

General destination information

Slovenia is a small Central European country characterised by an **exceptional diversity** of landscapes, pristine nature and friendly people. A short drive of just over two hours brings you from the azure waters of Mediterranean to the rugged, snowy peaks of the Alps. Towards northeast they give way to the Pannonian lowlands, and gently descend towards southeast into Dinaric Mountains with their majestic forests and abundance of wildlife. Along the way one wanders over the mysterious Karst and its subterranean world. Common to all of this is the colour **green, the national colour** of Slovenia.

Ljubljana, the capital, is a **vibrant city** which is developing with a clear vision, putting the quality of life at the forefront. With **286.000 residents**, it does not rank among the major European capitals, yet combines many facilities and services of a larger city with the **relaxed ambience** and **safety** of smaller towns. Its image features a harmonic blend of Baroque, Art Nouveau and newer styles, complemented by a medieval hilltop castle and a river. A rich agenda of **cultural events**, a lively café society and an active youth scene fuelled by **55,000 university students** contribute to Ljubljana's dynamic flair. It is also distinguished by an **attractive historic quarter** with a cosy, lounge-style feel, which is ideal for networking, and also offers very **good value for money**.

The European Commission has awarded Ljubljana with the prestigious title of European Green Capital 2016, while the World Travel and Tourism Council has named it winner of the Tourism for Tomorrow 2015 award in the destinations category. Both are an important recognition of Ljubljana's sustainable development strategy and its visible results.

Accommodation facilities

Ljubljana provides a good range of accommodation facilities of all categories and types, currently totalling to around **2,650 hotel rooms** (year 2017). Additional units are available in pensions, bed & breakfast, short-let apartments, plus youth- and student hostels. Many of them are found at a downtown location, close to the Old Town.



Photo: Jan Hlačer

Travelling to Ljubljana

All flights to are operated through the **Ljubljana International Airport** (www.lju-airport.si), which is located at 25 km from the city. The current non-stop connections comprise 230 scheduled flights / week to 26, mostly European destinations. They are operated by 6 regular and 3 low-cost airlines. **Adria Airways** (www.adria.si), Slovenia's national carrier, is a member of the **Star Alliance network**.

The closest **airports in the neighbouring countries** serve as an **additional gateway** (Trieste and Venice – Italy, Graz and Klagenfurt – Austria, Zagreb – Croatia).

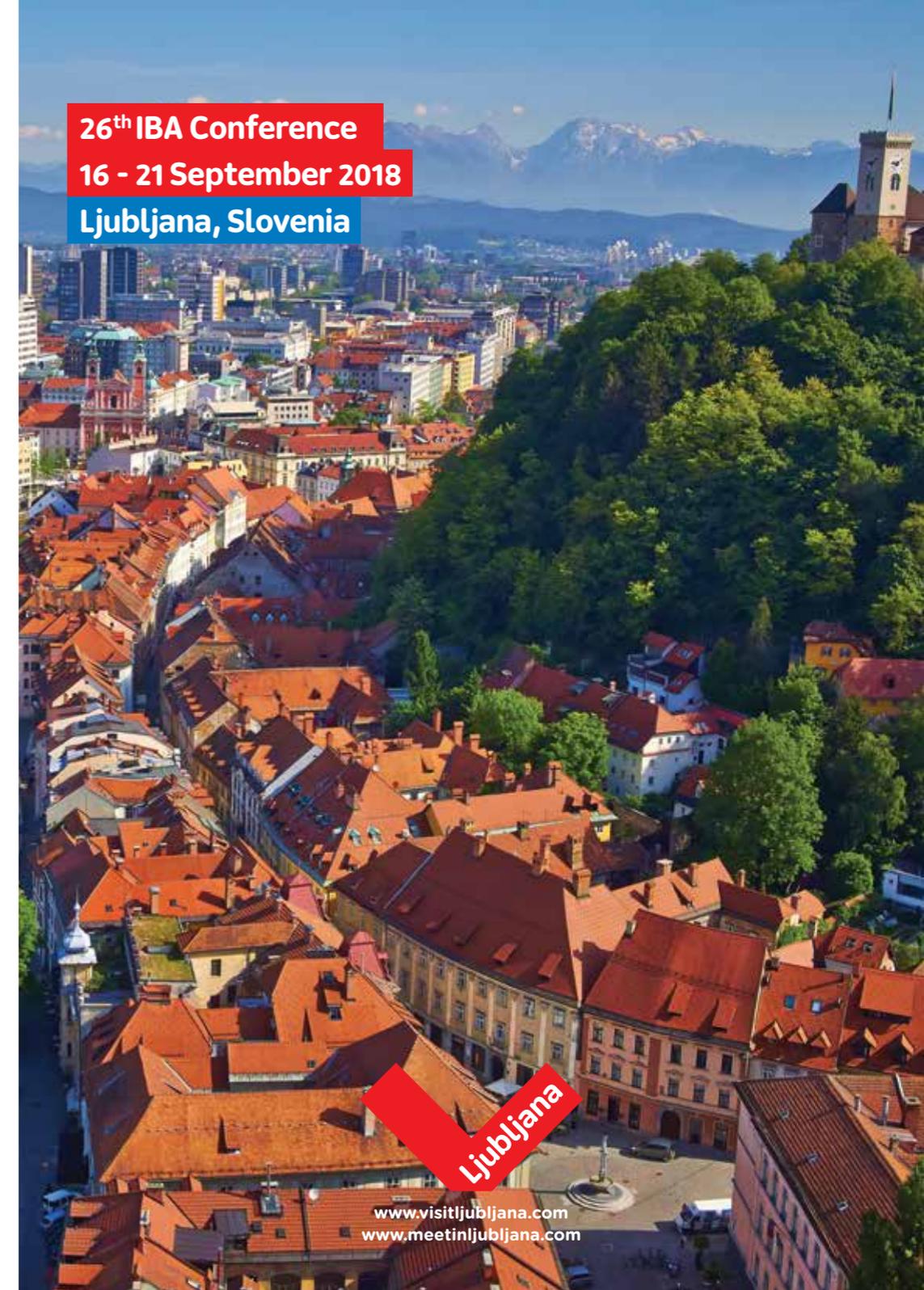
Good road (mainly motorway) and train connections are another alternative to reach Ljubljana.



Discover why small is beautiful!

Ljubljana offers a host of **guided tours** for visitors to discover the **major city sights**, as well as a range of special-interest programmes and themed experiences. Apart from walking tours, some itineraries may include the **Ljubljana Castle**, from where a magnificent panorama unfolds, or a **boat ride** down the river. Several run on a regular scheduled basis. Ljubljana is also an ideal departure point to reach a number of Slovenia's natural and cultural attractions, many of which are within one hour's drive. The picture-postcard **Lake Bled**, the underground realm of **Postojna and Krizna Caves**, the **Lipica Stud Farm** and the **nature wonder Cerknica Lake** are just a few to suggest. Even Venice is only 240 km away! The diversity of experiences close to the capital can enhance and bring added value to the **26th IBA onference in Ljubljana!**

26th IBA Conference
16 - 21 September 2018
Ljubljana, Slovenia



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Invitation letter to 26th IBA Conference

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the University of Ljubljana - Biotechnical Faculty and Slovenian Forest Service, I have the privilege and honour to invite you to the **26th International Conference on Bear Research & Management entitled "Life with bears"** that will be held between 16 and 21 September 2018 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Venue of the conference will be the Grand Hotel Union set in a privileged central location **close to the Old Town** and less than 30 minutes from the international airport.

Slovenia is a home to approximately **670 brown bears** that occur there in one of the world highest population densities. Slovenian brown bear population is the north-western-most part of the Dinaric-Pindos brown bear population, and was used as a source for all reintroductions of this species to Western Europe (Italy, Austria and France). Bears are recognized in Slovenia as an **important natural heritage**. While in the past they were valued mainly as a game species for trophies and for meat, today the bears are increasingly seen as an important part of nature and in recent years also as an important ecotourism attraction. While there are tangible benefits that coexisting with bears brings to people, human-bear conflicts remain an ongoing challenge, and Slovenia is continuously taking steps to face this challenge and improve coexistence.

A consortium of Slovenian expert organizations in cooperation with partners from Croatia, Italy and Austria is successfully tackling these challenges through implementation of an international project **»Population level management and conservation of brown bears in northern Dinaric Mountains and the Alps«** (short name **LIFE DINALP BEAR**) which hosts the 26th IBA Conference. Therefore, the main theme of the IBA conference will be **human-bear coexistence in human dominated and politically fragmented landscapes**. At the conference bear experts will highlight this challenging topics through presentations, round-table discussions, workshops and poster sessions. They will address new developments, the latest achievements in brown bear genetics, recent results in public opinion studies, conflict resolution management, artificial feeding of bears, and other important topics.

We will do our best to make you feel **welcome in the city of Ljubljana**, and enjoy diverse conference programme and unique social events surrounded by the beauty of Slovenia and its people.

We look forward to welcoming you to Ljubljana in September 2018!

Aleksandra Majić Skrbinšek

Chair of the organizing committee
for the 26th IBA Conference



26th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BEAR RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT
16th - 21st September 2018, Ljubljana, Slovenia



Conference Schedule

www.lifewithbears.eu

Sunday, 16 September 2018

Pre-conference day

- IBA board meeting
- Evening welcome reception - Icebreaker

Monday, 17 September 2018

- Plenary, parallel sessions

Tuesday, 18 September 2018

- Plenary, parallel sessions
- Student's Forum
- Public presentation in the evening

Wednesday, 19 September 2018

- Tours and excursions for the conference participants

Thursday, 20 September 2018

- Plenary, parallel sessions
- Gala dinner event

Friday, 21 September 2018

- Plenary, parallel sessions
- Closing of the conference

Save
the date!

Conference Venue

The venue of the 26th IBA Conference "Life with bears" will be the **Grand Hotel Union** (<http://www.union-hotels.eu/>) in Ljubljana. Set in a privileged central location **close to the Old Town**, it is the **largest convention hotel** in the capital. Built in **1905** in the Art Nouveau style, it combines elegance and a long-term tradition in hosting successful events and prominent guests. The property, with its **exclusive setting the heart of the city**, overlooks the central Prešeren Square, the Triple Bridge and eyes the city landmark - Ljubljana Castle. The Hotel is **easily accessible** from all major highways, the railway station, the main bus station and the Ljubljana Airport. It also offers a secured parking garage with 120 parking spaces.

Ljubljana (<https://www.visitljubljana.com/en/visitors/explore-the-region/>), the capital of Slovenia, is regarded as a logistically stress-free destination - its compact size allows **walking between most venues**, hotels and sights of interest; the public transport network, or even biking (using one's own or public bikes), are an option to move around from less central hotels.



Grand Hotel Union



Co-financers



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
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AND SPATIAL PLANNING

