

## THE RIVER – ITS SECRETS AND BEAUTIES

Ljubljana conceals a lot of secrets, treasures and beauties, but if you want to get to discover the most charming part of it, you should follow the river – Ljubljanica on its way through the city. So, let's do it!

Ljubljanica reaches the town at Špica – a nice new park with the remnants of pile dwellings from prehistoric inhabitants of the Ljubljana marches, considered by archaeologists one of the oldest of its kind in Europe. The river divides here to Gruber canal and main stream and says goodbye to the anchored boats waiting for the passengers to take them for a ride through the town. In a way Ljubljanica divides the town, but its beautiful bridges link both sides and people together. As we travel down the river, we see beautiful houses of Prule on the right and on the left the houses of Trnovo and Krakovo. These are definitely the most unusual settlements, former villages, today in the heart of Ljubljana. They are connected by reconstructed Hradecki Bridge.

From here on the most beautiful banks are situated. There are colourful facades with numerous shops on the right, behind them the old town of Ljubljana with the old castle on the hill. The beautiful facades of the luxurious houses at Breg on the left bank are more visible and appreciated now after the reconstruction. Ljubljana, recently received an award for the arrangement of its river banks.

We are in front of the Čevljarški – Shoemakers bridge and the statue of the most famous Ljubljana mayor Ivan Hribar and from there you can see the National Library, by the architect Jože Plečnik, who gave the greatest impact on our city. The most admired Ljubljana cemetery is his work too. Other architects like Edvard Ravnikar, created »moderen Ljubljana«.

On the left under the streets and houses are buried the remnants of the roman city Emona.

The river is already in the heart of the city – at Tromostovje (Triple bridge), Prešeren square with the statue of the poet and his muse. It's a kind of meeting point and various events take place here all the year round.

Nearby, in Miklošičeva street, there are many buildings from secession period. Architecture by Maks Fabiani brought Vienna secession to Ljubljana.

When the river passes under the Triple bridge, it runs along the building of the main Ljubljana market, with magnificent columns and the new Butchers bridge, which attracts the attention of the tourists with the ground, which is partly of glass, and sculptures made by the sculptor Jakov Brdar. On the parapet there are a lot of padlocks, put there by the couples, who »lock« their love for eternity to the bridge. Next bridge is called the Dragon bridge. Dragon is a symbol of Ljubljana and there are four of them on the bridge. On the left we can see the houses from old times and on the right the challenge of the new architecture.

So, the river reaches the Plečnik barrier and continues its way to the point where it reunites with the Gruber canal and then slowly and peacefully leaves the city. The entire area along the river is meant for pedestrians and people really enjoy it.

On warm summer evenings we like to finish our day chatting with friends at the pubs along the river or at one of our renovated squares.

This is Ljubljana – or at least a small part of it, the town where we live.