

# Williams GeoAdventures

## DRAFT ITINERARY Dolo-Slovo Rocks! 2018

**DAY 1** Our adventure begins in the afternoon at the Venice Marco Polo International Airport, as we meet marvelous Maximiliano, botanist and naturalist and travel partner extraordinaire. We then board our spacious and comfortable coach with professional driver and travel into Slovenia to Lake Bled, arriving in time for an included welcoming dinner. Rick Steves says, "Lake Bled, Slovenia's top alpine resort, is the best home base for exploring this region. It retains an aura of the Romantic Age, complete with a sweeping alpine panorama, fairy-tale island, cliff-hanging medieval castle, and lakeside promenade." Overnight stay in Lake Bled.



**DAY 2** After hotel breakfast, hike around the lake, and swim if you wish, or relax lakeside. Trip to the Vintgar gorge in the afternoon. Dinner on your own in charming Lake Bled. Overnight stay in Lake Bled.

**DAY 3** Coach to Škocjan Caves to visit the Grotte di S. Canziano (Skocjanske jame), ranked among the most unforgettable caves in the world. The Škocjan caves are an extraordinary series of limestone caves in Slovenia, featuring approximately six kilometres



of beautiful underground passages, deep chasms, waterfalls, and underground lakes. The caves contain Europe's largest underground gorge and were designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1986.

That afternoon we travel from Slovenia to the enchanting City of Trieste is situated towards the end of a narrow strip of Italian territory lying between the Adriatic Sea and Slovenia. It is at crossroads: German middle Europe to the north, Slavic & the Balkans to the east, Italy and Latin countries to the west and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. Included dinner in Trieste. Overnight stay at Da Rosy B&B, Duino, Trieste, a wonderful B&B, where the innkeepers are friends of Max.



**DAY 4** Karst area. Morning: visit to the *Rilke Path*, an easy walk above the suspended white cliffs of Duino, with sweeping views over the gulf of Trieste, where it is also possible to admire many karstic features in a natural setting. Included lunch at the beautiful Restaurant "Il Pescatore", by the old fishing harbour of Duino. After lunch, visit the Duino castle and grounds or have free afternoon to spend either at the local beaches, or visiting the enchanting city of Trieste. Dinner on your own in Trieste. Overnight stay at Da Rosy B&B, Duino, Trieste.

**DAY 5** Morning visit to the "Bocche del Timavo"—one of the most important karstic (subterranean) rivers in Europe. Coach to Cortina. Lunch on your own at the atmospheric site of the Livenza Springs and then visit the Cansiglio

Botanical Garden and other geological features of the Cansiglio karstic plateau (Bus de la Lum). Time permitting, brief stop at Pieve di Cadore, the Titian's birthplace, along the way to Cortina. Included dinner in Cortina. Overnight stay in Cortina.

**DAY 6** Hike the Tre Cime, one of the most outstanding sites in the Dolomites, renowned for its immense views over the whole region. We will hike the circular trail around the three celebrated peaks and have a light lunch on your own at one of the three Rifugios of the area. Early included dinner at the Maso Gostenrhof in Dobbiaco. This remains a working farm in the typical style of South Tyrol, serving local specialties and offering a great view above the Dobbiaco area. Overnight stay in Cortina.



**DAY 7** Coach to the Cinque Torri/Lagazuoi in the Dolomites' heartland. For the most adventurous, walking the iconic Astaldi Geological Trail is a unique experience. For those less prone to adventurous walking, the alternative is an equally rewarding ascent to the Lagazuoi (by cable car) or to the Cinque Torri (by chairlift). Dinner on your own in Cortina. Overnight stay in Cortina.



**DAY 8** Coach transfer to Trento, then chairlift to the Alpe di Pampeago. After a light lunch, we will walk the historic geological trail of Sass Capèl in the Monzoni group, a Dolomite massif of volcanic origin near Predazzo. Time permitting, we will visit the Predazzo geological museum. Included dinner and overnight stay at the Hotel Miravalle Fai, Fai della Paganella, Trento, a fabulous small hotel and spa, where the innkeepers are friends of Max.



**DAY 9** Bletterbach Gorge, an outstanding natural feature: this canyon shows, like an open book, and perhaps like no other site in the area, the geological history of the Dolomites at its best. Dinner on your own at a typical Italian pizzeria in Mezzolombardo. Overnight stay at the Hotel Miravalle Fai, Fai della Paganella, Trento.

**DAY 10** In the morning, short stroll in the beautiful center of the city of Trento—site of the famous Council—then visit of Muse Trento: one of the most innovative science museums not only of Italy, but in Europe. ([www.muse.it/en/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.muse.it/en/Pages/default.aspx)). Included farewell dinner in Trento. Overnight stay at the Hotel Miravalle Fai, Fai della Paganella, Trento.

**DAY 11** Breakfast at Hotel Miravalle Fai and share our last goodbyes. Morning coach to Venice Marco Polo International Airport and end of the trip.