

SLOVENIA FIELDTRIP, 2005

DATES

Friday 18th March to Wednesday 23rd March, 2005.

ACCOMMODATION

We will be staying at Hotel Krim. The phone number is: 00 38 64 5197000.

PHONE CALLS

If someone needs to phone you from home, tell them to dial the numbers as given above - the 00 prefix is the international access code. If phoning home you will need to dial 00 353 area_code number (but omit the first zero in the area code – e.g. dial 1 rather than 01 for Dublin).

It may be useful to bring your mobile in case we need to contact you. You should check with your mobile phone service provider that you are able to take and receive calls / texts while in Slovenia. Bear in mind that you have to pay roaming charges to make and receive calls. These charges can be expensive. Your service provider will be able to give you details.

FLIGHT DETAILS

Meet at 12.00 on March 18th at Dublin airport to receive tickets.

Check-in at 12.40 for flight EI426 departing at 14.40 for Venice.

Return flight: EI427 from Venice scheduled to arrive in Dublin at 20.45 on 23rd March.

PASSPORTS / VISAS

You will require a valid passport. Please check that your passport is valid well in advance. No visas are required.

STUDENT ID CARDS

Although probably not essential, it may be useful to bring your student cards as further proof of your identity. There are also various discounts available on admission fees etc. for holders of International Student Identity Cards (ISIC). If you already have one you should bring it with you, but it is probably not worth getting one especially for the field trip as most fees etc. are included.

COSTS

The full cost of the trip is €720. A balance of €520 should be paid to Gay Murphy in the Physical Geography Lab on Tuesday 8th February between 11.30 and 12.30.

Students on grants should receive a full refund shortly after returning from the trip. Students not on grants will receive a partial refund – hopefully about €200.

The cost of the trip covers travel by air and coach, entrance fees to various sites, accommodation, and breakfast and evening meals. It does not cover lunch. You should therefore bring sufficient money to cover the cost of lunch and other expenses (including possible extra costs that we have not anticipated).

CURRENCY

Slovenia does not use the Euro, so you will need to get local currency (i.e. tolar (SIT)). There is currently about 230SIT per 1€. It may be possible to order this through a bank before you leave, but it would be advisable to order it well in advance. It should also be possible to convert Euro into tolar at Dublin airport. Note, however, that we are flying to Italy, so there may not be another opportunity to convert currency until we arrive in Slovenia. However, we will be arriving at night, and you may not get an opportunity to get a local bank open for a few days.

If you have a credit card, it should be possible to get local currency from a cash machine, but you will have to pay a commission. If you have a cash card you should check with your bank whether it is accepted in Slovenia. Make sure your PIN will work overseas.

It is difficult to estimate how much money you will require - it all depends upon how much you intend to spend on meals, drink, presents, etc. Given that Ireland is now one of the most expensive countries in the world, food and drink should be cheaper than at home, but Slovenia has an advanced economy and most things are not especially cheap. It is probably advisable to bring the amount of money you would expect to spend in Ireland.

We will spend the final day in Venice. You should therefore bring some Euro with you as well.

FORM E111

Forms E111 will be distributed at the meeting. These should be filled in and returned to Gay Murphy when you are paying the balance. Please ensure all the details are completed (including PPS number). Your name must be filled in exactly as it is on your passport.

NOTEBOOKS

You will be expected to take notes during the trip, so you should bring a field notebook with you. It would be best to buy a notebook with a hard cover. It should not be too small, but be small enough to fit into your pocket. Something around A5 size would be ideal. The notebooks will be collected at the end of the trip for inspection.

EMERGENCIES

In the event of any unforeseen emergency before the trip departs, please contact Ro Charlton or Dennis Pringle as soon as possible. Messages can be also left with the Departmental Secretaries, Mary Weld (Tel . 708 3610) and Gay Murphy (708 4760).

VEGETARIANS

Anyone requiring a vegetarian diet (or any other special diet) should inform us as soon as possible.

SPECIAL HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

If you have any known health problems that we need to be aware of (e.g. epilepsy, diabetes), please inform Ro Charlton or Dennis Pringle as soon as possible.

LANGUAGE

The local language is Slovenian, which is related to Serbo-Croat. However, a lot of people, especially young people, have some knowledge of English, so it should be possible to get by.

ROAD SAFETY

Beware when crossing the road. It is very easy to forget that cars drive on the right, causing you to look the wrong way when crossing roads. Do not assume that a 'green man' means that the cars will stop. In many European countries it simply means that the pedestrians are permitted to cross.

ITINERARY

Day 1 (Friday 18th March) : Fly to Venice. Travel by coach to hotel in Bled.

Day 2 (Saturday 19th March) : Visit Ljubljana (the capital city). After lunch visit either Postojna or Skopjanske Jama cave.

Day 3 (Sunday 20th March) : Visit the Adriatic coast.

Day 4 (Monday 21st March) : Visit to the Julian Alps.

Day 5 (Tuesday 22nd March) : Exploration of the local area.

Day 6 (Wednesday 23rd March) : Coach to Venice, where there should be a few hours to visit the sights before returning home.

ASSESSMENT

The fieldtrip counts for 10 credits. We will therefore require you to complete various assignments for assessment purposes. This will involve a project before the trip (details of which are provided in a separate handout). Various other assignments will be assigned during the trip, some of which may need to be completed on return to Ireland.

Ro Charlton

Dennis Pringle