

NEWS ITEM ON VELENJE

Velenje is a young, modern European town with a modern architecture and a growing intercultural openness. In the 13th century, it was first mentioned as a market town, while it began growing as a town after the Second World War; on 20 September 1959, its newly built city centre was solemnly opened. Today, Velenje is also a town municipality, which includes 25 settlements with around 33,000 people, of which around 25,000 live in the town. It is one of the most important economic centres of Slovenia as well as an employment, administrative and educational centre of the Savinja-Šalek Region. The pillars of the Velenje's economic development include coal mining, energy sector, metalworking and specialized services; lately also tourism. Velenje's well maintained infrastructure and hospitality received numerous awards on a national and international scale. Nature in the town (altitude of 390m – Tito Square) and its surroundings is visible and easily accessible: in town parks, forests, by the lakes, on the hiking, cycling and mountaineering trails. Modern sports facilities, cultural institutions, museums, educational institutions and numerous societies, clubs and creative individuals greatly contribute to the beat of the town. Velenje is known for its many sports, recreation, tourism and cultural events. It is the town of music, dance, poetry, and the blossoming ideas. Many prominent names will write the history of Velenje: recognised economists, scientists, artists, athletes, politicians etc. come from Velenje. Velenje is a town of cultural monuments characterised by numerous natural sights, and especially events and people who are kindly inviting you and expecting you with great anticipation. – *Welcome to Velenje, old and new friends!*