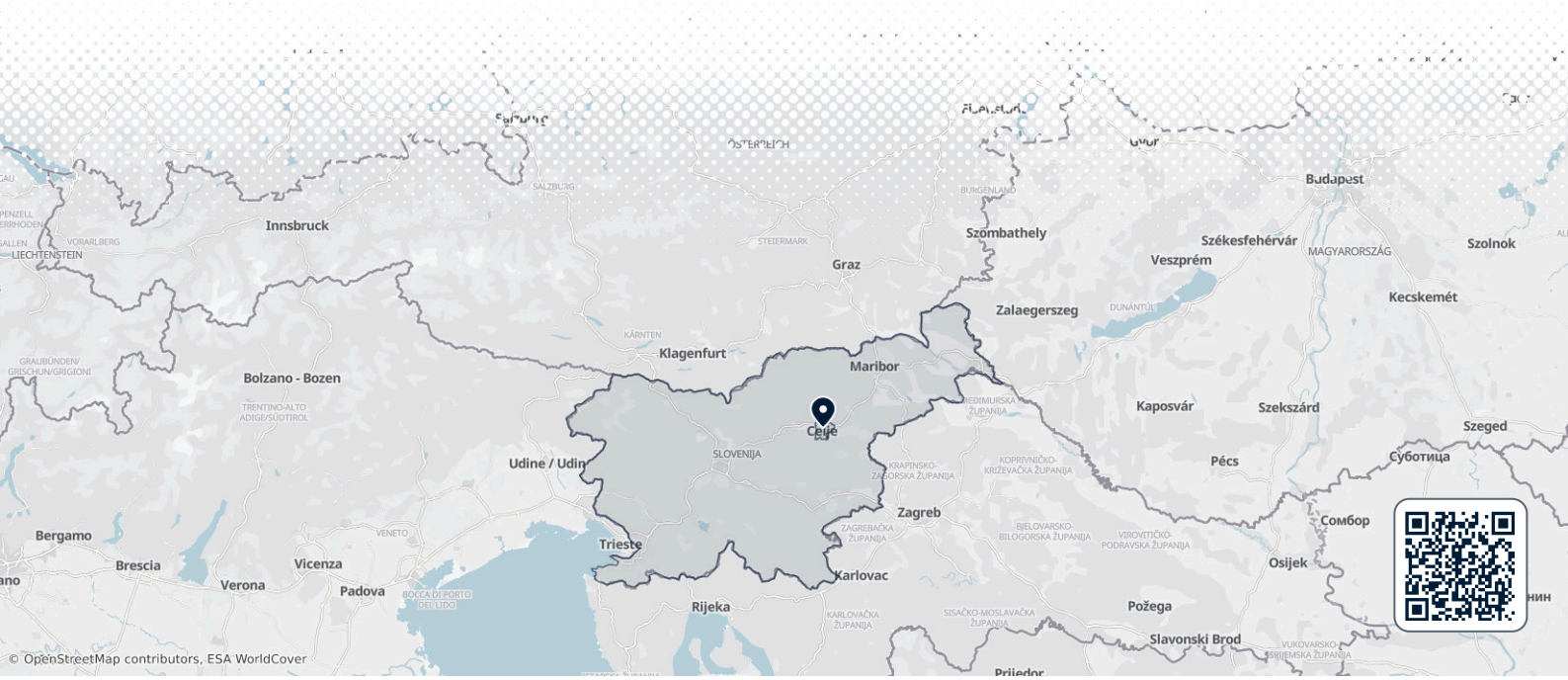


Celje

Slovenia

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Celje is Slovenia's third-largest city, set where several rivers meet the Savinja below a castle hill. It was a Roman town called Celeia, and in the late Middle Ages it was the seat of the Counts of Celje, one of the most powerful noble families in Central Europe. Their three gold stars still appear in the city's coat of arms and in the Slovenian national coat of arms.

The old town is small, flat and mostly closed to cars, so you can see it on foot in a day. Most visitors come for the castle ruins and the history, then add spa towns and Roman sites nearby. Celje suits a relaxed one- or two-night stop between Ljubljana and Maribor. The travel writer *Alma Karlin* was born here and has a statue in the centre.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time, with warm days and long evenings for the castle and the riverbank. Summer days are hot and often end with thunderstorms. Winters are cold and grey, with frequent frost and some snow.

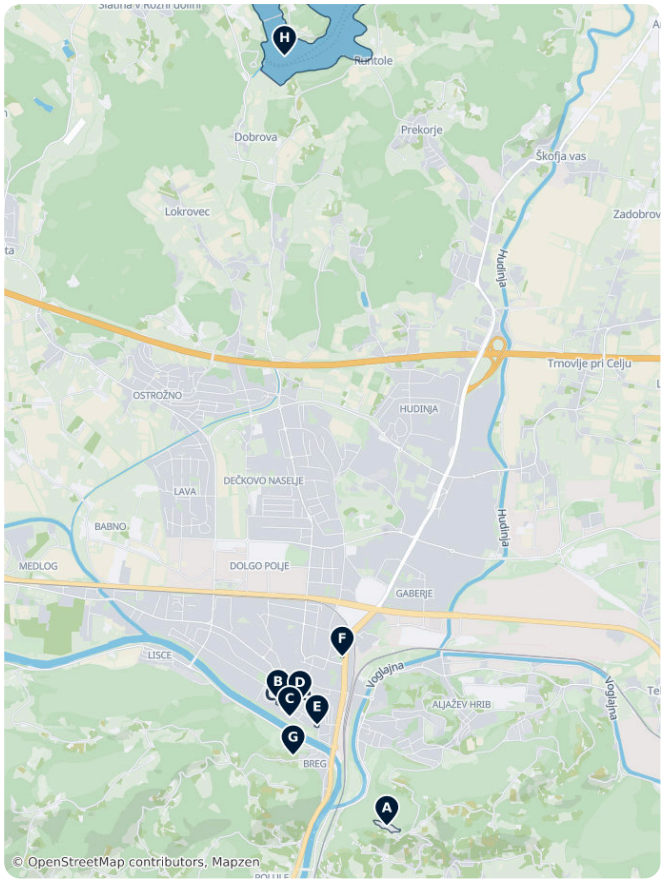
The biggest annual event is the **Medieval Festival at Celje Castle** in late August. For a weekend the castle fills with sword fights, horse riders, acrobats and craftsmen showing medieval skills.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 12° Feels like 1°	-2° / -11°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 14° Feels like 3°	-2° / -10°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	11° / 19° Feels like 8°	2° / -5°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 23°	6° / -1°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 27°	10° / 6°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 31°	15° / 9°	14 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	27° / 33°	16° / 12°	14 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	28° / 35°	16° / 12°	13 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 29°	12° / 7°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 24°	8° / 1°	Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	11° / 18°	3° / -3°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 12° Feels like 2°	-1° / -9°	Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: June, September

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

Top sights



A Celje Old Castle sits on a hill above the Savinja, south-east of the centre. It was the main seat of the Counts of Celje and was once the largest fortress in Slovenia. Walk the walls and the courtyards for wide views over the city and the valley, and look for Frederick's Tower, tied to the town's famous love story.

B Princely Palace (Lower Castle) stands on the edge of the old town. It holds the museum's exhibition on the Counts of Celje, including their skulls. In the basement, "Celeia – Town Beneath the Town" shows Roman walls and a Roman road in their original place.

C Celje Regional Museum occupies the Old Counts' Mansion, a Renaissance building nearby. Its highlight is the **Celje Ceiling**, a large painted ceiling from around 1600. The cellar holds the country's largest collection of Roman stone monuments.

D Celje Museum of Recent History tells the story of everyday life in 20th-century Celje, with rebuilt craft workshops and shops. It also includes Herman's Den, a children's museum of toys, and runs the Pelikan photo studio.

E Celje Cathedral is a Gothic church from the early 14th century, given a Gothic Revival look in 1858. Visit the side chapel of the Sorrowful Mother of God to see its carved wooden Pietà.

F Church of St Maximilian marks the place where, by tradition, the Romans executed Bishop Maximilian. The Protestant reformer *Primož Trubar* served here as a priest, and a bust of him stands in the park behind the church.

G Temple of Hercules is the excavated base of a Roman temple on a terrace of Miklavž Hill, a short walk from the old town.

H Šmartinsko jezero is a large reservoir about 5 km north of the centre. It is a quiet place for a lakeside walk, a short boat trip or fishing.

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What to experience

A few things that make a stay in Celje different:

- **Medieval Festival at the castle**: On a weekend in late August, Celje Old Castle hosts sword fights, horse shows, music, dancing and craft demonstrations.
- **Old-style portrait at the Pelikan studio**: The Pelikan photo house keeps a glass-roofed studio from around 1900. You can book a portrait made with an old photographic technique, with period costumes if you like. Tours run only at set times, so book ahead.
- **Walk up to the castle at sunset**: Follow the riverside path along the Voglajna and climb to the castle walls. In the evening light you get wide views over the city and the Savinja Valley.
- **Kids in Herman's Den**: The children's museum inside Celje Museum of Recent History is built around toys and play, with a fox called Herman as guide.
- **Winter on Celjska koča**: The hills just south of the city have a small ski area and a mountain hotel, good for an easy day on the slopes.

Day trips

Celje sits in the middle of the Savinja Valley, and many good trips take under an hour.



- **Roman Necropolis of Šempeter** – about 15 min west by car. Up to 100 Roman family tombs with carved reliefs stand in an archaeological park, a direct link to Roman Celeia.
- **Laško** – 10–15 min south by train. A small spa town on the Savinja, home of Slovenia's best-known brewery and a large thermal spa.
- **Rimske Toplice** – about 20 min by train. A thermal spa with Roman origins, now a restored spa resort.
- Ⓐ Velenje – about 30 min by car or bus. A modern town with a castle museum, a lake and a museum about coal mining.
- Ⓑ Rogaška Slatina – about 45 min east by car. One of the oldest spa towns in Slovenia, known for its mineral water and crystal glass.
- Ⓒ Maribor – about 50 min by train. Slovenia's second city has a riverside old town and the world's oldest vine.
- Ⓓ Ljubljana – 1 h 10 min to 1 h 30 min by train. The capital has a castle, a green old town and lively cafés along the river.

Where to explore

Celje lies in the Savinja region of eastern Slovenia, halfway between the capital and Maribor.

- **Nearby towns**: Velenje lies up the valley to the north-west.
- **Spas**: Rogaška Slatina is the best-known spa town to the east.
- **Cities**: Maribor and Ljubljana are both easy to reach by train.

Getting there

- **By air**: The nearest airport is Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport, about an hour away by car. Without a car, take a bus or shuttle to Ljubljana and continue by train.
- **By train**: Celje is on the main line between Ljubljana and Maribor. Trains take about 1 h 10 min to 1 h 30 min from Ljubljana and about 45–55 min from Maribor. The station is next to the old town. Slovenian Railways
- **By bus**: The bus station is close to the railway station, with intercity buses to towns across Slovenia. Nomago
- **By car**: Celje is just off the A1 motorway between Ljubljana and Maribor. Slovenian motorways need an e-vignette.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town, the museums and the riverbank are all within a 10-minute walk of each other. The castle is a steep uphill walk from the centre; the marked castle trails start by the Voglajna River.
- **City buses**: Celebus buses run on several lines around the city. You can buy a ticket on the bus, or pay with the Centralka city card or app. A Celebus line runs from the railway station to the foot of the castle, but not on Sundays and holidays. Celebus (City of Celje)
- **Cycling**: The city is flat and the KolesCE bike-share system has stations around town. The first 30 minutes are free after registration.
- **Tourist information**: The office on Glavni trg in the old town has maps and visitor information. Visit Celje

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is small, flat and largely car-free, with the museums and riverbank minutes apart; only the castle hill is a steep climb.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The valley floor is flat and the KolesCE bike-share has stations across the city, with the first 30 minutes free.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the city itself, which is compact and walkable. A car is useful for the Roman sites, spas and hill villages around the Savinja Valley.
- **Parking**: The old town is mostly closed to traffic. Use the paid zones, garages or park-and-ride sites on its edge. The Centralka app pays for parking. Parking at the castle is free during opening hours.

Food & drink

Celje lies in Štajerska (Styria), where food is hearty: pork, sausages, buckwheat and pumpkin seed oil on salads. The Savinja Valley around the city is Slovenia's main hop-growing area, and local beer is part of daily life. Laško, just down the river, brews the country's best-known beer.

For eating out, head to the old town. Glavni trg and the pedestrian streets around it, such as Stanetova ulica and Prešernova ulica, have most of the cafés, pubs and restaurants, many with outdoor tables in summer.

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

Celje is a safe city with low crime. Normal care with bags in busy places and at the stations is enough. The old town is quiet at night.

Tap water is safe to drink. The castle paths are steep and can be slippery after rain, so wear good shoes.

History

The Romans called the town Celeia, and under Emperor *Claudius* it became a self-governing town in AD 45. You can still see a Roman road and town walls under Princely Palace (Lower Castle), the temple remains at Temple of Hercules, and the stone monuments in Celje Regional Museum.

From 1341 the town was the seat of the Counts of Celje. Through marriage and service to emperors, they rose to the rank of princes in 1436. They ruled from Celje Old Castle and from their palace in town. Their best-known story is the love of *Frederick II* for *Veronika of Desenice*, whom his father *Herman II* opposed. Herman had Frederick locked in the castle tower. Frederick gave Celje its town rights in 1451. The family ended in 1456, when *Ulrich II* was killed in Belgrade, and their lands passed to the Habsburgs.

Under Austrian rule the town was known as Cilli. The railway from Vienna to Trieste reached it in 1846. In World War II the German occupiers used the old prison Stari pisker, where many hostages were shot. Its memorial is now part of Celje Museum of Recent History.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Slovenia at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

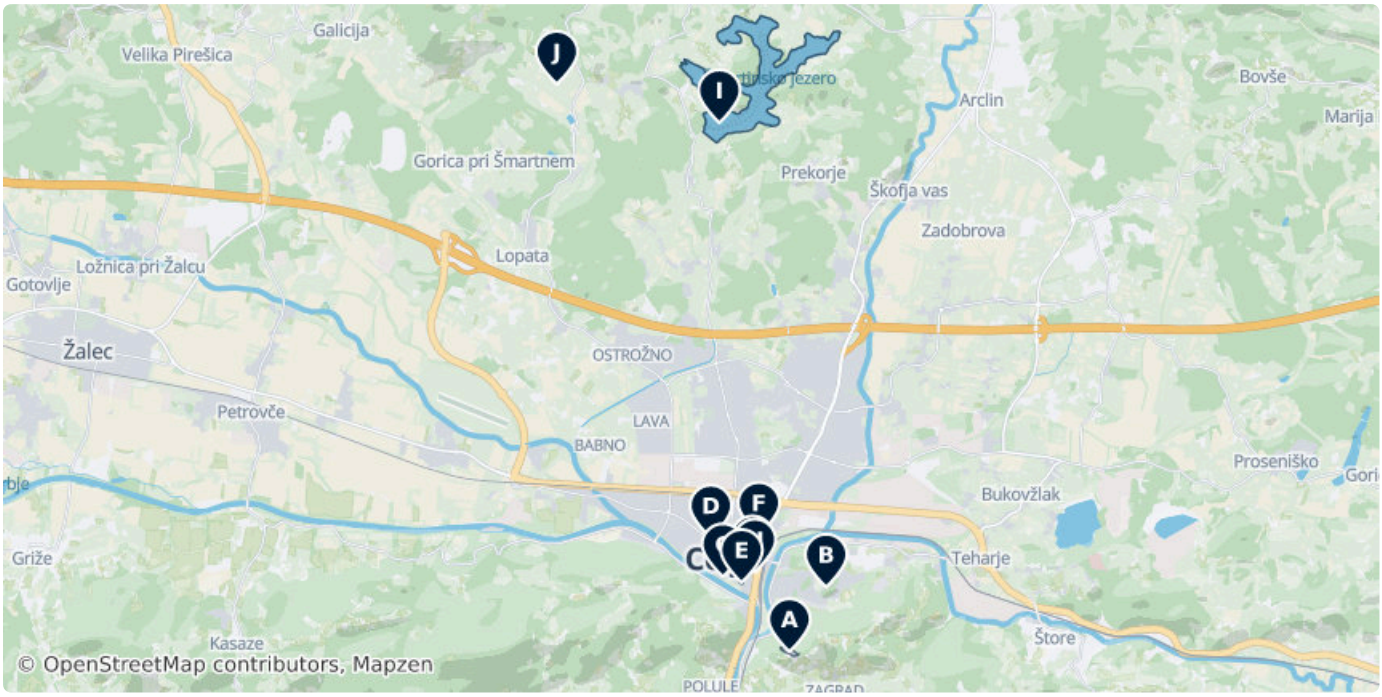
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Slovenian

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Celje's Essential Highlights

Celje's historical landscape is defined by the 14th-century Old Castle, the ancestral seat of the powerful Counts of Celje. The city center preserves Roman Celeia through the Regional Museum's underground exhibits and features the Gothic Celje Cathedral. Architectural landmarks include the Neo-Renaissance Celje Hall and the statue of world traveler Alma M. Karlin. Beyond the urban core, Šmartinsko Lake serves as one of Slovenia's largest artificial reservoirs, while the ruins of Prešnik Castle provide a glimpse into the region's medieval defensive network.





A Celje Castle

Celje Castle, also known as Celje Upper Castle or Old Castle, is a castle ruin in Celje, Slovenia, formerly the seat of the Counts of Celje.

Geološka pot na Stari grad, 3000 Celje, Slovenia (46.21965, 15.27225)

Jan Mo–Su	10:00–16:00
Feb Mo–Su	09:00–17:00
Mar Mo–Su	09:00–18:00
Apr Mo–Su	09:00–19:00
May Mo–Su	09:00–20:00



B Celje Castle

Celje Castle, also known as Celje Upper Castle or Old Castle, is a castle ruin in Celje, Slovenia, formerly the seat of the Counts of Celje.

Cesta na grad 78, 3000 Celje, Slovenia (46.22658, 15.27795)

grad-celje.com, +386 3 544 36 90

Jun-Aug Mo–Su	09:00–21:00
Sep Mo–Su	09:00–20:00
Oct Mo–Su	09:00–18:00
Nov Mo–Su	09:00–17:00
Dec Mo–Su	10:00–16:00

grad-celje.com, +38635443690



C Celje Regional Museum

Take stroll through the history of the Celje region all the way from the ancient Roman times, through the medieval period up to the most...

Muzejski trg 1, 3000 Celje, Slovenia (46.22770, 15.26189)

pokmuz-ce.si, +386 3 428 09 50



D Celje

A nice town set in beautiful lush countryside full of parks and with nearby mountains.

12 Ljubljanska cesta, Celje 3000, Slovenia (46.23187, 15.26001)

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celje



E Celje Cathedral

Celje Cathedral is a Roman Catholic cathedral dedicated to the Prophet Daniel in Celje, Slovenia.

8 Slomškov trg, Celje 3000, Slovenia (46.22710, 15.26480)

celje-stolnica.si



F Cerkev sv. Maksimiljana

Roman Catholic church dedicated to Saint Maximilian of Celeia, built on the site of a 15th-century predecessor. The current structure dates primarily to the 18th century.

20 Aškerčeva ulica, Celje 3000, Slovenia (46.23215, 15.26748)



G Alma M. Karlin Statue

Bronze monument honoring the globetrotter, writer, and polyglot Alma M. Karlin. The statue depicts her with a suitcase, commemorating her eight-year journey around the world starting in 1919.

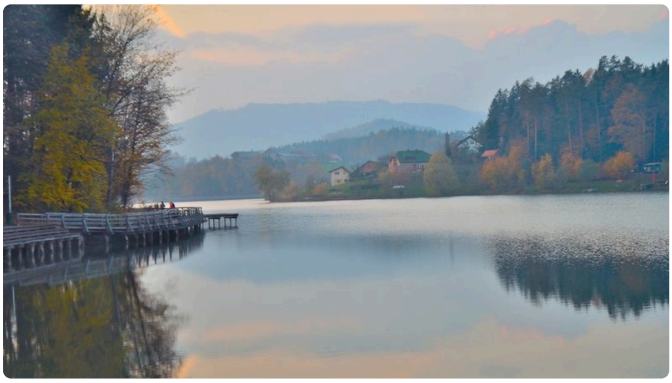
6 Krekov trg, Celje 3000, Slovenia (46.22855, 15.26650)



H Celje Hall

Celje Hall is a community center in Celje, a town in central-eastern Slovenia.

Krekov trg, 3000 Celje, Slovenia (46.22821, 15.26687)



I Lake Šmartno

One of the largest artificial lakes in Slovenia, created in 1970 for flood protection. It features a shoreline walking path and facilities for boating and fishing.

Loče, 3201 Loče, Slovenia (46.27647, 15.26135)

J Grad Prešnik

Ruins of a medieval manor located north of Celje. Historically associated with local nobility, the site offers views of the surrounding Savinja Valley landscape.

(46.28062, 15.23606)

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