



Karavanke/Karawanken Products

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Hiking, biking, *soft winter*

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About winter products of the Alpe Adria Karavnke/Karawanken project

When winter descends on Slovenia and Austria, and the Karavanke/Karawanken region dresses in white, it is time to have fun on the snow. And you have options, from ski touring, snowshoe hiking, ice climbing, cross-country skiing to sledging and winter hiking. You can even combine different sports and countries in the same trip. The winter terrains offer you both technical terrains and easy/ forgiving terrain for all of the above activities. During the project Alpe Adria Karavanke/Karawanken there were some major upgrades done in winter activities offer, such as new snow canons in Jezersko, renovated mountain hut Zelenica with its winter offer in Tržič, etc.

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1. Slovenia-Jesenice: Karavanke/Karawanken Powder Play

Slopes of all levels with fresh powder for your enjoyment

Karavanke/Karawanken are one single, elongated, mountain chain, offering mostly one day and half day mountain skiing tours. Most of the mountain tops are covered with grass, and offer good skiing conditions even with a relatively thin snow cover. You will find mountain tours with difficulties ranging from easy tours, perfect with new snowfall or with avalanche danger conditions, to technically demanding tours for true connoisseurs. Jesenice, a small city right at the base of the Karavanke/Karawanken, offering a great starting point for tours in the mountains.

ITINERARY INFORMATION

Day 1: Arrival to Jesenice

Day 2: First »get-to-know« tour

Day 3: Longer, more demanding tour

Day 4: Longer, more demanding tour

Day 5: Going home

Description

DAY 1:

The transfer will pick you up at the airport and take you to Jesenice. Depending on your time of arrival, we suggest you use the first day to prepare equipment, meet the guide, and take a stroll to the part of the city called Stara Sava ironmaking settlement, where you will find open air museum that will take you back to the early days of iron making from the ore that was gathered from the very mountains you will ski in the next days.

DAY 2:

The second day will be a warm up day. In the morning, you will meet with your guide, that will share specifics of the region (if you will not meet him the day before already). After the equipment check, you will head to one of the easier options: Golica, Peč, Vošča, Dovška Baba, Veliki Javornik are all contenders for the first day. At the end, it will be all down to current conditions. The tour will be around 3-4h long, but it can be off course lengthened.

DAY 3:

Now, if you need some more warming up, we suggest you take another tour from the above mentioned selection, but if you feel like doing something more demanding, you will probably head towards the highest peak in the Karavanke/Karawanken- mt. Stol/Hochstuhl, or perhaps mt. Begunjščica or mt. Klek. They offer a great selection of lines, and their slopes are turned in different directions, which means that as long there is enough snow, there is a possibility for skiing. This tours will take you around 4-5h, perhaps more if you will want to do some repetitions.

DAY 4:

For the 4th day, we suggest you do what you have not done before, let it be Begunjščica, Stol/Hochstuhl or some other tour by the suggestion of the guide. The most important thing is to you keep it safe and enjoyable, so it will depend on current conditions. In Karavanke/Karawanken you can find 26 locations for ski touring, so there is plenty to choose from.

DAY 5:

The last day. The program will largely depend on your time of departure. For instance, if you do not depart till late afternoon, you could still make one easy tour, or use the time to visit the villages spread along the base of Karavanke/ Karawanken like Žirovnica, Radovljica, Tržič, Jezersko, etc.

Since the region is relatively small, that means it is easily accessible and you have time to visit those different villages or places of interests in the afternoons.

Important points of interest in the area**Ironmaking settlement Stara Sava**

It is characterised by extremely rich ironmaking tradition. It has all the essential elements of a former iron foundry settlement: Ruard Manor from the 16th century, Church of St. Mary's Assumption from the beginning of the 17th century, Kasarna with workers' flats from the end of the 18th century, a blast furnace with a puddling mill, storage for charcoal and a mill from the 19th century. Today the area serves as an Iron making museum with permanent exhibition on the owners of iron foundries and the history of ironmaking in Jesenice.

Natura 2000

Natura 2000 is a European ecological network of protected areas, defined by the Member States of the European Union. The project purpose is to preserve biotic diversity by protecting the habitants of endangered animal and plant species. The area of the **Karavanke** in the Municipality of Jesenice covers the ridge from Dovška Baba to Hruški vrh, Rožca, Klek, Velika Golica and to Mala Golica and from Korenščica, Struška to Vajnež and Stol. Endangered animal species are butterflies Lorkovic's Brassy Ringlet and Tiger Moth, beetle Rosalia longicorn, Lesser Horseshoe Bat. Endangered plants are lady slipper orchids, Zois' bellflower and Marsh Gladiolus. There are also several habitat types.

Mt. Golica and the hut Koča na Golici is a popular day hike destination above Jesenice. There is also info point for the Karavanke region in the hut. One of the most famous folk (polka) songs Na Golici (Trompeten-Echo) by Slavko Avsenik is named after this mountain.

Murova is the oldest part of Jesenice, the church of St. Lenart is also part of the complex.

Kos Mansion dates back to 1521, and is now part of ironmaking museum. It hosts different exhibitions, (also show cases an authentic prison cell) but has a wedding hall as well.

Julian Alps Trail is the 270km hiking trail around Julian Alps, that crosses Jesenice. You can find more info her: <http://turizem.jesenice.si/en/activities/summer/hiking>)

Optional – hiker-friendly accommodation

- Mountain hut Pristava: <http://turizem.jesenice.si/en/accommodation/item/13645-house-pristava-975-m>
- Other accommodations: <http://turizem.jesenice.si/en/accommodation>

2. Slovenia- Tržič: Ski touring and snowshoeing weekend getaway on Zelenica

Your perfect weekend escape in the heart of the mountains

Tržič is a small city nestled just below the Ljubelj/Loibl pass, a very important traffic connection between Slovenia and Austria. When you head towards the top along the winding road, you gradually pass into the world of steep rock faces and hidden valleys. Right at the top, you will find a lovely, just wide enough valley, named Zelenica. And this is the place where you will spend a weekend on the snow, in the arms of the mountains.

ITINERARY INFORMATION

Day 1: Transfer from the airport to Ljubelj/ Loibl pass, than 1h ski touring to the mountain hut Zelenica

Day 2: Snowshoeing and ski touring tour

Day 3: Choice of different sports, transfer to the airport or other destination

Description

DAY 1:

We will pick you up at the airport (or at your hotel) and drive you to Tržič, where there will be a short stop, to take a leisurely stroll around the small city center. Then the drive continues for about 15 minutes to reach the top of the pass. There you disembark the van and make a decision- either you take a short, 1h easy ski touring hike up to the mountain hut. A hot tea under the stars and snowy mountains and meeting the locals, will be the perfect end to the first day.

DAY 2:

After a good mountain breakfast, you will head out for get-to-know session with snowshoes and moving with them in the mountain environment. Then you will go on a proper hike, with a guide. In the afternoon, if you will still have some energy left, take your skis for a tour on one of the peaks surrounding Zelenica (depends on the condition and your energy level). In the evening, gather around the cup of hot tea (or something stronger) for educational or entertaining lecture. Also possible in the evening to take advantage of the toys the mountain hut Zelenica is equipped with (mobile ski lift, snow trikes, snow sleds, indoor climbing wall etc.) for some night fun.

DAY 3:

We suggest you get up early and go on a snowshoeing photo session, with a guide, before the sunrise, to experience and capture the magic of the day getting born. Afterwards, enjoy a proper breakfast back at the hut. After a good rest, pack your things, since it is time to go, and head back to Ljubelj/ Loibl pass...only this time you are going downhill, so it will be much much faster, especially if you take the sleds. At Ljubelj/ Loibl you'll be picked up and transferred to the airport, or your next destination/stay.



Foto by Ciril Jazbec

Important points of interest in the area

Dolžan Gorge

Through the Born Tunnel into a colourful sea and onto the shores of sand and gravel. There is good reason for the Dovžan Gorge's status as a protected natural monument for more than 25 years. It is geologically one of the most fascinating areas of Slovenia. The picturesque valley, which is located 3.2 kilometres northeast of Tržič, was carved out by the Tržič Bistrica River deep into the heart of the Karawanks, laying bare the most complete sequence of rocks from the younger Paleozoic period, ranging in age from 300 to 260 million years. The layers of rock are like the pages of a thick book, recording a fantastic story about unusual living creatures and a changing environment in the distant geological past.

Tržič Dragon

“Centuries ago more than half the settlement below Ljubelj consisted of smithies. A blacksmith there had an old rooster that went up to Košuta, where he laid an egg, and from the egg hatched a dragon. The dragon burrowed into the mountain and as he grew into an enormous beast this split the mountain in two. This triggered a rumbling rock avalanche that buried the village below the mountain. To save themselves the villagers ran into the valley. After a time they ran out of breath and stopped. This is the site of the present-day town of Tržič.”

The old town center of Tržič

This is a town famous for its tradition of craftsmanship. Because this area has been a busy transportation route since the time of ancient Rome, the residents of Tržič developed into outstanding and very enterprising ironworkers, cartwrights, clothmakers, tanners, and especially shoemakers. This is attested to by the rich collection in the Tržič Museum. Today Tržič is a pleasant old town, protected as a cultural monument.

Ljubelj/Loibl Pass- old road

The oldest road pass in Europe is also one of the most beautiful. Ljubelj Pass at the top of the valley is adorned by two stone obelisks. The road to the pass is today closed to cars apart from in September, when vintage cars and motorcycles roar through here in the International Oldtimers Mountain Race.

Tržič Museum

Presents the once extremely highly developed trades and crafts that were the livelihood for many Tržič residents. The museum premises are in the former Pollak dyehouse and tannery in the old forging and crafts part of Tržič along the still preserved water chutes. Of particular interest is the display of shoemaking and footwear and the display of the tradition of skiing.

Optional – hiker-friendly accommodation

- Zelenica Mountain Hostel
- Other accommodation: <https://www.visit-trzic.com/en/accommodation/>

3. Slovenia- Jezersko: Your first cross-skiing adventure in Zgornje Jezersko

Hidden valley with a spectacular views, a small lake and one of the best cross-skiing in Slovenia

Jezersko is known for its winter activities, especially on cross-country skiing, winter mountaineering and ski touring. That is why we prepared a 3 days adventure, where you can, with or without the guide, enjoy cross-country skiing around Jezersko valley. Cross-country skiing has a long tradition in Jezersko and people started to ski and organize cross-country skiing competitions years before they started the alpine skiing. Jezersko has a good ambient for this sport, since in good snow conditions one can run on all flat meadows in the area of Zgornje Jezersko – from the lake Planšarsko jezero to the end of the valley at Tourist Farm Ancel. Terrain is suitable for everyone, from children still learning to stay on skis to professional skiers.

ITINERARY INFORMATION

Day 1: Transfer from the airport to Šenk Homestead, school of cross-country skiing in the afternoon.

Day 2: In the morning school of cross-country skiing, free cross-country skiing in the afternoon

Day 3: In the morning school of cross-country skiing, transfer to the airport in the afternoon



Photo 1: Archive TIC Jezersko

Description

DAY 1:

The van will pick you up at the airport and take you to the Zgornje Jezersko, on Šenk homestead, where you will settle in comfortable rooms, before learning about the cross-country skiing equipment and movement basics.

DAY 2:

After a delicious breakfast, that will be made from local produce, you will head out on the field, with instructor and equipment. In the morning, the instructor will teach you about basic techniques of cross-country skiing. It will enable you to enjoy the miles of tracks laid on the valley floor. But before that, you will have to face the delicious lunch. After a mandatory rest, you will have a chance to test your newly gained skills on the tracks. After a long day on snow, a dinner and a gentle conversation with friends, the mighty white mountains in the background, will be the perfect ending.

DAY 3:

In the morning you will continue with a follow up cross-skiing school, where you will upgrade your skills to the level, where you will no longer be afraid to tackle even the hardest cross-country skiing trails in the world. After a delicious lunch, a shuttle will pick you up and take you back to the airport.

Important points of interest in the area

Lake Planšarsko jezero:

The little heart-shaped lake was made by local inhabitants in memory of a larger glacial lake that had drained away, and after which Jezersko got its name. It is a well-visited spot and one could call it also a symbol of the area.

The mineral water spring:

There is a mineral water spring above Ank's homestead called "Jezerska slatina". This water has the highest magnesium content of all mineral waters in Slovenia and it is especially recommended to people with cardiovascular diseases. This kind of water is for medical purposes used in Germany and in neighbouring Eisenkappel for baths

Glacier under mt. Skuta:

Glacier under Skuta is the most south-eastern glacier in the Alps and it is remaining an important element in our Alpine world. It is interesting, that its surface is increasing in the past years, while the thickness decreases. It is one of the lowest alpine glaciers.

Jew tree at Makek:

Yew tree at Makek's farm is a mighty tree approximately 570 years old. This tree used to have special role in people's lives as they planted it for protection against Turkish invasions.

Jenkova kasarna:

This high and architecturally peculiar building was built in the 15th century as a boarding house for merchants. Today the barracks is ethnographical museum, whose main attraction are signatures and inscriptions of travellers dating back to the 16th century preserved on the walls of one of the rooms.

Optional – hiker-friendly accommodation

- Tourist Farm Šenk Homestead



4. Snowshoeing and Cross skiing across the border

Rateče- Tromeja – Arnoldstein – St. Jakob im Rosental-Bodental

Snowshoeing and cross country skiing came to existence when the high snow prevented people to move around and over mountains, winter forests and between snow covered villages. Now days however, although still used for their original purpose, the snowshoeing and cross country skiing have become popular sports. Karavanke/ Karawanken region has huge potential for winter discoveries made on cross country skis or snowshoes. We have created a three day adventure, where you will cross mountains and borders, traveling from the small village Rateče to the St. Jakob im Rosental, from Slovenia to Austria.

ITINERARY INFORMATION

Day 1: Arrival to Kranjska Gora

Day 2: Snowshoeing ascent on Tromeja/Drei, descend to Austria and transfer to St.Jakob im Rosental

Day 3: Cross country skiing in St.Jakob im Rosental

Day 4: Cross skiing and an evening hike in Bodental

Day 5: Transfer to the airport or your next destination

Description

DAY 1:

The transfer will pick you up at the airport and take you to Kranjska Gora, the world famous ski resort in Slovenia. The small town is nestled below ski slopes, on which many of the world famous skiers tested and learned their skills. The city is also a gateway for other sport activities in Julian Alps or in Karavanke/Karawanken. Take a 10min stroll to Lake Jasna, or walk to the ski slopes for some sledging or quick round of skiing before tucking in for the night.

DAY 2:

Meet the guide at the snowshoe rental, where you will also get your snowshoes offcourse. A short briefing about the hike and you will be on your way with the short transfer to Rateče, from where you will start your ascend to Tromeja/Dreiländereck. You will reach the top in around 2h, from where you will see all three countries, and even stand in all three countries at one. After a short rest, you will descend over the ski slopes to Austria, where the transfer will wait for you, and take you to St. Jakob im Rosental.



Carnica-Region Rosental : Foto by Robert Uschnig

DAY 3:

A delicious breakfast at St. Jakob im Rosental will prepare you for the day ahead. The area is well known for its superb cross- country skiing tracks, and since you are now already a pro, the ski tracks are at your feet waiting for you to conquer them. After lunch at the hotel, you can return to the tracks to finish them off, or decide to go on a snowshoe walk. Later in the evening, make use of the hotel wellness and spa possibilities and enjoy a dinner with culinary specialties.

DAY 4:

Today is the day to discover the area of Bodental. The picturesque valley is a popular starting point for hikes in the Karavanke/Karawanken, but also for winter sports. In the hotel you will get lunch box, and hit the tracks cross-skiing on the beautiful »Panoramaloipe Bodental« trail. Than a bit of relaxation in the hotel with a good dinner, after dinner finish your holidays with an evening torchlight hike.

DAY 5:

Time to go home, but you still have 110km of cross skiing tracks waiting for you, if you wish to take one last ski. After the transfer will pick you up at the hotel and take you to the airport or your next destination.



Carnica-Region Rosental – Foto by: Jörg Schmöe

Important points of interest in the area

The Slovenian Alpine Museum in Mojstrana is a unique Alpine and mountaineering centre in Slovenia.

Lake Jasna: Before the first road bends to **Vršič**, stop for a short break at the **Jasna Lake**. It consists of two interconnected **artificial lakes** at the confluence of the **Velika Pišnica** and **Mala Pišnica** streams. The area around the lake offers some nice trails,

Zelenci natural reserve: **“There is nothing more beautiful in Europe than this,”** wrote **Sir Humphry Davy** about the beauties of the **Sava Valley** with its waterfalls and lakes. This **natural reserve** is home to various interesting flora, among it carnivorous sundew, and among animals, **amphibians** and **nesting birds** are represented in large numbers. Following a wooden footbridge, you can walk to the lake and around the swamps without harming nature

Planica Nordic Centre. The central building, which represents the centre for cross-country skiing and ski jumping, comprises a viewing platform, the Planica Museum on two floors, a wind tunnel and catering facilities. In addition to external cross-country skiing tracks in the winter months, it is also possible to use the covered internal cross-country skiing polygon in the warmer months.

Peč/Tromeja/Monte Forno/Dreiländereck/Ofen is a 1,508 m high peak, located at the **triple border** between Slovenia, Italy and Austria. The top offers a spectacular **view** of the **Julian Alps**, the Gailtal Alps, the Gurktal Alps, the High and Low Tauern and the western part of the Karavanke mountains.

Faaker See/ Baško jezero: The turquoise Lake Faak with its idyllic island in the middle looks almost like paradise. Active holidaymakers can look forward to all sorts of activities not only around the lake, but on the water too. A kayak tour through the reed belt, can be something to do in warmer winter days as well.

St. Jakob im Rosental is home to priceless artistic treasures such as the pilgrimage church of Maria Elend or the wall frescoes by Valentin Oman. Gustav Januš (1939) - author, painter and teacher is a famous son of the area

Dobratsch nature park shows how a sustainable development is possible. Here everyone gets his own adventure. The smallest enjoy the adventure playground and adults can choose from many different hikes and a lot of culinary offers in the mountain huts.

Optional – hiker-friendly accommodation

- **Kranjska Gora, Hotel Kompas, Hit Alpine** - <https://www.hit-alpine.si/en>
- **Kranjska Gora, Hotel Špik** - <https://hotelspik.com>
- **Kranjska Gora, Apartment House Berghi I., II.** - <https://www.berghi.si/en>
- **Kranjska Gora, Pr' Gavedarjo Design Rooms** - <http://prgavedarjo.si/en/>