

Slovenian Beekeeping's 10th Beekeeping Tour to Slovenia



Presented by Suzanne Brouillette

Where is Slovenia?



9 - 25 May, 2023 for Queen Rearing or Early Arrival for Tour

10-25 May, 2023 for Tour

Slovenians are known as *the beekeepers of Europe*. Every 200th person is a beekeeper! Slovenia is a small, beautiful and very green country in so many ways. We will visit almost all parts of the country staying at local farmhouses with home cooked meals. Plenty of walking opportunities throughout the tour. We enjoy many experiences and visit several places each day but at a nice, comfortable pace. I have been leading these tours since 2015, and each tour has been amazing. You will have a wonderful time and fall in love with Slovenia!

Arrival is May 11, **the official tour begins on May 12**. There are two new things on this tour - The first is a full day of a queen rearing class, this is on 11 May so you must arrive on 10 May. This class is for experienced beekeepers only and this class is 50E extra and will include a bag lunch. The night of the 10th is on your own at the farmhouse. Second, where there are *******, I have organized for those of you who are already AZ beekeepers to have a session with the beekeeper to ask more advanced questions. This will happen after the regular tour where everyone can ask questions.

Note: Any extra nights you spend before May 11 are extra, about 50E each. You pay this directly to the farmhouse where we are staying.

[Depart either 9 or 10 May depending if you attend the queen rearing OR you can come a day early to just relax and recover from jet lag. I will be at the farmhouse on the 10th to meet anyone coming for the queen rearing class. We will have dinner together. Those who come early can a day free to enjoy the walk to Bled, it is a 1.3 km walk and it's a beautiful walk.](#)

10 May Wed – Arrival Day for Queen Rearing Beekeepers or those who just want to come early. – A taxi will meet you at the Ljubljana Airport, to bring you to the farmhouse.

11 May Thurs – Queen Rearing Day

Breakfast. Meet with Brane for a full day out in a pristine forest where he has his queen rearing apiary. Bag lunch will be provided. There are no accommodations in the forest, you will be roughing it! This you need to sign up in advance and costs 50E each. Dinner and overnight on own at the farmhouse.

11 May Thursday – Arrival Day for all others

Arrive at Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport, Slovenia. A taxi will meet you and bring you to the farmhouse in Bled. Dinner and overnight at Povsin Farmhouse.



12 May, Friday

Breakfast. We go to the Beekeeping Museum then to a bar like no other, imagine drinking a beer with buzzing all around you! (OK, not a good example as we beekeepers drink beer and watch our bees all the time!) We will also visit Anton Jansa's beehouse, his birthday is 20 May and the reason World Bee Day is on this day. Then we are off on an apiary tour with Blaz. **Later, ***experienced AZ beekeepers can stay and participate in an advanced hive dive with him**, it is within walking distance of our farmhouse. Dinner and overnight at Povsin Farmhouse.

13 May, Saturday

Breakfast. Today, we visit Toni's beehouses, one of them used for apitherapy, located in a beautiful valley in the mountains. Then visit a local artist and beekeeper then free time in Bled. Dinner and overnight at Povsin Farmhouse.



14 May, Sunday

Breakfast. We will have an Apitherapy Class with Nika, all beekeepers have a medicine chest with their bees and you will learn what you can do with the various ingredients to improve your health. We then drive to the Styria Region and visit an estate that will make any wine drinker very happy! Dinner and overnight at Firbas Farmhouse.

15 May, Monday

Breakfast. We visit the wonderful Tigeli bee house and gardens with a very unique bee house you will not see anywhere else! We then visit another very nice bee house that is used for Apitherapy and for people to stay overnight. Next is a visit to taste smoked ham. Dinner and overnight at Firbas.



16 May, Tuesday

Breakfast. We visit one of my very favorite apiaries, we visit here on every tour. You will love the gardens, bee houses and a few other surprises as well. Then to another favorite, a visit to a pumpkin oil factory. You may have never tasted pumpkin oil, but trust me, you will be a convert! I always replenish my supply when I am here. And to finish out the day, we visit a beekeeper who has collected very old bee houses and we will have an early dinner here. Overnight at Firbas Farmhouse.

17 May, Wednesday

Breakfast. Visit the town of Ptuj where there is a privately owned castle we can tour and learn about the fable “The Princess & The Pea”. Then into the town to visit a very cool bar. Next to visit an open air museum with gardens and bee houses. Dinner and overnight at Jelenov Gardens.



18 May, Thursday

Breakfast. We visit the Jelenov Greben estate & their new center. Afterwards we visit the monastery of Olimje with a very old pharmacy where you can buy natural remedies. The monks are also beekeepers! Next door is a chocolate factory. Then to the land of fairy tales and fantasy. Finally, we visit Kozmus Apiary, he is the vice president of Apimondia. Dinner and overnight at Jelenov Greben.

19 May, Friday

Breakfast. Next, we visit a wonderful beekeeper who has several transportation systems. *****Time for experienced AZ beekeepers to ask questions [here](#).** Then to Andreja's, she is a potter and a 4th generation beekeeper. She has a new beehouse that we will visit then we wind up this day with a splendid picnic in the middle of a field that is also home to a very nice apitherapy bee house. We will spend the night in a very unusual place! Light dinner at a local restaurant and overnight at the Carnica Bee House.



20 May, Saturday, World Bee Day

Breakfast. We visit the Carniolan Bee House Center in Višnja Gora dedicated to presenting the heritage of the Carniolan bee and innovative beekeeping solutions. There may be World Bee Day activities also on this day. Then, we take in a center for mentally handicapped adults who make crafts. Some residents are beekeepers who are proud to show us their new bee house. In the afternoon, we enjoy a bee walk. If time we will visit one more beekeeper at Pristava. Dinner at a local restaurant and overnight at Carnica Bee House.



21 May, Sunday

Breakfast. We have a two hour drive to one of my favorite beekeepers, Franc Sivic. He is one of Slovenia's best and most experienced beekeepers and a fountain of information. ***Experienced AZ beekeepers will have time with him to ask more advanced questions. Then, we're off to the winery where my favorite red wine is made. Then to the coast to visit Slovenia's Salt Pans where they have been making salt the same way for over 700 years, a very cool place. Dinner and overnight near Piran.



Salt Pans



The Adriatic Sea

22 May, Monday

Breakfast. Half day in Piran which sits on the Adriatic Sea, very picturesque and where there are many restaurants, shops and you can jump into the Adriatic right off the strip. OR you can sign up for an extra event with a several course fish lunch on a fishing boat and swim off the boat in the Adriatic, this is 50E extra and limited to 9. At 2 we're off to my part of Slovenia, the gorgeous Soca River Valley. Some will stay at the campground in Swiss Chalets, and others up in the mountains in my village. This afternoon you are on your own. You can walk to the waterfall, go hiking, go into town or just relax. Those at the campground can eat there off their menu. Dinner is on your own tonight.



Dreznica, near my village



Kamp Koren Swiss Chalet Cabins

23 May, Tuesday

Breakfast all together at the campground. Today is a day in Kobarid with no formal plans – you can go paragliding, white water rafting, hiking or just relax. There is also a nearby zip line in Bovec. I can organize any of these activities for you. All activity costs are on your own. Tonight's dinner will be in my village at a neighbor's house. Overnight.

[The Soca River](#)



24 May, Wednesday

Breakfast and pack up. We visit Franja Partisan Hospital from WWII, this is a bit of a hike so it will depend on if everyone can do it. This is where wounded soldiers were taken by the partisans to safely heal them and hide them from the Germans. Then off to the Slovenian Beekeepers Association. This is a good place to buy bee supplies like wax foundation! Enjoy *their* bee walk, have lunch or sip a cold drink outside overlooking the bee houses. We dine and spend the night in the hills overlooking the valley near the airport. Save room in your suitcase for any bee equipment! Dinner and overnight.

25 May, Thursday

Breakfast. A taxi will take each of you at the right time to the airport, about 25 minutes away.

ACCOMMODATIONS ARE IN LOCAL FARM HOUSES, THEY SERVE MEALS MADE FROM SCRATCH AND LOCALLY GROWN. ITS ALSO A GREAT WAY TO MEET THE LOCALS AND ENJOY THE COUNTRYSIDE. **Let me know if you have any food restrictions.******

Pricing

\$4000 per person; if you pay by Credit Card or Paypal there is an additional 4% charge. You can pay by check to save on this fee. This price based on a minimum of 7 people. Deposit of \$2000 to reserve your seat.

Single rooms are very limited, so it will be first come, first served for an additional \$300.

Sign up by April 24, refunds possible until 10 April.

Tour Includes:

Transportation, guide, accommodations and two meals a day unless otherwise noted, and all the afore mentioned visits.

Not Included:

Airline tickets, adventure sports, Queen Rearing Day, Fish lunch on boat, drinks, travel insurance



Any questions contact Suzanne at beeslovenia@gmail.com or text at

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