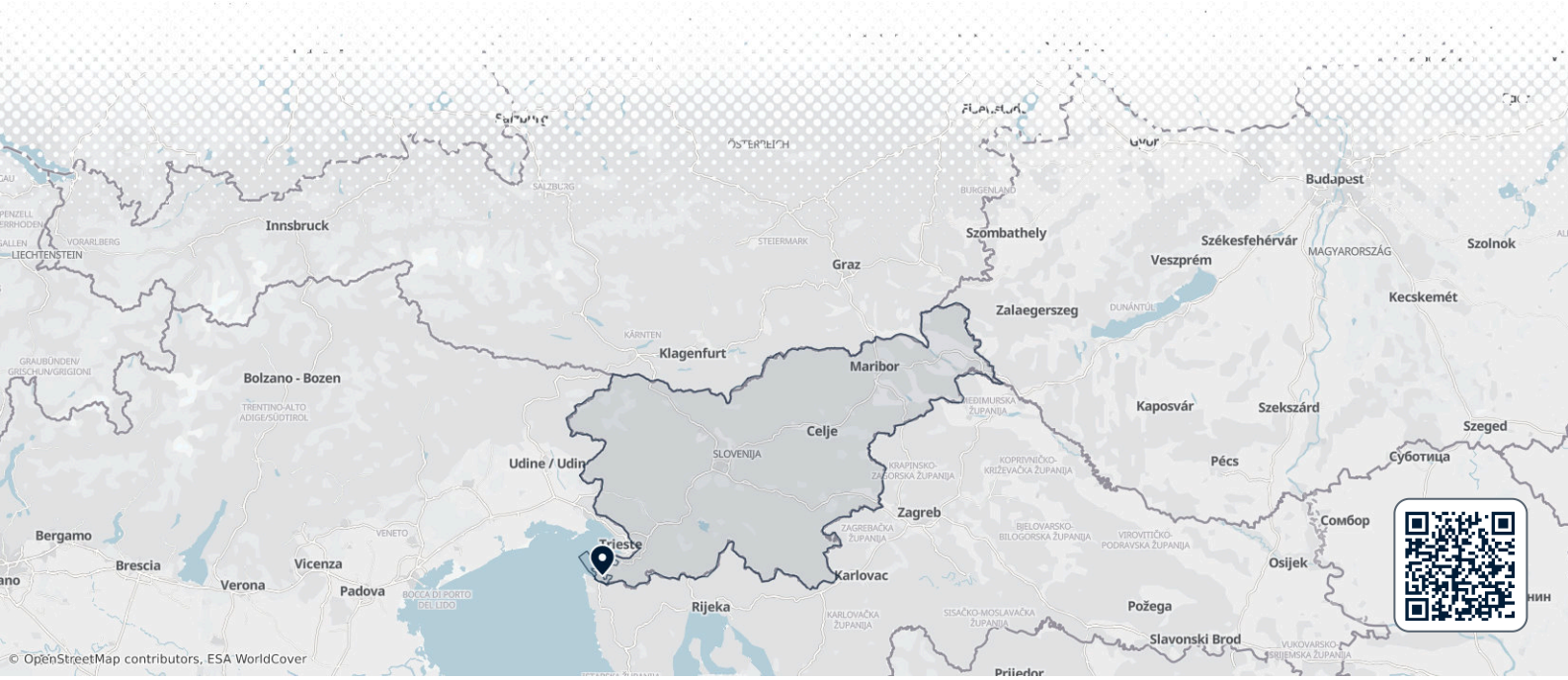


Piran

Slovenia

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Piran is a small Venetian-era town on a narrow peninsula at the tip of Slovenia's short Adriatic coast. Red roofs, narrow lanes and church towers fill the point, and the sea surrounds the town on three sides. Most of the old town is closed to cars, so it is easy and pleasant to explore on foot in a day or two.

The wider municipality adds the beach resort of Portorož, the cliffs and quiet bays of Strunjan, and the working salt pans of Sečovlje Salina Landscape Park. Stay in Piran for its old streets and evening walks by the sea; base yourself in Portorož for sandy beaches, big hotels and spas. The town is the birthplace of the violinist and composer *Giuseppe Tartini*, and street signs are in both Slovenian and Italian.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time. June and September bring warm days and sea water warm enough for swimming, with fewer people than July and August, when the old town is very crowded. Winter is mild but often grey and wet, and some restaurants and museums shorten their hours.

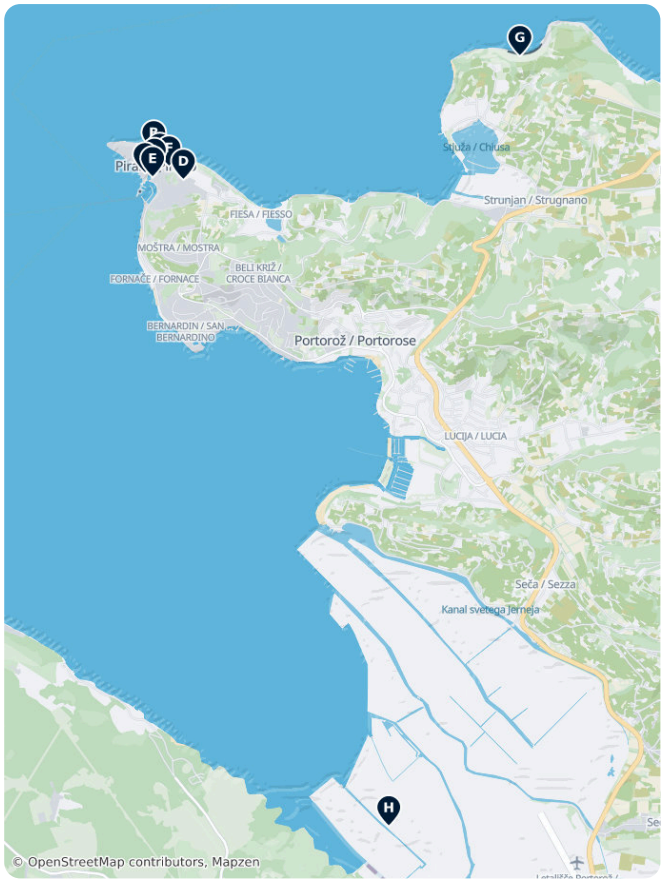
The biggest local event is the **Saltworkers' Festival** (Solinarski praznik), held around St George's Day in late April. It brings a parade on the main square, salt-pan tours, food made with local salt, and free or discounted entry to several museums.

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 Tartini Square is the heart of Piran: an oval square paved in white stone, laid out in 1894 over a filled-in harbour basin. A bronze statue of Tartini stands in the middle, and the Gothic Venetian House on one corner is the only building that keeps its original medieval façade.

B St George's Parish Church sits on the hill above the square. Its free-standing bell tower is a copy of St Mark's Campanile in Venice, and you can climb it for the best view over the roofs to the sea.

C Tartini House is the composer's birthplace, on the edge of the main square. A small memorial room shows his violin and his portrait.

D Walls of Piran run along the ridge behind the town. Climb the battlements for the classic view over the roofs of Piran and the bay.

E Sergej Mašera Maritime Museum fills the Gabrielli Palace on the harbour. It shows the town's seafaring past through ship models and finds from archaeological sites.

F Minorite Monastery of St Francis has a quiet cloister, a short walk from the square. It hosts summer chamber concerts.

G Moon Bay is a wild pebble beach below the cliffs at Strunjan, reached by a steep path. It is one of the most natural stretches of the Slovenian coast.

H Sečovlje Saltworks lie south of Portorož, near the Croatian border. Salt is still made here by hand, and the flat salt fields and dikes are good for walking and birdwatching.

I Aquarium Piran is a small aquarium on the harbour front with fish and other sea life from the Adriatic. It works well with children or on a rainy hour.

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What to experience

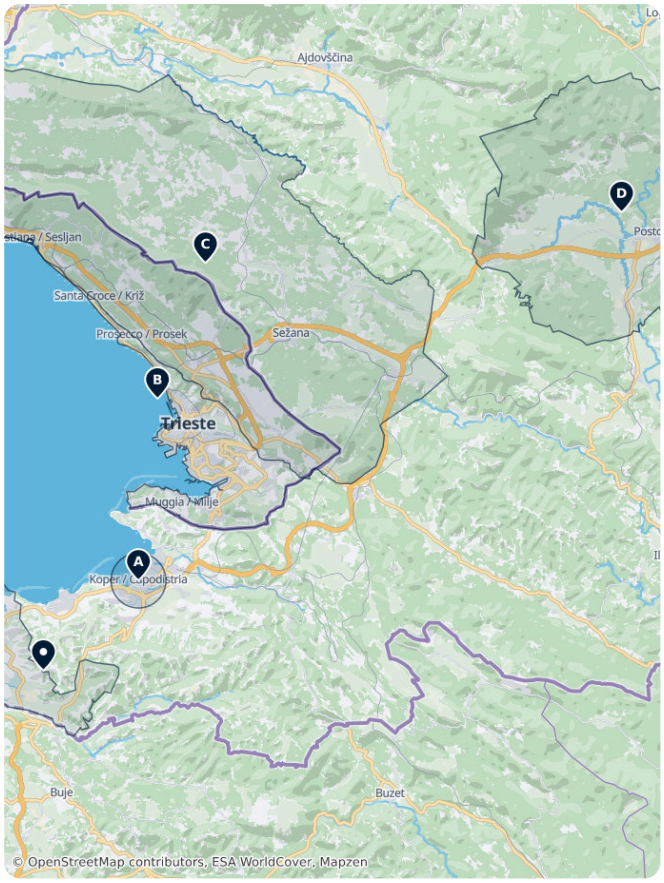
The best moments in Piran are slow and outdoors:

- **Sunset from the town walls**: Climb the battlements in the evening and watch the sun drop into the sea behind the town and the Punta lighthouse.
- **Swimming from the rocks**: Piran has no sandy beach. Locals swim from the stone and concrete platforms along the seafront promenade and around Punta, with ladders straight into deep, clear water.
- **Salt pans at harvest time**: In summer, watch salt workers rake salt by hand in the old way at Sečovlje Saltworks. The Museum of Salt-Making, in restored salt workers' houses in the southern part of the pans, shows how families once lived there.
- **Cycling the Parenzana trail**: Ride the old railway route from Portorož through a tunnel to Strunjan and on to Izola, with sea views most of the way.
- **Chamber music in a cloister**: In July and August, the Piran Musical Evenings bring concerts to the cloister of Minorite Monastery of St Francis.

Day trips

The Slovenian coast is short, so most day trips are under an hour away. The Karst plateau inland has caves and stone villages.

- Izola — about 15 minutes by car or a short bus ride. A relaxed fishing town with a working harbour and a seafront promenade.
- Ⓐ Koper — about 30 minutes by bus. The coast's largest town has a Venetian main square, a cathedral and a busy market.
- Ⓑ Trieste — about 1 hour by bus, or by hydrofoil in summer. An elegant Italian port city with grand cafés and a huge seafront square.
- Hrastovlje — about 40 minutes by car. A fortified village church holds a famous 15th-century *Dance of Death* fresco.
- Škocjan Caves — about 1 hour by car, on the Ⓒ Kras plateau. A UNESCO-listed underground river canyon, one of the largest in Europe.
- Ⓓ Postojna — about 1 hour 15 minutes by car. Home to Slovenia's best-known cave, toured by a small train, with Predjama Castle built into a cliff nearby.



Where to explore

Three parts of the Piran municipality are worth knowing on their own:

- Portorož — the resort next door, with the coast's main sandy beach, large hotels, spas and a casino.
- Strunjan — a protected stretch of coast with high cliffs, small salt pans and quiet pebble bays.
- Sečovlje Salina Landscape Park — the large salt pans near the Croatian border, a nature park and a home for wetland birds.

Just up the coast, Koper is the region's main town and transport hub.

Getting there

- **By air**: The closest large airports are Trieste Airport in Italy (about 1 hour by car) and Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport (about 2 hours by car). Venice Marco Polo Airport is about 2.5 hours away. From Ljubljana airport, take a shared shuttle transfer or a bus into Ljubljana and change for the coast.
- **By train**: Piran has no railway. The nearest station is in Koper, with trains from Ljubljana; continue by bus to Piran in about 30 minutes. Slovenian Railways
- **By bus**: Arriva and Nomago run regular buses from Ljubljana, taking about 2 to 2.5 hours. FlixBus serves Portorož from Trieste, Venice, Vienna and other cities.
- **By boat**: In summer (late June to the end of August), Liberty Lines hydrofoils link Piran with Trieste. Buy tickets at least an hour before departure at the tourist information centre on Tartini Square; bring an ID card or passport.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town is small and largely car-free. You can cross it in about 20 minutes, but expect steep lanes and steps up to the church and the town walls.
- **Local buses**: Arriva runs local lines from Piran to Portorož, Lucija and Strunjan. **Cash is not accepted.** Tap a contactless bank card on board (€2 per ride), or pay €1 per ride with the Arriva Piran app or the rechargeable Piran city card. Bus transport – Portorož & Piran Tourist Board
- **Minibus from the car park**: A minibus runs about every 15 minutes between the Fornače car park and Tartini Square, for €1 per ride.
- **Cycling**: Bikes are useful for Portorož, Strunjan and the salt pans. The car-free Parenzana trail, a former railway line, follows the coast.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The car-free old town is compact and best seen on foot, though lanes up to the church and town walls are steep with steps.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Cycling is pleasant to Portorož, Strunjan and the salt pans, and the car-free Parenzana trail follows the coast; the old town itself is too steep and narrow.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for Piran itself; buses and walking cover the town, Portorož and Strunjan. A car is useful for the Karst caves and inland villages.
- **Parking**: Visitors cannot park in the old town. Use the large Fornače garage at the edge of town, then walk about 15 minutes along the sea or take the minibus to Tartini Square. A full day of parking costs about €32.
- **Restrictions**: The old town is closed to visitor traffic. You may drive in for up to 15 minutes free of charge to drop off luggage; longer stays are charged by the hour.

Food & drink

Piran eats from the sea. Look for grilled fish and squid, fish stews, shellfish and simple pasta with seafood. Local products worth trying are Piran salt and the delicate *salt flower* (fleur de sel), Istrian olive oil, and the coastal wines: red Refošk and white Malvazija.

For dinner, head to the row of fish restaurants along the harbour and the seafront promenade towards Punta, where tables sit right by the water. Prices are higher on the main square and the harbour front; the lanes behind them are often cheaper.

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

Piran is very safe, including at night. Petty theft is rare, but keep an eye on bags in crowded summer spots.

- **Sea urchins**: They are common on rocky shores. Wear water shoes when swimming from rocks or pebble beaches.
- **Sun and heat**: Summer sun is strong, and there is little shade on the salt pans and the promenade.
- **Cliffs**: At Strunjan, keep away from the base and edge of the cliffs, which are made of soft rock. The path down to Moon Bay is steep and partly stepped.
- **Crowds**: In July and August, the old town and its car parks fill up by late morning. Arrive early or come by bus.

History

Piran grew on its peninsula as a fortified town and came under Venice in 1283. Venetian rule lasted until 1797 and shaped almost everything you see today: the Gothic and Renaissance houses, the winged Lions of St Mark on façades, and the salt trade that made the town rich. The outermost ring of the Walls of Piran, built between 1470 and 1538, protected it against Ottoman raids.

St George's Parish Church was rebuilt between 1592 and 1614, and its tower copies the campanile of St Mark's in Venice. In 1692, *Giuseppe Tartini* was born in Tartini House. He became one of the best-known violinists of his age. In 1894, the town filled in its inner harbour to create Tartini Square, and his statue was unveiled there two years later.

After Austrian rule and World War I, Piran became part of Italy. After World War II, it passed to Yugoslavia, and most of its Italian-speaking population left. Since 1991, it has been part of independent Slovenia. A local Italian community remains, which is why the town is officially bilingual.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Slovenia at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

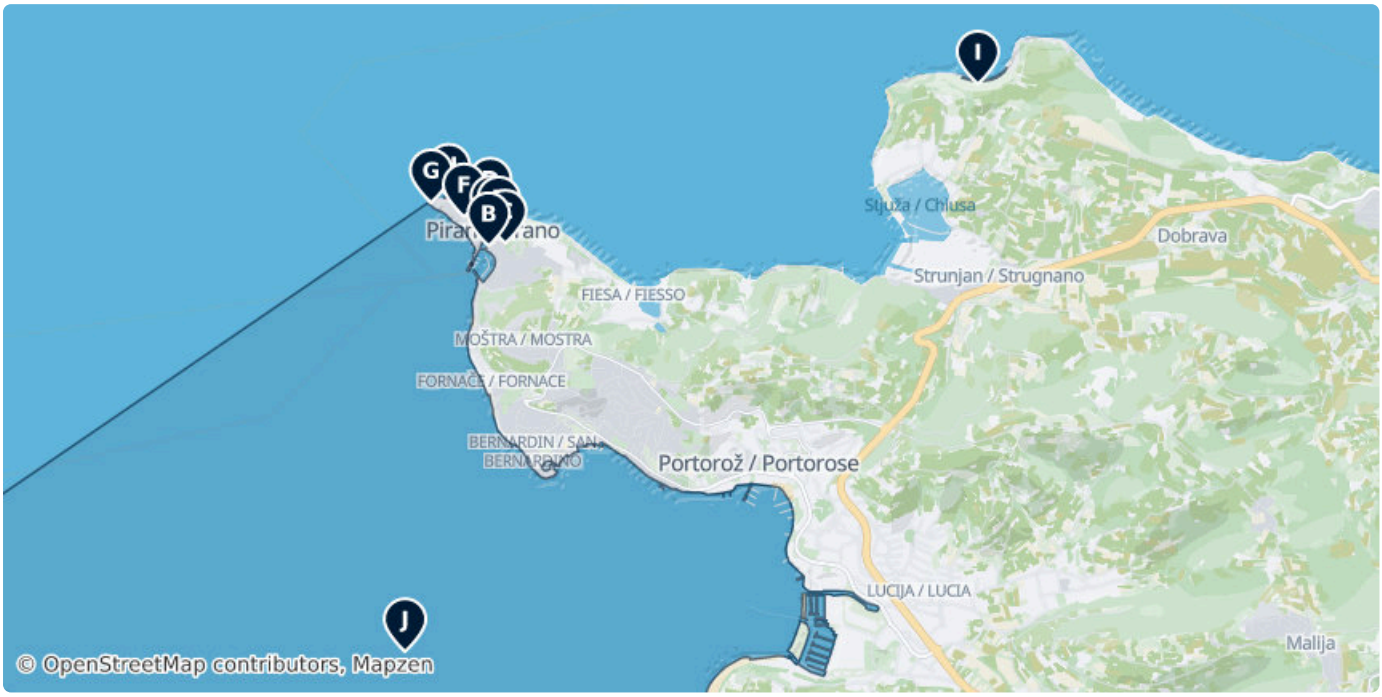
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Slovenian

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Piran / Pirano Must-Sees

Piran is defined by its well-preserved Venetian-Gothic architecture and the oval Tartini Square, built on the site of a former inner harbor. The town's medieval layout features narrow streets leading to the 14th-century St. George's Parish Church and the defensive Walls of Piran. Cultural sites include the Sergej Mašera Maritime Museum in the 19th-century Gabrielli Palace, while the coastline offers natural landmarks like Moon Bay and the lighthouse at Punta.





A Tartini

Bronze statue of the Piran-born violinist and composer Giuseppe Tartini, designed by Antonio Dal Zotto and unveiled in 1896.

6 Tartinijev trg, Piran 6330, Slovenia (45.52866, 13.56836)



B Sergej Mašera Maritime Museum

This fascinating museum features some interesting artifacts dug up from archeological sights, as well as ship models.

3 Cankarjevo nabrežje, Piran 6330, Slovenia (45.52765, 13.56810)

Mo Closed

pomorskimuzej.si, +386 5 671 00 40



C Raspo gate

The Walls of Piran are the defensive walls of Piran, a coastal town on the Adriatic Sea in southwestern Slovenia.

18 Rozmanova ulica, Piran 6330, Slovenia (45.52781, 13.56953)

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D St. George

St. George's Parish Church in Piran is a Roman Catholic church located on the hill above Piran, a port town on the coast of the Adriatic Sea...

18A Trubarjeva ulica, Piran 6330, Slovenia (45.52971, 13.56824)

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E Cerkev sv. Petra

Originally built in 1272 and renovated in 1818 by architect Pietro Nobile, this church features a relief of St. Peter above the portal and a Neoclassical facade.

1 Bolniška ulica, Piran 6330, Slovenia (45.52859, 13.56897)



F Cisterna / Cisterna di Piazza Vecchia / Cisterna di Porta Domo

Large stone cistern built in 1775 to collect rainwater, featuring two statues representing Law and Justice, located in the center of 1st May Square.

13 Prvomajski trg, Piran 6330, Slovenia (45.52937, 13.56601)

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G Punta

Neo-Gothic lighthouse tower at the tip of the peninsula, located next to the 13th-century Church of Our Lady of Health.

20 Prešernovo nabrežje, Piran 6330, Slovenia (45.53022, 13.56321)

H Punta

Paved and rocky swimming area at the tip of the peninsula, featuring deep water access and views across the Gulf of Trieste.

24 Prešernovo nabrežje, Piran 6330, Slovenia (45.53054, 13.56471)



I Moon Bay

Secluded pebble beach located within the Strunjan Nature Park, set beneath 80-meter-high flysch cliffs and accessible via coastal footpaths.

6320, Slovenia (45.53726, 13.60966)



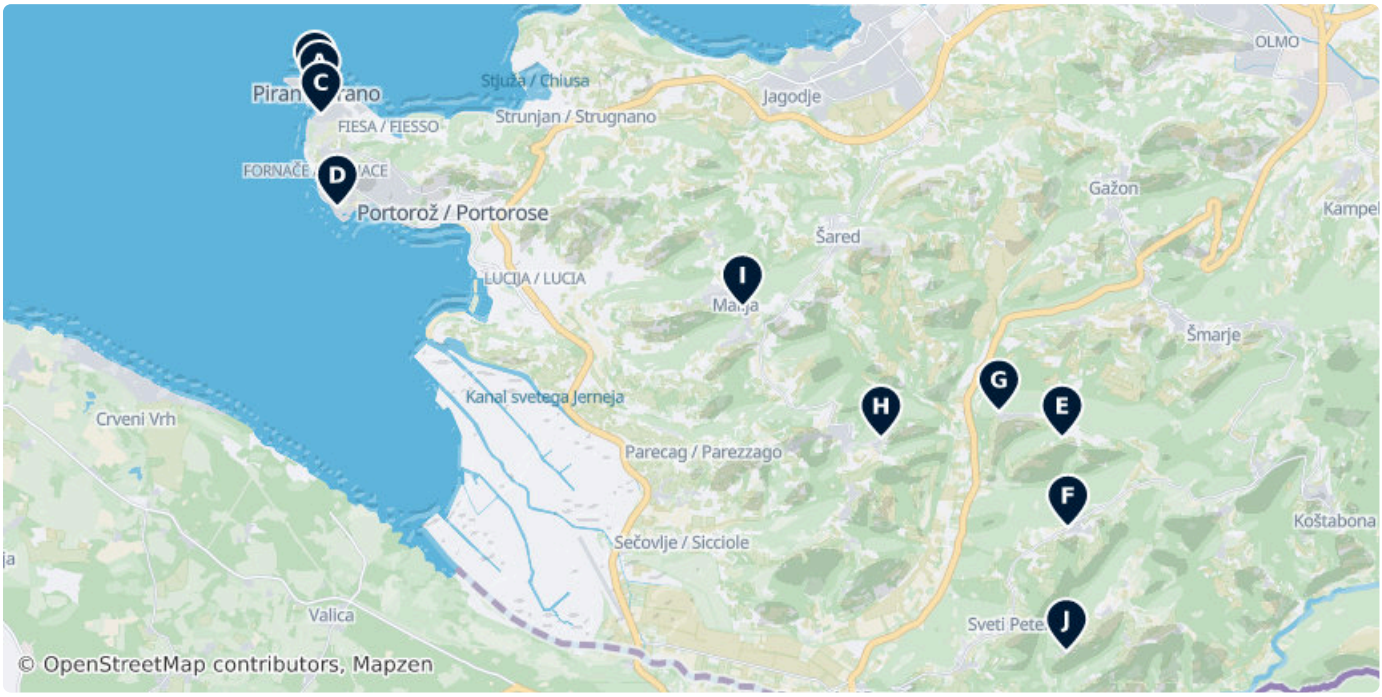
J Gulf of Piran

The Gulf of Piran or Piran Bay is located in the northern part of the Adriatic Sea, and is a part of the southernmost tip of the Gulf of...

(45.50351, 13.56100)

Historic Churches

Piran’s religious landscape is defined by its Venetian-influenced architecture and coastal positioning. This collection includes the prominent St. George’s Parish Church, known for its bell tower modeled after Venice's Campanile, and the 15th-century ruins of the St. Bernardin monastery. From Neoclassical facades on Tartini Square to rural stone churches in the Istrian hinterland villages of Padna and Sečovlje, these sites offer a cross-section of the region’s Roman Catholic history and maritime heritage.





A Cerkev sv. Petra

Neoclassical building on Tartini Square, renovated in 1818. It features a 15th-century relief above the portal attributed to Pietro di Niccolò da Bari.

1 Bolniška ulica, Piran 6330, Slovenia (45.52859, 13.56897)



B St. George

St. George's Parish Church in Piran is a Roman Catholic church located on the hill above Piran, a port town on the coast of the Adriatic Sea...

18A Trubarjeva ulica, Piran 6330, Slovenia (45.52971, 13.56824)

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C Cerkev sv. Roka

17th-century church located on 1st May Square, historically dedicated to the protector against the plague.

6 Trg bratstva, Piran 6330, Slovenia (45.52617, 13.56923)

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D Cerkev sv. Bernardina

Ruins of a 15th-century Franciscan monastery and church, featuring a preserved bell tower overlooking the Adriatic coast between Piran and Portorož.

3B Bernardinska reber, Portorož 6320, Slovenia (45.51543, 13.57193)

portoroz.si/si/odkrij/portoroz/znamenitosti/4477-object-c...



E Cerkev sv. Sabe

Roman Catholic church situated in the rural hinterland near the Dragonja river.

(Unnamed Road), 6333, Slovenia (45.48864, 13.69202)

zupnija-kostabona.rkc.si/index.php/content/display/55



F Cerkev Rožnovenske Matere božje

Catholic church in Portorož dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary.

11 Nova vas nad Dragonjo, Nova vas nad Dragonjo 6333, Slovenia (45.47824, 13.69298)

zupnija-kostabona.rkc.si



G cerkev sv. Blaža

Traditional Istrian stone church located in the hilltop village of Padna.

33 Padna, Padna 6333, Slovenia (45.49167, 13.68155)

H Župnijska cerkev sv. Antona

Parish church in Sečovlje, historically serving the local salt-panning community.

109 Korte, Korte 6310, Slovenia (45.48862, 13.66201)

I Cerkev Sv. Marije Karmelske

Modern Catholic place of worship located in the coastal settlement of Lucija.

(45.50381, 13.63908)

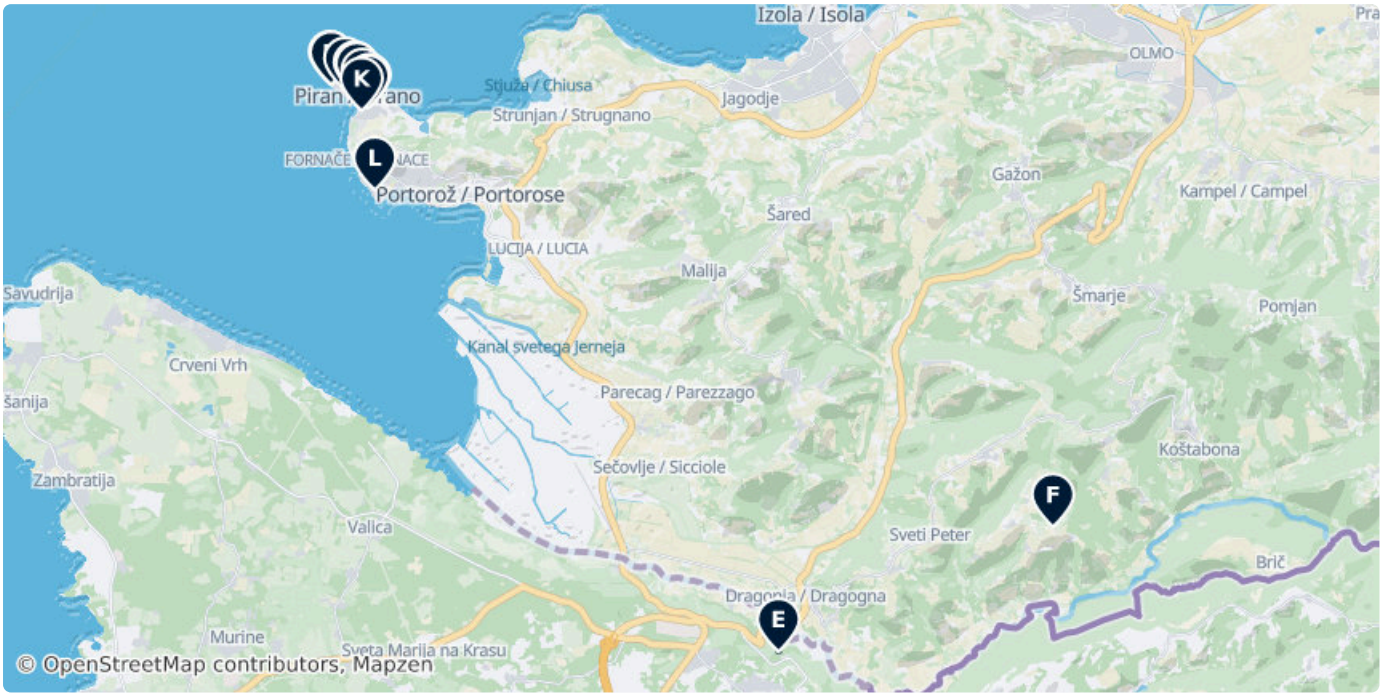
J Župnijska cerkev sv. nadangela Mihaela

Parish church in Sečovlje dedicated to Saint Michael the Archangel.

34 Krkavče, Krkavče 6274, Slovenia (45.46383, 13.69275)

Historic Sites & Landmarks

Piran's historical landscape is defined by its well-preserved Venetian Gothic architecture and extensive defensive systems. This collection includes the town's medieval walls, spanning from the 7th to the 16th centuries, and significant civic landmarks like the Tartini monument and the Municipal House. Beyond the town center, the list features archaeological finds such as the 1st-century Krkavški megalith and the ruins of the 15th-century St. Bernardino monastery.





A Tartini

Bronze monument dedicated to the 18th-century Piran-born violinist and composer Giuseppe Tartini, unveiled in 1896 in the center of the main square.

6 Tartinijev trg, Piran 6330, Slovenia (45.52866, 13.56836)



B Raspo gate

The Walls of Piran are the defensive walls of Piran, a coastal town on the Adriatic Sea in southwestern Slovenia.

18 Rozmanova ulica, Piran 6330, Slovenia (45.52781, 13.56953)

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C Druga Rasporska Vrata

The second gate of the Raspo defensive line, part of the medieval town wall system protecting the landward entrance to the city.

24A Rozmanova ulica, Piran 6330, Slovenia (45.52690, 13.57058)



D Municipal House

The town hall of Piran, located on Tartini Square, featuring Venetian-influenced architectural elements and serving as the city's administrative center.

2 Tartinijev trg, Piran 6330, Slovenia (45.52883, 13.56794)

E Kaštel

Medieval castle and fortification site located in the Istrian hinterland near the Piran region.

86 Kaštel, Kaštel 52460, Croatia (45.45059, 13.65285)



F Krkavški kamen

A 2.5-meter stone megalith from the 1st century AD featuring a carved human figure with a sun halo, located near the village of Krkavče.

(Unnamed Road), 6274, Slovenia (45.46813, 13.70792)

G Cape Madona

The westernmost tip of the Piran peninsula, featuring a lighthouse and designated as a natural monument due to its unique underwater biodiversity.

20 Prešernovo nabrežje, Piran 6330, Slovenia
(45.53030, 13.56293)

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H Punta

19th-century lighthouse situated at the extreme tip of the Piran peninsula, marking the entrance to the bay.

20 Prešernovo nabrežje, Piran 6330, Slovenia
(45.53022, 13.56321)



I Cisterna / Cisterna di Piazza Vecchia / Cisterna di Porta Domo

Located in 1st May Square, this large stone water cistern was constructed in the 18th century to provide the town with a reliable fresh water supply.

13 Prvomajski trg, Piran 6330, Slovenia
(45.52937, 13.56601)

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J Town wall

Defensive fortifications constructed between the 7th and 16th centuries. The remaining sections offer accessible ramparts with views over the Adriatic Sea.

47 Rozmanova ulica, Piran 6330, Slovenia
(45.52709, 13.57092)

K Walls of Piran

The Walls of Piran are the defensive walls of Piran, a coastal town on the Adriatic Sea in southwestern Slovenia.

28 Ulica svobode, Piran 6330, Slovenia
(45.52656, 13.56930)

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L Cerkev sv. Bernardina

Ruins of a 15th-century Franciscan monastery and church, including a preserved bell tower overlooking the coastline between Piran and Portorož.

3B Bernardinska reber, Portorož 6320, Slovenia
(45.51543, 13.57193)

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