

Slovenia 2004

After enjoying a superb holiday last summer we wanted to put pen to paper and share what we did and saw. Whilst planning this trip we couldn't find as much info as like for the alps, so thought this might help.

Along with the following information are the river guide notes with an annotated map – the same as what is displayed out there – enjoy!

Flights

www.ryanair.co.uk Stanstead – Trieste £40.00 return including taxes, plus £15.00 per boat each way. (Booked 3 months in advance) Other friends flew with Easy Jet www.easyjet.com from East Midlands – Venice. They paid similar fares and when they turned up with their boats they weren't charged. Ours were pre – booked with no problems. Weight wasn't a problem - all of our paddling kit went into the boats which took two to lift them!. Easy Jet now also flies to the capital, Ljubljana which gives you another option of route.



Car Hire

We hired a 3dr car from www.holidayautos.co.uk which cost £180.00 for 10 days. The inflatable roof rack was great, just watch out for scratches if grit gets underneath the bars (and for the Italian drivers – they tend to take your wing mirrors with them!!)



Accommodation

We stayed in an apartment in the village of Cezscoa, less than a mile from Bovec and a two minute walk from the river. It was called "Apartma Cok ". The details, along with others can be found on www.bovec.net . We paid 11 Euros per night per person (£7.30) self catering.



There were also lots of campsites around the area, mainly used by German kayak schools. From what we saw of them they all looked well kept with good facilities:

www.lazar-sp.si

www.members.tripod.com/kamp_koren

www.slotravel.net/kamp-liza email: campliza@siol.net

Kayak Kamp Toni Email: kayakkamptoni@siol.net

Kamp Soca Email: kampsoca@siol.net

Currency

Currently you can use both Euros and the Slovenian Tolar. We received 1.42 euros or 321 SIT to the pound. It goes without saying that to use euros is the far easier option! There are cash machines in Bovec which you can use for a small charge but you can only get Tolars out. Visa is also accepted although most of the shops are too small.

Food

There are three small supermarkets in Bovec, which are well stocked and are open from 7am-7pm Monday to Friday and 7am-12pm on Saturday. Food is really cheap, for example a 500ml bottle of Coke is the equivalent of 30p.

Eating out

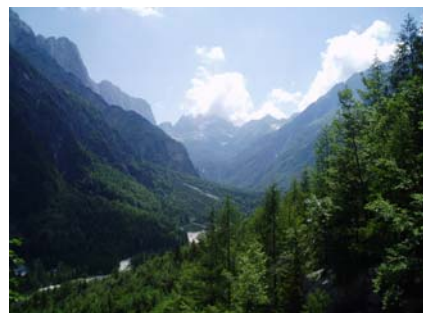
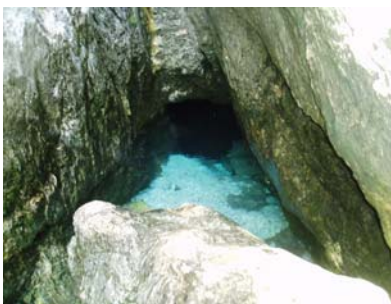
Bovec is quite small, but it does have two pizza restaurants and a few bars. Again, to eat out is really cheap. A 12" pizza is £3.50, beer is 90p per bottle and wine £1.10 per glass. Be aware, on Sundays most places are shut and so shopping / eating out is quite difficult.

Places to visit

- 1.) Take a walk to Boka, a 100m waterfall which you can walk all the way up to. Park at Boka car park on the road between Bovec and Kobarid.



- 2) Visit the Triglav National Park, where there is a wonderful information / visitor centre, along with numerous walks, cycle trails and drives. You can walk to the source of the Soca:



- 3) Visit Slap Kojac, a waterfall in a cave. Signposted from Kobarid
- 4) Go white-water rafting – the local companies raft the grade ¾ sections from Srpenica to Tronovo. Great for non - paddling partners / families.
- 5) Go shopping!! There are two great paddling shops:
 - a) La Ola, in Bovec. Sells lots of paddling kit, new and second hand boats and also runs courses. Very friendly man and his rather scary dog!
 - b) Alpin Action, based in Trnovo, hires all the latest boats for £10.00 per day. Really well stocked with the latest kit.

Paddling kit isn't much cheaper than in England, except for the Prijon shop, which is fine if you want full face guard helmets and luminous paddles.

- 6) Cycling – There are plenty of trails to follow, especially around the national park
- 7) Take the Ski Lifts to Kanin, 2200m where you can walk further to mountain huts, mountain bike, paraglide, or just have coffee and enjoy the view.
- 8) Visit the many military history sites from WW 1 or the Kobarid Military Museum.

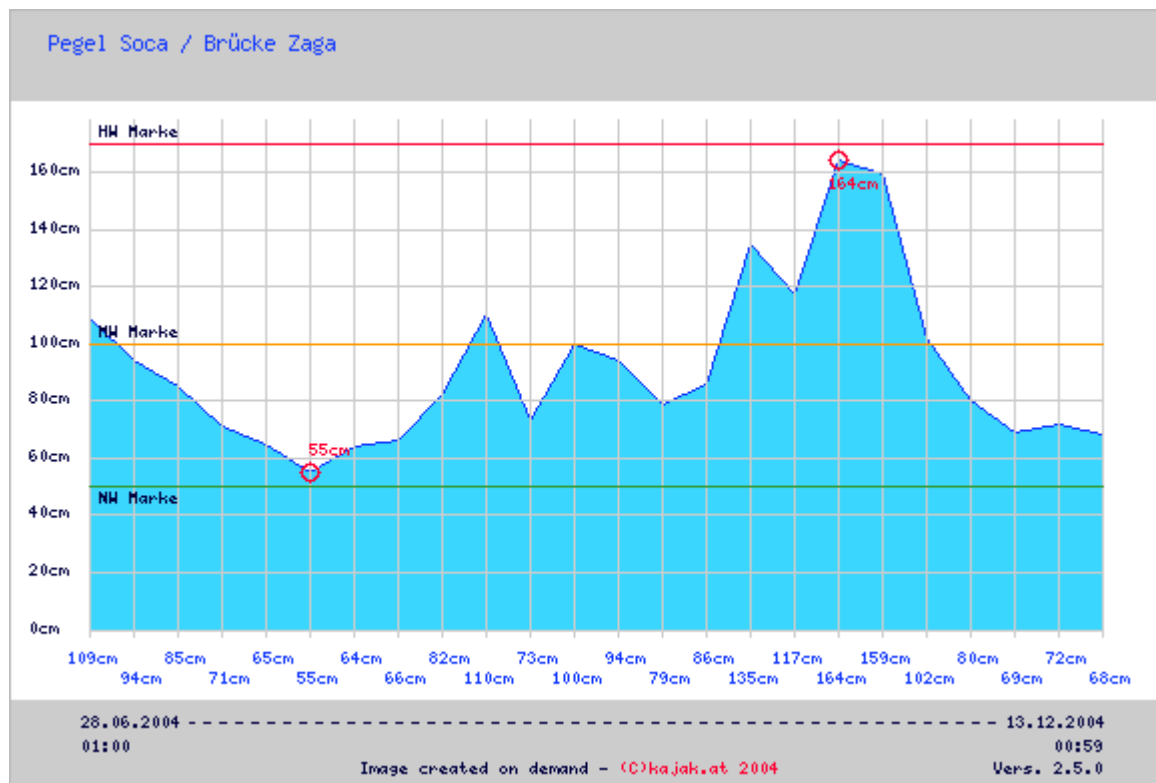
Paddling Permits

You will need to purchase a permit to paddle when you arrive; these are available from the paddling and rafting centres as well as the Bovec Tourist Information Centre. They cost £3.00 for a seven day pass. The money is used to upkeep the footpaths / car parks and information boards at each put in and get out.

And finally:

Watch out for these little blighters - They make an awful mess when inadvertently squashed!





River Levels

These change frequently. We went in June expecting crystal clear blue water and ended up with milky, cloudy, swirly stuff due to persistent heavy rain!! The Soca is fed from snow melt but also the rain has a big effect. See graph.

A good website is www.kajak.at which shows a graph of the patterns over a 24hr – 6month period:

Medium water gives a true reflection of the grades.