

Slovenia has some excellent cycling, beautiful scenery, and a very welcoming people



**ACT**   
CYCLING TOURS

# Slovenia Tour

ACT Cycling organises, fully supported, end to end tours from Land's End to John O'Groats in the UK, Pisa to Ancona in Italy, Mizen Head to Malin Head in Ireland, Chaves to the Algarve in Portugal, and Biarritz to Perpignan along the Pyrenees. They can pick your bike up from your door and deliver it back to you after the tour.

So why has founder Martyn Ryan, decided to add the relatively unknown Slovenia, a country four times smaller than Ireland, as the latest addition to his growing portfolio?

In a nutshell, it offers great cycling through beautiful green varied countryside, extremely friendly and welcoming people, and delicious food. As Martyn states "Slovenia grabs some of Europe's most alluring landscapes and rolls them into one neat package."

Martyn's tour starts close to the Eastern Border where the area is gently rolling. Here you'll cycle through immaculately kept rural villages and the agricultural rich Mura Valley - one of the main wine growing regions of Slovenia. "Wine making is very important to the Slovenian economy," says Martyn, "so expect to taste some delicious wines en route."

After 68 miles, the first day ends in the second biggest city in Slovenia - Maribor. A small beautiful, renaissance style city, full of bars and restaurants - the time to sample local beer on the banks of the River Drava, next to the alleged oldest vine in the world. The food in Maribor is like the rest of Slovenia - varied and fresh and influenced greatly by their Italian, Austrian and Croatian neighbours.

The tour progresses through the Drava Trail and up into the Kamnik Alps where you will stay in a picturesque chalet style hotel, surrounded by mountains.

As you pass through the villages enroute to the legendary Lake Bled, you will see numerous 'Kozaleks', unique Slovenian Hayracks, and countless beehives that look like painted postboxes. Both are unique to Slovenia.

There is some time to rest and savour Lake Bled, before you take the biggest cycling challenge of the tour - the 1611 metre ride over Vrsic Pass, the highest pass in the Julian Alps, which takes you through the Triglav National Park and down to the Soca river - one of the most beautiful emerald green rivers in Europe.

The tour continues down the Soca valley before steeply climbing again into a unique haven of peace amongst vineyards and orchards where an amazing old farmhouse awaits you. With friendly, jovial hospitality, typical of Slovenia, you will receive freshly cooked local food and locally sourced wines and partake in some wine tasting in the cellar.

Finally you will head down to the coast, through the Lipica Stud farm, past olive groves and vineyards, before reaching the Adriatic coast where you can dip your toes in the sea.

By the end of the tour, Martyn believes you will fall in love with Slovenia like he has. The cycling is extremely good, on a par with his Pyrenees tour, and the country itself will blow you away. "We don't provide a sightseeing tour," he says "but we do encourage people to fly in early, or stay on longer. The capital of Ljubljana, voted the greenest capital in Europe, has so much to do and see."

[www.actcyclingtours.co.uk/tour/a-stunning-country-tour-slovenia-2018/](http://www.actcyclingtours.co.uk/tour/a-stunning-country-tour-slovenia-2018/)

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