



ALPINE GREEN ECONOMY

29TH JUNE – 5TH JULY

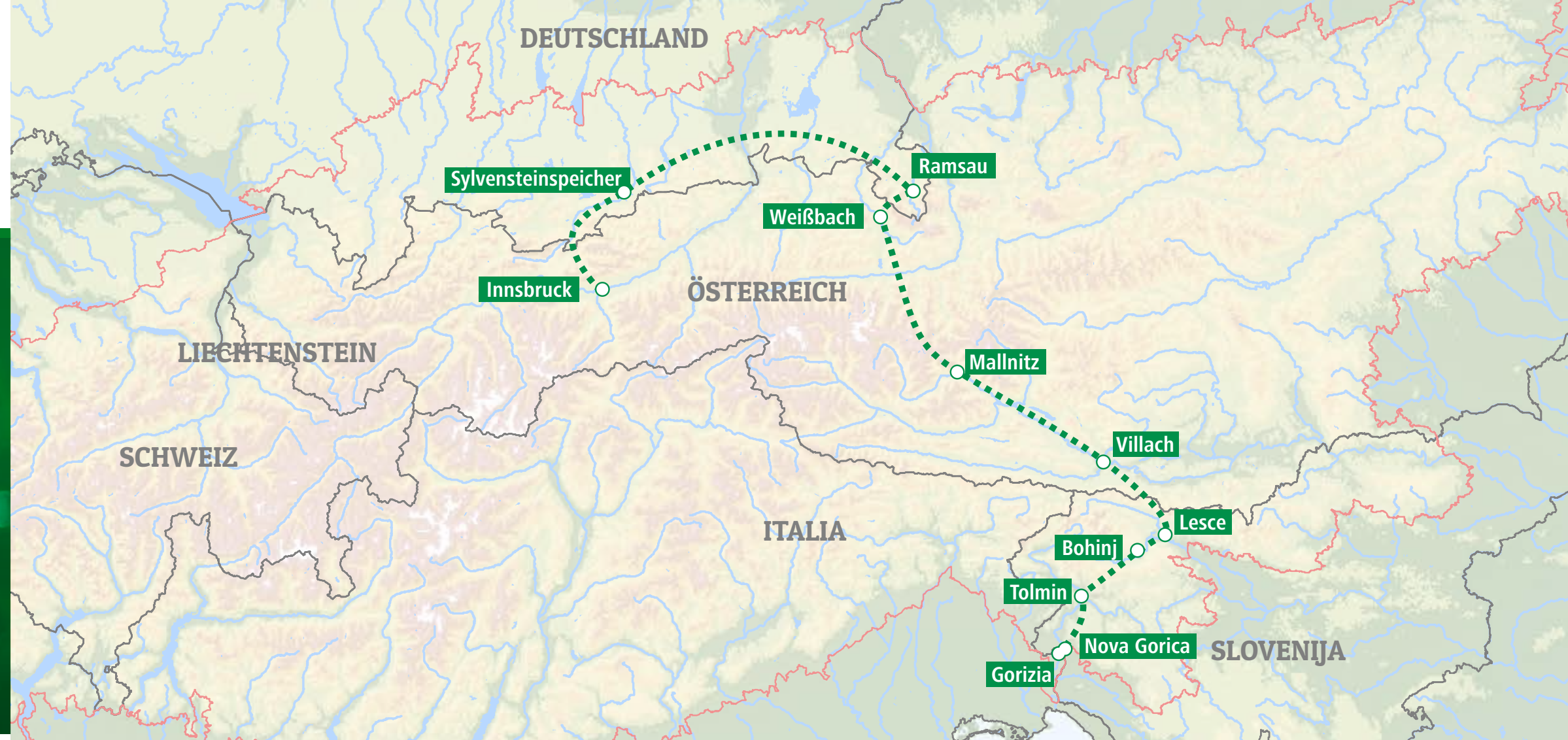
From: Innsbruck (AT) To: Gorizia (IT)

The “We are Alps” tour

is an initiative of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention to promote specific alpine topics while using sustainable means of transport. The 2016 edition of the tour focuses on Green Economy, an important topic for the Alps and one that is currently being addressed by experts and policy-makers in preparation of our 6th Report on the State of the Alps. It was also discussed by Alpine youth at this year's meeting of the Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention.

With the “We are Alps” tour we are spreading the messages of the Alpine Convention, an international treaty for the sustainable development and protection of the Alps, signed by the 8 Alpine Countries (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia and Switzerland) as well as the European Union.

Markus Reiterer
Secretary General of the Alpine Convention

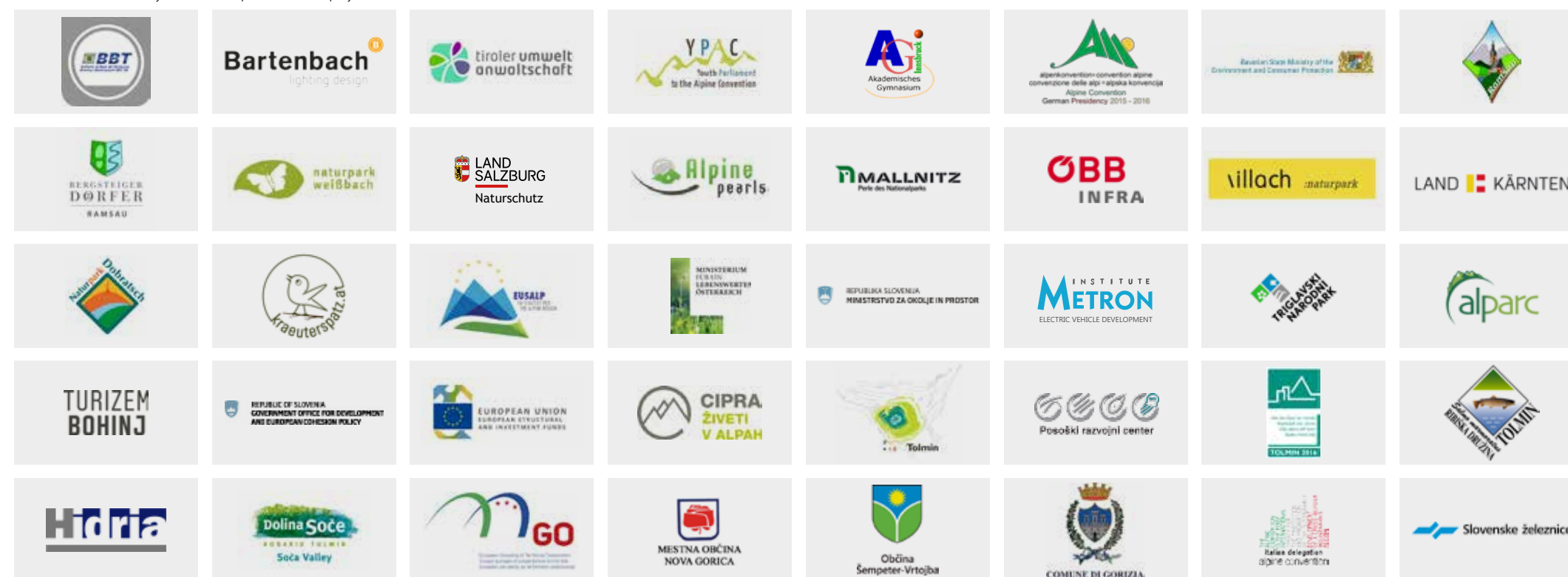


Legend: — National border — Perimeter Alpine Convention — We are Alps tour 2016

Tour: Innsbruck (AT) > Sylvensteinspeicher (DE) > Ramsau (DE) > Weißbach (AT) > Mallnitz (AT) > Villach (AT) > Lesce (SL) > Bohinj (SL) > Tolmin (SL) > Nova Gorica (SL) > Gorizia (IT)



We would like to sincerely thank all our partners in this project:



ALPINE GREEN ECONOMY 2016

day 1

Wednesday

29TH JUNE

Innsbruck

Light at the end of the tunnel

The "We are Alps" tour 2016 starts in the XVth-century Golden Roof building, in the heart of Innsbruck, which houses the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention. From there we will move straight to state-of-the-art modern technology with a visit of the building site of the Brenner railway tunnel and then, after a countryside hike, delve into the topic of lighting efficiency, at sunset at the headquarters of the Bartenbach company. Members of the Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention will come along with us.

- 12.00 – 13.30 **Welcome briefing** and snack
- 13.30 – 14.00 Hotel check-in
- 14.15 – 15.00 **Bus** and **walk** to Brenner Base Tunnel building site
- 15.00 – 18.00 Visit of the **Brenner Base Tunnel** and snack
- 18.00 – 21.00 **Hike** to Aldrans with presentation of the **Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention**
- 21.00 Evening reception and presentation on **innovative lighting techniques** by Bartenbach company



day 5

Sunday

3RD JULY

Villach › Lesce › Bohinj

Protecting & moving

On a visit to Dobratsch Nature Park, we will talk about "re-naturing" a former ski resort and promoting local herbal and fruit produce. We will then cross into Slovenia and meet an innovative entrepreneur converting normal cars into electric ones. His team will drive us to Bohinj where the Triglav National Park and the Slovenian Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy will discuss their current strategies and projects.

- 08.15 Start from the hotel
- 08.30 – 12.30 Visit of the **Dobratsch Nature Park** and presentation of the **Kräuterspatz produces**, with a snack
- 12.53 – 13.50 **Train** to Lesce
- 14.00 – 16.00 Presentation of Institute Metron on **Electric car conversion**
- 16.00 – 17.00 **Drive** to Bohinj
- 17.00 – 18.00 Presentation of **Triglav National Park**
- 18.30 – 18.49 **Bus** to Bohinjska Bistrica
- 19.00 – 19.45 Hotel check-in
- 20.00 – 22.00 Dinner with a presentation on **how to use EU funds** to move from strategy to reality, by Slovenian Government representatives



day 2

Thursday

30TH JUNE

Innsbruck › Sylvensteinspeicher › Ramsau

From Green Infrastructure to Green Alps

A picturesque train ride will take us over the border to Germany, where together with German Parliamentary State Secretary Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter and Bavarian State Minister of the Environment Ulrike Scharf, we will learn about water management at the Sylvenstein reservoir. We will then move on to Ramsau bei Berchtesgaden, the first German municipality member of the Mountaineering Villages network and close the day with a discussion on what green Alps are, or could become.

- 08.30 Start from the hotel
- 09.08 – 11.30 **Train** and **bus** to Sylvenstein Reservoir
- 12.00 – 14.15 Visit of the **Sylvenstein Reservoir** and meeting with the German State Secretary and the Bavarian Minister for the environment. Lunch
- 14.15 – 19.00 **Bus** and **train** to Ramsau
- 20.00 Dinner with presentation of **Mountaineering Villages. Discussion on green Alps**



day 6

Monday

4TH JULY

Bohinj › Tolmin

Intermodal mobility

On this day we will put the handbook on public transportation in the Slovenian Alps published by CIPRA Slovenia and the Alpine Convention into good use, crossing by train and car-train into the Southern side of the Julian Alps. We will also use human-powered mobility when cycling and walking along the Soča river to the Alpine Town of the Year 2016, Tolmin and its projects on hydropower, fish farming, wastewater treatment and reducing the environmental impact of diesel cars.

- 08.45 Start from the hotel
- 09.08 – 09.49 **Train** to Most na Soči with a presentation of the **Timetables in the Alps** project
- 10.00 – 11.00 **Biking** to Tolmin and presentation of **local mobility projects**
- 11.00 – 13.00 Presentation on **Fish farming co-existing with a hydro-power plant** and visit to the **wastewater treatment plant**
- 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch with a presentation of the **Alpine Town of the Year network**
- 15.00 – 16.30 Visit of Hidria AET **automotive parts production**
- 17.00 – 18.00 **Walk** in **Tolminska korita**
- 18.00 – 20.00 Dinner



day 3

Friday

1ST JULY

Ramsau › Weißbach bei Lofer › Mallnitz

1 day, 2 countries, 3 Mountaineering Villages

A short walk will take us to one of the few breeding sites of the Black Alpine pig in the frame of a project for the reintroduction of this endemic traditional species. We will then catch the "meadow-experience-bus" to the Austrian border and two more "Bergsteigerdörfer": along a downhill hike, we will learn about local products promotion, energy management and environmental education in the Weißbach Nature Park. We will then travel to our third Mountaineering Village Mallnitz, which is also a member of the Alpine Pearls network.

- 08.45 Start from the hotel
- 09.00 – 11.00 **Walk** to the breeding farm for the endemic **Black Alpine pig**
- 11.23 – 12.10 **Bus** to Hirschbichl (German-Austrian border)
- 12.15 – 13.15 Lunch
- 13.15 – 16.00 **Walk** on the education trail and down to Weißbach bei Lofer with presentations of **Weißbach Nature Park, Weißbach e5 Energy Community and Salzburg Energy Masterplan**
- 16.55 – 19.55 **Bus** and **train** to Mallnitz
- 20.30 Dinner with presentation of the **Alpine Pearls network**



day 7

Tuesday

5TH JULY

Tolmin › Nova Gorica › Gorizia

Restoring the link

To round-up our journey, we will cross into our fourth and last country visited, experiencing Nova Gorica/Gorizia as a unique city shared between two countries. We will cycle along the former Habsburgian Trieste-Vienna railway which the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation GO is trying to reopen. After a farewell meal, we will go off on our different ways to spread the experiences and challenges of Alpine Green Economy throughout the Alps and beyond!

- 07.30 Start from the hotel
- 07.55 – 08.50 **Bus** to Nova Gorica
- 09.00 – 12.00 **Bike** in Nova Gorica-Gorizia and surroundings along the **new cross-border cycle route and old railway**, with presentation of the EGTC-GO
- 12.00 Farewell Lunch

Individual returns home



day 4

Saturday

2ND JULY

Mallnitz › Villach

Using the power of the sun

To start the day a representative of the Austrian Railways will take us along a forest hike to demonstrate the protective role of forests – an ecosystem service. A short train ride will take us to Villach, where we will visit the city's solar station. To broaden the picture, we will also learn from the Permanent Secretariat about the new EU Strategy for the Alpine region.

- 08.45 Start from the hotel
- 09.00 – 12.00 **Hike** in a **Protection forest** with snack
- 13.59 – 14.43 **Train** to Villach
- 14.45 – 15.15 Hotel check-in
- 15.15 – 17.00 Visit of the **Sonnenbürger-Kraftwerk Villach solar power plant**
- 18.00 Dinner



Why & How Green Alps

Green economy results in "improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive" (UNEP, 2015). The Alps offer a positive framework with a high potential for economic initiatives based on natural resources and present, at the same time, sensitive ecosystems that need to be protected. Green economy is therefore particularly relevant for the Alps. When preparing the tour we selected projects and locations that highlight many different aspects of green economy in the Alps. Along the journey we will get to know initiatives on energy efficiency in lighting and building, renewable energy production, sustainable use of natural resources, ecosystem services and natural capital-based economy, and overall economic development as the basis for a good quality life in the Alps – at least as much of it as is possible in a week's time!