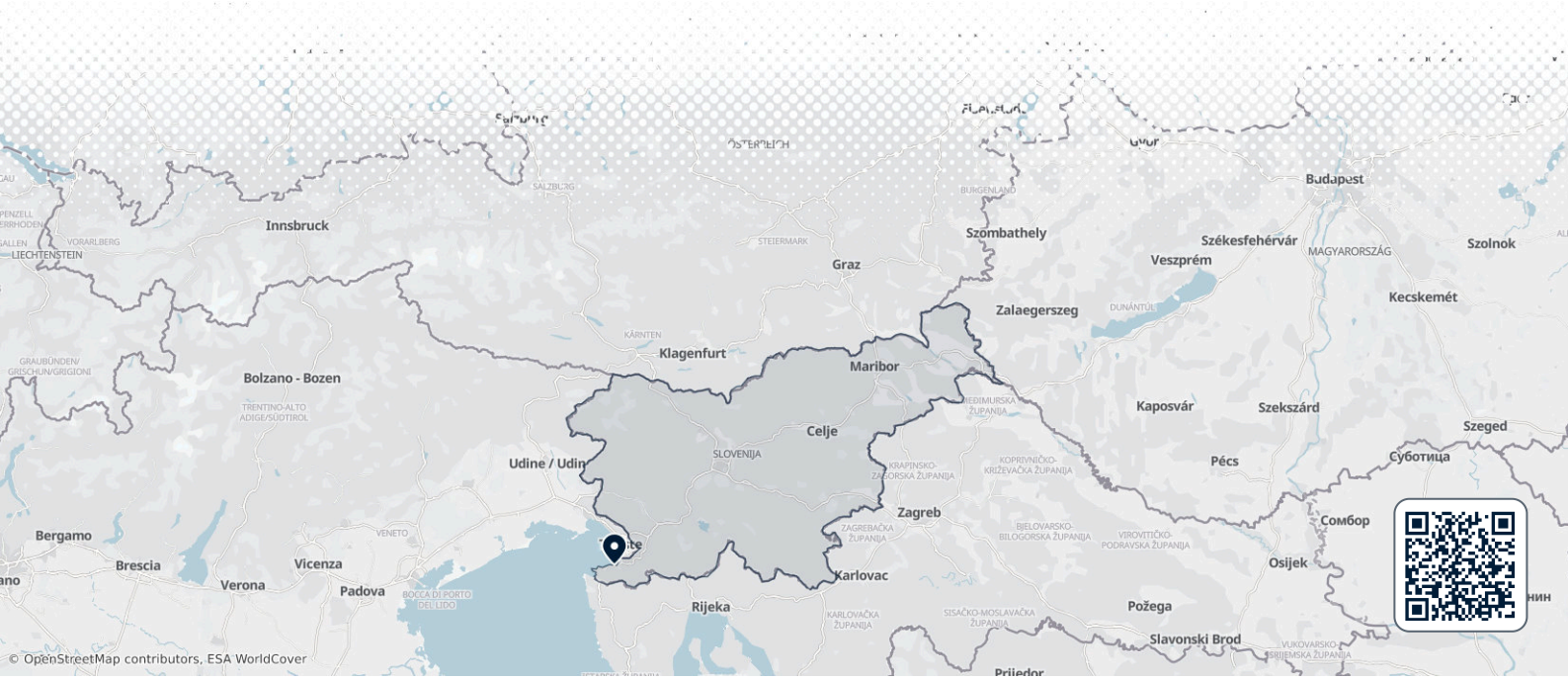


Koper

Slovenia

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Koper is the largest town on Slovenia's short Adriatic coast and the country's main port. Its old town sits on a former island, now joined to the mainland. Inside it you find narrow stone lanes, Venetian palaces and one of the finest main squares on the coast. Around it are the cranes and container ships of the busy port, which gives the town a working, everyday feel.

Koper is less polished and less crowded than Piran or Portorož, and often cheaper. It is a practical base for the whole coast and the hills of Slovenian Istria, with the best rail and bus links in the region. Signs are in both Slovenian and Italian, because the town has an Italian-speaking community. A day is enough for the old town itself.

When to visit

May, June and September are the best months. Days are warm, the sea is good for swimming from June, and the town is calm. July and August are hot and busier, especially when cruise ships are in port. Winter is mild but often grey and wet, and autumn brings the most rain.

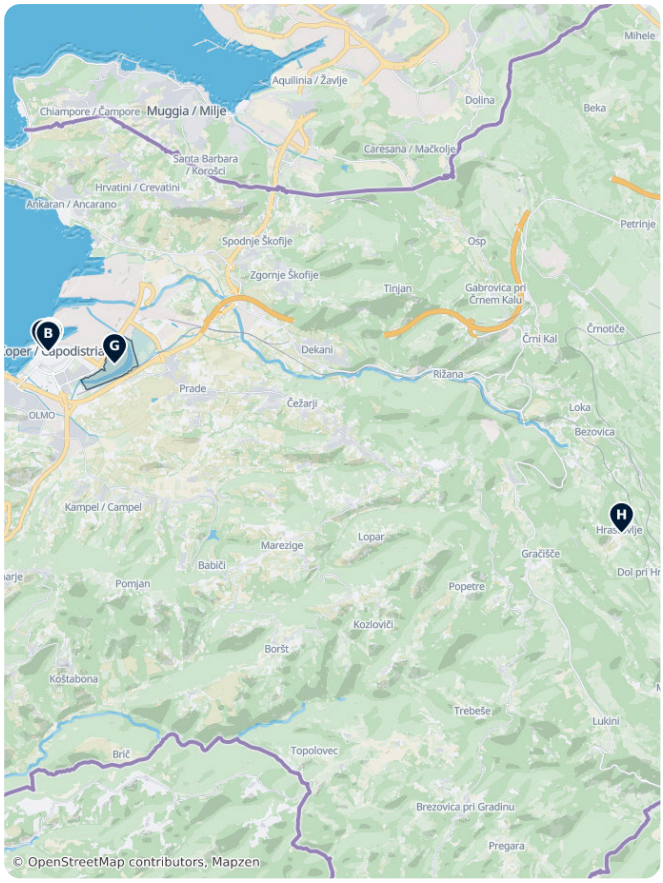
The biggest local event is **Sweet Istria** (Sladka Istra), a festival of Istrian cakes, sweets and local wine held in the old town in early autumn. In December, the Fantazima Advent programme opens some of the old palaces for evening walks.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for cycling	8° / 12° Feels like 4°	3° / -2°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Fair Fair for cycling	9° / 13° Feels like 5°	3° / -2°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for cycling	12° / 16° Feels like 9°	6° / 1°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for cycling	16° / 21°	9° / 5°	Dry air · Calm winds
May	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 25°	14° / 10°	Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 30°	18° / 14°	Humid air · Calm winds
July	Great Great for the beach	27° / 31°	20° / 17°	Humid air · Calm winds
August	Great Great for the beach	27° / 32°	21° / 17°	Humid air · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 27°	17° / 12°	Calm winds
October	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 22°	13° / 8°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for cycling	13° / 18°	9° / 3°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Fair Fair for cycling	9° / 13° Feels like 6°	4° / -1°	Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: May, June, July, September

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights



A Tito Square is the heart of the old town and one of the most beautiful Venetian squares on the Adriatic. The cathedral, the town hall and several 15th-century palaces stand around it, and it hosts concerts and events in summer.

B Praetorian Palace fills the south side of the square with its Gothic arches and battlements. It still houses the town hall, and parts of it, including an old pharmacy collection, are open to visitors for a fee.

C Cathedral of the Assumption in Koper mixes a Gothic lower façade with Renaissance upper floors. Next to it, climb the 204 steps of the bell tower for the best view over the roofs, the port and the Gulf of Koper.

D Loggia Palace faces the town hall across the square. It is the only Gothic town hall preserved in Slovenia. A café fills the ground floor, and an art gallery uses the upper floor.

E Rotunda of St. John the Baptist is a small round Romanesque baptistery just behind the cathedral. It is one of the oldest buildings in town.

F Koper Regional Museum occupies an early 17th-century palace near the square. It covers the archaeology, art and history of the region, and has a copy of the famous Hrastovlje Dance of Death fresco.

The **Da Ponte Fountain** stands on Prešeren Square at the southern edge of the old town. Built in 1666, it has a small stone bridge over its basin. The Renaissance Muda Gate, the last of the old town gates, is next to it.

G Škocjan Inlet Nature Reserve is a restored lagoon and wetland on the edge of town, about 3 km from the centre. Footpaths and bird hides let you watch herons, waders and many migrating birds, and entry is free.

H Holy Trinity Church, Hrastovlje is a small fortified church in a village about 25 minutes

inland by car. Its walls are covered with frescoes from 1490, including a famous *Dance of Death*.

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What to experience

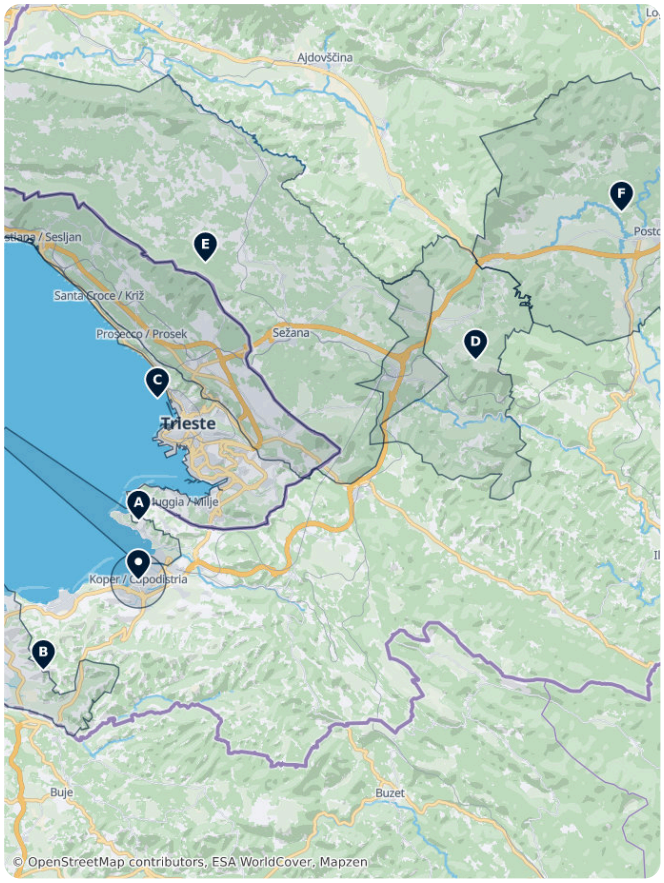
Koper is best enjoyed slowly, like the locals do:

- **Climb the bell tower late in the day**: After the 204 steps, watch the soft afternoon light over the old town, the cranes of the port and the gulf towards Trieste.
- **Coffee in the Loggia**: Sit under the Gothic arches of Loggia Palace, in one of the oldest cafés in Slovenia, and watch life on the main square.
- **Birdwatching in the lagoon**: Walk the paths of Škocjan Inlet Nature Reserve early in the morning, when herons, egrets and waders feed in the shallow water.
- **Cycling the Parenzana**: Ride the old railway route from Koper along the sea to Izola, with water on one side and vineyards on the other.
- **Wine in the Istrian hills**: In the villages above Koper, family wineries pour red Refošk and white Malvazija, often with home-made olive oil and ham.

Day trips

Koper is central on the coast, so most day trips take under an hour. The Karst plateau and the Italian border are both close.

- A Ankaran — about 15 minutes by car or bus. A quiet green peninsula with beaches, pine trees and a long seaside path.
- Izola — about 15 minutes by bus. A small fishing town with a harbour, an old town and seafood restaurants.
- B Piran — about 30 to 40 minutes by bus. A Venetian-era town on a narrow peninsula with red roofs and a white stone square.
- C Trieste — about 30 to 45 minutes by car or bus. A grand Italian port city with old cafés and a huge square open to the sea.
- Škocjan Caves — about 40 minutes by car, near D Divača on the E Kras plateau. A UNESCO-listed underground canyon cut by a river.
- F Postojna — about 50 minutes by car. Slovenia's best-known cave, toured by a small train, with Predjama Castle nearby.



Where to explore

Koper is a good base for the rest of the coast and the Karst:

- Ankaran — the green peninsula just north of the port, with quiet beaches and a seaside path.
- Piran — the coast's best-preserved old town, at the tip of the next peninsula.
- Portorož — the main beach resort, with large hotels, spas and a sandy beach.
- Kras — the stone plateau inland, known for caves, stone villages, red Teran wine and air-dried ham.

Getting there

- **By air**: The closest airport is Trieste Airport in Italy, about 1 hour by car. Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport is about 1.5 hours by car, and Venice Marco Polo Airport about 2 hours. From Ljubljana airport, shared shuttle transfers run to the coast; otherwise take a bus into Ljubljana and change.
- **By train**: Koper is the end of the line from Ljubljana. There are only a few direct trains a day, and the trip takes about 2.5 to 3 hours. The station is about 20 minutes on foot from the old town. Slovenian Railways
- **By bus**: The bus station is next to the railway station. Buses from Ljubljana are usually faster than the train and more frequent. Long-distance coaches also link Koper with Trieste and other cities in Italy and Croatia.
- **By car**: The A1 motorway connects Koper with Ljubljana, and a short motorway leads to the Italian border near Trieste.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town is small and flat, and most of it is closed to cars. You can cross it in about 15 minutes, and the city beach and the market are on its edge.
- **City buses**: Arriva runs the Koper city lines, including to Žusterna beach and the station. **Cash is not accepted on board.** Pay by tapping a contactless Visa or Mastercard, or use the rechargeable Koper card. Arriva – Koper city transport
- **Regional buses**: Frequent buses run along the coast to Izola, Portorož and Piran, and north to Ankaran.
- **Cycling**: The car-free Parenzana trail, a former railway line, passes through Koper near the station. It runs past the Škocjanski zatok reserve and along the coast towards Izola.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is compact, flat and largely car-free; the city beach, market and marina are on its edge.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The car-free Parenzana trail links Koper with the Škocjanski zatok reserve and runs along the coast to Izola; town streets outside the old town carry heavy port traffic.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for Koper itself; the old town is walkable and buses reach the coast towns. A car is useful for the Istrian villages, Hrastovlje and the Karst caves.
- **Parking**: The old town is largely closed to visitor traffic. Use the paid car parks around its edge, near the market, the marina and the city beach. Car parks on the coast are busy and more expensive in summer.
- **Motorway vignette**: Slovenian motorways and expressways, including the A1 to Ljubljana, require an **e-vignette**. Buy it online before you drive on them.

Food & drink

Koper's food is Istrian and Mediterranean. Look for grilled fish, squid and shellfish, pasta with seafood or truffles, and *maneštra*, a thick Istrian soup of beans and vegetables. Try local olive oil and the coastal wines: red Refošk and white Malvazija. For dessert, look for small fried *fritole* and the Istrian twisted pastry *hroštole*.

For cafés, sit on Tito Square or Carpaccio Square by the old harbour. For lunch and dinner, the lanes of the old town and the seafront along the marina have the most choice. Visit the market at the edge of the old town in the morning for fruit, vegetables, fish and local cheese. In autumn, small farm taverns in the hills behind Koper serve simple home cooking with their own wine.

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

Koper is very safe, including at night. Petty theft is rare, but watch your bags on crowded buses and when cruise ships are in port.

- **Sea urchins**: They are common on rocky and concrete shores. Wear water shoes when swimming.
- **Sun and heat**: Summer sun is strong. There is little shade in the wetland reserve and on the beaches, so bring water and a hat.
- **Bora wind**: In winter, the cold bora wind can blow very hard. It can make the seafront unpleasant and sometimes disrupts traffic on the Karst roads.

History

Koper began as a settlement on a small island in the bay. The Romans called it Capris. In the 6th century it was renamed Justinopolis after a Byzantine emperor.

In 1278, the town joined the Republic of Venice. Under Venice it became the capital of Venetian Istria, and grew rich from salt and trade. Most of what you see today dates from this time: Tito Square, Praetorian Palace and Loggia Palace, with the winged Lion of St Mark on many façades. Venetian rule lasted until 1797.

After Austrian rule and World War I, Koper became part of Italy. After World War II, it fell into the Yugoslav zone of the Free Territory of Trieste and joined Yugoslavia in 1954. Most of its Italian-speaking population left. Over the 19th and 20th centuries, the salt pans and marshes around the island were filled in, so the old town is now part of the mainland. The modern port, founded in 1957, was built on this reclaimed land. Since 1991, Koper has been part of independent Slovenia, and it is the country's only commercial port.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Slovenia at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



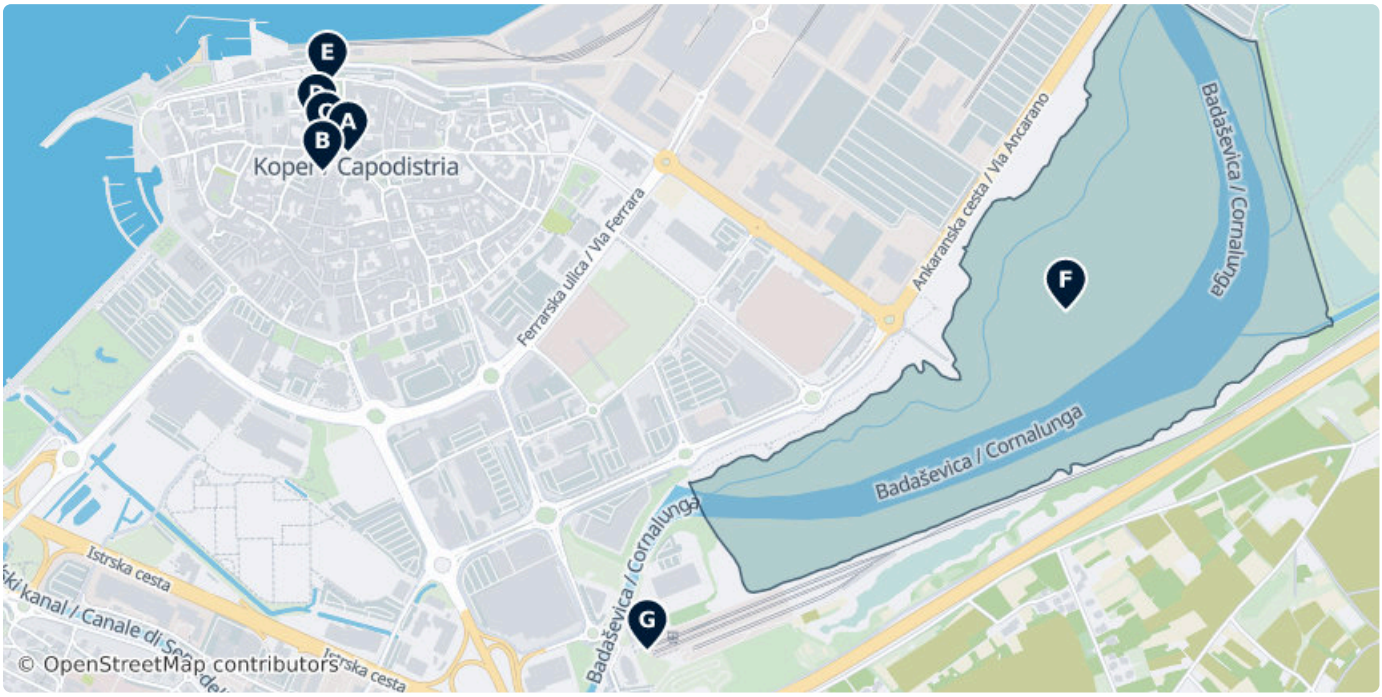
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Slovenian

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Koper Essentials

Koper's historic core is defined by its well-preserved Venetian Gothic architecture, centered around the grand Tito Square. The 15th-century Praetorian Palace and the Loggia Palace reflect the city's maritime heritage, while the Cathedral of the Assumption houses significant religious art. Beyond the stone streets, the Škocjanski zatok nature reserve protects the largest brackish wetland in Slovenia, while the U.37 steam locomotive serves as a monument to the historic Parenzana narrow-gauge railway.





A Cathedral of the Assumption in Koper

The Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary also called Koper Cathedral is the Catholic cathedral of the Diocese of Koper,...

1 Trg Brolo, Koper 6000, Slovenia (45.54825, 13.73027)



B Praetorian Palace

The Praetorian Palace is a 15th-century Venetian Gothic palace in the city of Koper, in southwest Slovenia.

Titov Trg 1, Koper 6000, Slovenia (45.54790, 13.72958)



C Loggia Palace

The Loggia Palace is a Venetian Gothic palace in Koper, a port town in southwestern Slovenia.

Titov trg / Piazza Tito, 6000 Koper / Capodistria, Slovenia (45.54843, 13.72966)

D Gledališče

Professional regional theatre located near the Koper waterfront, featuring a diverse program of drama and cultural events in a historic setting.

Verdijeva ulica / Via Giuseppe Verdi 3, 6000 Koper / Capodistria (45.54878, 13.72944)

gledalisce-koper.si

E Pier Paolo Vergerio

Pier Paolo Vergerio, the Younger, was an Italian papal nuncio and later Protestant reformer.

10 Verdijeva ulica, Koper 6000, Slovenia (45.54955, 13.72972)



F Škocjanski zatok / Val Stagnon

The largest brackish wetland in Slovenia, this nature reserve features a mix of salt and freshwater habitats. It serves as a vital sanctuary for numerous bird species and includes walking trails and observation towers.

6000, Slovenia (45.54530, 13.74949)

skocjanski-zatok.org



U.37

A restored narrow-gauge steam locomotive from the historic Parenzana railway line, which once connected Trieste and Poreč. It stands as a monument to the region's early 20th-century transport history.

11 Kolodvorska cesta, 6000, Slovenia (45.53892, 13.73828)

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- Škocjanski zatok / Val Stagnon — "Škocjanski zatok 07" by AnaJur, cc-by-sa-3.0
- U.37 — "En: Old Austrian U-class narrow gauge engine U.37 of the Parenzana railway on..." by Herbert Ortner, CC BY 2.5

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