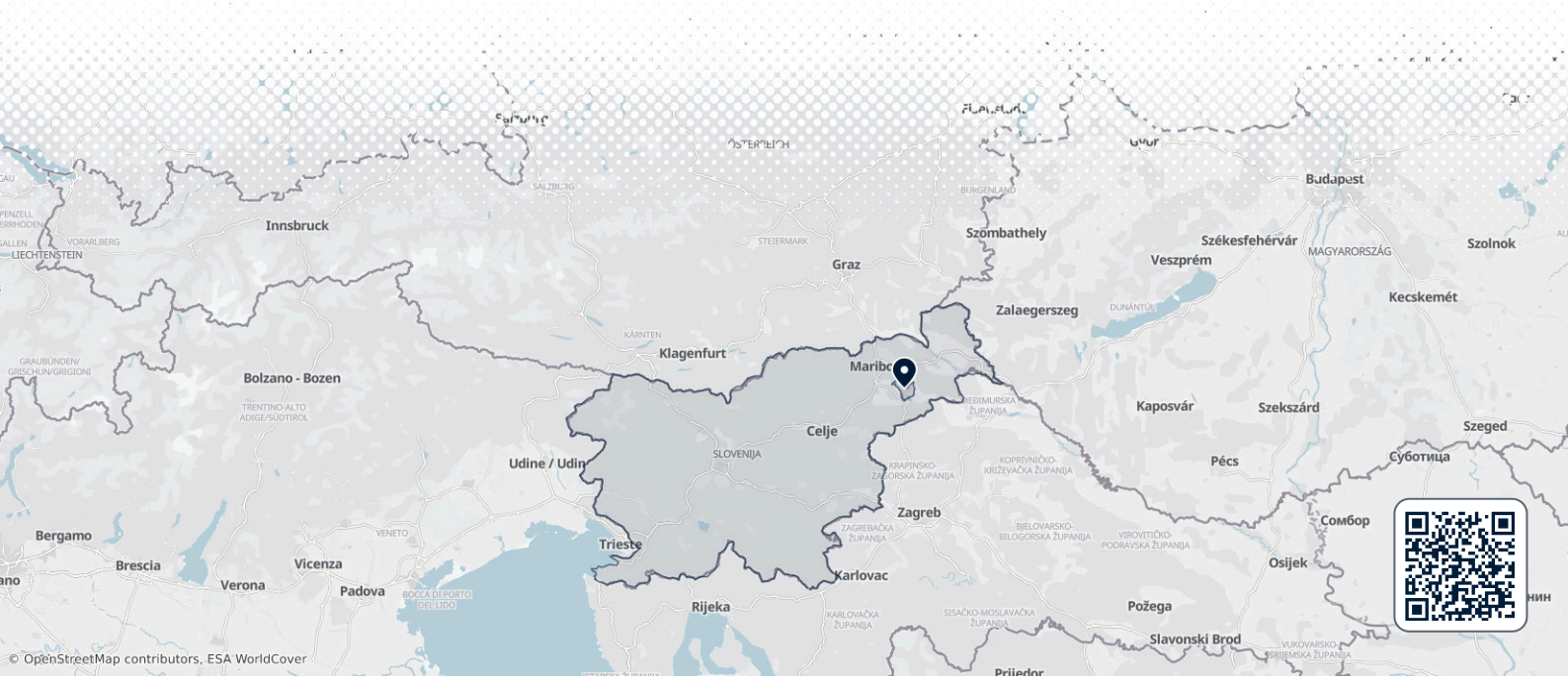


# Ptuj

Slovenia

## TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



## Overview

Ptuj is the oldest recorded town in Slovenia. It began as the Roman town of Poetovio, and its first written mention dates from AD 69. Today it is a small, quiet town on the Drava River, with red-tiled roofs, narrow streets and a castle on the hill above. The whole old centre is easy to see on foot in a day.

Ptuj suits travellers who like history, wine and small-town life. It sits at the edge of the Haloze and Slovenske gorice wine hills, it has one of the oldest wine cellars in the country, and a large thermal water park lies just across the river. In late winter the town hosts Kurentovanje, the biggest carnival in Slovenia.

## When to visit

Late spring and September are the most pleasant times, with warm days and green or harvest-time vineyards. July and August are hot, with frequent afternoon storms, while winters are cold and grey with some snow.

The big event is **Kurentovanje**, an 11-day carnival that ends on Shrove Tuesday, usually in February. Hundreds of kurents in sheepskin costumes, masks and heavy cowbells fill the streets to chase away winter, and the main parade draws tens of thousands of visitors. Book accommodation early if you plan to come.

| MONTH | CONDITIONS | DAY °C avg / max | NIGHT °C avg / min | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | 4° / 11°<br>Feels like 0° | -3° / -11° | Dry air · Calm winds |
| February | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | 6° / 15°<br>Feels like 2° | -2° / -11° | Dry air · Calm winds |
| March | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | 11° / 19°<br>Feels like 7° | 1° / -5° | Dry air · Calm winds |
| April | Good<br>Good for wildlife watching | 16° / 23° | 5° / -1° | Dry air · Calm winds |
| May | Great<br>Great for sightseeing | 21° / 27° | 10° / 5° | 14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| June | Great<br>Great for sightseeing | 26° / 33° | 15° / 9° | 14 rainy days · Calm winds |
| July | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 28° / 35° | 17° / 12° | 14 rainy days · Calm winds |
| August | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 28° / 35° | 17° / 12° | 13 rainy days · Calm winds |
| September | Great<br>Great for sightseeing | 22° / 29° | 12° / 6° | Dry air · Calm winds |
| October | Good<br>Good for wildlife watching | 17° / 24° | 7° / 1° | Dry air · Calm winds |
| November | Poor<br>Poor for wildlife watching | 10° / 18°<br>Feels like 7° | 3° / -4° | Dry air · Calm winds |
| December | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | 5° / 11°<br>Feels like 1° | -2° / -10° | Dry air · Calm winds |

Best months: May, June, September

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

## Top sights




**A** Ptuj Castle stands on the hill above the old town and holds the main collections of the regional museum. Highlights include historical musical instruments, an armoury, carnival masks and furnished noble rooms, and the courtyard gives wide views over the roofs and the Drava.

**B** Slovenski trg is the heart of the old town. A free-standing town tower rises in the middle of the square, with ancient stone monuments set into its walls.

**C** Orpheus Monument, a Roman grave stone nearly 5 metres tall, stands in front of the town tower. In the Middle Ages it served as a pillory, and it is now a symbol of the town.

**D** Church of St George is the main parish church on the same square. Its origins go back to the Middle Ages.

**E** Kurent House is a small interactive museum about the kurent, the shaggy carnival figure of the Ptuj region. Tours start on the hour and last about 40 minutes.

**F** Dominican Monastery was founded in 1230 and now hosts museum exhibitions and concerts. It has a Baroque church facade and a quiet courtyard with a well.

**G** Minorite Monastery of Sts. Peter and Paul has housed Minorite friars for more than 700 years. Its church was destroyed in a bombing raid in 1945 and later rebuilt, and groups can visit the Baroque library and refectory.

**H** Lake Ptuj, just south-east of town, is the largest artificial lake in Slovenia. A 13 km path circles it, and it is one of the best birdwatching spots in the country.

**Ptuj – Plan Your Trip**
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
**3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning**
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

## What to experience

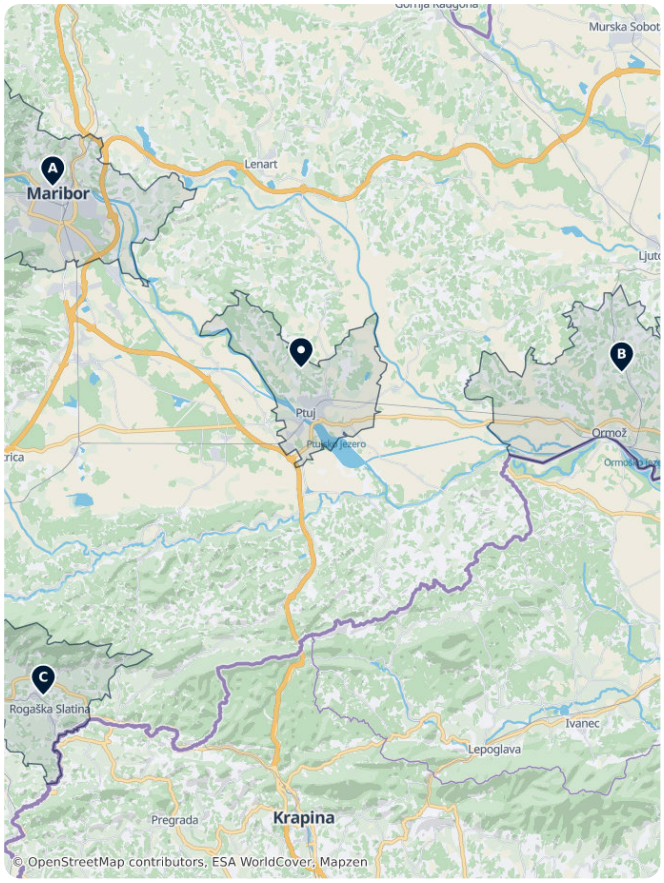
Ptuj is best known for its carnival, its wine and its Roman past.

- **Kurentovanje carnival**: In the days before Lent, groups of kurents in sheepskin and masks march through town, ringing heavy bells to drive away winter. Their door-to-door rounds are on the UNESCO list of intangible heritage.
- **Wine cellar tour**: The Ptuj wine cellar under the old town dates back to 1239. Guided tours with tasting end in the archive, which holds the Zlata trta (Golden Vine) wine from 1917, considered the oldest Slovenian wine. Book ahead.
- **Thermal water park**: Terme Ptuj, across the river, has indoor and outdoor pools with slides, a wave pool and a lazy river, all fed by warm thermal water.
- **Roman Mithras shrines**: In summer, guided tours visit the Roman sanctuaries of the god Mithras in the Poetovio area. Book through the tourist office.
- **Days of Poetry and Wine**: In late August, Slovenia's biggest poetry festival fills the town's squares with readings, concerts and wine.
- **Birdwatching at the lake**: Walk the path around Lake Ptuj to see cormorants, terns and other water birds.

## Day trips

The countryside around Ptuj is full of vineyards, castles and small towns. Most places are close, but a car makes them much easier to reach.

- **Dornava**: About 6 km east, 10 minutes by car. Dornava Manor is one of the best-preserved Baroque manors in Slovenia, with a formal garden and a restored orangery. The house is still awaiting full restoration and is only partly open, so check before you go.
- **Ptujska Gora**: About 15 minutes south by car. A hilltop Gothic pilgrimage church holds a famous relief of the Virgin Mary sheltering people under her cloak.
- **Haloze**: The steep wine hills south of Ptuj, about 20–30 minutes by car. Expect small family wineries, winding roads and wide views.
- A Maribor: Slovenia's second city, about 40 minutes by train or bus. Visit the riverside Lent district and the Old Vine, said to be the oldest vine in the world.
- B Ormo and Jeruzalem: About 30 minutes east by car. The town has a castle above the Drava, and the Jeruzalem wine hills beyond it have scenic roads and wine cellars.
- C Rogaška Slatina: A historic spa town about 45 minutes away by car, known for its mineral water and 19th-century spa buildings.




## Where to explore

Ptuj lies in eastern Slovenia, in the Štajerska region, close to the Croatian border.

- **Nearby towns**: Maribor is the regional city, and Ormo lies downstream on the Drava.
- **Spas**: Rogaška Slatina is one of the oldest spa towns in the country.
- **Further afield**: Celje has a large medieval castle, and Prekmurje to the north-east is a flat region of farms, rivers and thermal spas.

## Getting there

- **By air**: There is no airport in Ptuj. The closest international airports are Graz in Austria and Zagreb in Croatia, each about 1 to 1.5 hours by car. Ljubljana Airport is about 1.5 hours away. Public transport from all three needs at least one change, so a rental car or pre-booked shuttle is easiest.
- **By train**: Trains from Maribor take about 40 minutes. From Ljubljana the journey takes about 2 to 2.5 hours, often with a change. The station is a few hundred metres from the old town. Slovenian Railways
- **By bus**: Frequent buses run from Maribor, and some international coach lines also stop in Ptuj. The bus station is close to the train station. Arriva Slovenia
- **By car**: Ptuj is about 130 km from Ljubljana, mostly on motorways. Motorways in Slovenia need an e-vignette.

## Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town is small and flat, and walking is the best way to see it. The climb to the castle is short but steep.
- **Buses**: Regional buses link Ptuj with nearby towns and villages. At stops without a ticket office, pay the driver on board, ideally in cash. Arriva Slovenia
- **Cycling**: The land around Ptuj is mostly flat, and cycling along the Drava and around the lake is pleasant. The wine hills of Haloze are steep.
- **Taxis**: Useful for reaching the thermal park or wineries outside town. Ask your hotel to call one.

### Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

**High**

The old town is compact and flat, with most sights a few minutes apart; only the castle hill is a short, steep climb.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

**Moderate**

Flat riverside and lakeside routes are pleasant to ride, but the surrounding wine hills are steep and country roads have little bike infrastructure.

## Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the old town, which is best seen on foot. A car is very useful for the wine hills, manors and villages around Ptuj, where buses are rare.
- **Parking**: Ptuj has many public car parks, some free and some paid, around the edge of the old town. Park there and walk in.
- **Restrictions**: Much of the old town is closed to general traffic. During Kurentovanje, extra road closures apply.

## Food & drink

Ptuj sits in one of Slovenia's oldest wine regions. Look for white wines from the Haloze hills, such as Šipon (Furmint), Laški rizling and Sauvignon. The local Ptuj onion, ptujski lük, has protected status and appears in many local dishes. Pumpkin seed oil and hearty Štajerska dishes such as sour soups and roast meats are common.

For eating out, the best area is the old town around Slovenski trg and Mestni trg, where restaurants, wine bars and cafés with outdoor seating cluster. Tourist farms and wineries in Haloze serve home-made food with their wines.

### 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.

**Ptuj – Plan Your Trip**
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
**3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning**
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

## Safety & health

Ptuj is a very safe town, and serious crime against visitors is rare. Normal care with bags is enough.

During Kurentovanje, the streets get very crowded and loud. Keep an eye on your valuables, and expect kurents to bump into you and make noise close up. This is part of the tradition.

## History

People lived on the castle hill thousands of years ago. The Romans built a military camp here, and in AD 69 the legions in Poetovio declared *Vespasian* emperor. In 103 *Trajan* made the town a colony, and it became one of the largest Roman towns in the region. Roman stones are still built into the walls of Ptuj

Castle and the town tower, and Orpheus Monument still stands in the main square. Several shrines to the eastern god Mithras survive in the Poetovio area.

In the Middle Ages the town belonged to the archbishops of Salzburg, and the Lords of Ptuj held the castle for about three centuries. The Dominican and Minorite friars arrived in the 13th century and built monasteries that still stand. Ptuj received its town statute in 1376.

From the 17th century the castle was a Baroque home of noble families. In January 1945 a bombing raid destroyed the church of Minorite Monastery of Sts. Peter and Paul. It was rebuilt in stages and completed in 2010.

## Country facts

Quick practical facts for Slovenia at a glance:

**CURRENCY**
**EUR**

**EMERGENCY**
**112**

**ELECTRICITY**

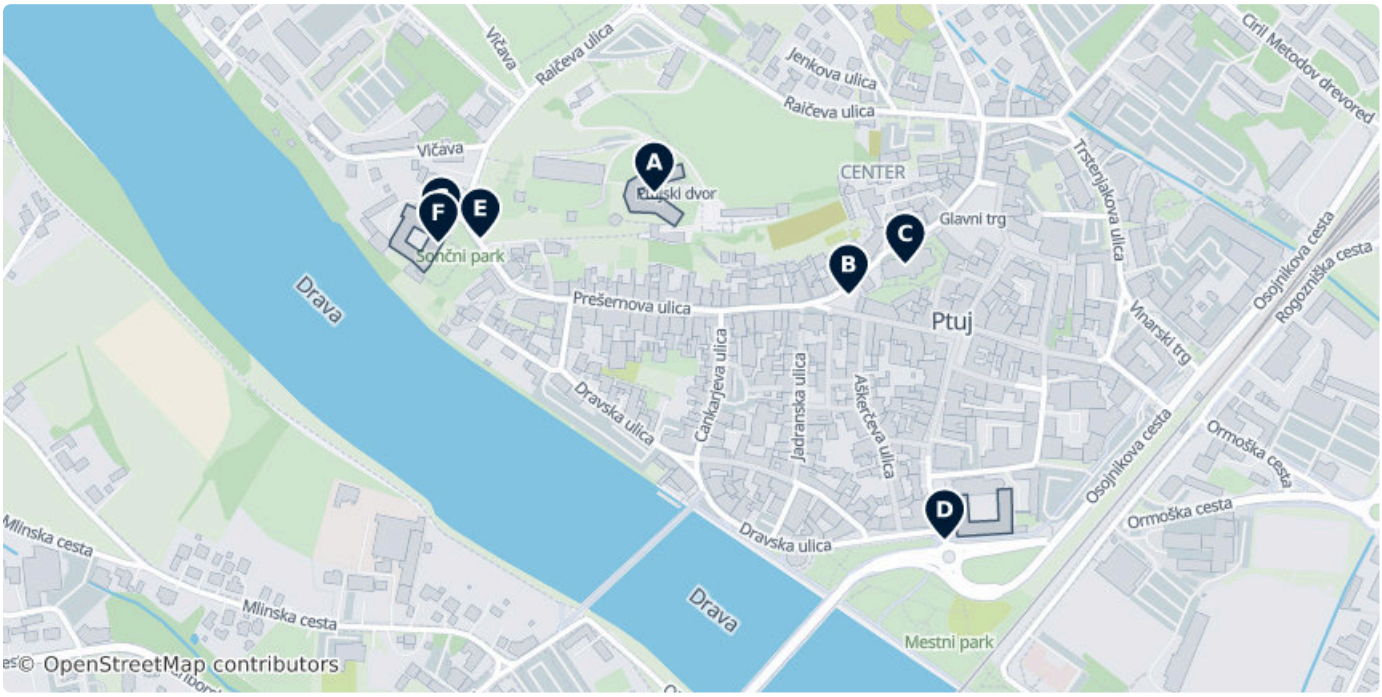
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

**LANGUAGES**
Slovenian

**TAP WATER**
**Safe to drink**

# Ptuj's Timeless Treasures

Slovenia's oldest town, Ptuj, centers on its hilltop castle overlooking the Drava River, housing historical collections of musical instruments and tapestries. The medieval core features the 13th-century Church of St. George and Slovenian Square's well-preserved townhouses. Religious heritage is highlighted by the Minorite Monastery, home to a library of rare books, and the Dominican Monastery, founded in 1230. These sites, along with the Ptuj Regional Museum, preserve the area's Roman legacy and the unique Kurent carnival traditions.






## A Ptuj Castle

Ptuj Castle is a castle in Ptuj, Slovenia. It stands on a hill alongside the Drava River overlooking the town, and it is a prominent...

Ptujski dvor, 2250 Ptuj, Slovenia (46.42099, 15.86775)



## B Slovenian Square Ptuj

The main square of the old town of Ptuj is a picturesque collection of medieval town houses, and a place where you can relax and enjoy the...

7 Slovenski trg, Ptuj 2250, Slovenia (46.42005, 15.87035)



## C Church of St George Ptuj

This is one of the oldest churches in the whole country, dating back almost 800 years. A definite must-see if you are visiting Ptuj.

Slovenski trg, 2250 Ptuj, Slovenia (46.42034, 15.87111)



## D Minorite Monastery of Sts. Peter and Paul

An amazing Baroque building featuring a library with a rich collection of old rare books. Recently restored.

Minoritski trg 1, 2250 Ptuj, Slovenia (46.41779, 15.87164)

+386 2 748 0310



## E Dominican Monastery of Ptuj

The impressive monastery dates back almost 700 years and today it houses some interesting exhibits of the Ptuj Regional Museum.

Muzejski trg 1, 2250 Ptuj, Slovenia (46.42057, 15.86542)

## F Ptuj Regional Museum

Learn everything there is to know about the history, culture and traditions of the Ptuj region. The museum offers an interesting exhibition.

Muzejski trg 1, 2250 Ptuj (46.42053, 15.86485)

pmpo.si, +386 2 787 92 30



## Dominican Monastery

Founded in 1230, this complex showcases Romanesque, Gothic, and Baroque architectural elements. Following its dissolution in 1785, the former monastery served as a hospital and barracks; it now functions as a cultural venue and museum space featuring preserved medieval cloisters.

Muzejski trg 1, 2250 Ptuj (46.42067, 15.86489)

Tu–Su 10:00–18:00

dominikanskisamostan.si, +386 51 326 011

## DATA SOURCES

| | |
|---|---|
| Map data | © OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen |
| Data | © OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikidata, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official websites |

## IMAGE CREDITS

- Ptuj Castle — "Ptuj Caslle" by Mihael Grmek, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Slovenian Square Ptuj — "Ptuj, Slovenia" by Husond, GFDL
- Church of St George Ptuj — "Church of St George Ptuj" by Thomas Hönicke, CC-BY-SA
- Minorite Monastery of Sts. Peter and Paul — "Marija z detetom iz 14. stoletja - Pokrajinski muzej Ptuj (izvorno cerkev v..." by Ljuba brank, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Dominican Monastery of Ptuj — "Statue of St. John of Nepomuk, located at the Ptuj" by ModriDirkac, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Dominican Monastery — "Dominican Monastery" by Sygic Travel User, CC-BY-SA

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 17, 2026. Text and layout by Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.