



WHITMAN COLLEGE



## Enchanting Slovenia

A Sojourn in the Heart of Europe

Accompanied by Peter Harvey '84, Former Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer,  
and Kristen Bogen Harvey '87

**August 21 – 28, 2024**



# WHITMAN COLLEGE

Dear Alumni and Friends of Whitman College,

Stretching from the Adriatic's shores to the Julian Alps' lofty peaks, Slovenia is Europe's best-kept secret. You're invited on a very personal six-night journey, uncovering this jewel in the company of **Peter Harvey '84**, our outgoing Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, and his wife **Kristen Bogen Harvey '87** in celebration of Peter's 35 years of distinguished service at Whitman.

With extraordinary behind-the-scenes access and local expert guidance, you'll be enthralled with Slovenia's blend of Alpine mountains, karstic regions, golden coasts, and caves that once hosted prehistoric settlements. Delve into Slovenia's legacy as part of historical empires, from the Venetian Republic to the Habsburg dynasty, and its transition from a Yugoslav state to a flourishing member of the European Union.

First, enjoy three nights of accommodations at the legendary *Belle Époque*-style Kempinski Palace in Portorož, an Adriatic coastal town known for its salt-pan houses. Immerse yourself in the charming medieval town of Piran, as your scholar guide reveals its Venetian and Austro-Hungarian past. Experience Slovenia's ancient viticultural traditions in the rugged Goriška Brda wine region, featuring an exclusive farm-to-table feast and a private introduction to the most acclaimed Slovenian wines by a professional sommelier.

With a local geologist at your side, visit the mystical UNESCO-listed Škocjan Caves, where immense underground canyons and ethereal limestone formations will inspire awe. Later, you'll be enchanted by the fairy-tale setting of Lake Bled, where you'll go behind the scenes at a clifftop castle, taking in majestic views, and board a traditional flat-bottom boat to a stunning medieval island church. While at the lake, taste the famous Bled cream cake, a sweet indulgence that melts on your tongue.

Over three nights in the picturesque capital, Ljubljana, explore its Roman roots and the pedestrian-only center of one of the world's greenest cities. On a privately guided tour of the National Gallery of Slovenia, delve into the nation's artistic legacy, including the only permanent collection devoted to Slovenia's most famous artist, Zoran Mušič. Gain exclusive insights into contemporary Slovenian craftsmanship during a hands-on visit to a private jewelry workshop.

Space is limited, so I urge you to sign up now. **Reserve your place by calling our tour operator Arrangements Abroad at 212-514-8921.** I hope you join Peter and Kristen on this special journey of exploration, learning, and celebration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dilworth Northam '91  
Director of Alumni Relations  
Whitman College



## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

**JOIN** Peter Harvey '84, our outgoing Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, and his wife Kristen Bogen Harvey '87 on this celebratory journey to Slovenia

**DISCOVER** why Slovenia has been heralded as Europe's best-kept secret with three nights in the idyllic Adriatic town of Portorož and three nights in the capital of Ljubljana, one of Europe's greenest and most picturesque cities

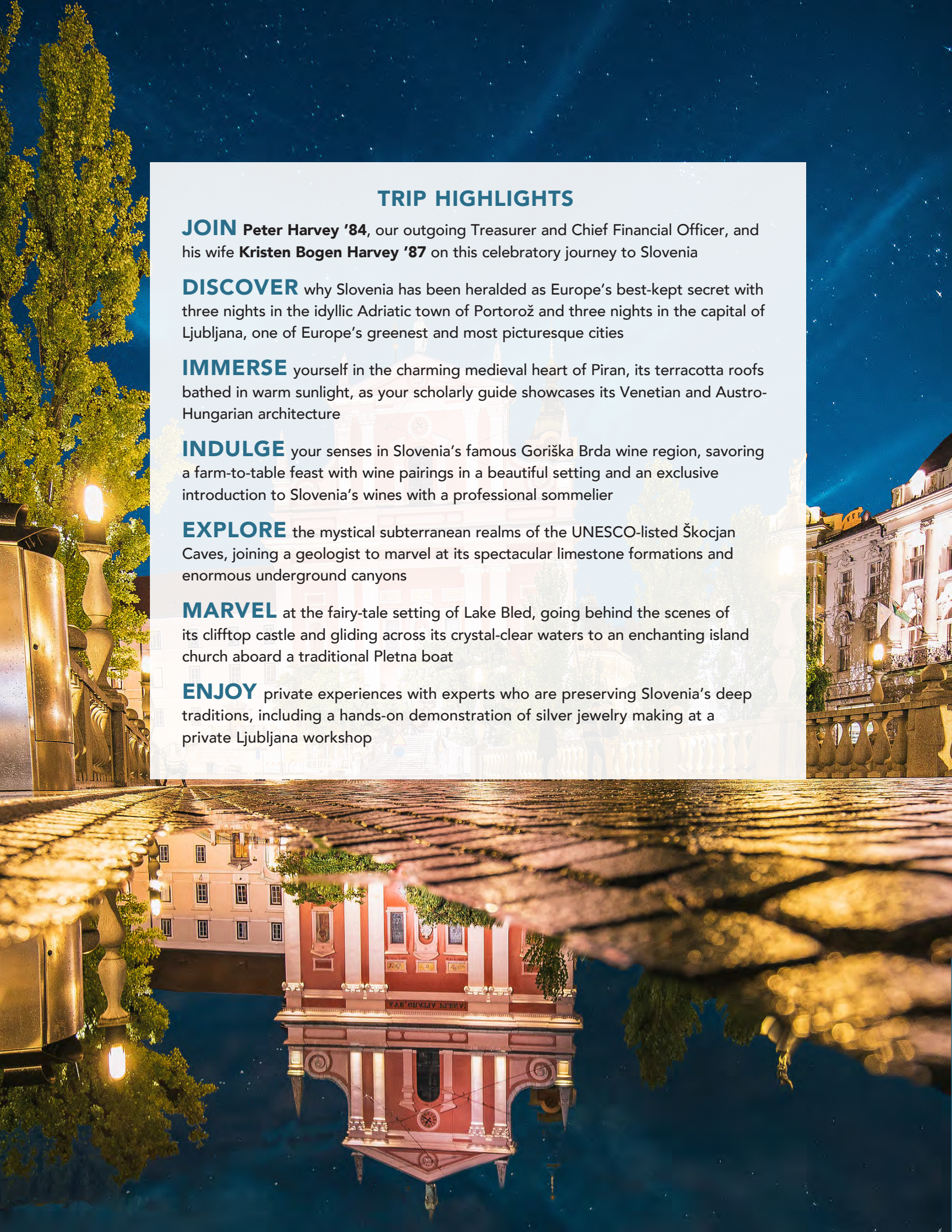
**IMMERSE** yourself in the charming medieval heart of Piran, its terracotta roofs bathed in warm sunlight, as your scholarly guide showcases its Venetian and Austro-Hungarian architecture

**INDULGE** your senses in Slovenia's famous Goriška Brda wine region, savoring a farm-to-table feast with wine pairings in a beautiful setting and an exclusive introduction to Slovenia's wines with a professional sommelier

**EXPLORE** the mystical subterranean realms of the UNESCO-listed Škocjan Caves, joining a geologist to marvel at its spectacular limestone formations and enormous underground canyons

**MARVEL** at the fairy-tale setting of Lake Bled, going behind the scenes of its clifftop castle and gliding across its crystal-clear waters to an enchanting island church aboard a traditional Pletna boat

**ENJOY** private experiences with experts who are preserving Slovenia's deep traditions, including a hands-on demonstration of silver jewelry making at a private Ljubljana workshop



# Enchanting Slovenia

## A Sojourn in the Heart of Europe

August 21 – 28, 2024



### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21: DEPARTURE

Depart for Ljubljana, Slovenia, on an overnight flight.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 22: LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA / PORTOROŽ

Arrive this morning and transfer to the hotel in Portorož, set on Slovenia's beautiful Adriatic coast. Known for its Venetian-inspired architecture and luxurious structures, Portorož will enchant you with its narrow seaside streets and salt-pan houses, reflecting its past as a health resort and a hub for salt-related industries. Spend the afternoon at leisure in advance of gathering at the hotel for a welcome reception. R

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 23: PORTOROŽ / PIRAN

Gather with fellow guests this morning and travel by motor coach along the coastline to a tiny sun-kissed peninsula, where azure waters meet beautiful rugged terrain. Here, at the southernmost point, discover the picturesque seaside town of Piran. Its medieval architecture will present a striking vista, characterized by compact houses, orange terracotta roofs contrasting against whitewashed walls, and narrow cobblestone streets.

Various rulers have claimed Piran over the centuries, most notably the Venetian Republic. On a privately guided walking tour, experience the indelible mark Venetians left on Piran's culture and architecture. Meander through its labyrinthine alleyways, each turn presenting a harmonious blend of Venetian, Austrian, Roman, and Byzantine-influenced architectural marvels.

Following your guided tour, you may explore Piran at your own pace. Relish a tranquil stroll along the breezy waterfront promenade, or indulge in the quaint charm of artisan boutiques. This evening, gather for a three-course dinner with a serene sunset view. B,L,D

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 24: PORTOROŽ / GONJAČE (GORIŠKA BRDA) / ŠMARTNO

Today, embark on a captivating day that will immerse you in the enchanting Goriška Brda, celebrated for its extensive and illustrious history in viticulture and winemaking. This wine region's heritage can be traced back to ancient times, drawing influences from Italy.

Goriška Brda's mineral-laden soil and distinct climate, which blends Alpine vigor with Mediterranean mildness, foster the growth of a variety of unique wines. You might compare it to Tuscany for its rugged landscape and the resemblance of its wines and cuisine to Italian counterparts. Goriška Brda is particularly renowned for its Rebula wine, which constitutes about a quarter of the area's wine production.

Your adventure begins with a scenic tour through the rolling vineyards. Along the way, you'll indulge in a sensory journey, tasting the local gastronomy that perfectly complements the exquisite wines. Your first stop is the iconic view tower of Gonjače, offering panoramic vistas of the region and the Adriatic that stretch as far as the eye can see.

Next, stroll through the hilltop village of Šmartno, which is encircled by defensive walls dotted with watchtowers, likely built upon Roman bastion remnants during the Habsburg-Venetian wars (1507-1519). Walk cobblestone streets up to the majestic Dobrovo Castle, built in the early 17th century on the ruins of an older structure. Preserved in its original form, it ranks among the finest in the Goriška region. Inside the chapel, see a collection of Gothic frescoes from the North Primorska region.



Celebrate the region's fresh ingredients at a farm-to-table lunch, with each dish thoughtfully paired with local wines. In the afternoon, during a private tasting at a boutique wine producer, a professional sommelier will deepen your understanding of the region's winemaking traditions and introduce you to some of its hidden gems. Return to Portorož for your final evening here and gather for dinner. B,L,D

### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 25: PORTOROŽ / SKOCJAN / LJUBLJANA**

After checking out of the hotel in Portorož, transfer with the group to the mesmerizing Škocjan Caves. Join a geologist to unveil the mysteries of this UNESCO World Heritage Site and its incredible limestone caves, including one of the largest underground river canyons in the world, formed by the Reka River. This canyon is up to 492 feet high and more than 393 feet wide, featuring roaring rapids and waterfalls.

As you venture deeper into the heart of the earth, you'll be greeted by colossal chambers adorned with stalactites and stalagmites, casting an otherworldly glow. These caves show off remarkable limestone formations and have played a key role in the study of *karst* landscapes—the term *karst* actually comes from this region. Additionally, archaeological research shows that humans lived in these caves during prehistoric times, using them for settlements, burials, and rituals.

Following lunch, proceed to the country's capital, Ljubljana, and settle into the InterContinental Hotel. On an expert-guided walk, explore Ljubljana's Old Town and its variety of architectural styles such as Roman, medieval, Baroque, and Art Nouveau. The city features designs by the famous architect Jože Plečnik, including the Triple Bridge and the Central Market. Admire beautiful Baroque cathedrals and Art Nouveau edifices, such as the Dragon Bridge.

Bled Castle



Then gain an unparalleled perspective on Ljubljana's landmarks, embarking on a private boat tour along the Ljubljanica River. The tour also lets you see the city's famous bridges, from the river, as well as giving you a fresh view of the Old Town and the surrounding green areas. From there, enjoy dinner in this vibrant yet quaint capital city. B,L,D

### **MONDAY, AUGUST 26: LJUBLJANA / BLED**

Transfer to Lake Bled, a picture-perfect natural wonder shaped by the ancient Bohinj glacier. Set against a fairy-tale landscape of thick pine forest, a soaring clifftop castle, and a backdrop of the Julian Alps, Lake Bled is an enchanting sight.

Upon arrival, embark on a private boat tour to Bled Island aboard a traditional Pletna boat, a vessel unique to Slovenia. Resembling a Venetian gondola yet marked by distinct features such as a pointed bow and an expanded stern, these wooden, flat-bottomed vessels accommodate up to 18 passengers. Pletna boats are unique in their propulsion technique, with oarsmen employing the *stehrudder* method—standing while rowing.

On serene, green Bled Island, admire the Church of the Mother of God on the Lake, which stands where a pagan temple once existed. Christianized in 745 A.D.—foundations of a pre-Romanesque chapel remain here—the church was first dedicated to Mary's birth. Excavations unearthed 124 graves from the 9th to 11th century, tombs that are visible through a church window today. In 1465, a Gothic-style structure was built here with a distinctive 171-foot bell tower.

Upon return to the shore, ascend to one of Slovenia's most ancient and revered castles, Bled Castle, which is perched more than 420 feet atop a cliff. After taking in the awe-



Cathedral, Ljubljana

inspiring view of Lake Bled's vivid waters, go behind the scenes in the castle's printing works, where you may take part in a hands-on experience with a replica Gutenberg wooden press, guided by a master printer.

Those who prefer to remain on more level ground may take a gorgeous hike along Lake Bled's shores. All guests may enjoy leisure time to relax or perhaps sample the traditional Bled cream cake, a Slovenian delicacy that proudly holds a certificate of national origin. This decadent dessert features a golden, crispy butter pastry crust layered with a perfectly balanced vanilla cream and whipped cream, another sheet of buttery pastry, and a sprinkle of icing sugar.

This afternoon, return to Ljubljana, where the remainder of the day and evening are at leisure. B,L

## **TUESDAY, AUGUST 27: LJUBLJANA**

Dive into Slovenia's storied art heritage with a private tour of the National Gallery of Slovenia. Housing an extensive collection, the Gallery displays works spanning from medieval sacred art to Biedermeier portraits by the Italian-born Jožef Tominc (1790–1866), known for the sharpness and realism of his paintings; neoclassical works by Franc Kavčič (1755–1828), praised for his landscape, religious, and mythological paintings; Realist art by the profoundly influential Šubic brothers, Janez (1850–1889) and Jurij (1855–1890), who brought techniques from Paris, Venice, and Rome back to Slovenia; and masterpieces of Slovenian Impressionism by artists like Ivan Grohar (1867–1911) and Rihard Jakopič (1869–1943).

A special highlight is the world's only permanent retrospective exhibition of works dedicated to Zoran Mušič (1909–2005), one of Europe's most prominent modernist painters. During World War II, Mušič was imprisoned in a Dachau concentration camp, where he created over 200 poignant drawings, managing to preserve about 100 after liberation. The Gallery features a rotating collection of Mušič's works from 1935 through 1999.

Following this, experience a hands-on demonstration of contemporary jewelry-making with an exclusive visit to a private workshop and studio. You may even wield the forging hammer yourself to transform raw silver into a gleaming bar, ready for jewelry crafting. Enjoy leisure time for the remainder of the afternoon. In the evening, say farewell to Slovenia and fellow travelers at a delectable three-course dinner in a special setting. B,L,D

## **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28: LJUBLJANA / RETURN**

After checking out of the hotel this morning, transfer to the Ljubljana airport for your flights back home. B

*This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Whitman College Alumni Association and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms).*

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Ivan Grohar, *A Hillock (detail)*, 1910,  
National Gallery of Slovenia, Ljubljana

### **PROGRAM RATE**

**\$7,499 per person, double rate**

**\$8,999 single rate**

### **RATE INCLUDES**

- Six nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at tastings and welcome and farewell dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portorage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

**NOT INCLUDED IN RATE** International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

## ACCOMMODATIONS



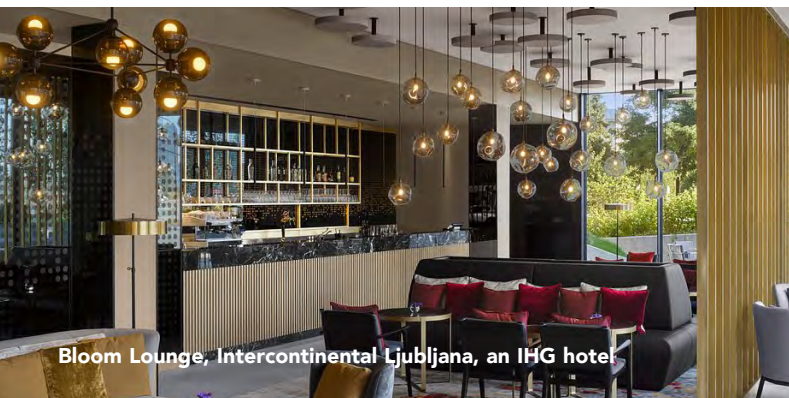
Kempinski Palace Portorož Slovenia

### KEMPINSKI PALACE PORTOROŽ SLOVENIA

Opened on August 20, 1910, when the Austro-Hungarian Empire still ruled, this hotel quickly became a renowned tourist destination near the Adriatic Sea. This *Belle Époque* coastal retreat combines historic charm with modern luxury for an atmosphere of timeless sophistication. Enjoy both comfort and splendor in its elegantly designed rooms and suites. Guests can savor local cuisine in the hotel's exceptional restaurants and bars, connect with complimentary Wi-Fi, unwind by the pool, enjoy exquisite treatments at the Rose Spa, and take relaxing strolls to the sandy beach as the Istrian hills silhouette against the setting sun.

### INTERCONTINENTAL LJUBLJANA, AN IHG HOTEL

With its striking glass façade, this hotel welcomes guests into a world of luxury. Boasting spectacular views, the hotel's plush rooms and suites are designed with chic, contemporary furniture, HDTVs, and marble bathrooms featuring both a tub and walk-in shower. Conveniently situated near Ljubljana's train station and the historic Old Town, the hotel makes city exploration easy. Relax at the Bloom Lounge or Club InterContinental. The rooftop B-Restaurant offers gourmet dining, perfectly complementing a relaxing spa experience. Connect with complimentary Wi-Fi and enjoy city sunsets from the comfort of an armchair with a minibar beverage.



Bloom Lounge, Intercontinental Ljubljana, an IHG hotel



## WHITMAN COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ENCHANTING SLOVENIA AUGUST 21 - 28, 2024 RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at phone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944, fax: 212-344-7493; email: [trips@arrangementsabroad.com](mailto:trips@arrangementsabroad.com); or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

Fax

E-mail

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Room Preference  One bed  Two beds  Single

I wish to share a room with \_\_\_\_\_

### FORM OF PAYMENT

- Enclosed is my check (*Arrangements Abroad*)  
 Debit card  Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program (see [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms) to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date