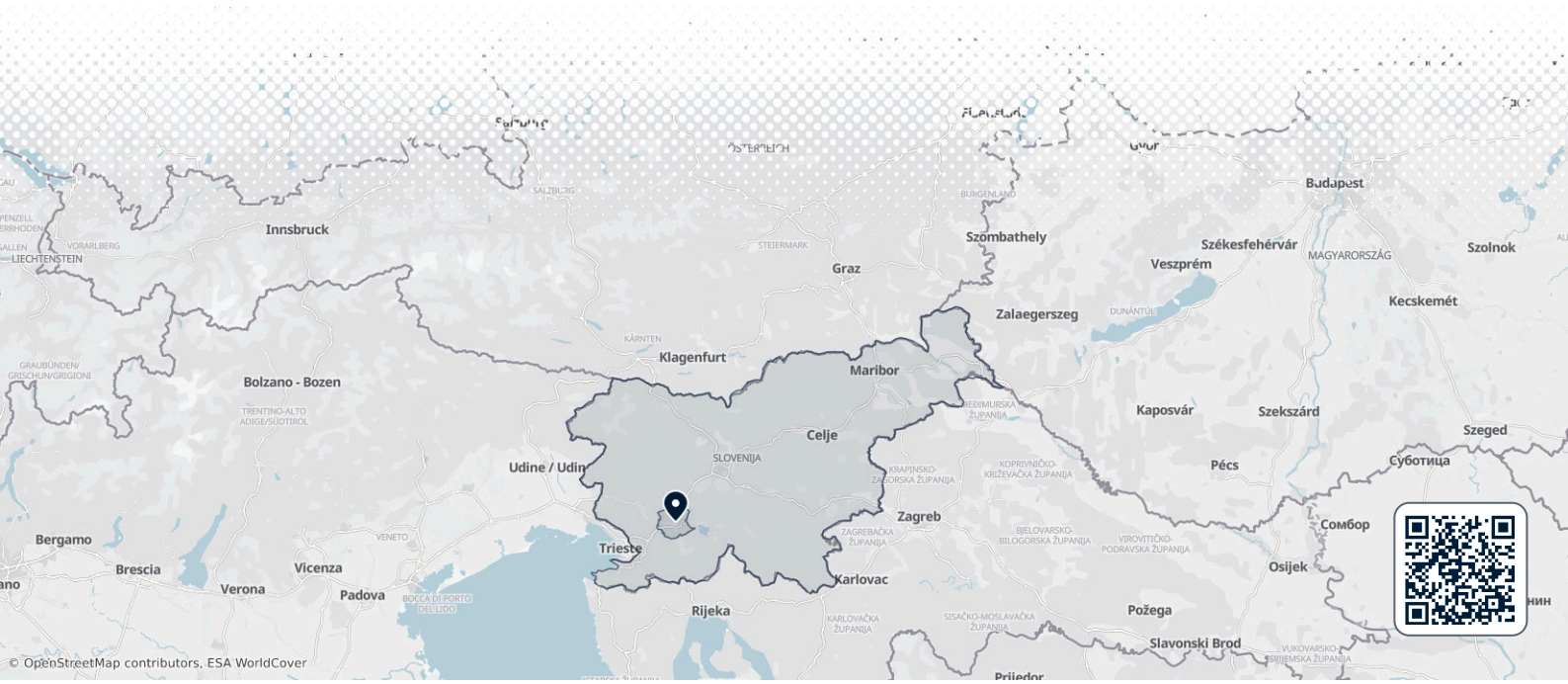


Postojna

Slovenia

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Postojna is a small town in the Slovenian karst, about an hour from Ljubljana. It is famous for what lies under it. Postojna Cave is one of the largest show caves in Europe, and a 15-minute drive away a Renaissance castle sits inside the mouth of a cave in a high cliff.

Most visitors come on a day trip, but staying a night or two pays off. You can see both headline sights without the midday crowds, and add quieter caves, karst valleys and the Nanos plateau. The town itself is modest, so plan your time around the caves and the countryside. Postojna also makes a practical base for the Škocjan Caves, Lake Cerknica and the Vipava wine valley.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time, with warm days and long evenings for walks and drives. Summer brings the biggest crowds at the cave, so book an early tour. Winters are cold and often snowy, but the caves stay at about 10 °C all year, so they work in any season.

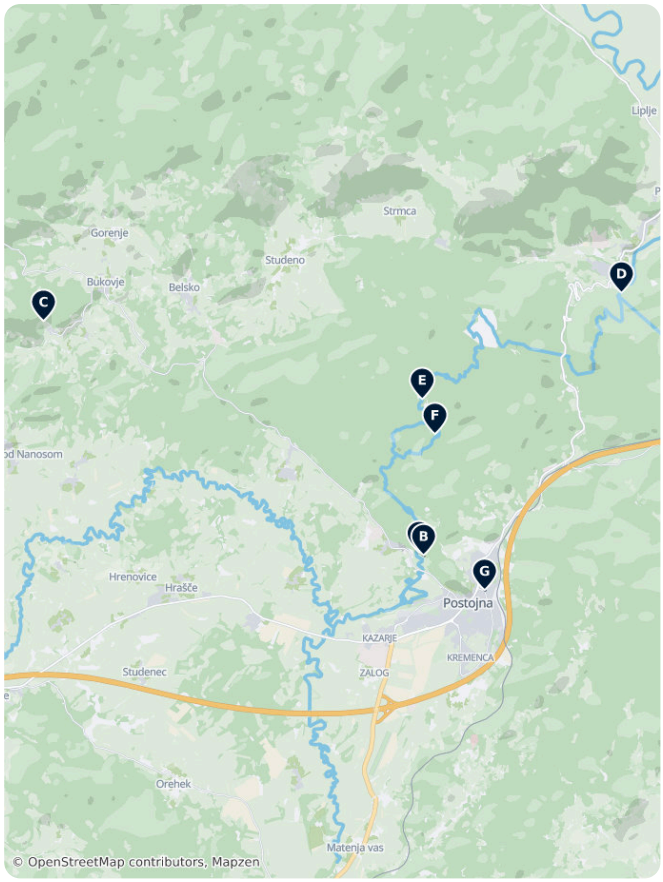
The highlight of the year is the **Living Nativity** in Postojna Cave in late December. More than 100 performers act out the Christmas story in scenes along the cave route. Book well ahead.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 10° Feels like -1°	-4° / -12°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 12° Feels like 2°	-3° / -11°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for hiking	10° / 17° Feels like 7°	0° / -6°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for hiking	15° / 21°	4° / -2°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 25°	9° / 4°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 29°	13° / 7°	14 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 31°	15° / 10°	Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 33°	15° / 10°	Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 27°	10° / 5°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for hiking	16° / 22°	6° / 0°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for hiking	9° / 16°	2° / -5°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 10° Feels like 1°	-2° / -10°	Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: June, July, September

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

Top sights



A Postojna Cave is the reason most people come. The 24 km cave system is one of the most visited in Europe. The 90-minute tour starts with a ride on an underground train and covers about 5 km of halls, passages and dripstones. Bring a warm layer, because it is 10 °C inside all year.

B Vivarium Proteus sits at the cave entrance. It explains cave life and shows the olm, a blind, pale amphibian that lives only in the caves of the Dinaric karst.

C Predjama Castle is built into the mouth of a cave halfway up a vertical cliff, about 9 km from Postojna Cave. The present castle dates from 1570. Behind it, a natural shaft once let the knight *Erasmus of Lueg* bring in supplies during a long siege. Combined tickets with the cave are available.

D Planina Cave is a wild river cave a short drive north of town, with no train and no concrete paths. Inside, two underground rivers meet. It is one of the largest underground river confluences in Europe. Visits are only with a local guide.

E Pivka Cave and **F** Black Cave are quieter caves just north of Postojna Cave, linked to it underground. They are visited on a separate guided tour from May to September, so check the timetable before you go.

G Notranjska Museum Postojna in the town centre gives a clear, modern introduction to the karst and its caves. It is a good rainy-day stop.

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What to experience

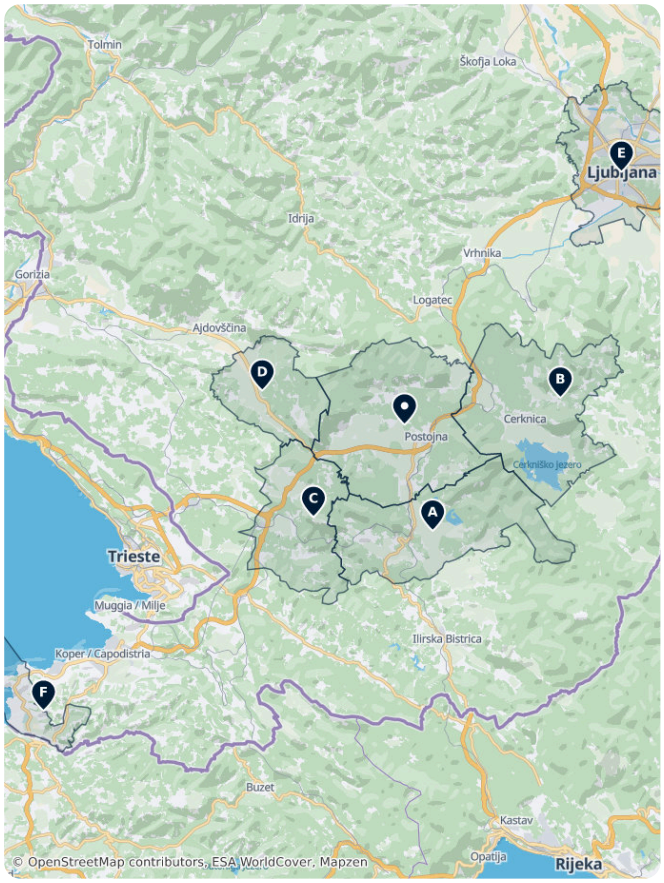
Postojna's best moments happen underground or in the karst landscape around it.

- **Watch the Living Nativity**: in late December, actors stage the Christmas story in scenes along the Postojna Cave route.
- **Join an adventure cave tour**: small guided groups put on helmets, lamps and overalls to visit parts of the cave system closed to regular tours.
- **Hike up Nanos**: the long limestone plateau west of town has marked trails, a mountain hut and wide views over the karst and, on clear days, the sea.
- **See Planinsko Polje flood**: after heavy autumn or spring rain, this karst field near Ravbar Tower can turn into a temporary lake.

Day trips

Postojna sits in the middle of the karst, so several classic sights are close. Times below are one way.

- A Pivka (≈15 min by car or train): the Park of Military History shows tanks, aircraft and a submarine in a former army barracks.
- B Cerknica (≈30 min by car): Lake Cerknica is an intermittent lake that fills and drains with the seasons. On the way, the Rakov Škocjan valley has natural stone bridges and easy forest trails.
- C Divača (≈30 min by car): Škocjan Caves are a UNESCO World Heritage Site with a huge underground river canyon. Many visitors find them even more dramatic than Postojna Cave.
- D Vipava (≈30 min by car): the town and its valley are known for wine farms and local white wines.
- E Ljubljana (≈1 hour by train or bus): the capital has a compact old town, a castle above the river and many cafés.
- F Piran (≈1 hour by car): a Venetian-style town on the Adriatic coast, good for a sea view and seafood.



Where to explore

Postojna works well as a base for the rest of inner Slovenia and the karst.

- **Close by**: Pivka to the south, Cerknica to the east and Divača to the southwest.
- **Wine country**: Vipava and its valley, and Kras, home of Teran wine and air-dried ham.
- **Further south**: Ilirska Bistrica, a gateway to the Snežnik forests.
- **Further afield**: Ljubljana to the northeast and Piran on the coast.

Getting there

- **By air**: the nearest airport is Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport, about an hour away by car. Trieste Airport in Italy is a similar distance. Most travellers continue by train or bus via Ljubljana, or rent a car.
- **By train**: Postojna is on the main line from Ljubljana to the coast, about an hour from Ljubljana. The station is about a 25-minute walk from Postojna Cave. Slovenian Railways
- **By bus**: buses run from Ljubljana to Postojna about every hour.
- **By car**: the A1 motorway passes the town. The Postojna exit is about 2 km from the cave.

Getting around

- **On foot**: the town centre, the railway station and Postojna Cave are all within walking distance. The cave is about 25 minutes from the station.
- **Local bus**: the free Furman city bus (line 2) runs Monday to Saturday between the railway station, the town centre and the cave.
- **To Predjama and Planina**: a car or taxi is the easy option. The summer shuttle between the cave and Predjama Castle is currently out of service. The cave ticket office can call a taxi.
- **Cycling**: quiet country roads and forest tracks make cycling pleasant, but the terrain is hilly.

More visitor information: Postojnsko visitor information

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The small centre, the station and Postojna Cave are walkable, but Predjama Castle and Planina Cave need a car or taxi.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Quiet country roads and forest tracks, but hilly karst terrain.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: yes, if you want to see more than Postojna Cave. Predjama Castle, Planina Cave and most day trips are much easier by car.
- **Parking**: there is a large paid car park at Postojna Cave. In town, street parking near the centre is easy to find.
- **Motorway**: you need a Slovenian e-vignette for the A1. Buy it online before you drive onto the motorway.

Food & drink

Postojna's cooking is hearty inland food: stews, sausages, game and mushroom dishes. Nearby you can also try the specialities of the Kras plateau, such as air-dried karst ham and red Teran wine, plus white wines from the Vipava valley.

The town has no single food street. The cafés and restaurants around Titov trg in the centre are the easiest choice. There are also restaurants at Postojna Cave, and a traditional inn sits below Predjama Castle.

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

Postojna is very safe, and crime against visitors is rare. The main risks are practical:

- **In the caves**: paths can be wet and slippery. Wear shoes with good grip and take a warm layer, as it is 10 °C inside.
- **Crowds**: in July and August the cave gets very busy. Watch your bags in queues and on the train.
- **Hiking**: on Nanos and in the karst, weather changes fast and sinkholes can be hidden in forest. Stay on marked trails.

History

People have used the caves around Postojna since the Ice Age. At Betal Rock Shelter just outside town, archaeologists found Palaeolithic stone tools and the bones of Ice Age animals.

Predjama Castle has stood in its cliff since the Middle Ages. Its most famous owner was the rebel knight *Erasmus of Lueg*. In the 1480s he raided Habsburg lands and held out in the castle through a long siege. A popular legend says he was betrayed and killed by a cannonball while he was in the toilet.

Postojna Cave became a tourist attraction after 1818, when a local man, *Luka Čeč*, found its inner halls. Rails for a tourist train came in 1872, and electric light in 1884, before Ljubljana had it. In April 1944, Slovene partisans entered through a forgotten side passage and set fire to a German fuel store inside. Soot from the fire still marks the cave walls.

After World War I the town belonged to Italy, and only became part of Yugoslavia after 1945. Today it is part of independent Slovenia.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Slovenia at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

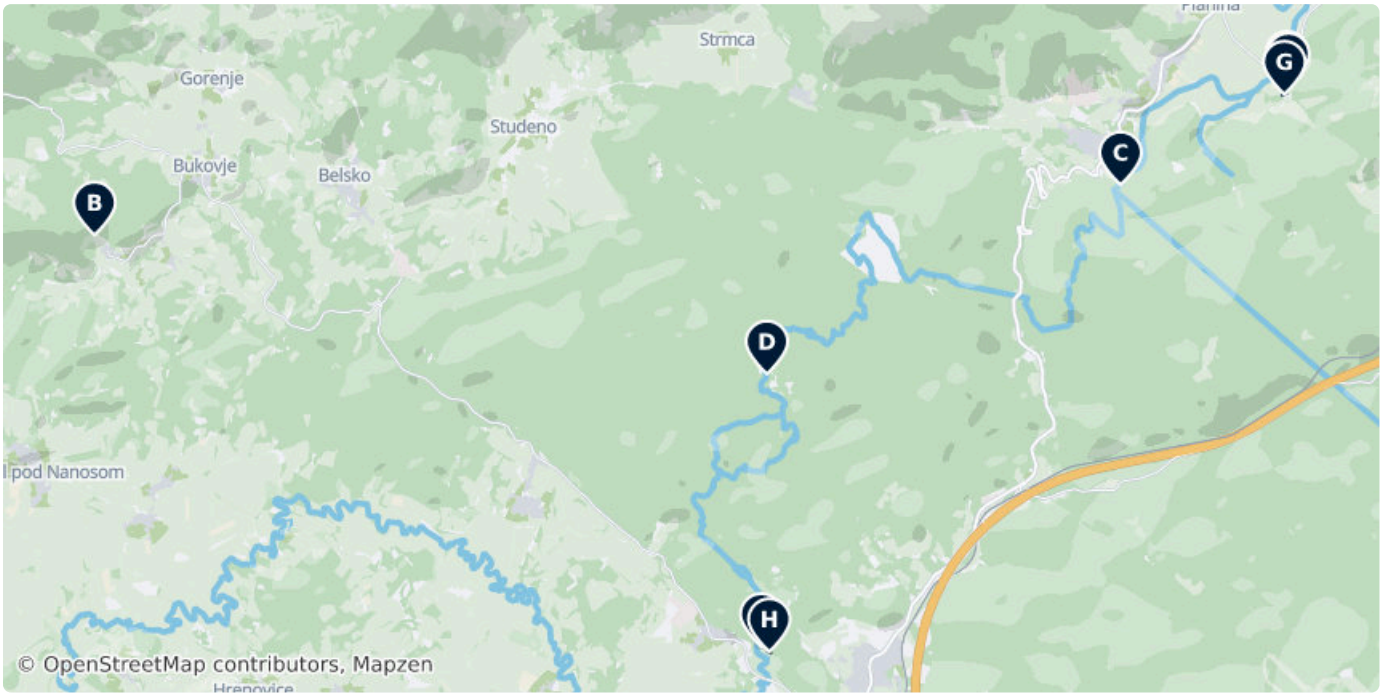
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Slovenian

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Postojna's Essential Karst Wonders

Postojna is defined by its dramatic karst topography, centered on the expansive Postojna Cave system and the Renaissance Predjama Castle built into a 123-meter limestone cliff. The region features significant subterranean networks like Planina Cave and Pivka Jama, alongside cultural landmarks such as the Haasberg Mansion ruins and a World War I museum. For biological insights, the Proteus Vivarium showcases unique cave-dwelling species, including the rare olm, within their naturalistic environment.





A Postojna Cave

Postojna Cave is a 24.34 km long karst cave system near Postojna, southwestern Slovenia.

30 Jamska cesta, Postojna 6232, Slovenia
(45.78263, 14.20395)

postojnska-jama.eu, +386 5 7000 100



B Predjama Castle

Nested in a 123-meter-high rocky cliff, this is probably the most haunted castle in Slovenia – beautiful during the day and absolutely...

Jamska cesta 30, 6230 Postojna, Slovenia
(45.81582, 14.12675)

postojnska-jama.eu/en/predjama-castle/, +386 5 700 01 00



C Planina Cave

Planina Cave, formerly also Little Castle Cave after Little Castle in the vicinity of its entrance, is one of the longest Slovenian active...

(Unnamed Road), 6232, Slovenia (45.81986, 14.24555)

planinacave.wordpress.com



D Pivka Jama

A segment of the Postojna cave system accessed via a 65-meter deep collapse doline, featuring views of the underground Pivka River.

50 Veliki Otok, 6230, Slovenia (45.80461, 14.20460)



E Dvorec Haasberg

The ruins of a prominent Baroque mansion, which served as a major cultural hub before its destruction during World War II.

(Unnamed Road), 6232, Slovenia (45.82799, 14.26485)

F Dvorec Haasberg

A former 17th-century Baroque residence, now standing as a structural shell showcasing historical regional architecture.

(45.82783, 14.26498)

G Grajska štala

The preserved outbuildings and stables that once served the Haasberg estate.

(Unnamed Road), 6232, Slovenia (45.82718, 14.26451)



H Proteus Vivarium

This interesting exhibition teaches its visitors about the basics of speleobiology and features examples of cave fauna and flora.

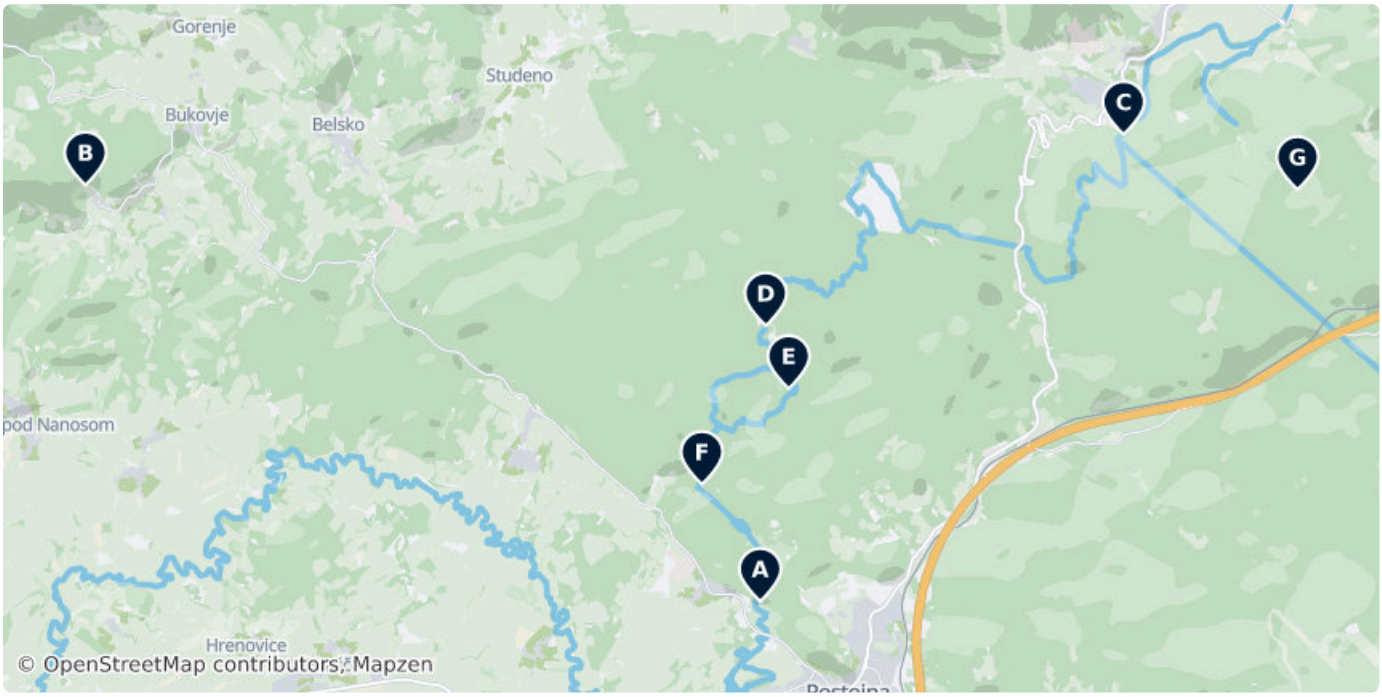
Jamska cesta 30, 6230 Postojna, Slovenia (45.78222, 14.20488)

Mo–Su 10:00–16:00

postojnska-jama.eu/atrakcije-v-parku/vivarij/, 05 7000 100

Slovenian Karst Wonders

The Postojna region serves as the cradle of karstology, featuring some of the world's most significant subterranean landmarks. This collection includes the 24-kilometer Postojna Cave system, renowned for its diverse stalactites and the rare olm salamander. Nearby, the 13th-century Predjama Castle is built directly into a 123-meter cliff, concealing a network of secret tunnels. The list also covers the confluence of the Pivka and Rak rivers in Planina Cave and various collapse sinkholes like Unška koliševka, which contains abandoned military fortifications.





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30 Jamska cesta, Postojna 6232, Slovenia
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(Unnamed Road), 6232, Slovenia (45.81986, 14.24555)

planinacave.wordpress.com



D Pivka Jama

Accessible via 600 steps, this cave offers a close view of the underground Pivka River as it continues its path through the karst interior toward the Black Cave.

50 Veliki Otok, 6230, Slovenia (45.80461, 14.20460)



E Črna jama

Known for its unique dark-colored stalactites and stalagmites, this cave is connected to the Postojna system by an artificial tunnel and features massive limestone blocks.

6230, Slovenia (45.79960, 14.20721)

F Otoška jama

A small, dry, horizontal cave that forms part of the Postojna system. It is characterized by its natural lighting and has served as a filming location for several movies.

(Unnamed Road), 6230, Slovenia (45.79196, 14.19728)

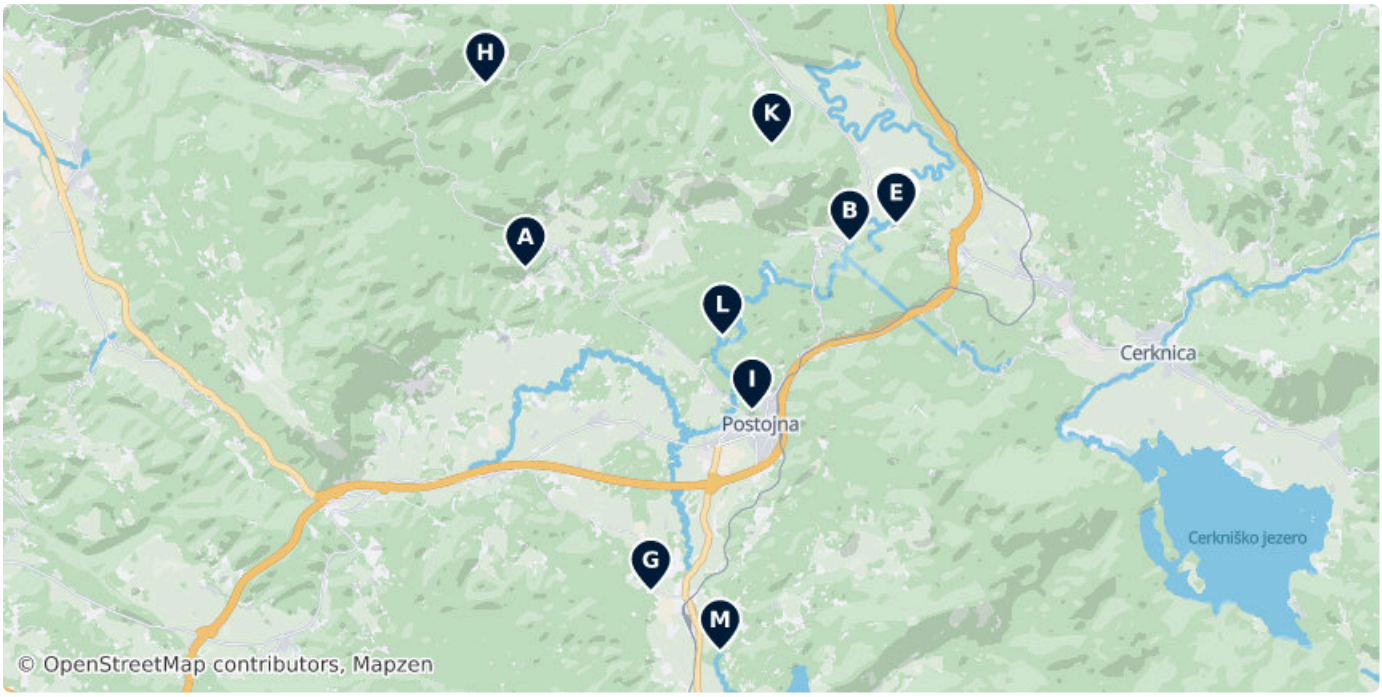
G Unška koliševka

A 100-meter deep collapse sinkhole featuring a network of abandoned underground tunnels and bunkers built by the Italian army between the World Wars.

6232 Postojna, Slovenia (45.81546, 14.26544)

Castles and Ruins

Explore the architectural heritage of the Postojna region, ranging from the world-renowned Predjama Castle built into a 123-meter cliff to the Roman defense systems of Ad Pirum. This collection includes the ruins of the once-grand Baroque Haasberg Mansion, the medieval remains of Adelsberg on Sovič Hill, and the late Gothic Ravbar Tower. These sites reveal the area's strategic history as a crossroads between the Mediterranean and Central Europe, featuring Roman fortifications, Renaissance stables, and traditional water mills.





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Jamska cesta 30, 6230 Postojna, Slovenia (45.81582, 14.12675)

postojnska-jama.eu/en/predjama-castle/, +386 5 700 01 00



B Ravbarjev stolp

A well-preserved late Gothic tower that is the only remaining part of the medieval Mali Grad castle. It features a renovated interior and serves as a cultural venue.

175 Planina, 6232, Slovenia (45.82262, 14.24726)

planinacave.wordpress.com



C Dvorec Haasberg

The remains of what was once Slovenia's most prestigious Baroque mansion. Destroyed during World War II, the site retains its grand stone walls.

(Unnamed Road), 6232, Slovenia (45.82799, 14.26485)

D Dvorec Haasberg

Baroque mansion dating back to the 17th century, formerly owned by the Windisch-Graetz family.

(45.82783, 14.26498)

E Grajska štala

The former stables of the Haasberg Mansion, representing the ancillary architecture of the grand Baroque estate.

(Unnamed Road), 6232, Slovenia (45.82718, 14.26451)

F Grajski vrt

The former park and garden area surrounding the Haasberg Mansion, once known for its refined landscape design.

(Unnamed Road), 6232, Slovenia (45.82760, 14.26415)

G Grad Prestranek

A 16th-century estate and castle primarily known for its long tradition of horse breeding and its current role as an equestrian center.

(45.73210, 14.17331)



H Ad Pirum

Ad Pirum was a Roman fortress active during the time of the late Roman Empire.

Podkraj 100, 5273 Col (45.86344, 14.11189)

We–Su 11:00–19:00

nms.si, +386 1 24 14 400

I Grad Adelsberg

Medieval ruins situated on Sovič Hill overlooking Postojna. It served as a strategic fortification until it was destroyed by fire in the 18th century.

6230, Slovenia (45.77899, 14.21096)

J Rimski zid

Remnants of the Roman defensive wall system, part of the Claustra Alpium Iuliarum, which protected the passage to Italy.

(45.86350, 14.11232)

K Kležni grič

Site of archaeological remains and ruins of historical fortifications overlooking the surrounding valley.

(45.84782, 14.21821)

L Sveta Magdalena

The ruins of a former church located in a scenic position near Postojna.

6230, Slovenia (45.79828, 14.19994)

M Jerinov mlin

The remains of a traditional water mill located on the Nanoščica river, illustrating the region's historical industrial heritage.

(45.71661, 14.19910)

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