Ljubljana’s Festivals and Events

Ljubljana is a lively city. It displays a remarkable agenda of more than 10,000 cultural events each year - including 14 international festivals and many other traditional happenings. During the warmer months, a host of free events livens up the public spaces in the downtown area, helping to create a special atmosphere in the Slovenian capital.

The festivals held in Ljubljana range from prestigious cultural events featuring excellent artists, such as the Ljubljana Festival. In the summer, a large number of free festivals are held on open-air stages and city streets, such as Summer in Ljubljana Old Town and Nights in Ljubljana Old Town. One of the most interesting is the ever-surprising Ana Desetnica street theatre festival.

At the end of the year, the centre of Ljubljana hosts a festive fair and countless entertainment events as part of the December in Ljubljana festival. The festive atmosphere reaches its climax with the New Year’s Eve celebrations held in several centrally located squares.

Open-air events

**Dragon Carnival** *(Feb 2018)*
Ljubljana’s traditional Shrovetide Carnival includes a procession through the streets of Ljubljana and a programme of entertainment for children and adults. The carnival procession consists of groups of traditional and other themed carnival figures from Slovenia and abroad.

**Antique Flea Market** *(Every Sunday)*
Ljubljana’s Antique Flea Market offers antiques, art pieces and all kinds of bric-a-brac of collectible or simply nostalgic value.
**Artmarket** *(Every Saturday, May – Oct 2017)*
Each Saturday during the warm months, Slovenian artists set up their stalls on the Breg embankment on the river Ljubljanica, where they sell and often also create their wares.

**ARTish** *(Every last Saturday May – October 2017)*
The ARTish festival, held in Ljubljana every last Saturday of the month, features a selling exhibition of original works by Slovenian creators. From May to September, it will take place in the old city centre's Gornji trg square. ARTish is an event where artists not only show their works, but also present their methods and ideas. The festival programme also includes free creative workshops for adults and children, theatre performances, music concerts, charity projects such as exchange of used clothes, and various fundraising events.

**June in Ljubljana Festival** *(June 2017)*
June in Ljubljana is a unique festival offering visitors, including those who do not regularly attend art events, an opportunity to get an insight into the finest in contemporary art production. Throbbing to the rhythms of different arts for two weeks in June, the Slovenian capital seeks to raise a wider audience of cultural event-goers and offer the city's cultural institutions the opportunity to present their work to larger audiences.

**Pride Parade** *(Last week in June 2017)*
The Ljubljana Pride Parade is the best-attended LGBTQ social, political, cultural and entertainment event in Slovenia. Since 2001, the Ljubljana Pride Parade has been an annual event bringing together large numbers of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transsexuals from Slovenia and abroad.

**Ana Desetnica - street theatre festival** *(July 2017)*
The Ana Desetnica festival features large numbers of street artistes, clowns, circus performers, jugglers, tightrope walkers, fire eaters, musicians, provocateurs, dancers and actors from Slovenia and abroad.

**Nights in Ljubljana Old Town** *(August 2017)*
Nights in Ljubljana Old Town is a festival traditionally livening up summer evenings in Ljubljana with mainly free classical music concerts held in the picturesque settings of the old city centre.

**December in Ljubljana** *(December 2017)*
Each year in December, Ljubljana’s historical centre turns into a major hub of social life and attracts more and more visitors. The city is known for having one of the most original Christmas lights displays, as well as its vibrant Festive Fair, accompanied by countless free open-air events. Festivities in Ljubljana begin with a special event - the switching on of the Christmas lights on the 1th of December. Main events:

1. 12. 2017 at 17.15: **Ljubljana’s festive lights switch-on event**, Prešernov trg square
2. 5. 12. 2017 at 17.00: **St Nicholas Procession**, Ljubljana city centre: Ljubljana Castle, Krekov trg square, Ciril Metodov trg square, Stritarjeva street, Prešernov trg square
4. 3. - 6. 12. 2017 at 10.00-20.00: **St Nicolas fair**, Prešernov trg square

**Main events:**

- **Ljubljana’s festive lights switch-on event**
- **St Nicholas Procession**
- **Festive fair**
- **St Nicolas fair**
You can find a detailed programme of December festivities here.

**Festivals and other events**

**Druga godba (End of May)**
The Druga godba festival of ethnic, world and contemporary jazz music ranks among Europe’s best festivals for alternative and innovative music that defies genres.

**Ljubljana Festival (June - September)**
The Ljubljana Festival, established in 1953, represents the pinnacle of what the Slovenian capital has to offer in terms of culture and art. Its long tradition of presenting a programme of top artistic events featuring internationally renowned performers contributes significantly to the cultural life of Ljubljana.

**58th Ljubljana Jazz Festival (21 Jun - 24 Jun 2017)**
Cankarjev dom (cultural and congress centre)
Each year, the Ljubljana Jazz Festival, Europe’s oldest festival of its kind, attracts the attention of music lovers from across the globe by featuring huge jazz stars.

**Young Lions (August 2017)**
Each year, this international dance and theatre festival brings together performing groups and solo artists remarkable for their unique creative approaches to theatre and dance.
European Jazz Conference (21 - 24 Sep 2017)
The 4th European Jazz Conference, the most important annual meeting of jazz professionals in Europe is centered on building relationships between jazz professionals in Europe, developing new projects and artistic collaborations, sharing expertise, learning about jazz scenes and best practices from all around the world. The event is co-organized by Europe Jazz Network and by Cankarjev dom, Culture and Congress Centre, and supported by the Ministry of Culture of Slovenia, Municipality Ljubljana and the Creative Europe of the European Union.

Exhibitions

Cekin Mansion: The National Museum of Contemporary History
The Rhythm of Life and Rhythm of the Year – A stroll through everyday life in Yugoslavia; a hosting exhibition from.

Cankarjev dom
Apart from Henri Cartier-Bresson, Capa was one of the most celebrated founding members of the Magnum Photos agency in Paris in 1947; in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of its existence the exhibition materials are being supplied by this notable photo agency.

BIO – Biennial of Industrial Design (25 May - 29 Oct 2017)
The Museum of Architecture and Design
BIO is a prestigious biennial international exhibition of industrial design products, visual communications and design concepts.

Film Events

11th International Mountain Film Festival (20 - 24 Feb 2017)
Cankarjev dom (cultural and congress centre)
The festival programme features world-class mountaineering films from Slovenia and abroad, lectures by eminent alpinists, presentations of new books on mountaineering, and round table discussions.

19th Ljubljana International Documentary film Festival (15 - 22 Mar 2017)
Slovenska kinoteka, Cankarjev dom, Kinodvor
Each year, Ljubljana’s International Documentary Film Festival offers an insight into contemporary documentary film production.

Film Under the Stars 2017 (5 - 29 July 2017 at 21:30)
Ljubljana Castle
Experience open-air cinema in the courtyard of Ljubljana Castle with a selection of the most resounding films of the past cinema season, plus premieres and avant premieres. The films are screened in their original language with Slovenian subtitles; non-English language films also include English subtitles.
**Open-Air Cinema in Congress Square 2017** (22 - 24 Aug 2017)
Three admission-free screenings of masterpieces of cinema.
The shows in this open central city square are dedicated to important anniversaries and events in the city and in cinema. The films are screened in their original language with Slovenian subtitles; non-English language films also include English subtitles.

**LIFFe – Ljubljana International Film Festival** (8 - 19 Nov 2017)
The LIFFe festival offers an insight into the very best in European and international film production.

**Animateka - 14TH ANIMATED FILM FESTIVAL** (4 – 10 Dec 2017)
The main, competition section of the Animateka international animated film festival will include short animated films produced in Eastern and Central Europe. Other festival sections and retrospective screenings will feature animated films from around the world. The films screened in the main section will compete for an international jury and an audience award. The festival will be accompanied by a programme of related events.

**LGBT Film Festival** (25. Nov – 2. Dec 2017)
With its more than 33rd-year history, the Ljubljana Gay and Lesbian Film Festival enjoys the reputation of being Europe's oldest festival of the kind.

**Culinary Events**

**Open Kitchen – Food market** *(Every Friday from March to October 2017)*
Odprta kuhna is a unique and the most popular food market in Slovenia that has been bringing freshness and innovation to the Slovenian culinary scene since 2013. It has become a regular Ljubljana event and every sunny Friday from early spring to late fall its stands attract thousands of foodies and fans of relaxed hanging-out.
Pogačarjev trg Square

**Ljubljana Wine Route - wine tasting and culinary event** *(June 2017 and November 2017)*
Ljubljana Wine Route, held annually in Ljubljana city centre on the banks of the river Ljubljanica, brings together winemakers from all the wine-growing regions of Slovenia. As well as wines, it also features traditional Slovenian dishes. Visitors can taste both food and wine, and many varieties can also be bought. The event also offers an opportunity to enjoy brass band concerts and folklore shows and thus experience a bit of Slovenia's rich cultural heritage.

**Culinary Festival & Slovenian Wine Festival** *(Nov 2017)*
Grand hotel Union
These two annual festivals, traditionally held simultaneously, present the best that Slovenia has to offer in terms of culinary delights and wines. This year's Culinary Festival will feature, among other things, traditional dishes of Ljubljana as part of the Taste Ljubljana project.
**November Gourmet** (2.11. – 30.11. 2017)
In November, Ljubljana will be the gastronomic capital of Slovenia, with a series of exciting events taking place throughout the entire month and hosting great chefs and winemakers.

**Concerts**

**2Cellos - concert of fusion, pop and classical music**
Stožice Sports Park Arena  
7 Apr 2017 at 20:00
The famous instrumental pop duo 2Cellos consists of two young cello virtuosos from Slovenia and Croatia respectively. Already before they embarked on a successful pop music career, Luka Šulić and Stjepan Hauser had made a name for themselves in classical music circles.

**Kurzschluss Live: Marija Šerifović in Miligram (Serbia) – pop, rock**
Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre  
15 April 2017 at 21:00
The winner of the European Song Contest Eurovision 2007 Marija Šerifović is coming to Ljubljana for the first time. With her charisma and a rich stage performance she predicts a memorable Balkan evening.

**Remember Yesterday – The Beatles Story**
Dvorana Tivoli (sports hall)  
21 April 2017 at 20:00
Ljubljana will host the premiere performance of the multimedia spectacle "Remember Yesterday" where you will remanence on the days of The Beatles. In a concert atmosphere, corroborated with superior audio, visual and theatrical productions, the music will take you through the history of one of the world's greatest rock bands of all time, The Beatles.

**Gregory Porter**
Cankarjev dom (cultural and congress centre)  
23 April 2017 at 20:00
Gregory Porter is an American singer, songwriter and actor. He draws the inspiration for his songs from classic jazz ballads and popular songs, as well as gospel and blues. He has received a nomination for the prestigious music award Grammy for his first two albums, whilst his third album, Liquid released in 2014 won Grammy for Best jazz vocal album.

**Depche Mode – Global Spirit Tour**
Stožice Sports Park Arena  
14 May 2017
Depeche Mode began their career in 1980, when the band, originally named Composition Of Sound, was joined by the singer Dave Gahan. Depeche Mode are considered to be among the originators of electronic pop music.

**Green Day & Rancid – punk rock**
Stožice Sports Park Arena  
6 June 2017 at 19:00
For several years now, American trio Green Day is in the company of the most popular, successful and influential groups of the modern rock. Last October the band released a new studio album Revolution Radio, which they promote on their extensive worldwide concert tour.

**André Rieu**  
Stožice Sports Park Arena  
14 June 2017 at 20:00  
A Dutch violinist, conductor and showman, Rieu has sold more than 40 million albums worldwide. Every year, more than 700,000 fans attend an André Rieu concert, establishing him as one of the top ten touring acts in the world. Crowned the “King of Waltz” by the media, Rieu believes that everyone can enjoy classical music.

**Pixies (USA) Alternative rock**  
Križanke Summer Theatre  
12 July 2017 at 21:00  
Pixies, one of the most influential alternative rock bands of all time, are embarking on an extensive global tour, which will also bring them to Slovenia. The cult band, a favourite of both the older and the youngest generations, will return to Križanke in Ljubljana this summer, the same venue the group had already packed full in both 2004 and as far back as 1989.

**Dance and Theatre**

**Gibanica (Moving Cake) Festival of Slovenian Dance**  
Cankarjev dom (cultural and congress centre)  
9 Mar - 11 Mar 2017  
The Gibanica (Moving Cake) festival is a biennial overview of dance creativity in Slovenia. It showcases the finest in Slovenian contemporary dance, which underwent a major development and began to enjoy international recognition in the 1980s.

**Ž.Divjak: The Man Who Watched the World – theatre performance**  
Mladinsko Theatre  
22 March – 23 March 2017 at 19:00  
In the new globalised world the capitalist spectre has relatively quickly occupied all territories of social activities and political systems, including education, science and art. In this new, global world, surrounded with the technology and security systems, the young director Žiga Divjak pose questions such as on how to act as an artist in the world for which it seems that the future has been abolished. What place can an artist and art have in it?

**Cirque du Soleil: Varekai**  
Stožice Sports Park Arena  
2 Jun - 4 Jun 2017 at 20:00  
Cirque du Soleil, the famous Canadian artistic ensemble who “reinvented the circus” will perform in Ljubljana for the first time with their production entitled Varekai.