IAAS Alumni meeting in Slovenia

24. - 26.4.2015

Preparation document
Location

We chose the village of Šentjane as the place for the 5th IAAS Alumni meeting that will take place in Slovenia. This village is in the southwestern part of the country, close to Italy and Croatia, in the coastal region. A small town, Portorož, that serves as a transport hub is 3 km away. Ljubljana airport is ca. 140 km away, whereas Trieste airport (Aeroporto Friuli Venezia Giulia) is ca. 80 km away.
Accommodation

We will stay in Hostel Panorama Portorož that offers relaxation and indulgence on the highest point in Portorož in the midst of a Mediterranean garden with a beautiful panoramic view (so let’s hope for nice weather 😊). This is a public hostel so there might also be other guests during our stay.

Address:
Hostel Panorama Portorož, Šentjane 25, 6320 Portorož, Slovenia
The Program (preliminary)

Friday 24th April:
Before 7 p.m. Individual arrival at Šentjane (plenty to do on the seaside, so do not worry if you arrive early)
07.00 p.m. Dinner
08.30 p.m. Drinks, bites and fun around the house

Saturday 25th April:
7:00 – 9:30 a.m. Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Walk to the sea
11:00 a.m. Bike excursion around coastal towns of Portorož and Piran, visit to the Sečovlje salina nature park (lunchbox will be provided for lunch).
6:00 p.m. Return to Šentjane
7:00 p.m. Dinner – traditional food and drinks (wine) from Karst and coastal region
09.30 p.m. Trade fair

Saturday 25th April (alternative in case of rain):
7:00 – 9:30 a.m. Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Departure to Škocjan caves
10:30 a.m. Arrival to the caves
2:00 p.m. Return to Šentjane
2:00 – 7:00 p.m. Free time (e.g. walk to Piran)
7:00 p.m. Dinner – traditional food and drinks (wine) from Karst region
09.30 p.m. Trade fair

Sunday 26th April:
7:00 – 9:30 a.m. Breakfast
10:30 a.m. Visit to a local olive oil producer
01:00 p.m. Lunch
03:00 p.m. End of the program and departure

The participation fee is 160 EUR and includes:
- Accommodation for Friday and Saturday night (bed linen included, but bring your towels)
- Food
- Drinks
- Transport during Alumni weekend
- Bicycle rent for the day (the participant is responsible for it during the stay)
- (Entrance) fees
Travelling

The village of Šentjane is linked to other towns in Slovenia only by road. However, in the town of Koper/Capodistria (yes, some parts of Slovenian Istria are officially bilingual, so if you happen to speak Italian you are the lucky one 😊), 15 km away, there is also a railway connection to Ljubljana, and A1 highway passes by the town.

By car
For Slovenian highways you will need to buy a vignette (sticker) before you enter the country. The weekly vignette costs 15 EUR (toll class 2A). Controls on border crossings are quite common. As the weekend from 24.-26.4.2015 will be a long weekend for Slovenians, you can expect quite crowded roads especially towards the seaside.

From Ljubljana to Koper/Capodistria
As all Slovenian highways pass Ljubljana, this is most likely the way you are coming from. From Ljubljana follow the Maritime highway A1 in the direction of Koper/Capodistria. If you have time, there is quite a few interesting things to see on the way such as Rakov Škocjan (Exit Unec; free entry, wild Karst valley), Postojna cave (Exit Postojna; 22.90 EUR, one of the top natural landmarks in Slovenia) and last but not least Socerb castle (Exit Kastelec; free entry, probably the best view on the Gulf of Trieste). Without stops you should be in Koper in ca. 1 hour.

From Trieste to Koper/Capodistria
Koper/Capodistria is reachable from Trieste (Italy) in ca. 30 minutes. From city of Trieste take the highway number SS2020 and go south. Follow signs for Slovenia – important! – direction Koper/Capodistria (southwards). You should soon reach Škofije/Rabuise, a former border crossing. Now you should be in Slovenia on H5 highway and follow signs for Koper/Capodistria. You should reach the town within minutes.

From Koper/Capodistria to Šentjane (hostel)
The hostel, situated above the city of Portorož, is reachable from Ljubljana on the highway passing Koper and Izola. At the roundabout before Portorož turn right in the direction of Piran and drive on the Belokriška road, continuing to Beli Križ. Once there, take a right turn at the store and restaurant Mercator in the direction of Strunjan. Stay on this road for the next 70 meters and turn right at the first intersection to Šentjane. At the next two crossings keep driving left and after 400 meters you have arrived on the parking area of the hostel.

By car pooling and bus
There are regular bus connections from Ljubljana main bus/train station to Koper as well as a morning connection from Ljubljana to Beli Križ (10 minutes walk to hostel). Moreover, there are regular connections between Trieste (Italy) and the Slovenian coastal towns. Car pooling is very popular so especially last minute you might find many low budget international as well as local connections.

By plane (and some other public transports):
The 2 closest airports are the Italian Aeroporto Friuli Venezia Giulia (serving Trieste; ca. 80 km away) with direct connections to London, Munich and major Italian airports and the Slovenian Aerodrom Ljubljana (serving Ljubljana) with connections to many European cities.

We are used to travel from neighboring airports so shuttle connections to airports in Graz (AT), Vienna (AT), Venice Marco Polo (ITA) and Venice Treviso (ITA) are very good. Goopti is just one of the numerous shuttle companies which offer connections on regular basis. For other providers please contact the OC.
The packing list

At the end of April it is usually sunny and quite warm in this part of Slovenia. But weather is still moody. Here a short list of things you need:
- Good, warm enough jacket to protect you against wind and rain. There is a strong Bora wind in the region sometimes (take it serious, we even made it to the English Wikipedia page 😊)
- Sporty, comfortable clothes
- Comfortable walking shoes
- We will provide water (tap water 100% safe), soft drinks, coffee, wine and beer during the weekend with a maximum of consumptions. You might want to bring your own extra supply 😊
- Food and drinks for trade fair, a national costume if you happen to have one 😊
- Flag (otherwise we will improvise at trade fair 😊)
- Voltage converter, if needed
- Slippers (we love them 😊)

After and before the Alumni meeting

Let us know if we can assist you in finding accommodation before and/or after the meeting. For things to do visit the Slovenia info webpage.

Registration instructions and cost of the weekend

The registration to the 5th Alumni meeting can be done online through the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1K_QtyKvNpR9L0wS5PXaWJiktoHATgqruligcOKZ0oOY/viewform or CLICK HERE

The cost of the entire weekend (including food and a limited supply of drinks) is 160 EUR. The registration to the event is only completed after a successful payment of 80 EUR. This prepayment is expected before April 1st 2015. You will receive the bank account information after submitting your application online.

For further questions and/or instructions you can always contact your OC (Tanja Buzeti, Klemen Oketič and Kristina Košmrjl).
E-mail: iaasalumni.slovenia2015@gmail.com

We hope to see you soon in Slovenia!

Please note: Insurance is the responsibility of the participant.