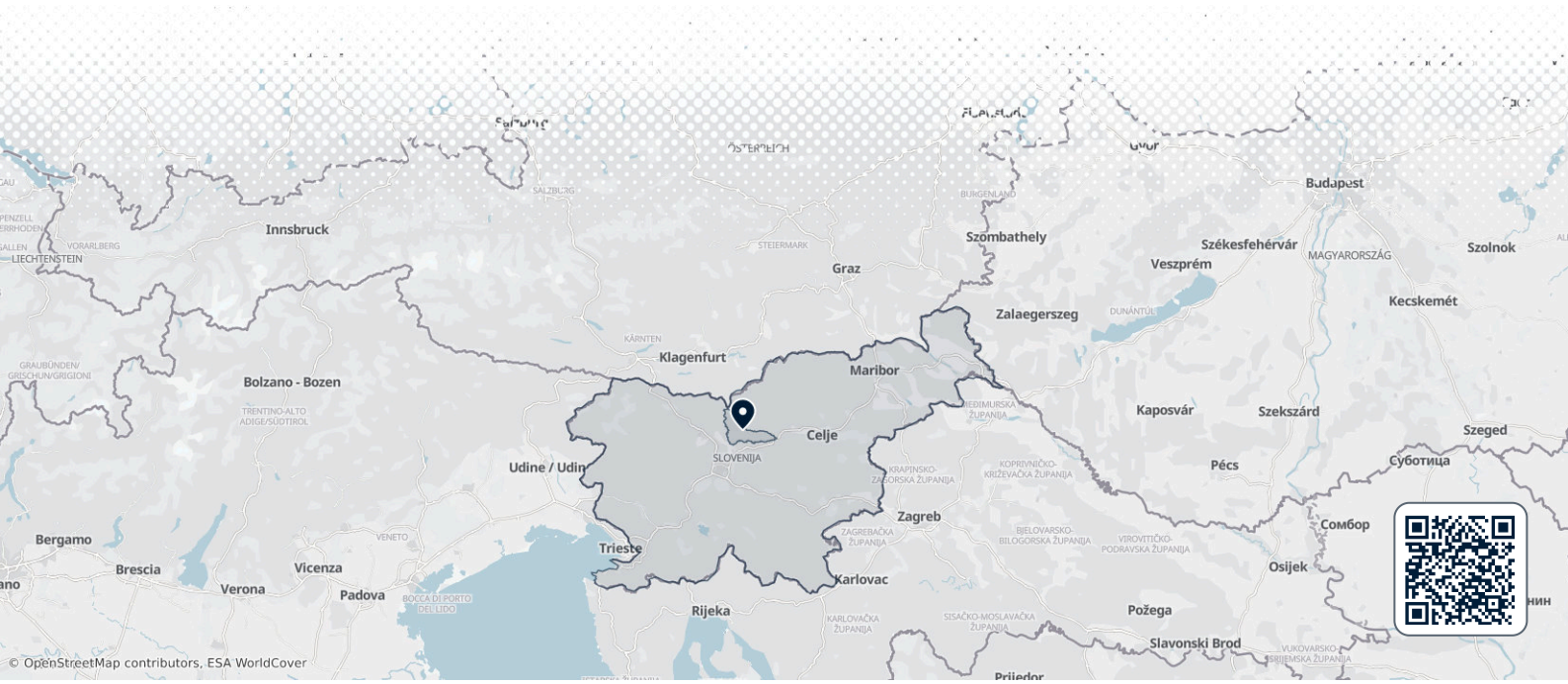


Kamnik

Upper Carniola · Slovenia

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Kamnik is one of Slovenia's oldest towns, set where the Kamniška Bistrica river leaves the mountains. Its small medieval centre sits between two castle hills, with the peaks of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps rising straight behind the rooftops. It is about 25 km north of Ljubljana, so it works as an easy day out or as a quiet base for a few nights.

The town suits travellers who want history and mountains in the same trip. You can spend a morning on its old streets and castle hills, then take a cable car to the herdsmen's huts of Velika Planina or walk into a glacial valley in the afternoon. General *Rudolf Maister*, who secured Maribor for Slovenia after the First World War, was born here.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time. June and September bring warm days and good hiking weather, while July and August are the warmest months, with frequent afternoon storms in the mountains. Winters are cold, and snow covers the high pastures for months.

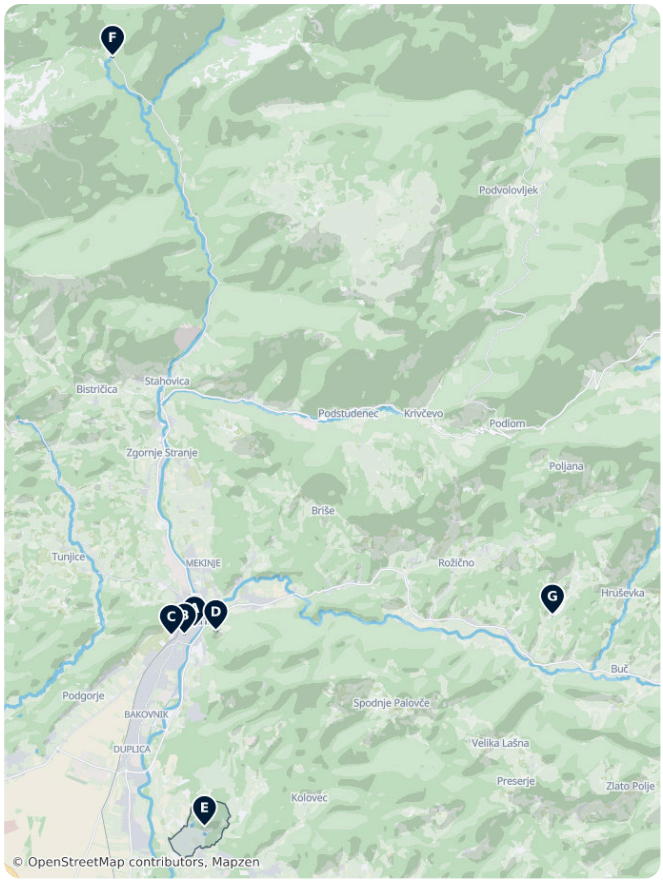
The biggest annual event is the **Days of National Costumes and Clothing Heritage**, held over a weekend in early to mid-September. It started in 1966 and is Slovenia's largest ethnological festival, ending with a Sunday parade of more than 2,000 people in traditional dress.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 11° Feels like 1°	-3° / -10°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 13° Feels like 3°	-2° / -10°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 19° Feels like 8°	1° / -5°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for hiking	16° / 22°	5° / -1°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 26°	10° / 5°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 30°	14° / 9°	14 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	27° / 32°	16° / 11°	Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	27° / 34°	16° / 11°	Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 28°	11° / 6°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for hiking	17° / 23°	7° / 1°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for hiking	10° / 17°	3° / -4°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 11° Feels like 2°	-1° / -9°	Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: June, September

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

Top sights



A Mali grad is the rocky hill in the middle of town and Kamnik's best-known symbol. Its two-storey Romanesque chapel with a crypt is one of the most important medieval monuments in Slovenia, and the hilltop gives views over the rooftops to the Alps.

Šutna, the old craftsmen's street below Mali grad, is the town's most attractive street, with traditional shop signs and old houses. The birth house of *Rudolf Maister* stands here, as does B Church of the Immaculate Conception, a Baroque church from the 1730s with a separate bell tower kept from the earlier Gothic church.

The Franciscan monastery by the main square has a library of about 10,000 books printed before 1800, including a 1584 Slovenian Bible. Its church of St James holds the Chapel of the Holy Sepulchre, designed by *Jože Plečnik*.

C Zaprice Castle sits on a small hill at the edge of the old town. The castle houses the Kamnik regional museum and hosts concerts and events.

D Stari grad is the ruin of a 12th-century castle on the steep hill east of town. The marked path up takes about 30 minutes, and a terrace at the top serves drinks with wide views.

E Volčji Potok Arboretum, about 4 km south of town, is the most visited botanical garden in Slovenia. Its large park is best known for spring flower shows, especially tulips.

F Source of the Kamniška Bistrica is a clear, emerald pool at the head of the Kamniška Bistrica valley, about 12 km north of town. The road ends here among high peaks, and the narrow Predaselj gorge is a short walk away.

G Terme Snovik is a thermal spa in the Tuhinj valley east of Kamnik, with indoor and outdoor pools, water slides and saunas. It is a good choice for a rainy day or with children.

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What to experience

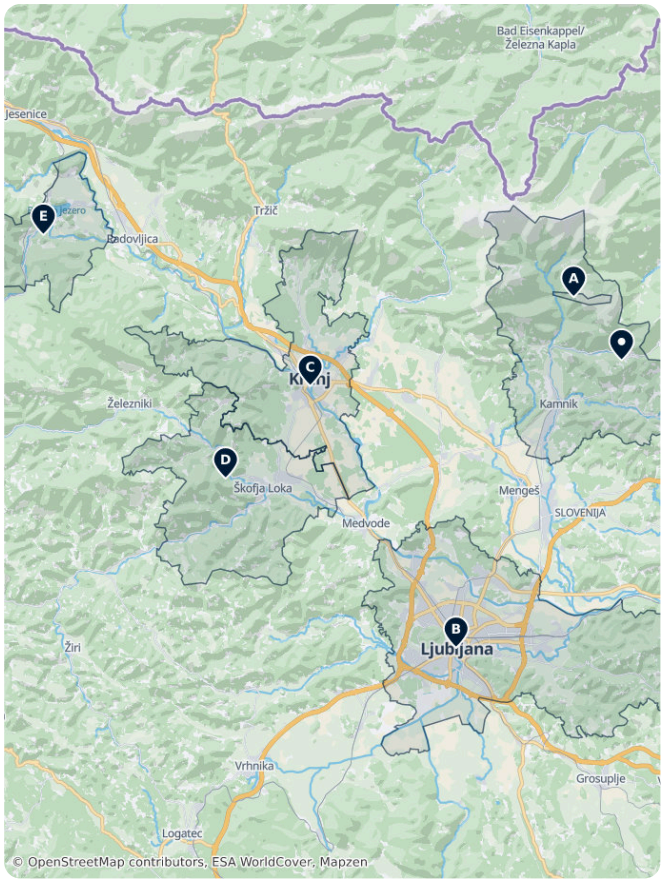
Many of Kamnik's best moments happen outdoors, in the mountains and on the old pastures above town.

- **Ride the cable car to the high pasture**: The cable car from the Kamniška Bistrica valley runs all year. At the top of Velika Planina, walk to the herdsmen's settlement, where cattle graze from early June for about three months.
- **Watch cheese being made**: At the Preskar museum hut on Velika Planina, herdsmen show how *trnič*, a small decorated hard cheese, is made twice a day in summer.
- **Join the Christmas Eve mass on the pasture**: Thousands of people climb to the small Chapel of Mary of the Snows on Velika Planina for midnight mass.
- **Watch the costume parade**: On the Sunday of the September costume festival, more than 2,000 people in traditional dress walk through the old town.
- **Climb a high peak**: Experienced hikers can climb Grintovec, the highest peak of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps, from the head of the Kamniška Bistrica valley. It is a long, steep day in high mountain terrain.

Day trips

Kamnik sits close to the capital, the mountains and the towns of Upper Carniola, so most day trips take under an hour.

- A Velika Planina — about 20 minutes by car to the cable car station in the Kamniška Bistrica valley, then a short ride up. A high pasture with a village of traditional herdsmen's huts and wide mountain views.
- B Ljubljana — about 40 minutes by train or 30 minutes by car. Slovenia's capital has a compact old town, a castle and many restaurants along the river.
- C Kranj — about 30 minutes by car. A small old town on a rocky ridge above the Kokra river canyon.
- D Škofja Loka — about 45 minutes by car. One of the best-preserved medieval towns in Slovenia, with a castle and an old bridge.
- E Bled — about 1 hour by car. The famous lake with its island church and a castle on a cliff.
- **Logarska dolina** — about 1.5 hours by car. A glacial valley on the far side of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps, with waterfalls and farms below steep walls.



Where to explore

For the mountains right above town, see Velika Planina and the wider Kamnik-Savinja Alps.

Other towns in Upper Carniola make good next stops: Kranj, Škofja Loka, Radovljica and Bled. The capital, Ljubljana, is less than an hour away.

Getting there

- **By air**: Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport is about 16 km from Kamnik. A taxi or rental car is the easiest transfer, at about 20–25 minutes.
- **By train**: Trains run from Ljubljana to Kamnik in about 40 minutes, roughly once an hour. Get off at Kamnik Mesto, the stop next to the old town. Slovenian Railways
- **By bus**: Arriva buses run to Ljubljana many times a day; the trip takes about an hour. Arriva timetables
- **By car**: From Ljubljana it is about 25 km and 30 minutes, via the A1 motorway (Domžale exit) or the A2 motorway (Vodice exit).

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town, both castle hills and Zaprice are all within a 15-minute walk of the main square.
- **Buses**: Regional Arriva buses link Kamnik with nearby villages. Bus service up the Kamniška Bistrica valley is limited, so check the timetable before relying on it. Arriva
- **Cycling**: The flat valley floor south of town is easy to ride, including to the arboretum. Roads into the mountain valleys climb steeply.
- **Tourist information**: The office on the main square (Glavni trg) has maps and current timetables. Visit Kamnik

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is compact and both castle hills are a short walk from the main square, though the paths up are steep.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The flat valley south of town is easy to ride, but roads into the mountain valleys climb steeply.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the town itself, which is small and walkable. A car is very useful for the mountain valleys, the arboretum and the spa, where buses are infrequent.
- **Parking**: There are car parks around the edge of the old town; the centre's narrow streets are best explored on foot. At Kamniška Bistrica, park by the lower cable car station.
- **Motorways**: The fastest roads from Ljubljana use motorways, which need an **e-vignette**.
- **Mountain roads**: Roads into the high valleys are narrow and winding, and car parks at popular trailheads fill early on summer weekends.

Food & drink

Look out for *trnič*, the small, decorated hard cheese made by herdsmen on Velika Planina, and for trout from the Tuhinj valley. In the mountain huts above town, simple dishes like sour milk, buckwheat *žganci* and stews are the usual meal after a hike.

In town, the best area for a meal or coffee is the main square (Glavni trg) and Šutna street, where cafés and small restaurants line the old houses. On Velika Planina and at the head of the Kamniška Bistrica valley, the huts and inns serve home cooking with mountain views.

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

Kamnik is a very safe town with little crime. Normal care with valuables is enough, even during the busy September festival.

The main risks are in the mountains. Trails in the Kamnik-Savinja Alps are steep and often exposed, and summer afternoons bring sudden thunderstorms. Start early, carry rain gear and check the weather forecast before a hike. Ticks are common in forests and meadows, so check your skin after walks.

History

Kamnik was first mentioned as a town in 1229, when it was a trading post on the road between Ljubljana and Celje. In the Middle Ages it was one of the main centres of the Bavarian counts of Andechs, one of the most powerful families in Carniola, and the town even had its own mint.

The two castle hills show how the town was guarded. Stari grad, the Upper Castle, controlled the trade route from Styria, while Mali grad stood on the small rock in the middle of town. Stari grad was badly damaged by an earthquake in 1511 and later abandoned. Its ruins still stand on the hill east of town.

Below the castles, Šutna grew as a suburb of craftsmen. Later, Franciscan monks settled by the church of St James. Their friary and its old library still survive. In the 20th century, the architect *Jože Plečnik* added his chapel there and several monuments in and around the town.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Slovenia at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



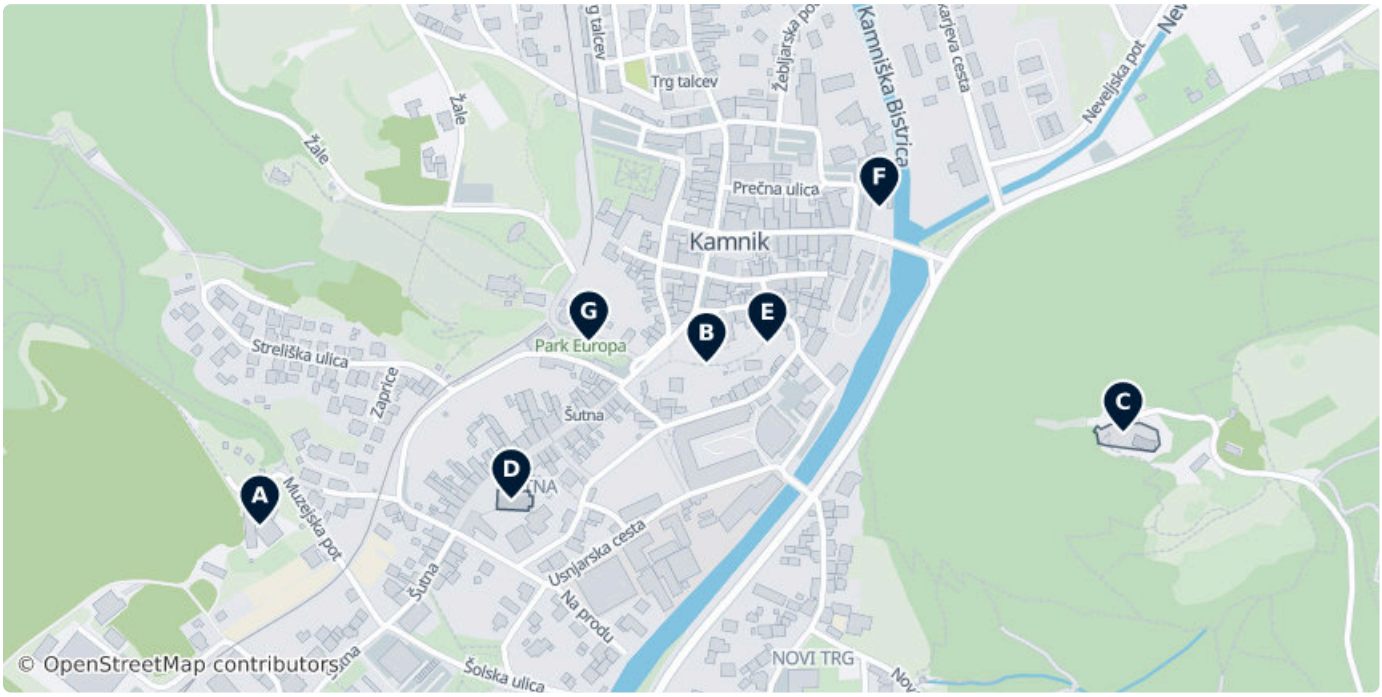
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Slovenian

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Kamnik Essentials

Kamnik, one of Slovenia's oldest towns, is defined by its medieval architecture and strategic alpine location. The town features a unique trio of castles: the hilltop ruins of Stari grad, the central Mali grad with its Romanesque chapel, and the Renaissance-style Zaprice Castle. The historic core includes the Franciscan Church of the Immaculate Conception and the Kamniška Tržnica market. Set beneath the Kamnik-Savinja Alps, these sites showcase the town's development from the 11th century through the Baroque period.





A Zaprice Castle

Zaprice Castle is a castle in Zaprice, now part of the town of Kamnik, Slovenia.

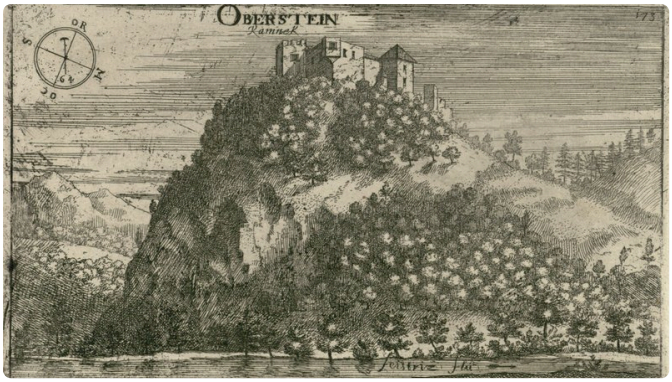
3 Muzejska pot, Kamnik 1241, Slovenia
(46.22310, 14.60560)



B Small Castle

Little Castle in Kamnik, Slovenia, once formed part of a castle constructed in the 11th or early 12th century at the strategic site above...

8 Parmova ulica, Kamnik 1241, Slovenia
(46.22461, 14.61159)



C Stari grad

Ruins of a 12th-century fortress situated on Krniška gora hill. It serves as a viewpoint offering panoramic vistas of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps and the Ljubljana Basin.

5 Novi trg, 1241, Slovenia (46.22397, 14.61717)



D Cerkev Marijinega Brezmadežnega Spočetja

Franciscan church and monastery featuring a Baroque interior and a library with over 10,000 volumes, including rare incunabula. The complex has been a cultural center since the 13th century.

1 Raspov Prehod, Kamnik 1241, Slovenia (46.22334, 14.60898)

zupnija-kamnik.rkc.si

E Mali grad

Elevated vantage point on a rocky outcrop in the town center. It provides views of medieval rooftops and the surrounding mountains, located adjacent to a dual-level Romanesque chapel.

(46.22480, 14.61241)

F Kamniška Tržnica

Local marketplace offering seasonal produce, traditional Slovenian cheeses, and handmade crafts from the surrounding Gorenjska region.

(46.22605, 14.61391)

G Park Europa

Landscaped urban park located near the main railway station, featuring walking paths and green spaces used for cultural events and public gatherings.

(46.22481, 14.61001)

DATA SOURCES

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- Small Castle — "Mali Grad Church" by Vojko Kalan, CC0
- Stari grad — "Kamnik Upper Castle" by Johann Weikhard von Valvasor, Public domain
- Cerkev Marijinega Brezmadežnega Spočetja — "Cerkev Marijinega brezmadežnega spočetja, Kamnik (2025)" by Petar Milošević, cc-by-sa-4.0

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