

# AUSLANDPLUS: STUDIEREN IM AUSLAND

Welcome to Ljubljana, Europe's Green Capital 2016!

Studiengang: Betriebswirtschaft – Mittelstandsmanagement, 3. Semester

*These were the first words welcoming me at Ljubljana's airport when I arrived in October 2016. Slovenia?! You mean Slovakia? – Nope, that's its neighboring country. Slovenia?! - Yepp, the small country between Italy and Croatia. Slovenia?! - You're right! The country everyone heard of, but most people actually don't have a clue about! (So did I)*

You see: The adventure of making your Erasmus in Slovenia already starts at that moment when you have to google where it actually is located to tell your friends and family. This feeling of discovering an unknown treasure not far from known territories (Austria, Italy...) was what made me first think about Erasmus in Slovenia. All the positive aspects as the diversity of the country, it's beautiful nature and small towns, Ljubljana being a "hipster-city" you've probably already been informed about. Well, and surprisingly they're all true.

## Ljubljana

What's Ljubljana like? It looks like a miniature Vienna or Prague with its old streets, bridges and castle. On the horizon you can see impressive mountains and parts of the Alps. It's big enough for having a lot of things to do and see and at the same time it's small enough for running into someone known randomly. The city center has loads of beautiful cafes and bars, some clubs and a lot of cool stores and projects. The Slovene people are really friendly and it's interesting to get insights in their culture. One afternoon – we were wandering around the city center with some friends – one of the guys said: "You know: Ljubljana can be anything to you. If you want it to be a cultural diverse and interesting city, it will be this to you. If you want it to be a city to go out party in a lot of bars every night, it will be this to you. And also if you want it to be a lame and sleepy city, it will be this to you." This describes Ljubljana perfectly well. So Ljubljana is going to be to you what you want it to be.



**Ljubljana castle**



**Students Party at Cirkus 1**



**At the artistic district Metelkova**

## Traveling

Ljubljana – located in the middle of Slovenia - is a great base for traveling Slovenia. Your schedule will allow you to go on extended weekend trips. In Slovenia you can travel to the Mediterranean coast for tanning and swimming, to the Alps for hiking, climbing and skiing, to the Pannonian Basin for winetasting and a lot more. Starting from Ljubljana everything can be reached within 3 hours by car and is absolutely worth experiencing.



**Piran, Mediterranean coast**



**Vintgar Gorge**



**Panoramic view on Mount Triglav**

Slovenia – located in the west of Eastern Europe – is a great base for visiting Croatia (Zagreb 150 km), Bosnia-Herzegovina (Sarajevo 500 km), Serbia (Belgrade 500 km), Hungary (Budapest 450 km) and Slovakia (Bratislava 450 km). It's really interesting to gain insights in the culture and history of those countries! Also Italy (Trieste 100 km, Venice 250 km, Rome 700 km), Austria (Graz 200 km, Vienna 400 km) and Switzerland (Bern 800 km) are not too far away. Each weekend trip (3-4 days) costed me something around 150€. By the way, the living costs in Slovenia are a bit cheaper than in Germany. The more you get to the east, the cheaper the living costs will be.



**Belgrade, Serbia**



**Opera, Vienna**



**Banja Luka, Bosnia**

### **The Gea College**

The Gea-College is focused on Entrepreneurship. They don't only offer courses for students, but also a lot of next-to-work-trainings. It's located on two floors of a skyscraper right next to a hotel. It's smaller than StudiumPlus in Wetzlar. For the most classes Erasmus and Slovene students are separated. When I first heard this I wasn't sure whether to like it or not. Now I think it's good, cause other Erasmus students are usually more open for new contacts and the schedule can be adjusted to the needs of the Erasmus students. The schedule is really relaxed. Besides the final exam you usually have assignments and group works during the semester. The classes are mandatory, but if you've got something important that hinders you from attending the class the teachers cooperate ;) The semester usually goes from October until January (pretty much the same as at the THM). At Christmas you might have holidays from 22.12-02.01.

### **Where to live**

The best district to search for flats is Bežigrad. It's right between the college (north) and the city centre (both 10 minutes by bike). I found my flat at <https://erasmusu.com/>. Private accommodations ("WGs", ~250€) are rare, so it's good to start looking as soon as possible. You can also survive live in the student dorms. You have shared rooms and a lot of background noise. But it's cheaper (~120€).

### Students discounts

If you go to a museum or any other event, there´s usually a special price for students. Also, you can get the monthly bus ticket for 20€ at LPP, the bus company in Ljubljana, at Bavarski Dvor, the central bus station. The best thing about being a student in Slovenia is the food coupon system. Instead of going to a cafeteria you can go to a lot of restaurants that offer special prices, usually 2-4 € for a three-course-menu for students (“studentski boni”). Your “mentors” at the Gea College will help you with all those things.

### Organizational

Slovenia´s currency is €. It is part of the Schengen treaty. Nevertheless, you´ll have to register as a temporary resident. Your mentors will help you with that. There are some more organizational things, but the people from Gea-College or the international office will tell you. ;)

Whatever you will choose for your Erasmus: It will be a great experience!

If you have any further questions just contact me (lene.wagner@zdh.thm.de)

All the best,



Lene Wagner, Oktober 2016  
Weber GmbH & Co. KG Kunststofftechnik-Formenbau  
BW-MM WS 16/17

### Usefull apps and websites

For public transportation	Googlemaps & LPPbus
For the student coupons all over Slovenia	Prehrana
For the city bikes (3€/year, really useful!)	Bicikel
For a good offline dictionary	Linguee
For traveling	TripAdvisor, Lonely Planet, Pinterest
For the Slovene version of BlaBlaCar	<a href="https://prevoz.org/">https://prevoz.org/</a>
For the best car rental company (special student prices)	<a href="http://www.atet.si/en?gclid=CO6pjaaF8dACFVQ_GwodK2ANVw">http://www.atet.si/en?gclid=CO6pjaaF8dACFVQ_GwodK2ANVw</a>
For insider information about cool places to see and cool things to do	<a href="http://www.spottedbylocals.com/">http://www.spottedbylocals.com/</a>
If you want to rent anything like a snowboard or vacuum cleaner for small money	<a href="http://www.spottedbylocals.com/ljubljana/knjiznica-reci/">http://www.spottedbylocals.com/ljubljana/knjiznica-reci/</a>
For tourism information about sLOVEnia	<a href="https://www.slovenia.info/en">https://www.slovenia.info/en</a>
For outdoor activities in Slovenia	<a href="http://www.slovenia-trips.com/eng/hiking-mountaineering/det/">http://www.slovenia-trips.com/eng/hiking-mountaineering/det/</a> ,
For food delivery service (also with student coupons)	<a href="https://www.ehrana.si/">https://www.ehrana.si/</a>