

## 1. EVENT

Event: IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE, BLED, SLOVENIA

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Venue: Jupiter Hall, Golf Hotel, Bled.

## 2. VISAS

Slovenia is a member of the Schengen area. Entering into one Schengen member state allows persons to travel freely to all Schengen member states (Schengen area). Countries within the Schengen area are: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

### Visa Exemptions

Citizens of a number of countries can enter the Schengen area with a valid travel document and without a visa. Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 in Annex II lists nationals of third countries who are exempt from the visa requirement: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:2001R0539:20140609:EN:PDF>

### Holders of a valid Schengen visa

Foreign nationals holding a valid visa issued by any Schengen country may also enter Slovenia, they only need to take into account the Schengen visa restriction limiting a holder's stay to up to 90 days within a period of any 180 days. Third country nationals who are holders of a valid residence permit or a long-stay visa of any Schengen country are also allowed to enter Slovenia.

### If you do not hold a valid visa or if there is no visa exemption

The first step is to inform the IWC Secretariat by email ([secretariat@iwc.int](mailto:secretariat@iwc.int)), about you needing a visa, with the following data: Your Name/Surname, Address and professional function.

The Secretariat will forward your data to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, which shall issue an invitation letter for you. The invitation letter is needed for the visa procedure (see below).

If you are not in possession of a valid Schengen visa, you can apply for one at any Slovenian diplomatic mission or consular post, or at the missions of other Schengen countries with which Slovenia has concluded agreements for issuing short stay visas. There are more than 140 such missions all over the world:

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/documents/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/docs/20151019\\_1\\_annex\\_28\\_ms\\_consular\\_representation\\_20\\_en.xlsx](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/documents/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/docs/20151019_1_annex_28_ms_consular_representation_20_en.xlsx)

Some countries have neither a Slovenian embassy nor a visa agreement concluded with missions of other Schengen countries, in which case the applicant needs to apply for a visa at the nearest Slovenian embassy. Applicants from these countries are advised to immediately inform the organiser about this situation, as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia will try to facilitate the visa procedure.

### Visa fee

Regular visa fee is EUR 60. Based on the agreements between the EU and certain countries, a reduced visa fee of EUR 35 or even an exemption from the fees can be applied for.

### Visa procedure

The visa procedure is usually concluded within 15 days, provided that all required documents have been submitted. The application can be filed up to three months in advance and no later than four (4) weeks in advance of the planned trip.

General visa information is available at the following links:

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/index_en.htm)

[http://www.mzz.gov.si/en/travel\\_and\\_visa\\_information/visa\\_information/](http://www.mzz.gov.si/en/travel_and_visa_information/visa_information/)

[http://www.mzz.gov.si/en/travel\\_and\\_visa\\_information/visa\\_information/general\\_information](http://www.mzz.gov.si/en/travel_and_visa_information/visa_information/general_information)

Applicants should submit the following documents:

- Invitation, required for the visa process, by the organiser in Slovenia
- Any other documents required by a specific embassy

More information on the required documents is available at:

[http://www.mzz.gov.si/fileadmin/pageuploads/Konzularne\\_informacije/vizne\\_informacije/visa\\_info\\_english/Short.doc](http://www.mzz.gov.si/fileadmin/pageuploads/Konzularne_informacije/vizne_informacije/visa_info_english/Short.doc)

### **Important notice**

To receive an invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, the applicants needing a Schengen visa shall register themselves at the IWC Secretariat [https://portal.iwc.int/event\\_meetings](https://portal.iwc.int/event_meetings)

Deadline for registration for applicants needing a Schengen visa is **25 March 2016**. Receiving the complete registration form will enable the Ministry to send you the invitation required for the visa process in due time.

Should you have any difficulties in obtaining a visa, please contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, Consular Department, at the following e-mail: [iwc.mzz@gov.si](mailto:iwc.mzz@gov.si)

## **3. INTRODUCTION**

### **3.1. SLOVENIA**

Slovenia lies in the heart of Europe, where the Alps meet the Mediterranean and the Pannonian Plain meets the Karst. This small green country measures 20,273 km<sup>2</sup> in area, and is home to sincere, hospitable people of great diligence. It has an exceptional number of top athletes, and a wealth of cultural creativity. In Slovenia it is not difficult to compare the value of goods and services, as they are priced in one of the world's major currencies, the euro.

The collision of four major European geographical units has created an exhilarating and exciting landscape, much of it thickly forested. More than a third of the country's area is protected.

The most mountainous region is in the north, where the Alps begin. The Julian Alps and the Kamnik-Savinja Alps have many stunning sharp peaks. The peaks of the Karavanke, the mountains bordering Austria, are more gentle.

Much of the east of the country between the capital city of Ljubljana and the second largest city of Maribor is uplands, as are the areas west and south of the capital.

There are gentler hills in the south-east and east, where vines flourish, while plains and basins fill the areas between the hills. The Ljubljana region lies in the largest basin.

Slovenia also has a large plains area, as the east of the country is part of the Pannonian Plain.

Not only is the land surface very inspiring, there are also wonders underground: some of the country's 9,000 karstic caves are among the most beautiful in the world.

Slovenia's coast is short but full of variety. There you will find the internationally famous Sečovelje saltworks and beautifully preserved medieval towns such as Piran. The coastal hinterland is dominated by the hills of Slovenian Istria.

Slovenia is one of the top destinations in Europe for experiencing natural history and wildlife, especially for karstic caves, angling (including flyfishing), mountaineering, bird watching and plants and butterflies. More info on:

[http://www.slovenia.info/en/naravne-znamenitosti-jame.htm?naravne\\_znamenitosti\\_jame=0&lng=2](http://www.slovenia.info/en/naravne-znamenitosti-jame.htm?naravne_znamenitosti_jame=0&lng=2)

The majority of local people can speak good English and most have a good grasp of German. A large share of the population can communicate in the languages of the old Yugoslavia, while there are many fluent Italian speakers in the areas bordering Italy.

### 3.2 Bled – The jewel of Alps



Bled is a true alpine paradise in the northwest of Slovenia. Its idyllic lake with enchanting island and imposing cliff top castle has made it famous worldwide. These attractions have drawn visitors to Bled for centuries, leading to its becoming a premier destination for prestigious meetings and events. The expertise that has been built up, allied with premier facilities, enables Bled to offer a comprehensive conference packages and remains one of the most sought after conference destinations in Slovenia.

#### Why Bled?

- It is a green oasis and among the five most idyllic places in Europe (Forbes Magazine)
- One of the most green destinations in the region
- Ideal destination for small and medium sized meetings, conferences and events
- Connecting elements: water, tradition, authenticity, nature, Bled cream cake
- Offers an excellent option to choose and connect different environments, venues and activities
- Pleasant and creative atmosphere by the lake that creates a reflection of feelings - uniqueness, tradition mixed with novelty



Bled enjoys a prime location on the edge of the Triglav National Park, while also being only a short drive from the capital city of Ljubljana (**35min**) and its international airport (**25min**).

#### Ljubljana Airport

Direct scheduled flights from / to: Frankfurt, London, Paris, Zurich, Munich, Berlin, Amsterdam, Brussels, Budapest, Copenhagen, Moscow, Vienna, Prague, Sarajevo, Belgrade, Warsaw. **Flying time from EU main capitals roughly 1h 45min.**

To arrange transfers from the airport please go to:

(<http://bled-taxi.com/iwc2016-transfer-order/>)

#### **Ljubljana Airport transfers to Bled:**

1-4 persons	55€
Up to 8 persons	80€



## 4. MEETING VENUE AND FACILITIES



The **Golf Hotel** is one of the most attractive meeting venues in Bled. It is the largest hotel conference centre in the region, covering a total area of 900m<sup>2</sup>.

**Scientific Committee plenary sessions will take place in the Jupiter Hall**

Sava Hotels & Resorts care about tomorrow and so the Scientific Committee will be hosted as a **GREEN meeting**. This includes:

- **Decreased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**

The conference area will use natural light to the greatest extent possible and the temperature will be adapted to the natural surroundings. We live in a climate of four seasons – let's feel it.

- **Green travel tips**

In order to generate as little emissions as possible during your trip to Bled, we offer:

- transport for participants from the airport using a vehicle that runs on natural gas
- organised group bus conveyance to the event,
- 10% discount on the package price for each participant arriving by train or other public transport (valid ticket required as proof).

- **Tap water**

A litre of bottled water uses as much energy as a litre of petrol. Fill bottles with tap water. The water in Slovenia is clean and drinkable! You will be served tap water at the meeting.

- **Local beverages and dishes**

Refresh and sustain yourself with local beverages and dishes. A respect for local providers is a significant principle of sustainable development; this prevents a carbon footprint increase by discouraging long international transport routes. We will offer you dishes from providers within the local environs.

- **Green wastes are separated wastes**

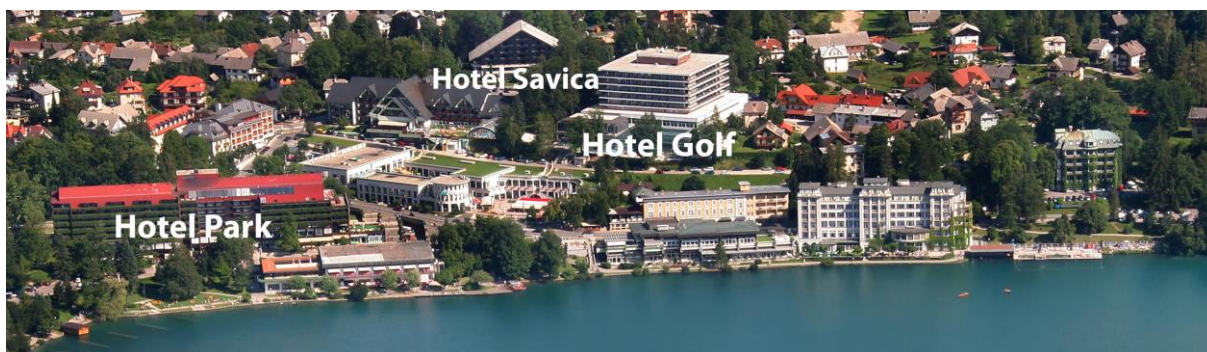
Decrease waste quantities and separate waste that you generate. The conference rooms are equipped with trash bins for separate waste collection. Do not take printed materials you do not need. Throw those that you no longer require in the paper collection bin.





## 5. NEARBY HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Sava Hotels & Resorts propose the following hotels, all within walking distance (4 min):



### 5.1. Hotel Golf\*\*\*\* (This is the meeting venue)

Room type	Park view EUR	Lake view EUR
Single Room	117	148
Double Room	133	169
Prices	Per room per day	
Supplement	1,27 EUR per person per day (tourist tax) 1,00 EUR per person per stay (registration fee)	

Prices includes: bed & breakfast, free internet access, 10% discount on all wellness services at Wellness Živa, VAT.



*The Golf Hotel is a modern conference and spa hotel which boasts a prime location in the centre of Bled. It is embraced by a park featuring majestic trees and affords stunning views of Lake Bled, its island, the castle and the Julian Alps beyond.*

**The competitive advantages** of the hotel include its being the largest hotel conference centre in Bled, divine relaxation at its Živa Wellness Centre, its spaciousness, comfort to international standards and the quality of its cuisine.

### 5.2. Hotel Park\*\*\*\*

Room type	Park view EUR	Lake view EUR
Single Room	105	130
Double Room	125	155
Prices	Per room per day	
Supplement	1,27 EUR per person per day (tourist tax) 1,00 EUR per person per stay (registration fee)	



Price includes: bed & breakfast, free internet access, 10% discount on all wellness services at Wellness Živa, VAT.

*The Park Hotel is in the very centre of Bled, on the shore of Lake Bled. Guests of the hotel are delighted by the views across the lake, the castle and the Julian Alps, as well as the rich offer of additional services.*

Among the **competitive advantages** of the hotel are it being completely renovated, its vicinity to entertainment and events in Bled, including the Festival Hall, the original Bled cream cakes and the Rikli Restaurant and Pizzeria with their varied à la carte offer.

### 5.3. Hotel Savica\*\*\*

Room type	Park view EUR
Single Room	80
Double Room	100
Prices	Per room per day
Supplement	1,27 EUR per person per day (tourist tax) 1,00 EUR per person per stay (registration fee)

Prices includes: bed & breakfast, free internet access, 10% discount on all wellness services at Wellness Živa, VAT.



Booking of accommodation can be booked using following links using access code **IWC2016**:

#### **HOTEL GOLF**

<https://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?hotelId=77257&rateplanid=1432296&identifier=IWC2016&Language=D=1&datein=06/04/2016&dateout=06/19/2016&adults=1>

#### **HOTEL PARK**

<https://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?hotelId=77251&rateplanid=1432304&identifier=IWC2016&Language=D=1&datein=06/04/2016&dateout=06/19/2016&adults=1>

#### **HOTEL SAVICA**

<https://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?hotelId=77255&rateplanid=1432307&identifier=IWC2016&Language=D=1&datein=06/04/2016&dateout=06/19/2016&adults=1>

- 1) Choose Travel Agent Code or Promo/Corporate Code
- 2) Select Promo/Corporate code
- 3) Type IWC2016 and select Update