



Press release

Save the Bees

Within the scope of the title Ljubljana - European Green Capital 2016, the Save the Bees exhibition about bees and the beekeeping tradition in Slovenia is on display at the Ljubljana Castle until 25 September 2016.

The exhibition draws attention to the endangerment of bees and other pollinators supporting biodiversity and thus, indirectly, the existence of the human race. For this reason the responsibility for bee preservation should be taken by everybody collectively and individually.

The exhibition is divided into three topics; the first one is the classification of bees and their world distribution, the biology of honey bees, their life cycle and their immense significance for the existence of the human race. The second part of the exhibition is dedicated to Slovenian beekeeping as an economic activity and bee products. The third part presents the rich heritage, reflected in scientific literature and literary works, cultural landscape, material and immaterial heritage and contemporary art.

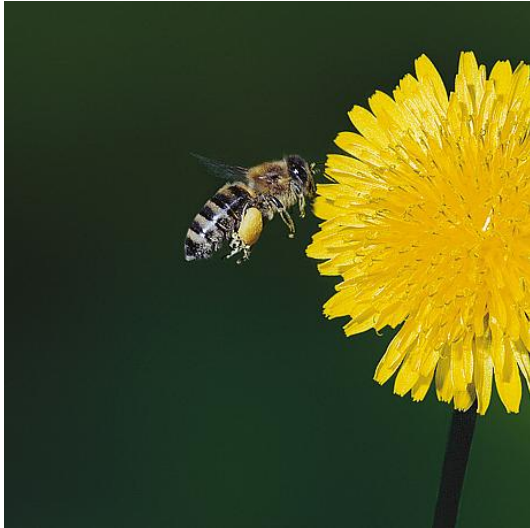
For everyone interested in the life of bees and their impact on humans who have been for many centuries making use of the bounties from the beehive – for culinary and medical purposes – the Ljubljana Castle prepared an engaging tour of the exhibition led by professional castle guides.

Regular tours are scheduled every Saturday and Sunday at 16.00. On Saturdays and Sundays between 14.00 and 18.00 the exhibition includes demonstrations on how to make candles and pendants from beeswax, bake Dražgoše honey bread and paint beehive panels.

Ljubljana is firmly linked to bee-keeping: its beginnings date back to the times of the first settlements in the area. Even more importantly, bee-keeping is still alive among Ljubljana's citizens. Around 300 beekeepers maintain more than 4500 beehives housing as many as 180 million bees.

The result of cooperation between bee-keepers and the city administration is a tourist **bee-keeping education trail** that connects the main locations of Ljubljana's bee-keepers.

At the opening of the exhibition a round table was held titled Bees and Sustainable Development with the United Nations Director-General for Food and Agriculture Dr José Graziano da Silva as one of the participants, and diverse events also accompany the exhibition: thematic lectures, a fairy-tale meeting, children's workshop and thematic one-day trips, among others the Api adventures in Ljubljana, a trip to the Gorenjska region and guided tours along the Bee Path in Ljubljana.



Analyses of Ljubljana honey have shown that it is of very high quality because city greenery is not treated against pests. There are no pesticides, free acids or residues of heavy metals and genetically modified organisms. The honey is cleaner than honey from intensively cultivated agricultural areas. Bees are attracted to the city through the gradual planting of bee-friendly perennials in green public spaces.

Photo source: Ljubljana Castle

The Municipal Museum of Radovljica is the co-organiser of the project which includes the following participants: the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia, the Primary School Anton Janša Radovljica and the City of Ljubljana within the framework of the Bee Path.

Information on all events within the scope of the exhibition is published on the [website of the Ljubljana Castle](#).