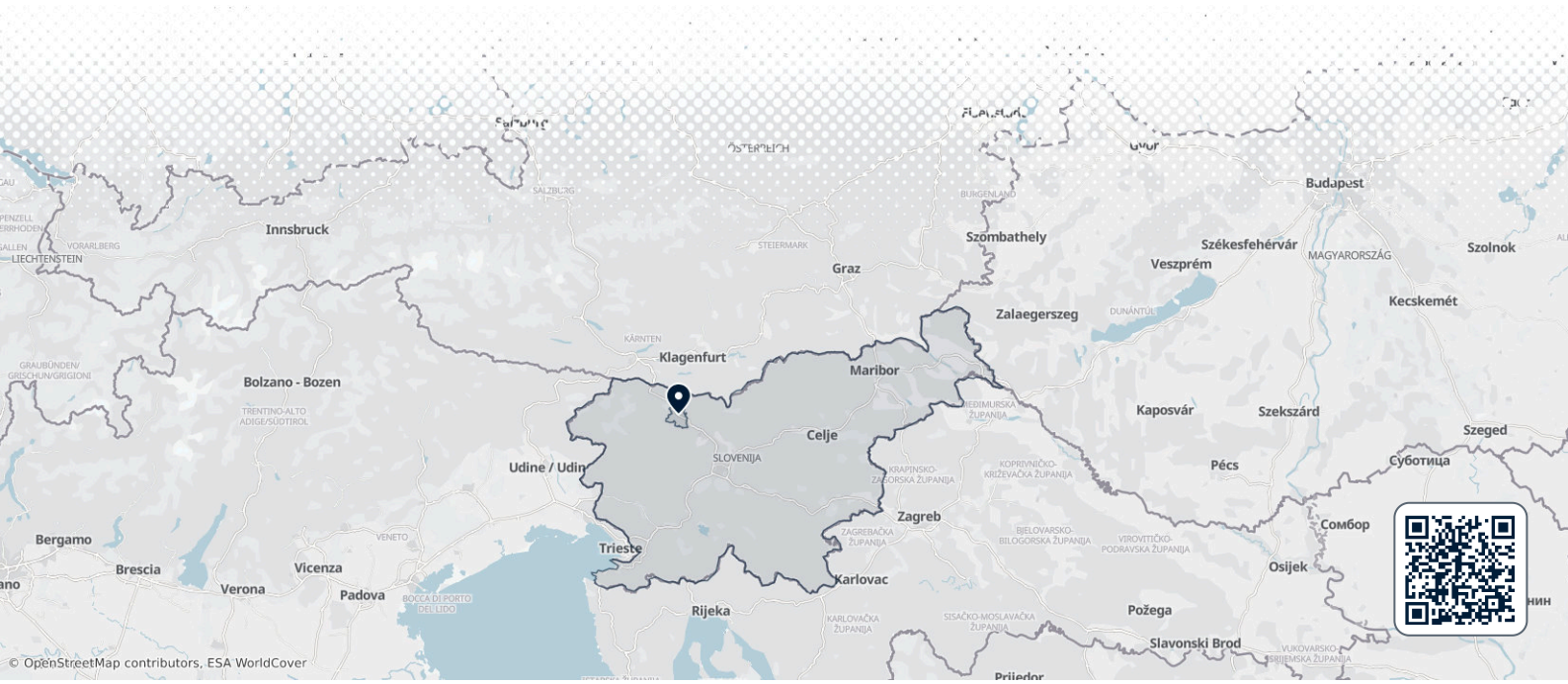


Radovljica

Upper Carniola · Slovenia

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Radovljica is a small historic town in Upper Carniola, about 7 km from Lake Bled. Its old town sits on a high terrace above the Sava River, with views across to the Julian Alps and the Karavanke mountains. The centre is a single long square lined with painted 16th- and 17th-century town houses, and it is small enough to see in a morning.

The town is known for its food and crafts: honey, beekeeping and traditional decorated honeybread hearts. It suits travellers who want a quieter base than Bled, with easy access to the lakes and mountains. The villages around it add iron-forging heritage, folk music and Slovenia's main pilgrimage church. The playwright and historian *Anton Tomaž Linhart*, author of the first comedy in Slovene, was born here.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time, with mild to warm days and open hiking trails. Summer brings frequent afternoon thunderstorms. Winter is cold and frosty, with snow on the mountains, and December has festive markets and concerts in the old town.

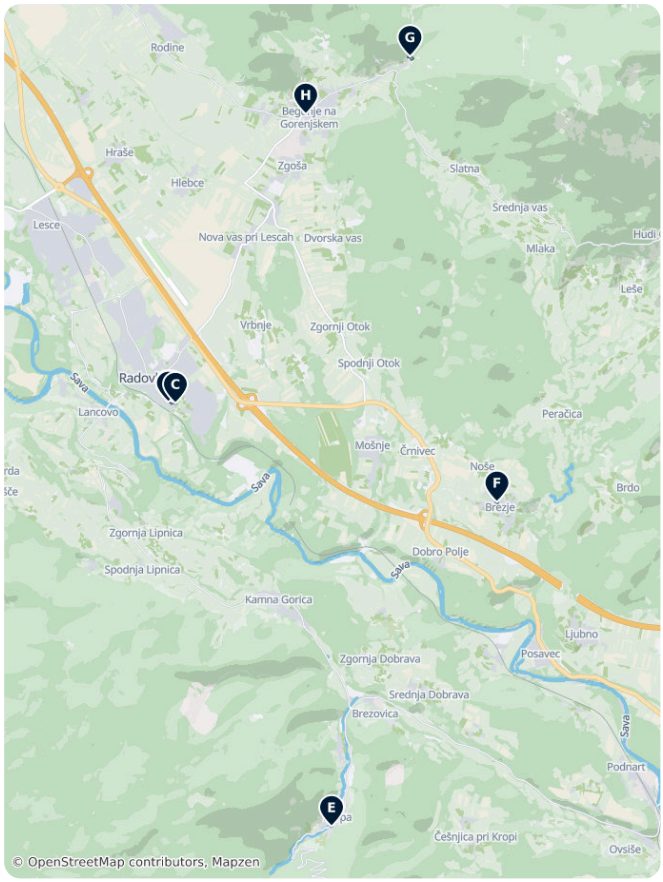
The biggest annual event is the **Chocolate Festival** in April. Chocolate makers from Slovenia and abroad fill the old town for a weekend, with tastings, workshops, concerts and street entertainment. Book accommodation early if your trip falls on that weekend.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 10° Feels like 0°	-4° / -12°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 14° Feels like 2°	-3° / -12°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for hiking	10° / 18°	1° / -7°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for hiking	15° / 22°	4° / -2°	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	24° / 31°	13° / 8°	16 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 32°	15° / 10°	17 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 33°	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° / -5°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 10° Feels like 1°	-2° / -10°	Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

Most sights are on or near Linhartov trg, the long main square of the old town. The villages of the wider area are a short drive away.



- **A** Municipal and Beekeeping Museum fills Radovljica Manor, the large 18th-century building on the main square. The beekeeping exhibition is the most complete in Slovenia, with famous painted beehive panels. The same building has an exhibition on *Anton Tomaž Linhart*.
- **B** Lectar Gingerbread Museum is in a house where honeybread has been made since 1766. The museum shows how the traditional red hearts are made, and a restaurant and guesthouse share the building.
- **C** St Peter's Church is the Gothic parish church at the end of the square. Look up at the star-shaped ribs of the vault, and see the black marble high altar.
- **D** Šivec House is one of the best-preserved 16th-century town houses on the square. It now holds art exhibitions.
- **E** Iron Forging Museum is in Kropa, a village in a narrow valley a short drive south of the town. Kropa forged iron nails for centuries, and the museum explains the craft from ore to finished nail.
- **F** Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Brezje is Slovenia's national shrine and its main pilgrimage church. The image of Mary Help of Christians hangs in a side chapel.
- **G** Kamen Castle is a medieval castle ruin on a rocky ridge at the entrance to the Draga valley near Begunje. The ruins include a Romanesque tower and later Gothic and Renaissance residences.
- **H** Avsenik Museum in Begunje tells the story of the Avsenik brothers, who created the Slovenian folk-pop style in the 1950s.

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What to experience

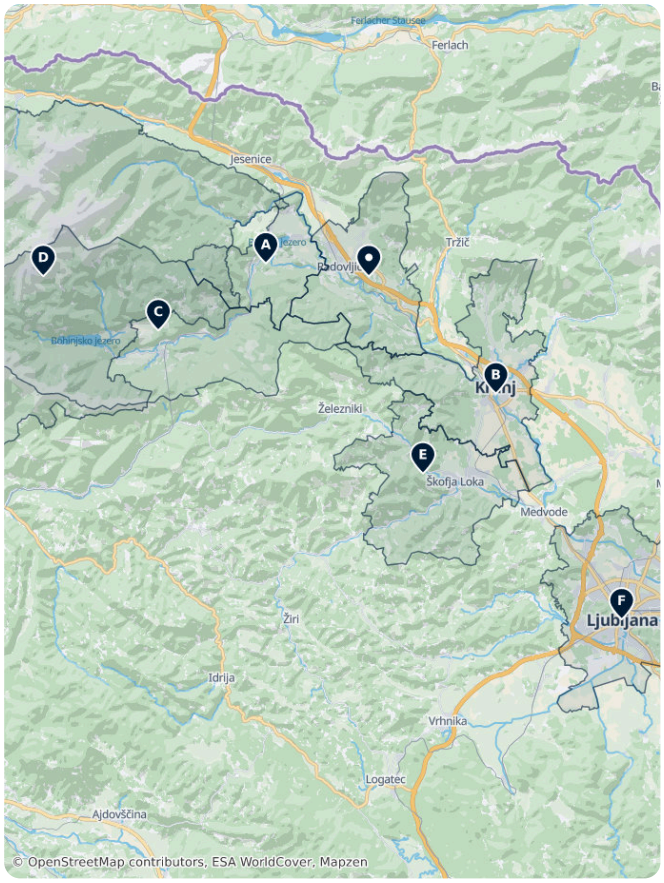
Radovljica's most memorable experiences are linked to its crafts and traditions.

- **Decorate a honeybread heart**: Groups can book a workshop at the Lectar house and decorate their own traditional heart to take home.
- **Watch the bees**: From May to October, the observation hive at Municipal and Beekeeping Museum lets you watch Carniolan bees at work. In July and August the museum also runs beeswax-candle making on set days.
- **See nails forged in Kropa**: At the Vigenjc Vice forge, a 19th-century nail smithy with a working water wheel, guides demonstrate hand forging on guided tours or by arrangement.
- **Kropa Blacksmiths' Festival**: On the first weekend of July, Kropa celebrates its iron heritage with forging and village festivities.
- **Folk music in Begunje**: The Avsenik restaurant in Begunje, where the band's story began, hosts weekly folk music evenings.
- **Pilgrimage day at Brezje**: On 24 May, the feast of Mary Help of Christians, large crowds of pilgrims gather at Basilica of Mary Help of Christians.

Day trips

Radovljica is a convenient base for the lakes and towns of Upper Carniola. Distances are short, so most trips work as half days.

- A Bled (7 km, about 10 minutes by car or bus): the lake with its island church and castle on a cliff.
- Prešeren House in Vrba (about 8 km by car): the farmhouse where the national poet *France Prešeren* was born, now a small museum.
- B Kranj (about 25 km, around 30 minutes by train or car): a compact old town on a rocky ridge above a river canyon.
- C Bohinj (about 35 km, 40 minutes by car): a larger, quieter glacial lake inside D Triglav National Park, with the Savica waterfall and the Vogel cable car.
- E Škofja Loka (about 35 km, 40 minutes by car): one of Slovenia's best-preserved medieval towns, with a castle above the old town.
- F Ljubljana (about 48 km, around 40 minutes by car, longer by train): the capital, with its castle, river bridges and central market.



Where to explore

Radovljica shares Upper Carniola with several of Slovenia's best-known destinations.

- **Lakes and mountains**: Bled, Bohinj, Kranjska Gora and Triglav National Park.
- **Historic towns**: Kranj, Škofja Loka and Kamnik.
- **The capital**: Ljubljana is less than an hour away.

Getting there

- **By air**: Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport is 29 km away, less than 30 minutes by car. There is no train to the airport, so a taxi or a pre-booked transfer is the easiest option.
- **By train**: Radovljica is on the railway line from Ljubljana to Jesenice. Regional trains stop at Radovljica station, below the old town. Lesce-Bled station in neighbouring Lesce is the main station of the area, and all international trains stop there. Slovenian Railways
- **By bus**: Regular buses link Radovljica bus station with Ljubljana, Kranj, Jesenice, Bled, Bohinj and Kranjska Gora. Arriva Slovenia
- **By car**: The town is just off the A2 motorway between Ljubljana and the Karavanke tunnel to Austria. Ljubljana is about 48 km away.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town is small and flat, and everything on the main square is a few minutes apart. The bus and train stations are a short walk from the square.
- **Local buses**: Buses link Radovljica with Lesce, Begunje, Kropa, Brezje and Bled. At stops without a ticket office, pay the driver in cash. Arriva Slovenia
- **Cycling**: Quiet country roads and bike paths link the villages of the plateau and lead on to Bled. Expect some climbs toward the mountains.
- **Taxi**: Useful for the airport and for villages with few buses. Book by phone in advance.
- **Tourist information**: The information centre is at the entrance to the old town. Radol'ca tourist board

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is small and flat, and the bus and train stations are a short walk from the main square.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Quiet country roads link the surrounding villages and Bled, but some routes climb toward the mountains.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the old town itself. A car is useful for Kropa, the Draga valley and other villages with few buses.
- **Parking**: Park outside the old town. Blue-zone spaces along Gorenjska cesta and nearby streets are limited to 2–3 hours; display your arrival time with a parking disc or a note. The underground car park at Vurnikov trg costs about €8 per day.
- **Motorway**: The A2 motorway passes the town and needs an e-vignette.

Food & drink

Radovljica is known for honey and for honeybread (lect), a hard, honey-based dough shaped into decorated red hearts. They are sold as souvenirs and gifts rather than eaten as a snack. Look for local honey from the many beekeepers of the area.

For a meal, the old inns (gostilna) on and around Linhartov trg serve Upper Carniolan home cooking, and the Lectar house has its own restaurant. From late October to the end of November, local restaurants take part in the Local Menus Month, with set menus made from seasonal local produce.

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

Radovljica is very safe, and serious crime against visitors is rare. Normal care with belongings is enough.

The main risks are outdoors. Ticks are common in forests and meadows, so check your skin after hikes. Mountain weather changes quickly, and summer afternoons often bring thunderstorms. Start mountain hikes early and carry rain gear.

History

Radovljica was first mentioned in 1296 and received market rights in 1333. It grew on a defensive terrace above the Sava River and passed from the Counts of Ortenburg to the Counts of Celje and then to the

Habsburgs. The old town keeps its medieval layout around the main square, and St Peter's Church was rebuilt in Gothic style around 1500.

The surrounding area grew rich on iron. From the 15th century, smiths in Kropa forged nails that were sold across Europe, and Iron Forging Museum preserves this story. Near Begunje, Kamen Castle guarded an old trade route through the Draga valley.

Anton Tomaž Linhart was born in Radovljica in 1756. His comedy *Županova Micka*, first staged in 1789, was the first play in Slovene, and his history of Carniola helped shape Slovene national identity.

During the Second World War, the German occupiers used Katzenstein Manor in Begunje as a Gestapo prison. Museum of Hostages now occupies its former cells. Thousands of prisoners passed through, and hundreds of executed hostages are buried in the Draga valley.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Slovenia at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



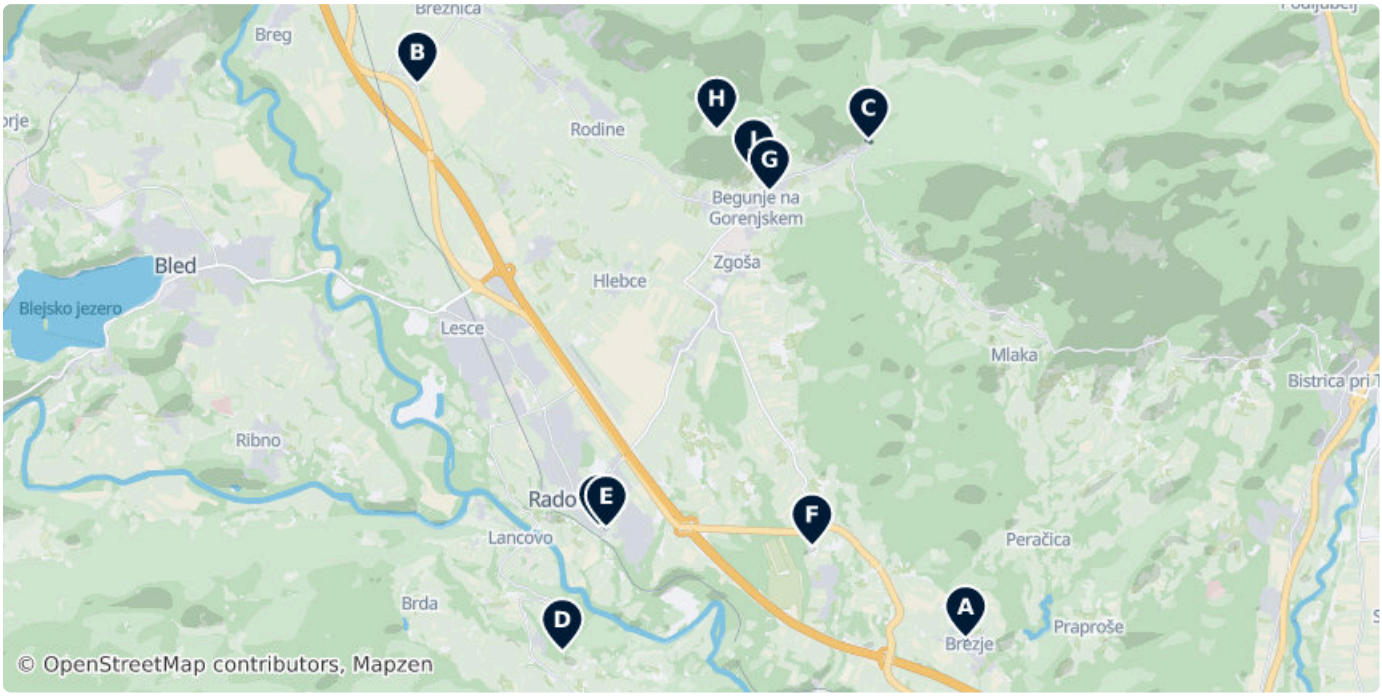
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Slovenian

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Radovljica's Essential Gems

Radovljica’s historic center features well-preserved medieval architecture, including the 16th-century Šivec House and the Gothic Church of St. Peter. The surrounding landscape is marked by significant cultural landmarks, such as the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Brezje, Slovenia's primary pilgrimage site, and the birthplace of national poet France Prešeren in Vrba. Defensive history is visible at the ruins of Kamen and Lipnica castles, while architectural heritage continues in Begunje with Jože Plečnik’s Murke Pavilion.





A Bazilika Marije pomagaj

Slovenia's most important pilgrimage site, this Neo-Renaissance basilica houses the renowned 1814 painting of Mary Help of Christians by Leopold Layer, located within the Chapel of Grace.

72 Brezje, Brezje 4243, Slovenia (46.32878, 14.23224)

marija.si



B Prešeren House

The Prešeren House is a house in the village of Vrba in the Municipality of Žirovnica in Slovenia.

Vrba 2, 4274 Žirovnica (46.38790, 14.14749)

zirovnica.eu/domov/, +386 4 5802092



C Kamen Castle

An impressive ruin situated on the foot-hills of the mighty Slovenian Alps. A great sight surely worth visiting.

Grad Kamen, 4275 Radovljica, Slovenia (46.38195, 14.21723)

D Lipnica Castle

Lipnica Castle, also known as Deserted Castle above the Lipnica, is a castle ruin near the settlement of Zgornja Lipnica in Upper Carniola,...

(Unnamed Road), 4246, Slovenia (46.32739, 14.16988)



E Cerkev sv. Petra

A Gothic church in the old town center featuring a distinctive net-vaulted ceiling, a black marble altar, and integrated remains of the medieval town's defensive walls.

30 Linhartov trg, Radovljica 4240, Slovenia (46.34056, 14.17670)



F Grad Podvin

A former manor house with origins dating back to the 14th century. Rebuilt in the 19th century, the estate now functions as a hotel and restaurant set within a landscaped park.

Mošnje, 4243 Mošnje, Slovenia (46.33859, 14.20851)



G Cerkev svetega Urha

Located in Begunje na Gorenjskem, this Baroque church stands near Katzenstein Mansion. It contains frescoes by Leopold Layer and serves as the burial site for the noble Lamberg family.

56 Begunje na Gorenjskem, Begunje na Gorenjskem 4275, Slovenia (46.37645, 14.20194)



H Sveti Peter

Situated on a hill above Begunje, this 16th-century pilgrimage church is known for its internal frescoes and panoramic views of the Julian Alps and the Sava River valley.

(46.38298, 14.19378)



I Šivec House

This fascinating and well preserved 16th century bourgeois house today hosts numerous exhibitions of Slovenian as well as foreign art.

Linhartov trg 22, 4240 Radovljica, Slovenia (46.34071, 14.17550)

+386 4 532 05 20



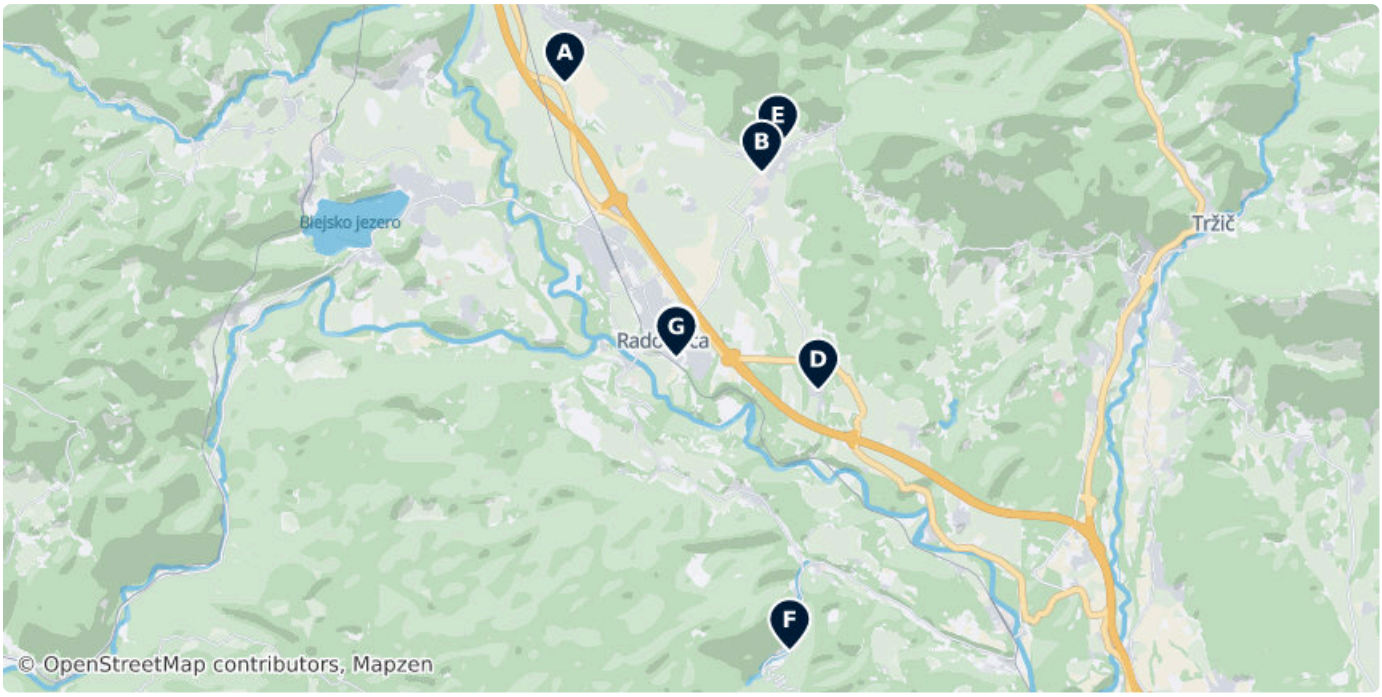
J Paviljon Murke / Jožamurka paviljon

A small wooden garden pavilion designed by the renowned Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik in the late 1930s, located in the park of the Katzenstein Mansion.

(46.37859, 14.19950)

Museums of Radovljica

From the Elan alpine ski museum to the Prešeren birthplace, Radovljica's museums tell the story of Gorenjska crafts, ethnology and poetry.





A Prešeren House

Located in the village of Vrba in Žirovnica, this museum is the preserved birthplace of celebrated Slovene poet France Prešeren.

Vrba 2, 4274 Žirovnica (46.38790, 14.14749)

zirovnica.eu/domov/, +386 4 5802092

B Alpine ski museum Elan

A dedicated museum showcasing the heritage and innovation of Elan alpine skis.

(46.37250, 14.19674)

Tu–Fr	09:00–17:00
Sa–Su	10:00–18:00

muzej.elanskis.com, +38645351400



C Lectarjev muzej

A wheelchair-accessible museum in Radovljica dedicated to the traditional craft of gingerbread making, offering free admission.

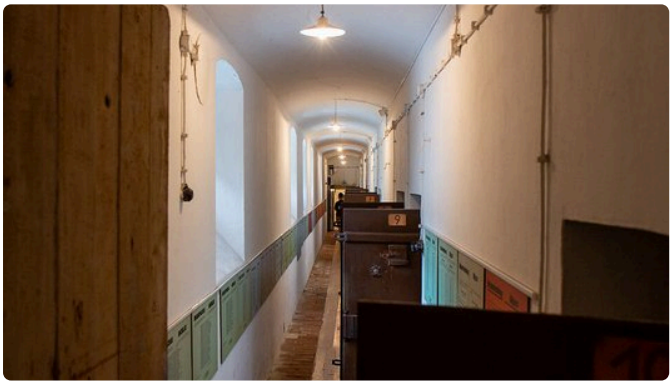
Linhartov trg, 4240 Radovljica, Slovenia (46.34079, 14.17544)

Mo–Su 12:00–23:00

D Etnološki muzej Mošnje

An ethnological museum located in the village of Mošnje within the municipality of Radovljica.

Mošnje 8C, 4240 Radovljica (46.33495, 14.21083)



E Museum of Hostages

Memorial museum in the former death-row wing of a manor house used as a Gestapo prison in 1941–1945. It commemorates hostages and resistance members held and shot there.

638, 4275 Begunje na Gorenjskem, Slovenia (46.37703, 14.20074)



F Kovaški muzej

A museum dedicated to the area's blacksmithing heritage, located in the historic settlement of Kropa.

Kropa 10, 4245 Kropa (46.29004, 14.20368)

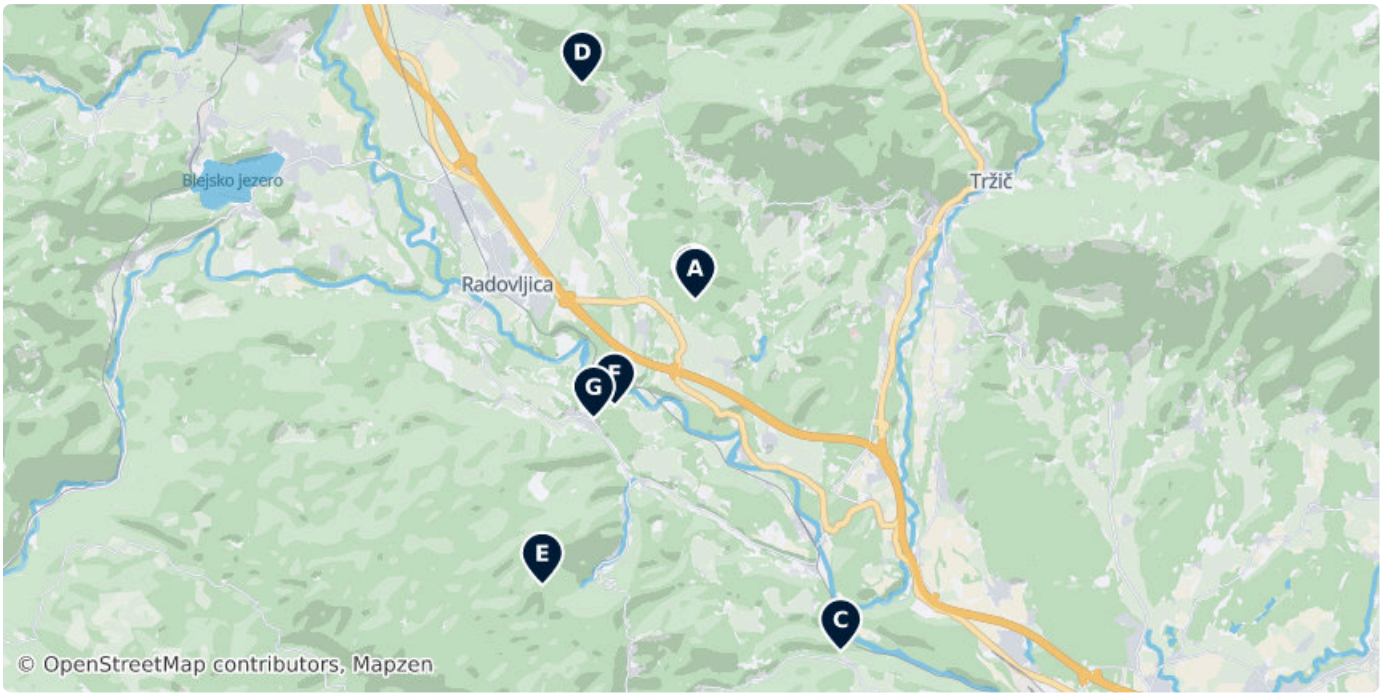
mro.si/kovaski-muzej-kropa/, +386 4 53 37 200

G Šivčeva hiša (Gallery)

(46.34061, 14.17534)

Waterfalls and Viewpoints around Radovljica

Hidden waterfalls in the Perniki gorge and lookouts over the Sava plain and the Julian Alps.

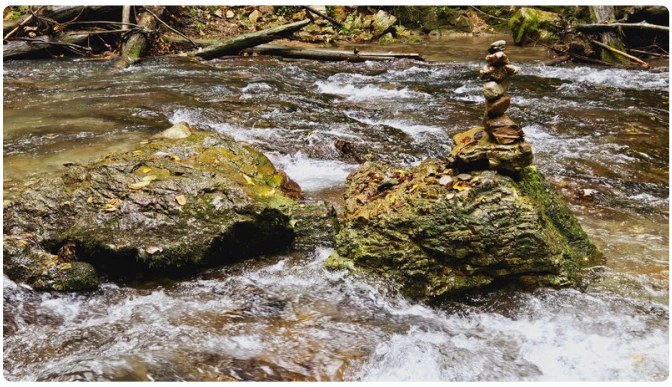


A Peračica waterfall

(46.34058, 14.22540)

B Peračica second waterfall

(46.34112, 14.22481)



C Šum

(46.27162, 14.26676)



D Sveti Peter

(Unnamed Road), 4275, Slovenia
(46.38296, 14.19331)

E Zidana skala

(46.28460, 14.18195)

F Ojstra peč

(46.31991, 14.20251)

G Zijavka

635, 4246 Kamna Gorica, Slovenia (46.31729, 14.19656)

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