

MEDITERRANEAN

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN | SUNDAY, 14 APRIL 2013

Shabby Chic

After one last stroll to the lake, we reluctantly left Bled. Once again great weather. We headed for Ljubljana. We might not have stopped in the capital city of Slovenia, but we have arranged to pick up a new modem from the local Fedex office. Our original one has not worked since Freiburg. We think our electrical items such as GPS might have been zapped by some aliens from outer space!

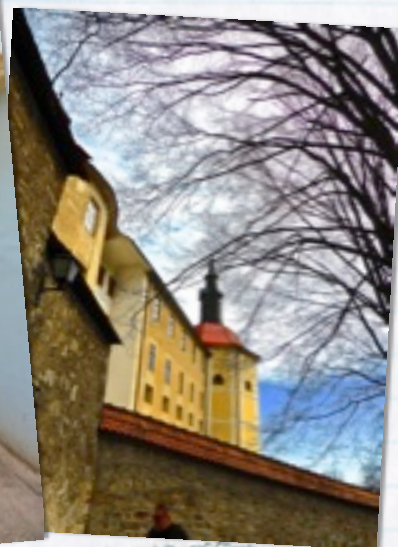
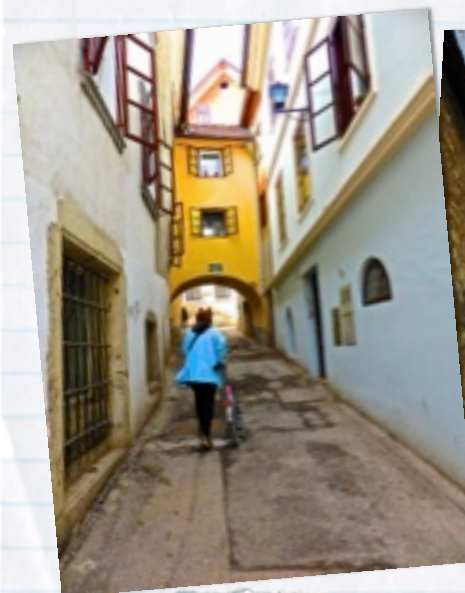
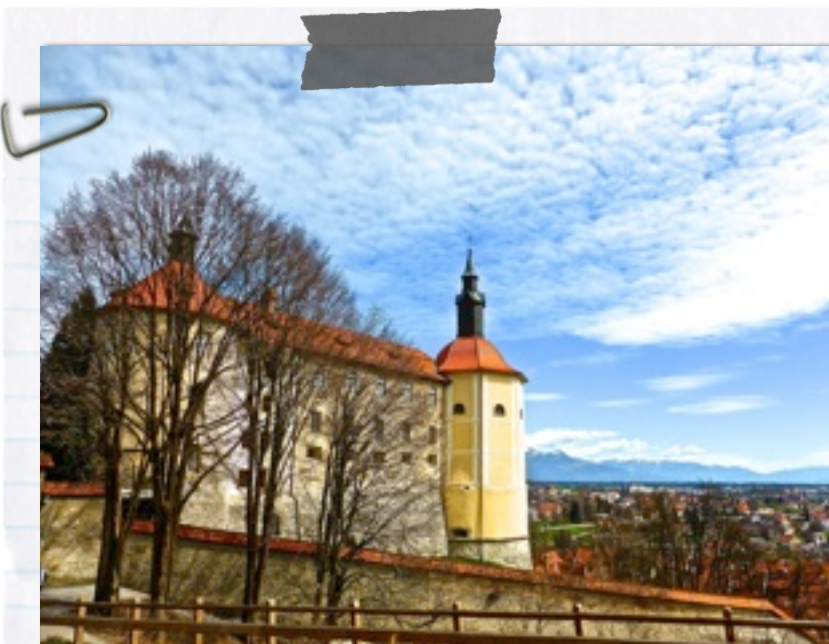
On the way we decided to divert to a small town called Skofja Loka. It has a population of 12,000 strong and is very quiet and quaint - in a "shabby chic" kind of way. The buildings were obviously old. Quite a number had the render peeling away - it all looked very authentic.

Just like around Bled, this town has also been built on the side of a hill with the castle taking prominence.

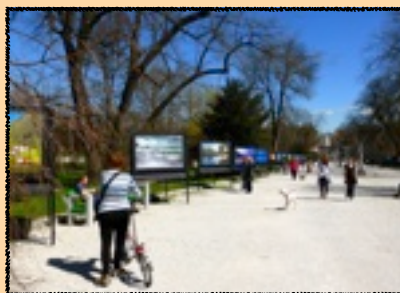
We took our bikes and cycled around most of the town. We even carried them up the stairs to the castle and explored some of the pastures above. It was clear and sunny and very peaceful. Being a Sunday, there were a lot of people in the lower part of the town. Up higher, we had the place virtually to ourselves. We decided not to explore the interior of the castle but to drive on to Ljubljana.



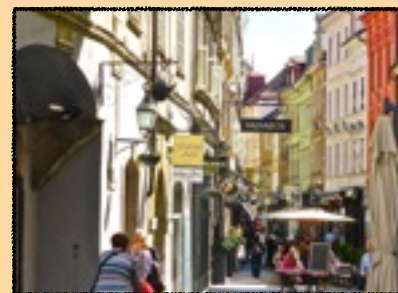
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SANTA RIDE Heather has always wanted to ride on a sled. Dreams might come true in Slovenia but we were very glad the snow had all disappeared.

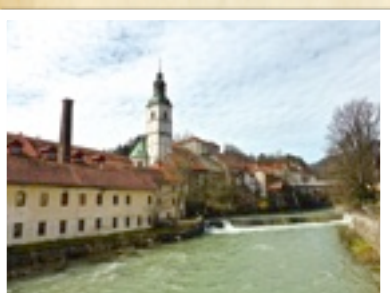


GREAT IDEA Slovenian Tourist Office had a competition for the best photos of Slovenia. The 100 photos on show in the Tivoli Gardens were absolutely out of this world. We spent an hour here and were inspired by the Slovenian sites.



OLD CITY STREETS We recently realised why old town streetscapes are so captivating. Unlike modern street plans, streets are very narrow and often curve (generally because they follow a river).

SKOFJA LOKA



The bike ride in to Ljubljana was bumpy and long, but it was worth it.

In a very short time we were on the outskirts of Ljubljana (I continue to have problems with its spelling). Our caravan park for the night, Ljubljana Resort, is located some 5 kms from the city centre so we had a quick lunch and scooted off on our bikes to view two key sights - the Tivoli Gardens and the old town.

The ride in was on a narrow bike track right next to the highway. The track was very bumpy and the traffic roared by. When we eventually found the gardens it was full of people strolling around. There were many bicycle riders too. The paths were unpaved and the area was a little hilly. After zigzagging around prams, kids, the inevitable dogs on leads and many straggling family groups we decided to have a rest. Being so hot (would you believe it) we found some shade and just watched as people walked by. It was Sunday and no-one appeared to be in a hurry.

We finally headed off down to the old part of town and passed a long colonnade of billboards with some of the most awe inspiring photos of Slovenia. We could have spent ages here, but decided to push on.

DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER - IT WAS LJUBLJANA'S ATMOSPHERE THAT WAS FABULOUS.

In truth we were a little disappointed with Ljubljana (there's that dam word again - the letter j does not seem right). We hoped there were more interesting things to see.

The moment we entered the old town's central square with its streets running either side of the raging Ljubljanica River, we began to understand why travelers rave about this place.

Ljubljana was a most joyous place.

I swear that the whole Slovenian population of 18-30 year olds were in town today and were living it up. The cafe's either side of the river were overflowing.

The buskers were beating out wonderful music. We stopped many times to take in the ambience.

It would be easy to get intoxicated on the atmosphere in this place. It was a most enjoyable afternoon - in fact a most enjoyable day. Ljubljana rocks.





PHOTOS

