**Bled**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Families

Non-skiers

Après ski

Environmental awareness

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

1

**Intermediate Runs**

1

**Advanced Runs**

0

**Total Runs**

2

**Lifts**

2

**Chairs**

1

**Drags**

1

**Gondola Cable Cars**

0

**Parks**

0

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

3.6m (12ft).

**Overview**

Beautiful Bled, and its eponymous glacial lake, is one of Slovenia’s biggest international tourist draws. Framed by the mighty Julian Alps, the area rose to prominence as a spa town, which once welcomed the Yugoslav royal family each summer before becoming a communist-era leisure spot.

Skiing at Bled is definitely more of an afterthought than the main attraction. Bled ski resort itself is tiny, with just two runs which suffer from unreliable snow conditions. However, all is not lost for winter sports fans. The introduction of the Julian Alps Pass grants access to slopes at five ski areas in the region that includes over 100 pistes to sample – although most of these are a significant drive, or bus ride, away.

Bled is therefore no ski mecca, but there has been a push to market itself as an all round winter destination, which, with its beautiful scenery, atmospheric small town and plethora of après-ski activities, it certainly is.

**Location**

The spa town of Bled sits on the shores of Lake Bled. It is located within the Julian Alps of western Slovenia, 50km (31 miles) from the country's capital, Ljubljana.

**Website**

http://www.bled.si

**Piste Map**

http://www.vogel.si/summer/prices-and-info/lifts

**Hit The Slopes**

Bled has just a very small local ski hill of its own at Straža, which is accessed by a double chairlift from the resort itself and a single drag lift. The ski resort is very low lying (503m to 634m/1,650ft to 2,080ft) so snow cover can be problematic and it is only open in the daytime at weekends, although floodlighting enables some skiing on weekday evenings.

Due to these limited possibilities, even beginners are likely to want to buy the Julian Alps Pass which covers three additional ski areas in the region, Vogel, Krvavec and Kranjska Gora, which are around an hour away, and are connected by bus (included in the pass fee) – with the exception of Kranjska Gora which is only reachable from Bled via private transportation.

Both Vogel and Krvavec are medium-sized ski areas, each with roughly half a dozen lifts, 35km (22 miles) of runs, including some healthy verticals, and an overall good mix of terrain.

Vogel has one of the biggest verticals in the area (1,231m/4,039ft) and some of the highest slopes that rise above the treeline – a cable car lifts skiers from the lakeside to the slopes. It also has some of the best nursery slopes for beginners, located on a snowy plateau at the top of the cable car; a good choice when snow cover is thin at lower elevations.

Krvavec, which is located in the opposite direction back on the road to the capital Ljubljana, has invested heavily in new infrastructure in recent years, adding a six-seater chairlift, and has the highest lift-served slopes in the region.

Another long-standing ski area near Bled, formerly known as Kobla, ceased operating after the 2012/13 ski season and changed its name to the 2864 Bohinj ski area. The opening date for this ‘new’ ski area, which will include Slovenia’s highest lift, is continuously being postponed and now looks unlikely to be ready in time for the 2014/15 season as originally hoped, but will more likely open its slopes in time for the following year.

It’s also worth noting that the Julian Alps Pass covers Straža's skiing at weekends, but sadly not the evening night skiing during the week.

**Bled**

**Resort**

503

**Base**

506

**Top**

1971

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Bled is marketed as a multi-activity winter destination with downhill snow sports just a minor part of the offering. Instead, there is an onus on low-key winter pastimes such as snowshoe excursions, horse-drawn carriage rides or a romantic walk on a cleared path through the snow around the lake (which can be used for ice skating if the ice is thick enough).

The town itself has many attractions; chief among these is the medieval Bled Castle, and Pilgrimage Church of the Assumption of Mary – a site of religious significance for more than a thousand years – that stands proudly on Bled Island in the middle of the lake.

The town of Bled itself has plenty of cafés, shops and spas; while day trips to the pretty capital, Ljubljana, are also possible.

**Family Fun**

Bled offers a mixed bag for families; on the one hand there's a good range of affordable activities and facilities in Bled itself, but on the other, there are limited dedicated facilities for children and no nursery provision for younger tots.

Children can join the ski school from age five. If the hassle of the ski bus trip each day to the main ski areas isn’t too much of a problem, first timers will find tuition, rental and lift ticket packages at a third to a half of the cost of an equivalent deal in the Alps.

**Retail Therapy**

Although Bled is not promoted as a shopping destination, there are about 50 shops to choose from in the town beside the lake. The year-round nature of the area means there's a wide selection of stores focusing on products outside of the winter sports bracket and prices are typically considerably lower than in Western Europe. Local produce includes metal-worked items such as cow bells, specially prepared meats and delicious local cakes. Shopping trips to the capital Ljubljana are also a possibility.

**Splashing Out**

The lakeside Vila Bled (tel: +386 4 575 3710; [www.brdo.si](http://www.brdo.si)), was once a palace of former Yugoslavian president Josip Broz Tito. And today, the residence capitalises on its reputation for timeless elegance and presidential standards of service by offering gourmet cuisine. It's *the* place to go for a truly special meal, with dishes drawing from the classics of international and Slovenian cuisine.

**Apres Ski**

With beer a third of the price of the equivalent in the Alps, and several dozen bars to choose from, Bled is an affordable place to relax after the ski bus comes back to town each evening.

Among the popular bars are Art Café Bar (Cesta Svobode 7A), which is a popular spot for live DJs and televised sporting events, and A Propos (Cesta Ljubljanska 4), which serves cocktails and coffees.

Evening activities include a cinema, bowling alley, thermal swimming pools and spa facilities in the Park, Golf and Grand hotels. For a night of gambling, head to the resort's 24-hour casino (Cesta Svobode 15).

**Eating Out**

Bled’s year round tourism appeal and cosmopolitan allure mean that guests have around 50 restaurants to choose from, with a wide ranging choice of culinary and dining styles to suit all budgets.

You should also look out for local specialities when you visit, such as potica, a traditional cake made in many variants, with recipes passed down through families from one generation to the next. These usually appear at major occasions including Christmas and Easter.

The A la Carte Restaurant 1906 (tel: +386 4 575 2610; [www.hoteltriglavbled.si](http://www.hoteltriglavbled.si)) in the 4-star [Hotel Triglav](http://www.hoteltriglav) overlooking Lake Bled is one of the most highly regarded for its gourmet cuisine, with an innovative chef who adds a modern-day twist to traditional dishes.

For something a little less formal, Ostarija Peglez'n (tel: +386 4 574 4218) is a small establishment with a reputation for amazing seafood.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Ljubljana Airport (YLW).

Distance to resort: 50km (31 miles).

Driving time: 45 minutes.

**Getting Around**

The ski bus runs once a day to Krvavec and Vogel from various pick-up points close to hotels in Bled. A similar return service operates in the afternoon. The ski bus is free of charge to Julian Pass ski ticket holders, or a return ticket can be purchased by non pass holders.

**Hotels**

The main accommodation in Bled comes in the form of small, independently-run hotels; the majority of which are rated 2- to 3-star. More luxurious 4- and 5-stars are also opening, along with a number of private apartments for those looking for something a little more homely, as well as a couple of youth hostels for those on a budget.

**Garni Hotel "Berc"**

Centrally located with large spacious rooms in a chalet style building, The Garni Hotel is known for its high service standards and nice touches including an honesty bar.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Pod Stražo 13

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Bled

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

4260

**Country**

Slovenia

**Telephone**

+386 4 576 5658.Websitewww.berc-sp.si

**Website**

A 3-star traditional guest house by the lake, Mlino Guest House is bestowed with beautiful architecture. It has a reputation for great service and also has a choice of dining options, from eating on the terrace to the rustic ‘peasant room’.