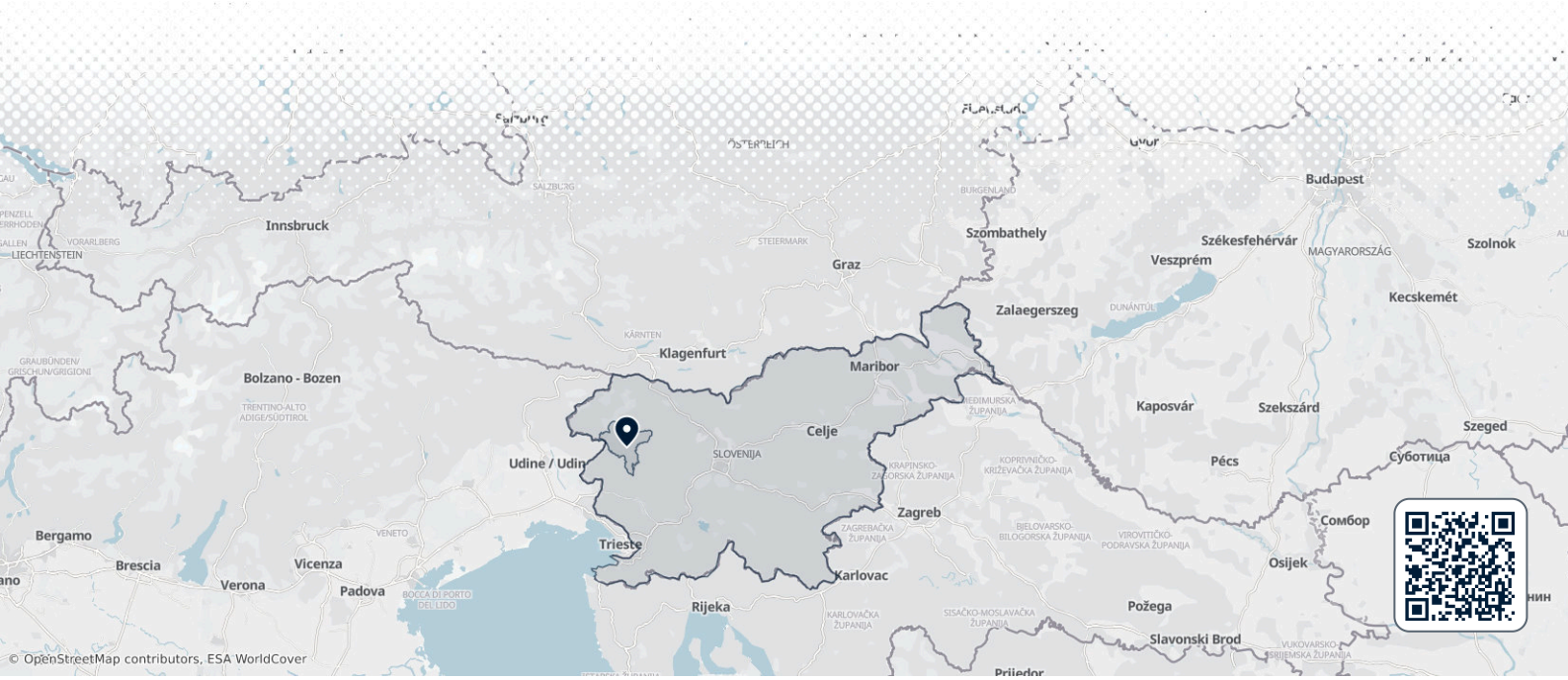


Tolmin

Slovenia

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Tolmin is a small town in the middle Soča valley, where the Tolminka river flows into the Soča. Green hills and the peaks of the Julian Alps rise around it, and the southern edge of Triglav National Park starts just above the town.

Most visitors come for the turquoise gorges, the clear rivers and the many traces of the First World War front line. The town itself is quiet and practical, with guesthouses, campsites and a few cafés around the centre. It is a good base for walking, kayaking, fishing and touring the whole Soča valley by car. In summer, international music festivals bring a younger crowd to the riverbanks.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time. May and June are green, with the rivers full of snowmelt. July and August are hot and the busiest months, with afternoon storms. September is calmer and often the most pleasant month for walking. The gorges open from spring to mid-December, but winter is cold and quiet.

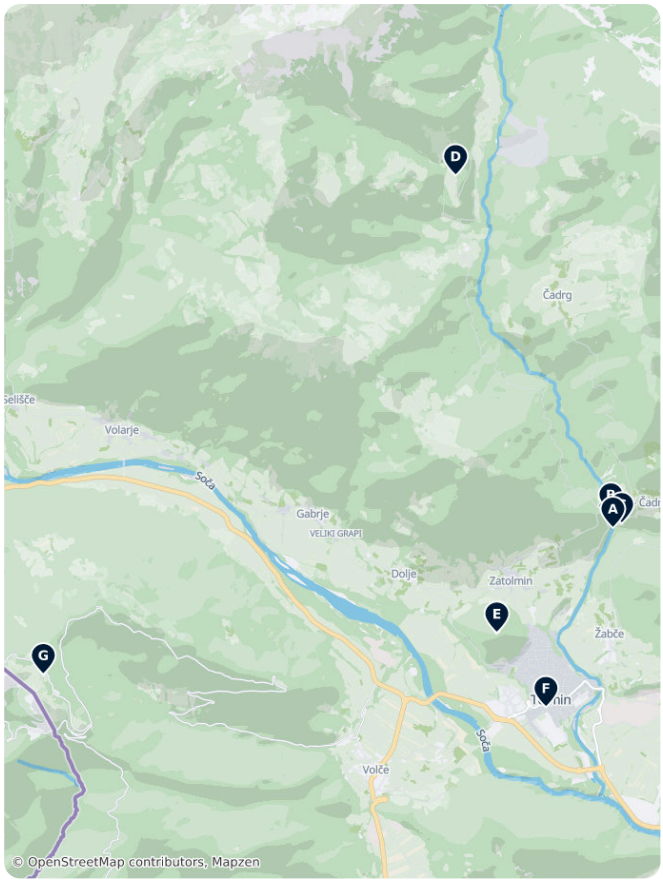
The biggest event is **Punk Rock Holiday**, a multi-day international punk festival in August at the river confluence just outside town. Book accommodation early for that week, or avoid it if you want peace.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for watersports	6° / 11° Feels like 2°	0° / -7°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	8° / 14° Feels like 4°	0° / -7°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for hiking	12° / 19°	3° / -2°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for cycling	16° / 23°	7° / 1°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 27°	12° / 7°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 31°	16° / 11°	14 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	28° / 34°	18° / 13°	14 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for watersports	29° / 35°	18° / 13°	13 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 29°	13° / 8°	12 rainy days · Calm winds
October	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 23°	10° / 3°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for cycling	12° / 17°	5° / -1°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for watersports	7° / 12° Feels like 4°	1° / -6°	Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: September

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

Top sights



A Tolmin Gorges are the town's main sight and the lowest entry point into Triglav National Park, at about 180 m. A circular path with many steps follows the narrow gorges of the Tolminka and Zadlaščica rivers to their confluence. Tickets are sold for time slots, so buy online in summer.

B Devil's Bridge spans the Tolminka gorge about 60 m above the water. It is at the start of the gorge walk, and the view down into the canyon is the classic photo.

C Zadlaz Cave opens above the Zadlaščica gorge and is also called Dante's Cave. Local tradition says the poet *Dante Alighieri* visited it and that it inspired his Inferno.

D Memorial Church of the Holy Spirit on Javorca stands on a slope above the Tolminka valley, about 8 km from Zatolmin. Austro-Hungarian soldiers built this wooden church in 1916, and the names of 2,808 fallen soldiers cover its walls. It carries the European Heritage Label.

E Kozlov rob is the hill right above the town, topped by the ruins of a medieval castle. A marked forest path climbs to the top from the town, and a small interpretation centre at the top is open from spring to autumn.

F Tolmin Museum is in the old Coronini mansion in the town centre. Its exhibitions cover the area's archaeology, folk life and history, including the Isonzo Front.

G Outdoor museum Kolovrat is a restored First World War front line on the ridge along the Italian border, west of Tolmin. Trenches, caverns and wide views over the Soča valley make it a good stop on a scenic drive.

Tolmin – 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

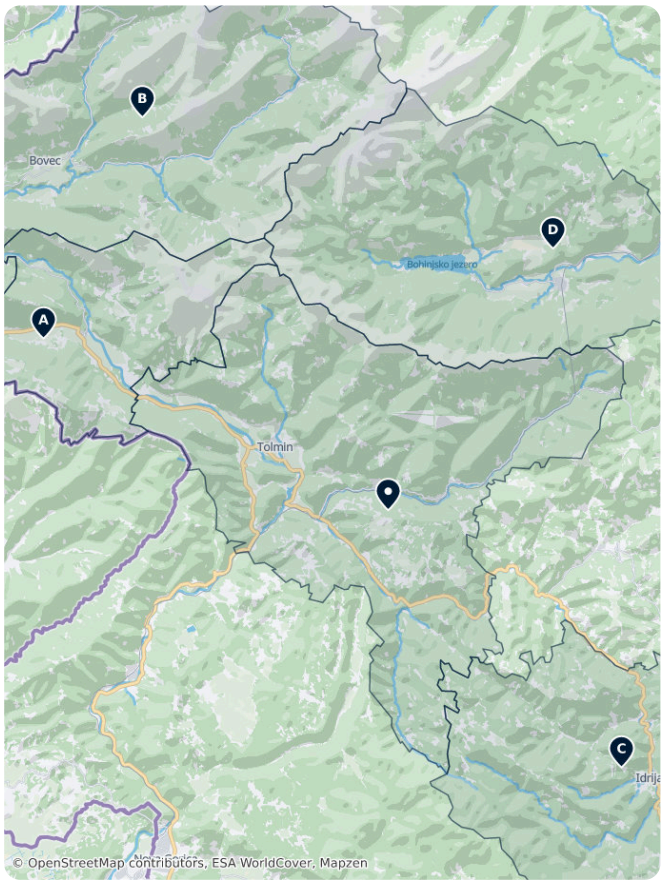
Most days in Tolmin are spent outdoors, on the rivers or on the old front line.

- **Paddle the Soča**: Rent a kayak, canoe or SUP on the calm lake at Most na Soči, or join a guided kayak trip on the river.
- **Fly-fish for marble trout**: The Soča, Tolminka and Idrijca are famous among anglers for the native marble trout. You need a fishing permit.
- **Follow the Walk of Peace**: This marked route links First World War sites across the Soča valley. Near Tolmin it passes the German charnel house, Outdoor museum Kolovrat and Memorial Church of the Holy Spirit on Javorca.
- **Hike to the Vogel ridge**: Long trails climb from the villages above Tolmin to the ridge between the Soča valley and Bohinj. Experienced hikers can cross to the Vogel cable car on the Bohinj side.
- **Join a summer festival**: In July and August, international metal and punk festivals take over the riverside camp at the confluence of the Soča and Tolminka.

Day trips

Tolmin sits in the middle of the Soča valley, so many good day trips are close.

- **Most na Soči** — ≈10 min by car or bus. A village above an emerald reservoir lake with boat trips, kayak and SUP rental, and an archaeological museum.
- A Kobarid — ≈20 min by car. An award-winning First World War museum and the Kozjak waterfall.
- B Bovec — ≈45 min by car. The main outdoor sports centre of the upper Soča valley, with rafting, waterfalls and the Great Soča Gorge.
- C Idrija — ≈1 h by car. A UNESCO-listed mercury mining town known for its lace.
- D Bohinj — ≈1–1.5 h by car, or by car train from Most na Soči. A large alpine lake and the Vogel cable car.



Where to explore

Tolmin lies on the southern edge of Triglav National Park, which covers the mountains north of the town.

Up the Soča valley are Kobarid and Bovec. Over the mountains to the east lies Bohinj, and to the south-east is the old mining town of Idrija.

Getting there

- **By air**: Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport and Trieste Airport in Italy are the nearest gateways, each roughly 1.5–2 hours away by car. There is no direct public transport from either airport.
- **By train**: The nearest station is Most na Soči on the scenic Bohinj railway, about 5 km south. Trains link it with Nova Gorica and with Jesenice via Bohinj. Local buses or a taxi cover the last part. Slovenian Railways
- **Car train**: A car train runs through the Bohinj tunnel between Bohinjska Bistrica and Most na Soči several times a day. It saves a long drive over the mountains; places are first come, first served.
- **By bus**: Direct buses link Tolmin with Ljubljana and with other towns in the Soča valley. Arriva bus timetables

Getting around

- **On foot**: The town centre is small, and the gorges are about 2 km north on a footpath. The path up Kozlov rob starts at the edge of town.
- **Summer shuttle**: In summer, a free shuttle runs to the gorges from the free car parks at the edge of town. Soča Valley tourist board
- **Buses**: Arriva buses connect Tolmin with Most na Soči, Kobarid and Bovec, but services are infrequent, especially at weekends.
- **Cycling**: The valley roads and riverside paths are good for cycling and e-bikes. Climbs to the ridges and Javorca are steep.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The small town centre and the path to the gorges are easy to walk, but most other sights are spread across the valley and hills.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The valley roads and riverside paths suit cycling and e-bikes, but climbs to the ridges are long and steep.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Yes, for most visitors. The best sights are spread across the valley and the hills, and buses are infrequent.
- **Gorges parking**: A small paid car park is next to the gorge entrance from Easter to September. Two free car parks further away have a summer shuttle or a 15–30 minute walk.
- **Mountain roads**: Roads to Javorca, Kolovrat and the high villages are narrow and steep, with few passing places. Drive slowly and expect cyclists.
- **To Bohinj**: The road over the mountains is long and winding. The car train from Most na Soči through the Bohinj tunnel is the faster option.

Food & drink

Tolmin's best-known product is **Tolminc**, a hard cow's milk cheese from the high pastures above the valley, with EU protected status. Look for it in local restaurants and at farm shops. It is also used in frika, a pan-fried dish of potatoes and cheese. Trout from the Soča and its side rivers is on many menus.

Restaurants and cafés cluster around the main square and along the main street in the town centre. In summer, mountain pastures and tourist farms in the hills serve simple local meals. For a special dinner, Hiša Franko near Kobarid is one of Slovenia's most famous restaurants; book well ahead.

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.

Tolmin – 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

Tolmin is very safe, and crime against visitors is rare. The real risks come from nature.

- **Gorge paths**: The path through the gorges has many steps and can be wet and slippery. Wear shoes with a good sole. It is not suitable for strollers; use a child carrier.
- **River safety**: The Soča and Tolminka are very cold even in summer, and currents are strong. Swim only in calm spots.
- **Closures**: The gorges close during storms and high water. Check conditions before you go.
- **Mountain weather**: Summer afternoons often bring thunderstorms. Start hikes early.

History

People have lived here for thousands of years. Most na Soči was an important Iron Age settlement, and finds from it are shown in the local museums. In the Middle Ages, the castle on Kozlov rob guarded the valley. After it was abandoned in the 17th century, the Coronini family moved down to the mansion that now houses Tolmin Museum. In 1713, Tolmin was the starting point of a great peasant revolt against new taxes.

From 1915 to 1917, the Isonzo Front ran right past the town. Austro-Hungarian troops held a bridgehead on the hills west of Tolmin, and Italian positions lined the ridges above. In October 1917, the breakthrough of the Battle of Caporetto began here and near Bovec. The German charnel house by the Soča holds the remains of 965 German soldiers who died in that battle. Memorial Church of the Holy Spirit on Javorca and Outdoor museum Kolovrat are other places where this history is still visible.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Slovenia at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



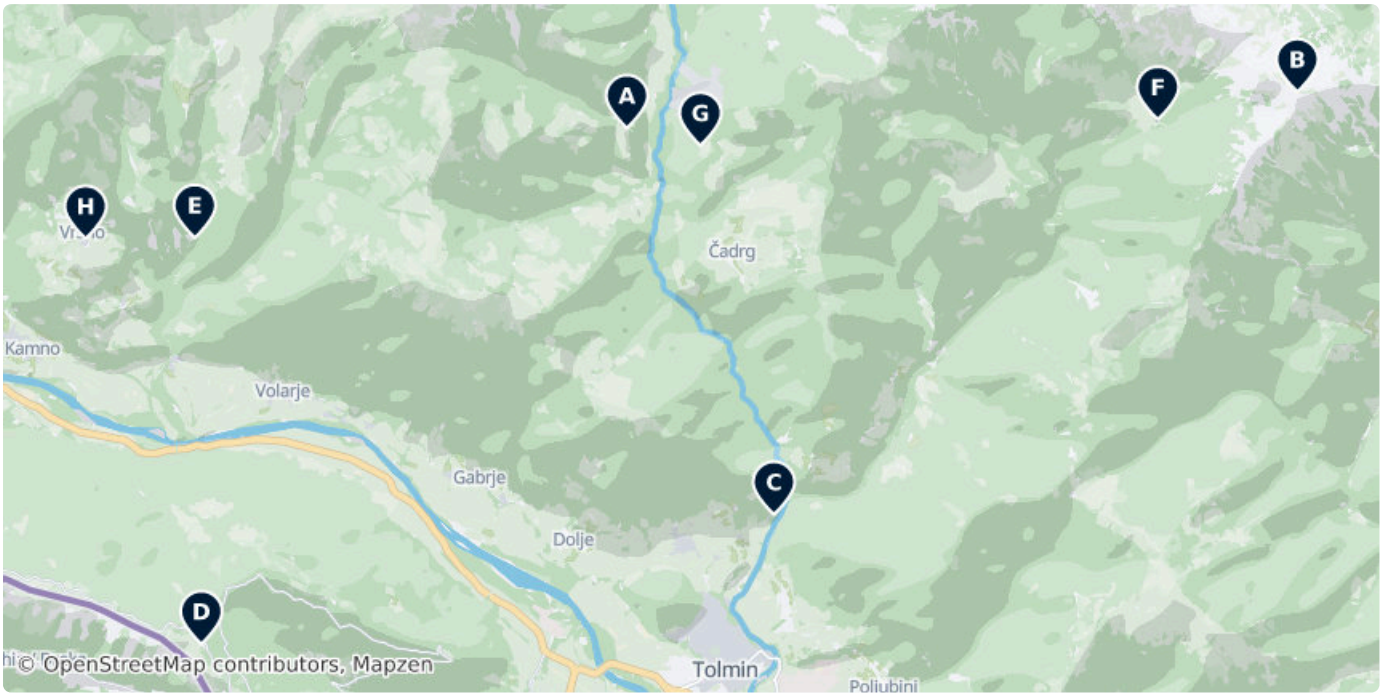
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Slovenian

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Tolmin Essentials

Tolmin serves as a central hub for exploring the Julian Alps and the upper Soča Valley. This selection features the Tolmin Gorges, the lowest entry point into Triglav National Park, and the Javorca Memorial Church, a wooden Art Nouveau structure built during World War I. Historical landmarks include the Kolovrat open-air museum, showcasing Italian and Austro-Hungarian fortifications, and the birthplace of poet Simon Gregorčič. Natural highlights encompass the 1,922-meter Vogel peak and the 88-meter-high Gregorčič waterfall.





A Memorial Church of the Holy Spirit on Javorca

Holy Spirit Church, Javorca is a memorial church near Zatolmin in Slovenia.

Zatolmin, 5220, Slovenia (46.23485, 13.71976)

javorca.info



B Vogel

A 1,922-meter peak in the Julian Alps offering panoramic views of Triglav and the Bohinj mountains. It serves as a prominent hiking destination and a ski resort during winter months.

5220, Slovenia (46.23832, 13.81252)



C Tolminska Korita

The lowest entry point into Triglav National Park, featuring a circular path through the Tolminka and Zadlaščica canyons. Key features include the Devil's Bridge, Dante's Cave, and a thermal spring.

(Unnamed Road), 5220, Slovenia (46.19788, 13.74008)



D Outdoor museum Kolovrat

A restored section of the Italian Army's third line of defense from the First World War. The site includes command posts, trenches, and stone-built fortifications overlooking the Soča Valley.

605, 5220, Slovenia (46.18548, 13.66086)

Mo–Su Open 24/7



E Gregorčič waterfall

An 88-meter-high waterfall located on the Volarja stream. Named after the poet Simon Gregorčič, it is accessible via a forest trail from the village of Selce.

5220, Slovenia (46.22436, 13.65995)

F Koča na planini Razor

A mountain hut situated at 1,315 meters on the Razor alpine pasture. It serves as a base for hikers and is known for traditional cheese production during the summer grazing season.

Tolminske Ravne 15, 5220 Tolmin, SI (46.23567, 13.79321)

planinske-koce.si/koca_na_planini_razor, +386 5 828 07 07

G Žlejžn viewpoint

An observation point offering elevated views of the Polog valley and the surrounding peaks, located along the access route toward the Javorca Memorial Church.

(46.23319, 13.72993)

H Rojstna hiša Simona Gregorčiča

A museum located in the 19th-century farmhouse in Vrsno where the Slovenian poet Simon Gregorčič was born. The exhibition details his literary work and local ethnographic heritage.

27, 5222 Kobarid (46.22426, 13.64484)

tol-muzej.si/razstave/stalne-razstave/roj... , +386 70 952 814

DATA SOURCES

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

IMAGE CREDITS

- Memorial Church of the Holy Spirit on Javorca — "Cerkev sv. Duha by Nina Gantar" by Nina Gantar, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Vogel — "Vogel" by Sygic Travel User, CC-BY-SA
- Tolminska Korita — Simona Pecková, CC-BY-SA
- Outdoor museum Kolovrat — "Outdoor museum Kolovrat by", CC BY-SA 4.0
- Gregorčič waterfall — "Pogled z razgledne točke Knik. V ozadju je viden Gregorčičev slap." by Monikalusin, Public domain

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 19, 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.