a bridge was planned based on Plečnik's design. There used to be a number of shops offering local products in the Plečnik Arcades but, catering to the huge numbers of tourists visiting Ljubljana, these have now been mostly taken over by bars and cafés.

● *Vodnikov trg, Pogačarjev trg*

Ljubljana Cathedral Church of Saint Nicholas |

Imagine how enchanted people must have been in the past when they walked into a church and encountered art of the highest quality, that they were certainly not used to seeing in their everyday lives. The Cathedral in Ljubljana was visited by people from near and far. It was also where numerous painters, sculptors and builders learned their trade. The patrons of the construction, members of the Academia Operosorum Labacensium (Academy of the Industrious Residents of Ljubljana), strove from the very beginning to create an integrated work of art at the highest level, so they invited one of the best architects, painters and theorists of the time, Andrea Pozzo to take on the project. In 1706, when the church was completed within five years of the work beginning, the illusionistic ceiling painting by Giulio Quaglio was also complete. The Cathedral is a 'never

ending work' and many recognised artists have participated in its creation from the very beginning, among them also Jože Plečnik.

● *Ciril-Metodov trg*

Theological Seminary and the Seminary Library | |

Hiding inside an imposing building almost without decoration on its exterior are two gems of Baroque art, the Seminary Library, and the northern façade of the courtyard with its opulent stuccoed decoration. The main entrance to the building is accentuated with a monumental portal by stonemason Luka Mislej dating to 1714. Two statues of Hercules support the capitals with a lintel and an inscription *Virtuti et Musis* (to the virtues and the arts). The building, intended to accommodate young noblemen who decided to pursue a religious life, was built gradually and often refurbished. The library is decorated with the illusionistic ceiling, painted by Giulio Quaglio in 1721, and furnished with rich baroque furniture. The library houses a great number of books, not only on theology, but literary and scientific works, many woodcuts, collections of essays, etc. Some material dates back to the 13th century. The ground floor of the building houses the indoor market with an entrance from the other side of the building.

● *Dolničarjeva ulica 4*

*To arrange a visit to the library,
email semeniska.knjiznica.lj@rkc.si*

Open Kitchen |

From March - October, Ljubljana Market comes to life in a special way. Every Friday, between 10 a.m. and 9 p.m., you can enjoy excellent food and drink at

1 Interior of the Cathedral of Saint Nicholas

2 Friday Odprta kuhna (Open Kitchen)



1



2

the *Odprta kuhna* (Open Kitchen). This is provided by inns and restaurants from Ljubljana and beyond. The food stands offer a great variety of local and international delicacies.

● *Pogačarjev trg*

The food stands offer a great variety of local and international delicacies.



Koželj – House of Good Wine | Ψ4

A family-owned wine shop on Pogačar Square, offering an astounding variety of 1000 wine labels, 80 of which you can try by the glass. On Tuesdays they organise guided tastings where sommeliers present both Slovene and foreign wines. One more thing: participants all sit at a large table, a place to mingle and make new acquaintances. They are also open in the morning, serving coffee and croissants.

● *Pogačarjev trg 2*

DobraVaga Gallery | 🏠 | 🎨

The fish market used to take up the entire basement level of Plečnik's Market, but after a while this proved to be slightly overambitious. The northern part now houses the DobraVaga Gallery, its name (meaning 'good scales') is a reminder of the former role of the space. It now displays and sells works by young artists mostly working in the field of contemporary committed art. In the gallery café you can look across the river Ljubljanica from one of the lowest angles in town, giving you the feeling you can almost touch its surface.

● *Adamič-Lundrovo nabrežje 5*

Moji Štruklji Slovenije dumpling house | Ψ4

Štruklji are one of Slovenia's most iconic traditional foods. Rolled up dough with various kinds of savoury and sweet fillings is steamed or boiled, sometimes even fried or baked. In the Moji Štruklji shop in Plečnik's Arcade they serve more than 20 varieties, from traditional cottage cheese ones to buckwheat ones filled with walnuts and modern variants of the dish.

Besides štruklji, they offer meat or vegetarian stews, the kinds our grandmas used to make.

● *Adamič-Lundrovo nabrežje 1*

Tri Marije | Ψ4

This coffee trailer offers the finest freshly ground coffee from boutique plantations around the world, roasted in a Stow coffee roaster and served by a friendly team. There are also home-made cinnamon rolls, croissants, and muffins. You can hire the travelling coffee trailer for business or private events and parties, too.

● *Na tržnici blizu Mesarskega mostu*

Kodila Gourmet | Ψ4

The seat of the family company Kodila with a delicatessen and restaurant is in Markišavci in Prekmurje. They have opened a branch in the capital, where they serve you a range of traditional delicacies with an emphasis on cured meats. Try their Prekmurje ham. For dessert, most definitely try a traditional Prekmurje gibanica (layered pastry with poppy seed, walnut, apple & raisin, and cheese filling).

● *Adamič-Lundrovo nabrežje 5*

Supernatural | Ψ4

An excellent location for all who have missed breakfast everywhere else in town, as breakfast here is served all day. For those who love an American breakfast, they offer American



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pancakes and pies (the owners are of American heritage), but also a wide selection of ‘naked’ food and wine. The French oysters, craft beers, and orange wines are particularly good.

● *Pogačarjev trg 1*

Kraševka | 🛒

Named after the Karst (Kras), the enchanting Mediterranean region of Slovenia, this shop offers produce from

the area such as Karst pršut (prosciutto), wines, spirits, olive oil, honey, cheeses, and dried fruit. Besides Karst delicacies, you can also find products from other parts of Slovenia. We like to come here to buy fig bread from Gračiče and dried persimmon, which we often give as gifts to friends from abroad.

● *Vodnikov trg 4*

Slovenia's Treasures | 🤝 | 🛒

If your visit to Ljubljana is coming to an end and you still haven't bought

presents for those closest to you, you will certainly find something for everyone in the food and ethno-souvenir shop Slovenia's Treasures. You can choose from all the good and quality things offered by Slovene producers, from delicatessen, wines, spirits, cosmetics and souvenirs, to decorative and practical accessories for the home.

● *Ciril-Metodov trg 2*

Ika shop | 🤝 | 🛒

Selected gifts, designed and made in Slovenia, for sale in a pleasant shop where friendly staff always like to help visitors with decisions about what to buy, as they are well informed about the creators, brands, and backgrounds of the items they sell. A wide selection of accessories for the home, fashionable items, jewellery, cosmetics, illustrations by well-known artists, and much more.

● *Ciril-Metodov trg 13*

Klobasarna | 🍷

One of the typical and best-known Slovene dishes is the Carniolian Sausage (kranjska klobasa in Slovene). Eleven certified producers make this sausage according to an original recipe dating from the second half of the 19th century. At the Klobasarna (sausagery) they serve it with mustard or horseradish.

● *Ciril-Metodov trg 15*

Porcelain Catbriyur | 🤝 | 🛒

Katja and Jure Bricman (the name of their brand is a portmanteau of their names and surname) are porcelain designers who have developed their unique manufacturing process. They are proud that their porcelain was presented as a gift to Queen Elizabeth II when she came to Slovenia on an official visit in 2008.

● *Ciril-Metodov trg 19*

Town Hall | 🏛️

A town hall stood on the location of today's building as early as the 15th century. During the Baroque renovation in the early 18th century, it was rebuilt from two existing houses, adding a core section with a hall and staircase. With the Town Hall being the most important building in the square, the central section protrudes from the building line of the other houses and is further accentuated with a staircase and an open porch. The importance of the building is also indicated by the five-sided clock turret and a richly-decorated Baroque façade. Inside is its famous arcaded courtyard, embellished with sgraffito decoration and Francesco Robba's Baroque Narcissus Fountain. Three further courtyards have exhibition displays presenting the diverse activities of the Ljubljana City Municipality. The Mayor of Ljubljana has his office here where he receives guests. After the great earthquake of 1895, the Town Hall was visited by Emperor Franz Joseph who came to Ljubljana to show his support. A fun fact revealed to us by our architect colleague Ira Zorko: if you stand in line at the entrance to the Town Hall on the pebble paving in front of the building and look at the obelisk on the fountain, it lines up perfectly with the central axis, between the two belfries of the Cathedral. An excellent demonstration of the exceptional sense of spatial planning that our ancestors had.

● *Mestni trg 1*

The Robba Fountain | 🏛️

Standing in front of the Town Hall is a copy of the fountain known by the name of its creator, the sculptor Francesco Robba, who carved it out

of stone between 1743 and 1751. It represents the three rivers of Carniola: the Ljubljanica, the Krka, and the Sava. The original has been moved to the foyer of the National Gallery. The figures on the original fountain are carved out of Carrara marble. The other parts of the fountain are made from local stone from the Lesno Brdo quarry near Ljubljana as, allegedly, the ship bringing extra material for the fountain from Venice sunk on the way. Today the iconic Robba Fountain is the backdrop for the most selfies in Ljubljana.

● *Mestni trg*

Drofenig House Miklavc Department Store | 🏠

We could call it the black sheep of Ljubljana's old town square. An elegant and reserved black sheep. A modern façade in polished black and grey stone was subject to much attention

when it was built in 1914. Unique in a technical sense, it was the first building in Ljubljana to be built entirely with a reinforced concrete skeleton construction. The façade is constructed of two layers, making it easier to regulate the temperature inside the building and providing better heat insulation. It now houses part of the Nova Gorica-based private higher education institute New University (Nova Univerza).

● *Mestni trg 23*

Souvan House the Ikona Store | 🏠 | 🛍️

There are a number of interesting buildings on the Town Square. One of the ones that stands out is the Souvan House with its Neoclassical façade and sculptured reliefs representing agriculture, art, and trade under the second-floor windows. It now houses the Ikona store on the ground floor, a shop selling renowned international



brands of clothes, beauty products, and home decor. They have recently also added a delicatessen range.

● *Mestni trg 24*

Pritličje Bar | ☪

Pritličje is more than a bar, it is a lively centre and gathering place. Pleasant surroundings during the day where there is also a comic strip reading corner, it offers excellent coffee and other drinks and snacks on the square outside. In the afternoons and evenings, it hosts cultural and socially engaged events ranging from lectures, literary evenings and debates to concerts and performances.

● *Mestni trg 2*

Movia Wine Bar | ☪ | 🍷

Offering wines by Aleš Kristančič, one of the world's best wine producers who makes wine on his farm in Goriška Brda without any kind of oenological intervention or filtration. His wine brands Movia and Vila Maria are among the most important and frequently awarded wines from this part of Europe.

● *Mestni trg 2*

Barbarella PLANT bistro | ☪

The bigger sister premises of popular juice bar Barbarella, this bistro is open right through the day, offering delicious plant-based food for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

● *Mestni trg 4*

The City Art Gallery Ljubljana | 🏛️

Three floors of this former residential building were converted to a gallery fifty years ago. It puts on individual and group exhibitions of contemporary Slovene and foreign artists. Great names on the world art scene have exhibited here in the past, Josef Albers, Jannis Kounellis, Hans Arp, Victor Vasarely, Ulay, and many others.

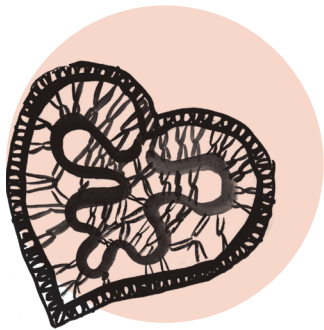
● *Mestni trg 5*

The Restaurant in

The Hotel Ljubljana | ☪ | 🏨

A renovated building that extends from the Town Square to the Cankar Embankment on the river Ljubljanica is home to a new four-star hotel. The ground floor is an ambitious restaurant, with a fireplace in the dining room where they cook selected cuts of meat. If you sit next to the glass wall, you will get the feeling you are out in the hustle and bustle of the Town Square yet at the same time enjoying a quiet meal.

● *Mestni trg 15*



Idrija Lace

Small shops in Town Square offering products

from Slovenia | 🤝 | 🏪

Strolling along from the Town Hall towards Old Square, we can stop in front of every house or courtyard, or step into small shops that line the street, offering a variety of products. Quality Slovene products can be found in the Idrija Lace Gallery, in the Dobrote Dolenjske (Delicacies from Dolenjska) shop, in that treasure-trove of local culinary treats, the Tartufi Deli Shop, in the Zlatarna Celje jewellers, and in the Malalan luxury goods and jewellery shop.

● *Mestni trg 17: Idrija Lace*

● *Mestni trg 17: Dobrote Dolenjske*