

VISITOR GUIDE · ŠALEK VALLEY, SLOVENIA

VELENJE

A city of three lakes, underground stories and views above the water.



~20 km from Celje



~50 min by train



No car needed



VELENJE IN NUMBERS

Velenje at a glance

Once a coal-mining town, today one of the greenest and most modern cities in Slovenia — with three lakes, striking architecture and a surprising amount to offer visitors travelling without a car.

26,000

residents — the 5th largest city
in Slovenia

3

lakes in the Šalek Valley: Škale,
Velenje and Družmirje

130+

years of coal-mining history
shaped the city

~50 min

by direct train from Celje, no
transfers

From mining town to one of the most surprising destinations in the region.



Getting there from Celje (no car needed)



Train

- Direct line Celje–Velenje, no transfers
- The ride takes about 50 minutes
- Up to 15 departures per day on weekdays
- First train at 4:30 am, last one late in the evening
- No trains on Sundays and public holidays



Bus

- Nomago line: Celje – Žalec – Velenje
- Your best option on Sundays and holidays
- One IJPP ticket covers both train and bus
- The bus station is right next to the city centre



Once you arrive in Velenje: the city bus LOKALC is completely free — 6 colour-coded lines take you all around town, including to the lake.

Not to be missed in Velenje

3 things you MUST see



Coal Mining Museum of Slovenia

An underground adventure 160 m deep



Vista — viewing platform

Free panoramic views over the lake



Lake Velenje

Beach, swimming and a water park

MUST SEE #1

Coal Mining Museum of Slovenia

- A one-of-a-kind descent deep underground, in a real mine shaft from 1888
- The guided tour takes about an hour and a half
- Miner's clothing and a traditional miner's snack are part of the experience
- Tours available in English, German, Italian and Croatian
- Winner of the prestigious European Museum Award (EMYA) in 2001



Real mining gear



160 m below the surface



The story of coal mining through time



≈ €9/person, group discounts



Tue–Sun, groups **MUST** book ahead



It's cold down there — bring a jacket



Great for large groups too



MUST SEE #2

Vista — the park with a view



Views of the lake and mountains



The legend of the dragon Pozoj



A 14-metre-high platform

- A 14-metre-high viewing platform above Lake Velenje
- Its architecture was inspired by the legend of Pozoj, a dragon said to live in the depths of the lake
- Entry is free and the platform is fully wheelchair-accessible
- The view stretches all the way to the surrounding mountain peaks
- In summer it often hosts concerts and cultural events



Free entry



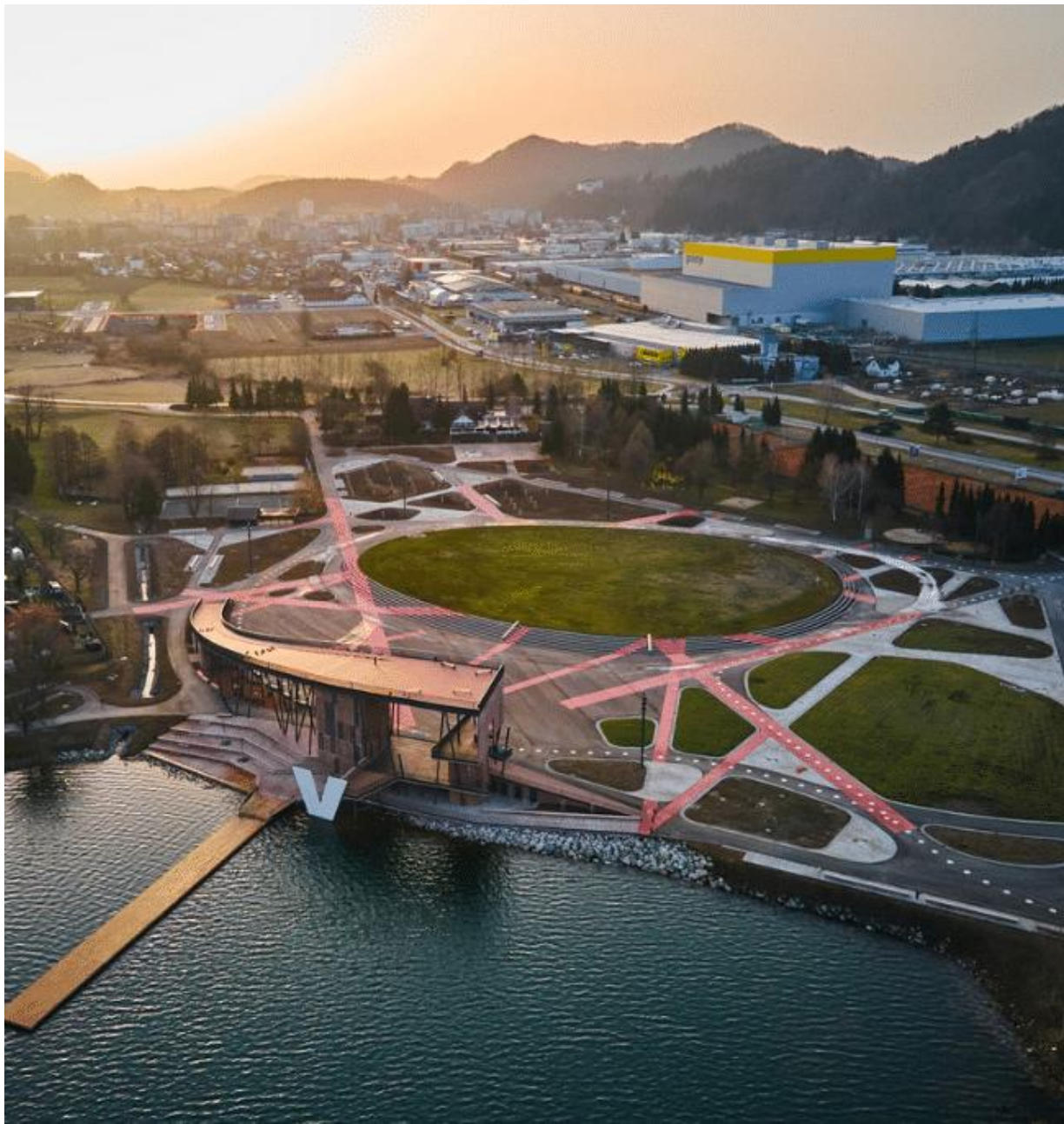
Wheelchair accessible



Open all day



Summer events and
concerts



MUST SEE #3

Lake Velenje

- A well-kept beach with free sun loungers
- A free water park for kids (and the young at heart)
- Swimming, SUP boarding, sailing and pedal boats
- A walking and cycling path circles the whole lake
- Regularly ranked among the best natural swimming spots in Slovenia



Swimming and a water park



Free sun loungers



Walk or cycle around the lake



Free entry to the beach



At its best right now —
summer



Changing rooms and
showers



Plenty of space for the
whole group



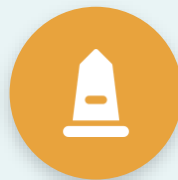
MORE TO DISCOVER

If you have extra time: 3 more ideas



Velenje Castle & Velenje Museum

One of the best-preserved castles in Slovenia (first mentioned in 1270), home to 11 permanent collections — including a remarkable African collection.



Town centre & the Tito monument

The main square holds the largest monument to Josip Broz Tito in the world — an unusual sight few foreign visitors expect.



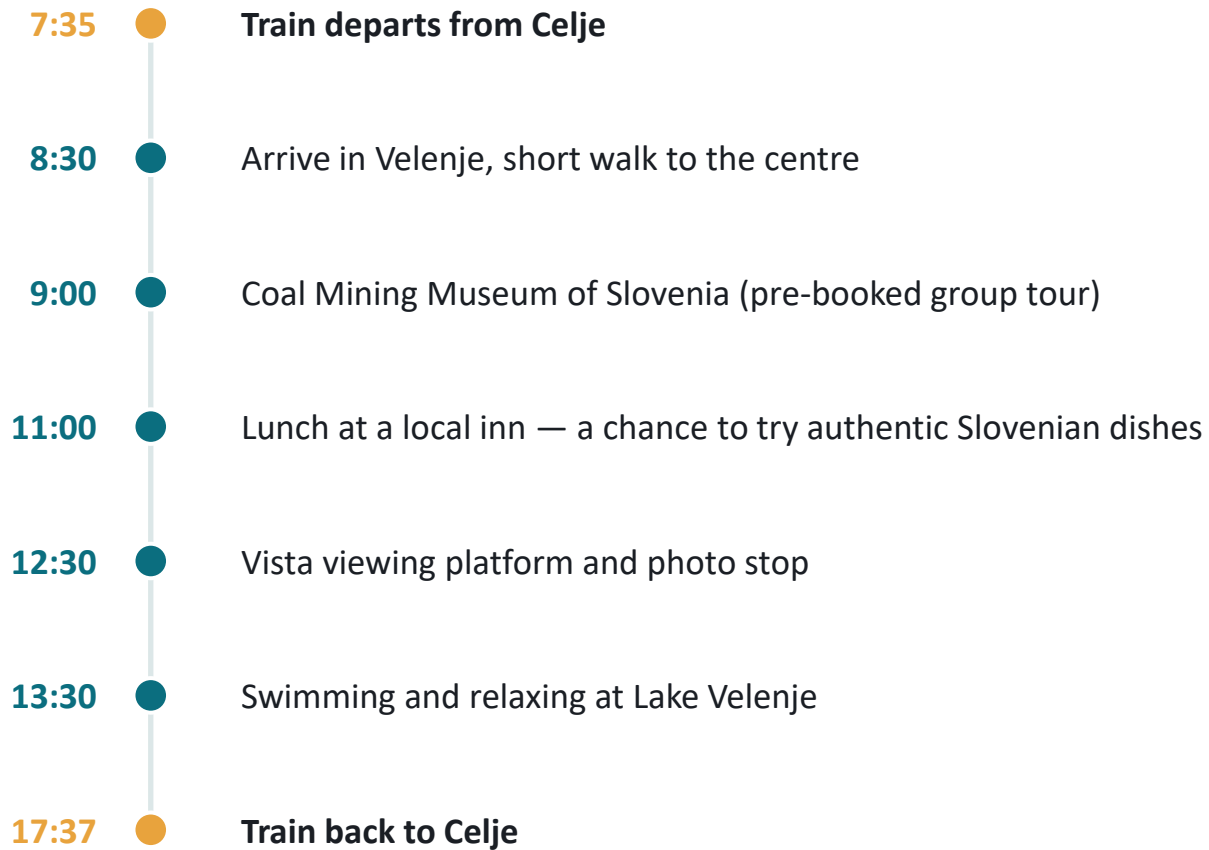
Hiking and cycling trails

Routes loop around all three lakes of the Šalek Valley — perfect for a relaxed afternoon in nature or a cycling trip.



A ONE-DAY PLAN

One day in Velenje, morning to evening



Adjust the times to the actual timetable on the day of your trip.

Srečno!

Pronounced "sreh-chno" — it means "good luck". It's how Velenje's miners have greeted each other for generations. Now it's your turn to say it.

- ✓ Comfortable shoes — for the museum and lakeside walks
- ✓ For the museum: book ahead + bring a warm layer for underground
- ✓ Swimwear, a towel and sun protection for the lake
- ✓ One IJPP ticket covers both train and bus
- ✓ The Šalek Valley Tourist Board is happy to help if you need anything