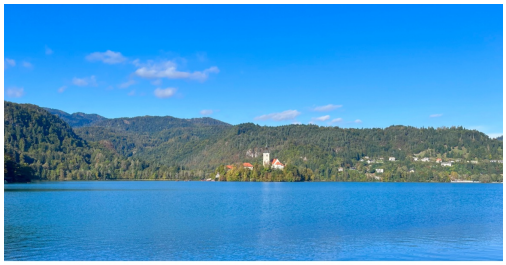
7 October 2024



On the 7th October we traveled by bus to Bled to see Lake Bled and the town.

Bled is located in the north western part of Slovenia near the Austrian border and about 50 kilometres northwest of the slovene capital Ljubljana. The lake Bled has his origins in the Ice Age where it emerged from the Bohinj Glacier. In the middle of the lake Bled is a small island on which the St.Mary's Church stands. On the rock next to the lake is Bleds castle which is 139 m high in the air and is known as the oldest castle in Slovenia (over 1000 years old).

After that we drove to the Capital of Slovenia: Ljubljana. We saw the city and visited the old Ljubljana Castle where we had a guided tour. There we learned a lot about the castles history, the city's history and we got an overview about the development, Slovenia and Ljubljana.

The castle is located on the 376m high hill and from there you have a good view of Ljubljana. At the end of the 13th century b.c. people from the Urn Field Culture built a settlement on the castles hill. In the 14th century the ownership of the castle switched multiple times until it was inherited to the Habsburg family in 1335.
To this day remains of the Romans from the 15th century are visible in the castle wall. The first attack of the Turkish in 1415 led to measures that ensured the safety of the castle. Later the duke Friedrich lll. had the castle torn down and had a modern castle built where important buildings like the pentagonal tower or the chapel St.Georg came into being. The castle even survived a big earthquake in 1515.

In the 16th and 17th century the castle was further developed and used differently than before. Next to the defensive walls residential buildings were built for the governor and the castle court became the meeting place for the nobles. Leading personalities like Lenkovič, Lambert and Auersperg shaped the buildings history. In the 17th century the castle lost its role as a residence and fortress and started to decay. Later it was used as a military camp that endangered Ljubljana because of explosions (1630, 1686, 1737) and a big fire (1774). At the end of the 18th century the administration of Vienna planned to tear down the castle but this was luckily stopped.

During Napoleons occupation (1809-1813) the castle served as a barracks and a military hospital. From 1815 on it was used as a prison. In the First World War the prison was used for politicians and as a quarantine station for Italian prisoners. In the Second World War Italian and German occupation forces were locked up there.

In 1905 the castle was bought by the city and was completely renovated from 1964 on.
Today, the castle is a symbol of Ljubljana's history and it is used for events and attracting tourists.

Sources:

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