

WEEKEND IN KOPER

Koper (*Capodistria* in Italian, *Koper* in Slovenian), pop. 25,000, is a coastal municipality and the largest commercial port in Slovenia, on the Adriatic Sea coast.

Carved grey Istrian limestone, eight squares situated at the outer edge of the town covered with a carpet of white stone, eleven other squares, remnants of an ancient city wall, narrow intertwining streets leading to the main square, boasting the largest cathedral in Slovenia - all this narrates the story of the past and of the present moment. Step by step the facades of the buildings and their interiors reveal the millennial history of Koper, once Iustinopolis, Capris, evoke the era of the Venetian Republic, the golden age of the Gothic and Renaissance - up to the present moment.

The climax of the summer in Koper - the Yellow night with the largest and longest lasting fireworks, with the greatest number of events taking place in the open air, a family holiday, a real national festivity. Let yourself go to the rhythm of the summer, enjoy the theater performances taking place within the ancient city walls, and in winter drink a toast to the coming New Year and to all the years to come.

Sights in Koper include 15th century *Praetorian Palace* in Venetian Gothic style, the 12th century *Carmine Rotunda* church, and the *Cathedral of St. Nazarius* with its 14th century tower.



Praetorian Palace



Carmine Rotunda church



Cthedral of St. Nazarius



Loggia Palace



Carpaccio House



Da Ponte Fountain



Muda door

1. DAY

- CHECK IN
- DINNER

2. DAY

- BREAKFAST
- SIGHTSEEING: THE SURROUNDINGS OF KOPER



Situated at a latitude of 45° 32,5' North and at longitude 13° 45,5' East, with a characteristic Mediterranean climate partly influenced by the continental interior. This is Koper with its mild winters and warm and dry summers. Is there anything more pleasant than standing on the seaside, embraced by a soft north-

west breeze, admiring the scarlet sky on a day when the scirocco blows or watching the sea in its wild dance of waves stirred by the northern wind?



Enjoy the local handicrafts, taste the typical local dishes like the jota (a soup with pickled cabbage), the bobiči (corn soup), polenta (corn porridge), cod, the fish soup, fish specialities and the typical local wines. The valley of the castles, with the castle of Socerb (foto) as the first one, extends below the edge of the Karst as a limes, a fortified border that once separated the territory of the Venetian

Republic from the Austrian region.

The path takes us then through Hrastovlje (foto) with the ancient frescoes and the world - famous Dance Macabre (foto),



Foto: Jerneja Batič

to the tower in Hrvoje (foto), which marks the highest point in Istria. There the sight touches the horizon.

Excursionists, riders and cyclists can discover the hidden beauties of the waterfalls (foto), the rapids and pools of the Dragorija river - an oasis with crystal clear water.



➤ DINNER

3. DAY

- BREKFAST
- CHECK OUT

SIGHTSEEING: KOPER CITY

Mestna občina Koper Comune città di Capodistria



<u>Area:</u>	311.2 km ²
<u>Population</u>	47,539
- males	23,385
- females	24,154
Average age:	38.28 years
Residential areas:	32.34 m ² /person
- households:	17,391
- families:	13,879
Working active:	23,397
- unemployed:	2,907
Average monthly salary (August <u>2003</u>):	257,219 <u>SIT</u>
- gross:	160,373 SIT
- net:	
College/university students:	1,800

Source: [Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia](#), [census](#) of [2002](#).

History

Koper rose from an ancient settlement built on an island in the southeastern part of the Gulf of Koper in the northern Adriatic. In the time of Ancient Greece, the town was known as *Aegida*, later it became known by its Latin names *Capris*, *Caprea*, *Capre* or *Caprista*, from which the modern Slovenian name stems from.

In 568, Roman citizens of nearby *Tergestum* (modern Trieste) fled to Koper due to an invasion of the Lombards. In honour of the Byzantine emperor Justinian II, Koper was renamed to *Justinople*. Later, Koper was under both Lombard and Frankish rule.

Since the 8th century, possibly even since 6th century, Koper was the seat of the diocese. One of Koper's bishops was the Lutheran reformer Pier Paolo Vergerio. In 1828, it was merged the diocese of Trieste.

Trade between Koper and Venice was registered since 932. In the war between Venice and Germany (Holy Roman Empire), Koper was on the German side, and was in result awarded by town rights, granted in 1035 by the emperor Conrad II. Since 1232, Koper belonged to the patriarch in Aquileia, and in 1278 it joined the republic of Venice.

Koper grew to become the capital of Venetian Istria and was renamed to *Caput Histriae*, "head of Istria" (from which its modern Italian name *Capodistria* stems from).

During the period of the Austrian Empire, Koper was, along with Trieste part of the Austrian Littoral crown land. Assigned to Italy after World War I, at the end of World War II was part of the Zone B of the Free Territory of Trieste, controlled by Yugoslavia. Most of the Italian inhabitants left the city by 1954, when the Free Territory of Trieste formally ceased to exist and Zone B became part of communist Yugoslavia. The diocese was separated from Trieste.

With Slovenian independence in 1991 Koper became the only commercial port town of Slovenia. The municipality of Koper is officially bilingual (Slovenian and Italian).

PRICE:

9884 SIT / 41,25 EUR / PERSON

PRICE INCLUDES 2 NIGHTS WITH HALF BOARD IN YOUTH HOSTEL DIJAŠKI DOM KOPER (<http://www.d-dom.kp.edus.si/>), SITUATED IN THE HEART OF KOPER IN DOUBLE ROOMS WITH COMMON BATHROOMS.

<http://www.koper.si/podrocje.aspx?id=0&langid=1033>

<http://www.zrsvn.si/images/oe/pi/dragonja.jpg> http://cefta.literal.si/slo/informacije/dediscina_primorja/img/dragonja-small.jpg

<http://www.koper.si/povezave/podezelje/index.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slovenian_language

http://www.destinacije.com/datum_nav.asp?lang=hr&pq=1&datum=19.03.2005.&cp=25&s=Next