



Slovenia, august 2017

Report by Sophie and Manuel

We went to Slovenia for a prolonged weekend in August.

Slovenia has a beautiful nature with a lot of forest, wonderful wine and food and lots of bears.

Bear country is in southern Slovenia nearby Kočevje. We went to Loški Potok where we had booked one night in a hide (“the cave” <http://www.bearsandwildlife.si/observation-from-the-cave/>). When we arrived there, we realized that there were a lot of offers to see bears and that they were giving them baits. Researching a bit apparently to keep them away from villages.

The hunter who brought us to the hide told us that we had a 95% chance of seeing a bear, but we were a little late apparently. When we arrived, a huge male bear was already there (quiet an impressive moment!) but quickly disappeared when he spotted us. The bears were very shy in general, the clicking of the camera frightened them already and they were behaving very cautious. There is apparently quite a good chance of seeing wolves as well but in another hide.

After this night we spent our ultimate day and night trying to find animals on our own. The forest has a lot of good roads with almost no traffic but produced very few animal sightings for us. Scanning the fields however produced much more.



Ural Owl

Red squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	One crossing the road in the forest.	
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Two sightings of one crossing the road in the forest	
Wildcat or Eurasian Lynx		We know: How is it possible not to be sure? Well we stared at the animal through our binoculars and were both sure that it was a lynx. Until it left and one of us saw an unusually long and bushy tail, the other saw a lynx running away. Add to that that the people of the hide company wouldn't believe us to have seen a rare lynx on a field. Apparently wild cats are abnormally big and have spots in their faces in Slovenia. Mystery left to be solved...	
Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Six sightings on the fields at night.	
Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	Three bears came feeding at the hide. No sightings otherwise but a lot of tracks in the forests.	
Eurasian badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	One long sighting of one individual eating everything away the next morning at the hide.	
Red deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	A couple on the fields at night.	

<p>Roe deer</p>	<p><i>Capreolus capreolus</i></p>	<p>Five sightings in the forest and a couple of them on the fields at night.</p>	
------------------------	-----------------------------------	--	---