

## MEETINGS – BETWEEN CULTURE AND FRIENDS

*“When I was young, I left the region of Styria for Ljubljana to teach there at one of the elementary schools. My colleagues invited me for a cup of coffee at the cafe Europa. We had an appointment in front of the entrance. My colleague teachers were all dressed in an urban way, wearing handmade lace cotton gloves, except me. I was sitting there in silence, listening to the wise stories, staring at the elegant interiors. When we met the next time, a colleague offered me the same gloves made in lace. I still have them. (Ana, ex. teacher about the distant year 1962).*

Meeting people is an important part of culture. Be it an intentional meeting or an accidental meeting at a public event, meetings in Ljubljana inevitably end up over a drink or preferably a cup of coffee. The strongest impressions about art and cultural performances are mostly discussed and lived through again with friends. Therefore, the most popular and desired cafes are in the vicinity of cultural institutions.

On this tour, you will meet cultural institutions of Ljubljana and will be taken back into the atmosphere of the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when most of them were established. Their atmosphere will be presented through the stories of the Ljubljana cafes in the times, when at the peak of their popularity, they were blooming.

Before cafes, these “social institutions”, there has been no possibility to enjoy this tasty and relatively cheap “black beverage that was consumed as hot as possible” (16th century). Though the first Ljubljana’s cafe was opened as soon as 1713, cafes became popular only in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as popular meeting points of the townspeople who went there to see and to be seen. For Slovenians cafes had a special meaning in the times of the national revival when they became a turbulent scene of social and political life. Today they have turned into scenes of business life, real institutions where many a deal gets concluded.

The collected stories of the townspeople who used to go and who still regularly go to cafes you will learn about the social life of the city.