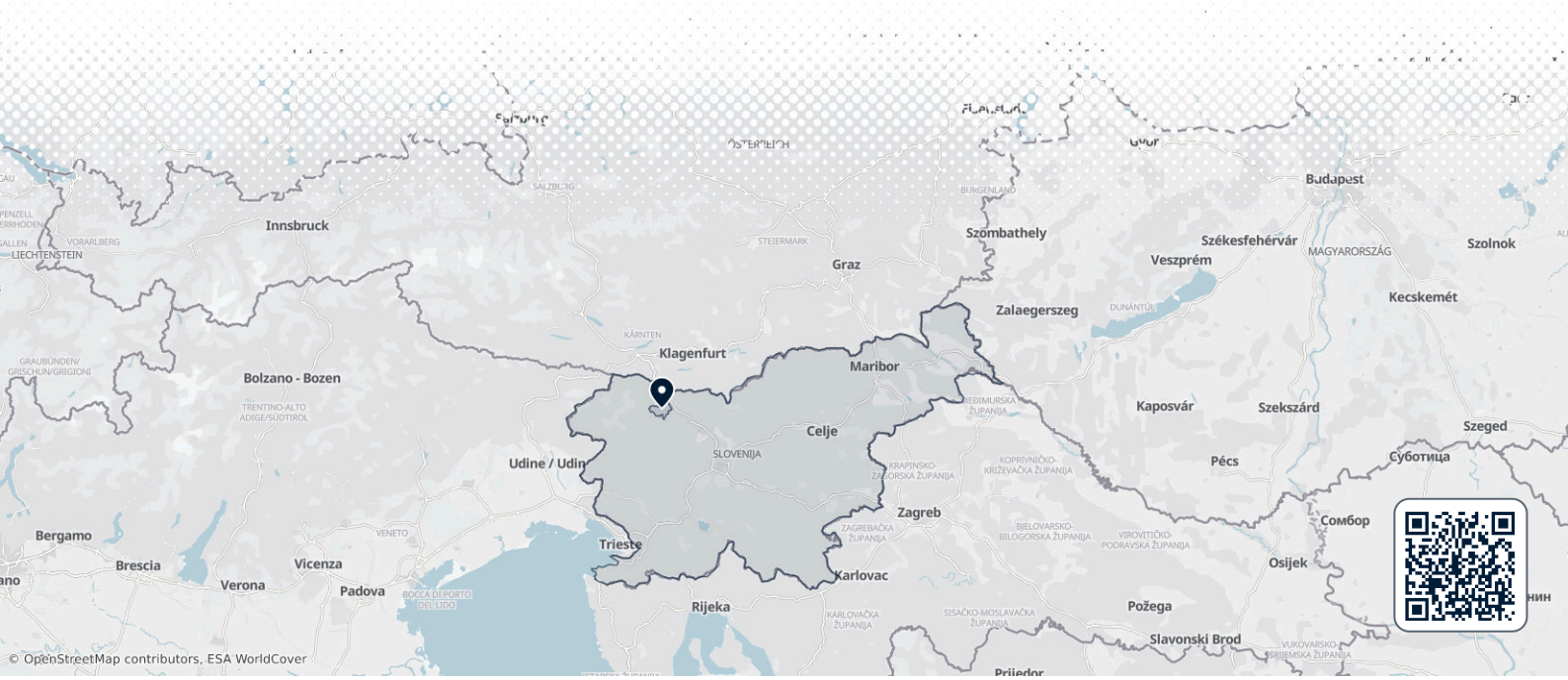


Bled

Upper Carniola · Slovenia

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Bled is a small Alpine resort town on the shore of a glacial lake in north-west Slovenia. A church on a tiny island and a medieval castle on a cliff above the water make it one of the most photographed places in the country. The Julian Alps rise behind it, and the edge of Triglav National Park is only a few kilometres away.

The town itself is compact and easy to explore on foot. Most visitors come for the lake: walking the path around it, taking a traditional boat to the island, swimming in summer and climbing to the viewpoints above it. Bled also works well as a base for hiking, gorges and day trips into the mountains. Two or three nights are enough for the highlights, and longer if you want to hike.

When to visit

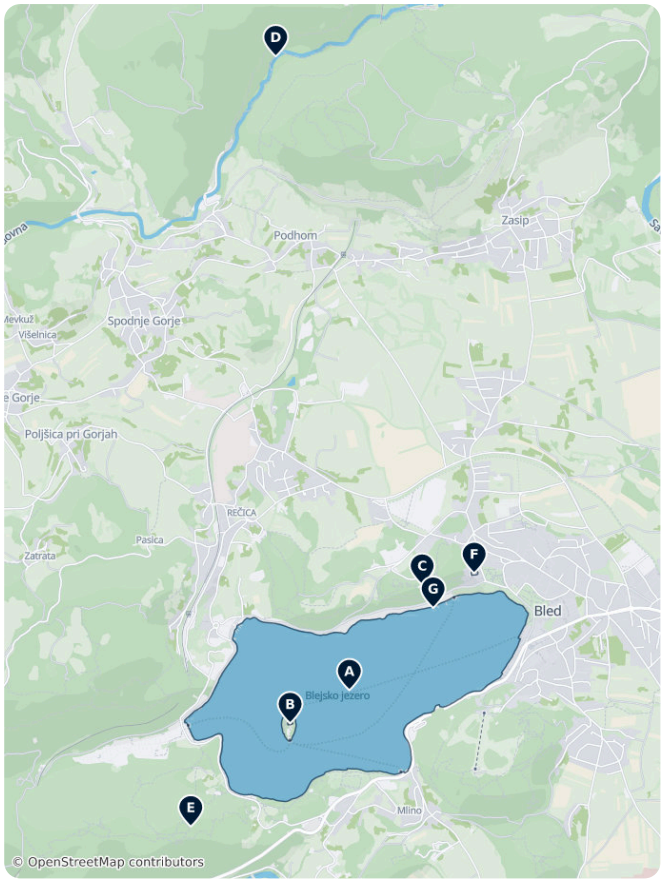
Late spring and early autumn are the best times to visit. The weather is mild, the trails are open and the crowds are smaller. July and August are warm and busy, with frequent afternoon thunderstorms. Winter is cold and often snowy, and the town is quiet. Some attractions, including Bled Gorge, close for the season.

The biggest annual event is the evening of candle lights in July, when thousands of small lights float on the lake, with music and food stands along the shore. It takes place on the second-to-last Saturday of July.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for watersports	4° / 10° Feels like 0°	-4° / -12°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for watersports	6° / 14° Feels like 2°	-3° / -12°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for hiking	10° / 18° Feels like 7°	1° / -6°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for hiking	15° / 22°	5° / -1°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 26°	9° / 4°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 31°	14° / 8°	16 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 33°	15° / 10°	17 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 34°	15° / 10°	16 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 27°	11° / 5°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for hiking	16° / 23°	7° / 0°	Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for hiking	10° / 17°	3° / -4°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for watersports	5° / 10° Feels like 1°	-2° / -10°	Dry air · Calm winds

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



A Lake Bled is the reason most people come. A flat path of about 6 km runs all the way around it, and the clear green water is warm enough for swimming in summer.

B Church of the Assumption stands on Bled Island, the small island in the middle of the lake. Visitors arrive by boat and climb 99 stone steps to the church. Inside you can ring the wishing bell, and a separate bell tower stands next to the church.

C Bled Castle sits on a steep cliff above the north shore and is first mentioned in a written document from 1011. It has a museum, a working printing workshop, a wine cellar and terraces with wide views over the lake and the mountains.

D Bled Gorge is a narrow canyon carved by the Radovna River about 4 km from town. Wooden walkways follow the river for 1.6 km past pools and rapids to the Šum waterfall. The route is one-way, and booking an entry time online in advance is recommended.

E Mala Osojnica is the classic viewpoint over the lake, the island and the castle. A steep forest trail with steps and handrails leads up from the western shore in about 30–45 minutes.

F St Martin's Church is the neo-Gothic parish church on the north shore, below the castle. It was completed in 1905, and its colourful wall paintings date from the 1930s.

G Castle Beach is the historic lakeside bathing area below the castle. In summer it has wooden decks, a swimming area and boat hire.

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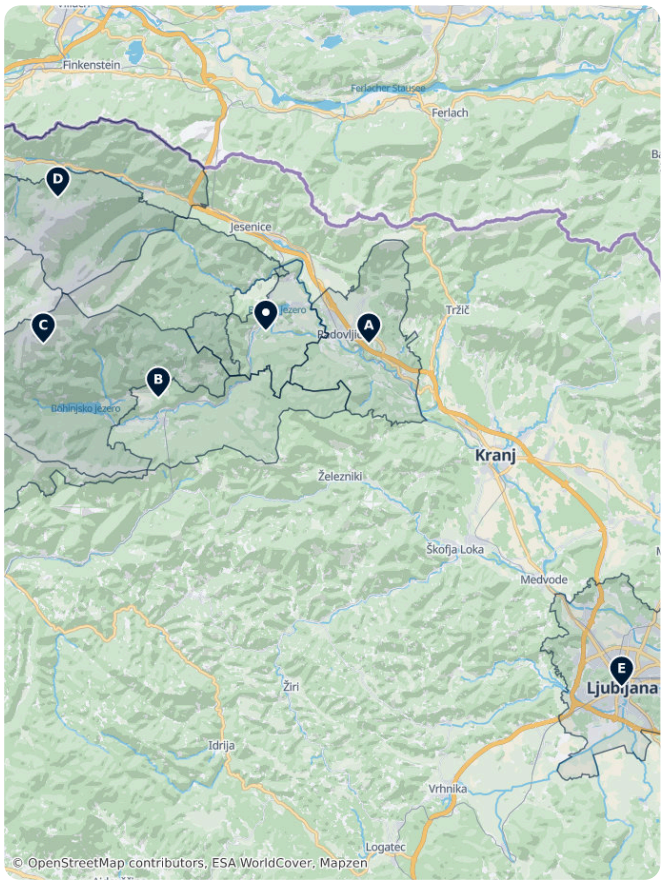
What to experience

Most of Bled's signature moments happen on or around the water.

- **Ride a pletna to the island**: These flat wooden boats are rowed standing up by local boatmen. The right to carry visitors to the island dates back to 1740 and still passes down in local families. The boat waits while you visit the island.
- **Ring the wishing bell**: Inside the island church, visitors pull the rope of a bell that, according to local belief, grants a wish.
- **Watch sunrise from Ojstrica or Mala Osojnica**: Climb early to see morning mist lift from the lake below the island and castle.
- **Swim and row in summer**: Swim from the lakeside bathing areas or hire a rowing boat for an hour. Bled is also a well-known international rowing venue.
- **Ride the summer toboggan on Straža**: A chairlift takes you up the small hill above the south-east shore, and a metal toboggan track brings you back down.

Day trips

Bled sits in the middle of some of Slovenia's best countryside, and most day trips take less than an hour.



- Ⓐ **Radovljica** — about 15 minutes by bus or car. A small, well-kept old town on a terrace above the Sava valley, known for its beekeeping tradition and chocolate.
- Ⓑ **Bohinj** — about 40 minutes by bus or car. A larger, quieter lake surrounded by mountains, with a cable car up Vogel and the Savica waterfall nearby.
- Ⓒ **Triglav National Park** — the park border starts just west of Bled. The Pokljuka plateau, with forests and mountain pastures, is about 30 minutes away by car.
- Ⓓ **Kranjska Gora** — about 45 minutes by car. An Alpine resort near the Austrian and Italian borders and the starting point for the Vršič mountain pass road.
- Ⓔ **Ljubljana** — about 1 to 1.5 hours by bus. Slovenia's small, relaxed capital, with a castle above a riverside old town.

Where to explore

Bled is part of the Upper Carniola region, an area of Alpine lakes, valleys and small historic towns.

- **Mountains and lakes**: Triglav National Park, Bohinj and Kranjska Gora are the places to go for hiking, lakes and mountain scenery.
- **Historic towns**: Radovljica, Kranj and Kamnik have compact old centres that are easy to combine with a stay in Bled.

Getting there

- **By air**: Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport is about 35 km away, roughly halfway between Ljubljana and Bled. Direct shuttle buses run several times a day, and a taxi costs around €45. Some travellers also fly into Venice, Trieste or Salzburg and continue by car.
- **By train**: Lesce-Bled station, about 4 km from the centre, is on the main line from Ljubljana towards Austria. A frequent local bus takes under 10 minutes into town. The smaller Bled Jezero station, about 1.5 km from the centre, is on the scenic Bohinj railway line. Slovenian Railways
- **By bus**: Buses from Ljubljana bus station leave every 30–60 minutes and take about 1 to 1.5 hours. At Ljubljana buy your ticket at the counter before boarding. Buses stop at Bled's main bus station near the lake.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The centre and the lake path are easy and flat, and most sights are within walking distance. Allow about 2 hours to walk around the whole lake.
- **Buses**: Regional buses link Bled with Lesce-Bled station, Radovljica and Bohinj. At stops without a ticket office, pay the driver on board in cash, ideally with the exact fare. Arriva Slovenia
- **Vintgar shuttle**: In season, small electric shuttle buses run from the main bus station to the entrance of Bled Gorge.
- **Boats**: The traditional wooden pletna boats are the main way to reach the island. You can also hire a rowing boat and row yourself.
- **Cycling**: Bikes and e-bikes are easy to rent, and cycling around the lake or to nearby villages is pleasant. Expect hills away from the shore.
- **Tourist train and carriages**: A small road train and horse-drawn carriages circle the lake in season.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The compact centre and the flat 6 km lake path are easy on foot; the viewpoints above the lake involve steep climbs.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Bikes and e-bikes are easy to rent and the lakeshore is pleasant to ride, but roads are narrow and busy in summer and hilly away from the lake.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the town itself, which is compact and walkable. A car is useful for reaching mountain areas such as Pokljuka or the Vršič pass, where buses are infrequent.
- **Parking**: Parking near the lake is limited and paid, especially in summer. Use the larger public car parks near the centre and walk from there. The car park at Velika Zaka on the western shore is useful for the viewpoints and charges by the hour.
- **Restrictions**: Roads around the lake are narrow and busy in summer, and traffic jams are common on weekends.

Food & drink

Bled's most famous food is its cream cake: a square slice of vanilla custard and whipped cream between layers of thin, crisp pastry. It was created at Hotel Park in the 1950s, and almost every café along the lakeshore serves its own version. Order it with coffee on a terrace with a lake view.

For a proper meal, look for the traditional inns (gostilna) in the centre and in the villages around the lake. They serve hearty local food such as Carniolan sausage, štruklji dumplings and trout from Alpine rivers. Most restaurants cluster along the eastern shore and in the streets just above it.

What to eat & drink

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Potica · potica
A rolled nut cake, traditionally served at holidays.

Kremna rezina · kremna rezina
A vanilla and whipped-cream custard slice, associated with Bled.

DRINKS

Slovenian wine
Wine from the Vipava Valley, Štajerska, and Primorska regions.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Štruklji · štruklji
Rolled dumplings, sweet or savory, boiled or baked.

Kranjska klobasa · kranjska klobasa
A protected (PGI) pork sausage, usually boiled and served with mustard and horseradish.

Jota · jota
A hearty stew of beans, sauerkraut or turnip, and smoked meat.

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Safety & health

Bled is very safe, and violent crime against visitors is rare. In summer, watch your belongings in crowded spots such as the lakeshore, bus station and boat piers, and do not leave valuables in parked cars at trailheads.

The main risks are outdoors. The trails to Mala Osojnica and Ojstrica are steep and slippery when wet, so wear proper shoes. In the mountains, weather changes quickly and summer afternoons often bring storms, so start hikes early. Tap water is safe to drink.

History

People have come to Bled for more than a thousand years, and the oldest visitors were pilgrims. On the island around Church of the Assumption, excavations found the foundations of a pre-Romanesque chapel and more than 120 graves from the 9th to 11th centuries. Some of the graves can be seen through a glass window in the church.

In 1004, Emperor *Henry II* gave the Bled estate to Bishop *Albuin* of Brixen, and Bled Castle first appears in a document from 1011. The bishops of Brixen ruled Bled for about 800 years, until 1803.

Modern tourism began in the mid-19th century with the Swiss healer *Arnold Rikli*. He opened a health resort based on fresh air, sunbathing and cold baths, and stayed in Bled for decades. The railway reached nearby Lesce in 1870 and brought more visitors. After the Second World War, the Yugoslav leader *Tito* had a summer residence at Vila Bled, which is now a hotel.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Slovenia at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



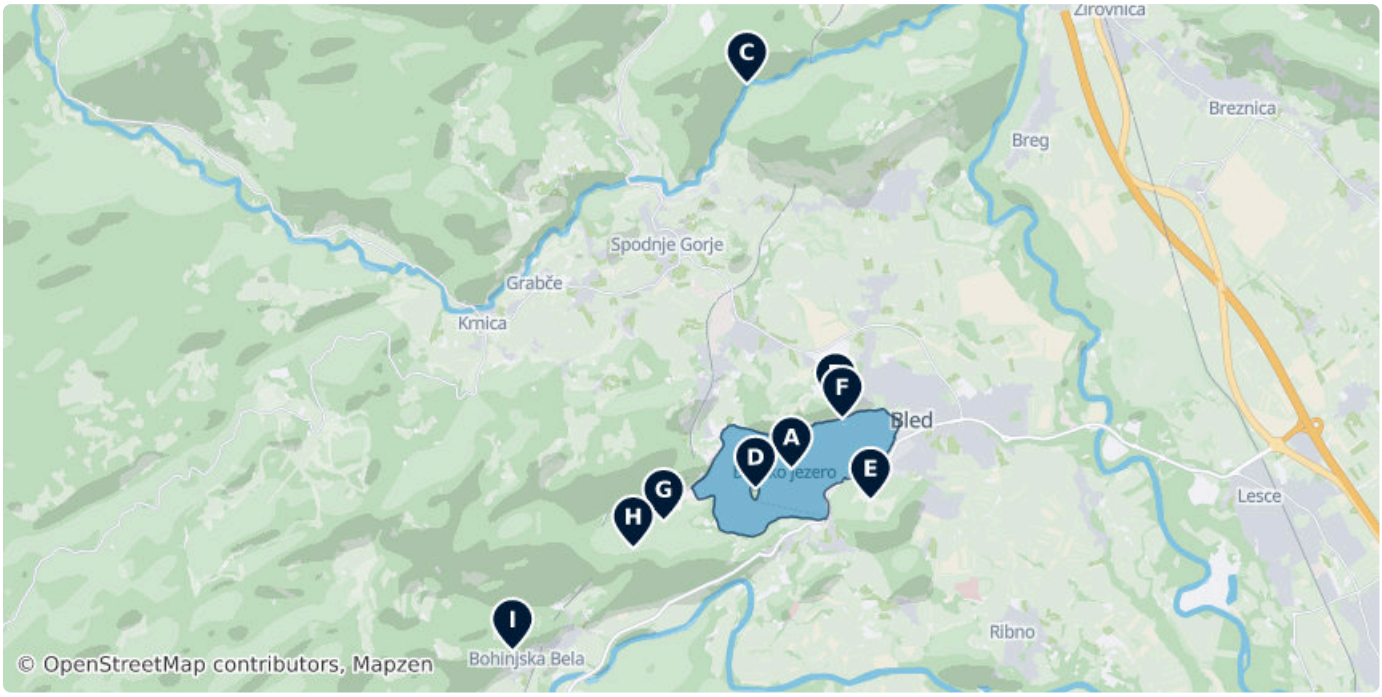
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Slovenian

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Bled's Unmissable Icons

Bled centers around its emerald glacial lake, featuring Slovenia's only natural island and a 17th-century baroque church. Perched on a 130-meter cliff, the medieval Bled Castle offers historical exhibits and views of the Julian Alps. Nearby, the Vintgar Gorge showcases the Radovna River's rapids and the Šum waterfall via wooden walkways. For elevated perspectives, trails lead to the Ojstrica and Velika Osojnica viewpoints, while Straža hill provides seasonal activities like summer sledding.





A Lake Bled

Lake Bled is a lake in the Julian Alps of the Upper Carniolan region of northwestern Slovenia, where it adjoins the town of Bled.

Bled 4260, Slovenia (46.36422, 14.09472)



B Bled Castle

Bled Castle is a medieval castle built on a precipice above the city of Bled in Slovenia, overlooking Lake Bled.

Cesta svobode 11, 4260 Bled Slovenia (46.36985, 14.10036)

Jan-Mar Mo–Su	08:00–18:00
Apr-Jun Mo–Su	08:00–20:00
Jul-Aug Mo–Su	08:00–21:00

blejski-grad.si, +386 4 572 97 82



C Bled Gorge

Vintgar Gorge or Bled Gorge is a 1.6-kilometer gorge in northwestern Slovenia in the municipalities of Gorje and Bled, four kilometers...

Podhom 80, 4247 Zgornje Gorje, Slovenia (46.39808, 14.08903)

vintgar.si/vintgar-gorge/, +386 31 344 053

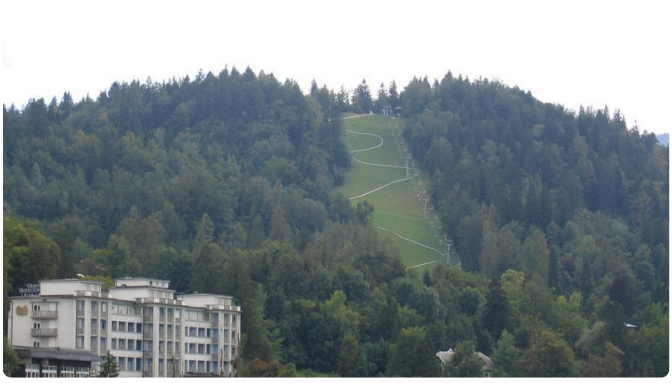


D Cerkev Marijinega Vnebovzetja

This 17th-century baroque pilgrimage church stands on Slovenia's only natural island. It features 99 stone steps and a 1534 "wishing bell" housed in the 52-meter bell tower.

3 Otok, Bled 4260, Slovenia (46.36246, 14.09015)

blejskiotok.si



E Straža

A hill offering summer tobogganing on a 520-meter track and winter skiing. A chairlift provides access to the summit for views of the lake and castle.

(Unnamed Road), 4260, Slovenia (46.36146, 14.10480)



F Castle Beach

Go for a swim into Slovenia's most beautiful lake. The beach is located right underneath the castle.

(Unnamed Road), Bled 4260, Slovenia (46.36862, 14.10121)

grajska-plaza.com

G Ojstrica

A 611-meter peak reached via a steep 20-minute hike. It features a wooden bench overlooking Lake Bled, the island, and the Karawanks mountain range.

(Unnamed Road), 4260, Slovenia (46.35961, 14.07841)

H Velika Osojnica

At 756 meters, this peak offers a panoramic perspective of the Bled basin. The steep, forested trail leads to views of the lake and surrounding Alps.

4260, Slovenia (46.35722, 14.07453)

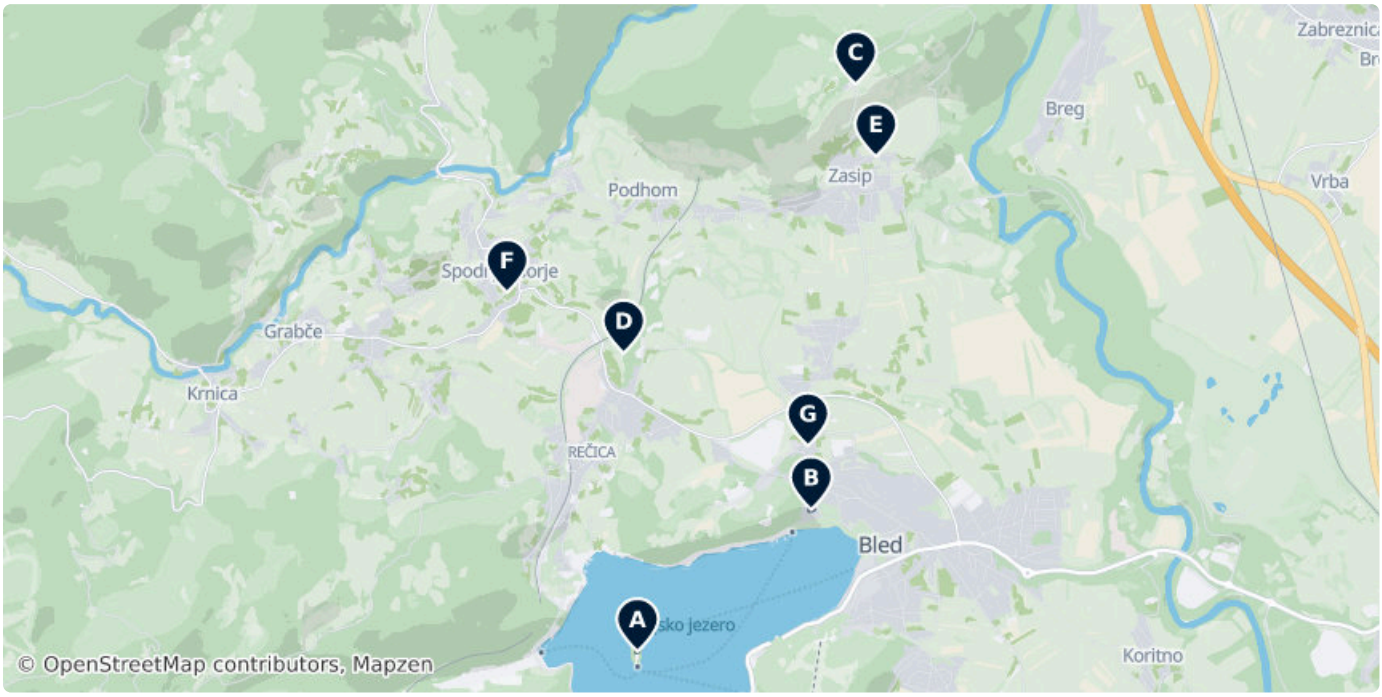
Iglica

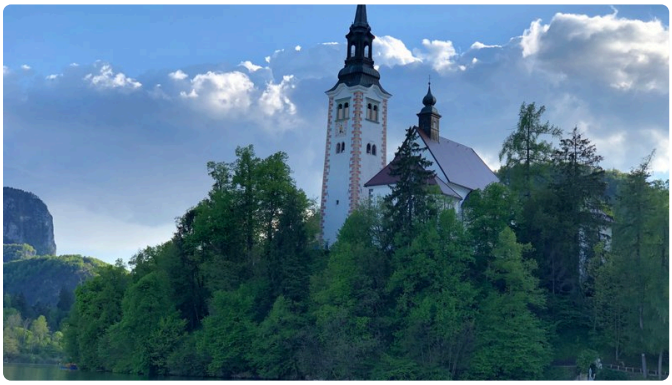
A 24-meter waterfall on the Suha stream. The vertical limestone cliffs surrounding the falls are a frequent site for technical rock climbing.

(46.34817, 14.05914)

Historic Churches & Chapels

Bled's religious landscape is defined by the iconic Baroque Church of the Assumption on Bled Island, reached by 99 stone steps and home to a 16th-century wishing bell. In the town center, the neo-Gothic St. Martin's Parish Church features frescoes by Slavko Pengov and architecture by Friedrich von Schmidt. Surrounding villages like Zasip, Ribno, and Rečica house historic churches such as St. Catherine and St. Andrew, which preserve Gothic foundations, medieval frescoes, and traditional Slovenian Baroque altars.





A Cerkev Marijinega Vnebovzetja

Baroque pilgrimage church on Bled Island featuring a 52-meter bell tower and a 16th-century wishing bell. The current structure dates to the late 17th century, built over earlier Romanesque and Gothic foundations.

3 Otok, Bled 4260, Slovenia (46.36246, 14.09015)

blejskiotok.si



B Župnijska cerkev sv. Martina

Neo-Gothic parish church built in 1905 by architect Friedrich von Schmidt. It contains well-preserved frescoes by Slavko Pengov and a high marble altar, standing on the site of a much older 15th-century church.

4 Slovenski trg, Bled 4260, Slovenia (46.37048, 14.10438)

zupnija-bled.si

C Sveta Katarina

Located on a hill in Zasip, this church features a Gothic sanctuary and a Baroque nave. It is known for its panoramic views of the Bled valley and the Karawanks mountain range.

29 Rebr, 4260, Slovenia (46.39453, 14.10803)

D Church of St. Andrew

Situated in the village of Rečica, this church retains its original Gothic presbytery from the 15th century and a late Baroque altar. The exterior includes remnants of a fortified wall.

4260, Slovenia (46.37932, 14.08902)

zupnija-bled.si

E Sveti Janez Krstnik

Located in Ribno, this church is notable for its Gothic presbytery decorated with 15th-century frescoes and its Baroque wooden altars typical of the Upper Carniola region.

20 Stagne, Zasip 4260, Slovenia (46.39043, 14.10969)

F Cerkev sv. Ožbolta

A small rural church located in the village of Selo pri Bledu, featuring traditional local architecture and serving the village community.

200 Spodnje Gorje, Spodnje Gorje 4247, Slovenia (46.38275, 14.07945)

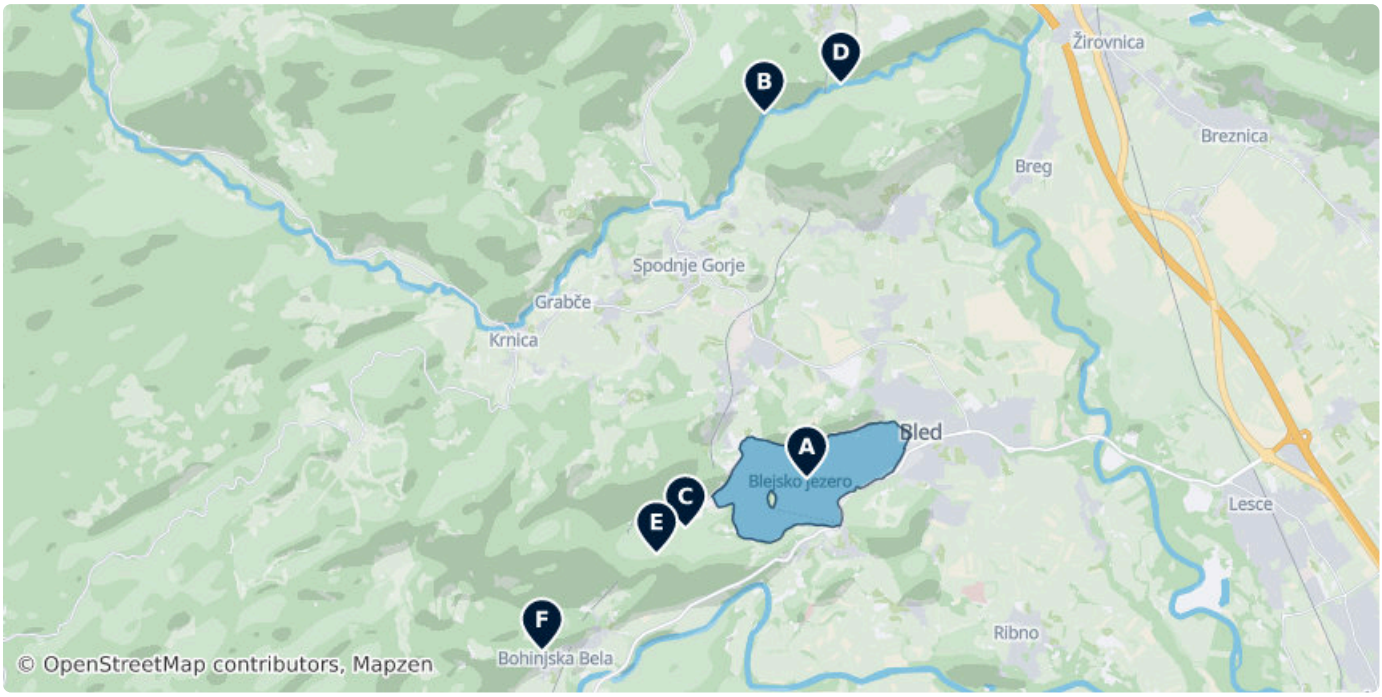
G Hčere Marije Pomočnice

A modern chapel and convent belonging to the Salesian Sisters (Daughters of Mary Help of Christians), used for spiritual retreats and community service.

(46.37408, 14.10412)

Slovenia's Natural Wonders

This collection highlights the glacial landscapes and geological formations surrounding Bled in the Julian Alps. It includes the 1.6-kilometer Vintgar Gorge, carved by the Radovna River, and the iconic Lake Bled. The list covers prominent viewpoints like Ojstrica and Velika Osojnica, which offer panoramic vistas of the Upper Carniolan region. Also featured are the 13-meter Šum Waterfall and the vertical limestone cliffs of the Iglica Waterfall near Bohinjska Bela.





A Lake Bled

Lake Bled is a lake in the Julian Alps of the Upper Carniolan region of northwestern Slovenia, where it adjoins the town of Bled.

Bled 4260, Slovenia (46.36422, 14.09472)



B Bled Gorge

Vintgar Gorge or Bled Gorge is a 1.6-kilometer gorge in northwestern Slovenia in the municipalities of Gorje and Bled, four kilometers...

Podhom 80, 4247 Zgornje Gorje, Slovenia (46.39808, 14.08903)

vintgar.si/vintgar-gorge/, +386 31 344 053

C Ojstrica

A 611-meter peak providing a viewpoint over Lake Bled, the island, and the Karawanks mountain range. The summit is reached via a short, steep forest trail from the lake's western shore.

(Unnamed Road), 4260, Slovenia (46.35961, 14.07841)



D Šum Waterfall

A 13-meter waterfall located at the end of the Vintgar Gorge. It is the highest river waterfall in Slovenia, formed where the Radovna River drops over a limestone threshold.

(Unnamed Road), 4273, Slovenia (46.40080, 14.09932)

E Velika Osojnica

Rising to 756 meters, this peak offers a high-altitude perspective of the Bled basin and the Julian Alps. The trail features a steep ascent with views across the lake's western side.

4260, Slovenia (46.35722, 14.07453)

F Iglica

A 24-meter waterfall cascading over a vertical limestone wall near the village of Bohinjska Bela. The site is a known location for rock climbing and features a staircase to the top.

(46.34817, 14.05914)

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