

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING



WIGAN V MARIBOR

12TH DECEMBER, 2013

KICK OFF 1800 hours

MEET from 1430 hours onwards IN ROZMARIN restaurant. (Marked on the map opposite). At 1630 we will be moving to Grajski Trg.

There will be time to eat lunch or drink or just socialise before the game.

THE POLICE HAVE ASKED YOU KINDLY NOT TO WEAR WIGAN COLOURS AROUND THE STREETS OF MARIBOR, BEFORE OR AFTER THE MATCH.

WE WILL ALL BE CONGREGATING IN GRAJSKI TRG ONE AND A HALF HOURS' IN ADVANCE OF THE KICK OFF TIME AND WILL BE ESCORTED TO AND FROM THE MATCH BY THE POLICE ALONG THE MARKED ROUTE BELOW.

AFTER THE MATCH, THERE WILL BE TRANSPORT WAITING FOR THOSE THAT WOULD LIKE TO RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO THE HOTEL ARENA AND THE REST HAVE THE OPTION OF JOINING US FOR A FEW DRINKS IN THE WINE CELLAR ROZMARIN (MARKED ON THE MAP) WHICH PROVIDES US WITH A SAFE ENVIRONMENT, FOR THE SPECIFIC USE OF WIGAN SUPPORTERS CLUB FANS ONLY. CHILDREN ALSO WELCOME.

THERE ARE MANY BARS AND CLUBS AROUND THE CITY CENTRE BUT WE CANNOT GAIN EXCLUSIVITY TO THEM AND THEREFORE ARE ALSO OPEN TO MARIBOR FANS.

[illegible]

GENERAL INFORMATION.

MONEY. Slovenia/Austria

The currency in Slovenia is the Euro. There is approx. €1.18 to £1.00.

It is easier to change money in England before traveling and you will probably get a favourable rate if you shop around.

There are bank cash withdrawal machines everywhere which will accept direct debit cards or credit cards but the transaction will be charged for, so this is not the cheapest way to get euros, but useful in an emergency.

MONEY Hungary

The currency in Hungary is Hungarian forint (HUF) and exchange is £1.00 – 350 forint. Suggest you just pay with cards as it's hard to get rid of any extra.

MONEY Croatia

The currency in Croatia is the Kuna (HRK) and there is approx. £1.00 = 9 kuna. For those staying an extra night or two in Zagreb it is advisable to wait and exchange money at a bank in Zagreb but try to exchange approx. the amount you will need. For buying items in shops and restaurants they will only accept Kuna, however, in unregulated businesses (markets etc) some will accept euros.

Border crossings.

The Slovene/Austria/Hungarian borders are now in the Schengen zone (no customs or police controls, open borders). However, the Croatian/Slovene border is still controlled by Police, but not customs. This means you will need to show an I.d. document. They have the power to detain the coach indefinitely and will do so if they sense any trouble, meaning that everyone will miss the match! Behave at the borders and do as they ask, be polite and do not show any sign of alcohol as it is also illegal to drink on coaches in Europe.

POLICE

Please note that the police in both Slovenia and Croatia are NOT the same as the police in the UK. They are not there to be nice or understanding. These are ex-socialist/communist countries and the police are officious and can be vicious with very little provocation. Although they are now in EU they still have their own system in place and there is no messing about.

If they say move along, you move along, or else you will find yourself behind bars for the whole of the match. They don't care if you have a flight to catch or a job to get back to.

BOTTOM LINE – RESPECT THEM AND THEY WILL RESPECT YOU.

Water

The water is perfectly clean and safe to drink, there should be no need to buy bottled water as this is some of the purest in Europe.

Electricity.

220v. You will need a two pin European converter if you want to charge phones etc. Occasionally the hotels will have them to lend but people tend to 'forget' to return them.

Maribor fans

This is a small country and Maribor is a small city in an ex-communist system that has managed to create a fairly successful football team. Maribor fans include everyone who lives in Maribor, the city lives and breathes football. They have an 18% unemployment rate. Unfortunately there is also a small minority of 'idiot mentality' fans who will go out just looking for trouble. As such, Maribor fans have gained a reputation for violent behaviour. Please note that this is a small fraction of the general public. We are in the minority and visitors to their city. I am sure you will find the majority of the people with whom you have contact, extremely helpful and friendly, and their hospitality is legendary in this region. I would kindly ask you not to advertise your affinity to Wigan whilst exploring the city but just at the match.

Maribor.

Maribor is a lovely city. It is home to the oldest vine in the world and is one of the major wine growing regions in the country. Their wines have won awards worldwide. Apart from winegrowing, the city is also a winter ski destination for the local countries. The views from the top of the slopes are of the cityscape and it is quite unusual to be able to ski so close to a city. The Slovene championships are held here every year along with a few international slalom ski competitions. In the summer months the football clubs move in for training on the extensive grounds and clubs from all over the world use their facilities including Birmingham City!

Public transport is cheap for those who wish to be adventurous.

Clothing

Please note as stated above, this is a ski resort and you are coming to an Alpine country. In December it is expected to be cold and a strong possibility of snow. Therefore, it is advisable to bring warm clothing and shoes with a good grip. Some of the fans are going to spend their first day skiing or snowboarding!

Food and drink.

Food and drink is still relatively cheap in Slovenia compared to other European countries. Although (thankfully) we have no Starbucks or Costa coffee there is unfortunately, Macdonalds.

For **coffee** we take the Italian influence and either have cappuccino or espresso (a very small amount of tar at the bottom of a small cup which will certainly do what coffee is famed to do), a white coffee (bela kava) is an espresso with a large amount of hot milk .

Tea's are mostly herbal, but if you are looking for 'proper' tea then ask for either Earl Grey or English breakfast tea, and you may well have to specify with milk or you will get it with lemon.

Beer. There are two major breweries in Slovenia and it is Lager (various shades) No one has ever complained about these beers and although I don't drink beer, I have heard they are very good. They are sold by the bottle or on draught, a small beer is 3 dcl (just over half a pint) and large 0.5 litres (just over a pint). They are called Zlatorog (with a green label) or Union with a red label, just a matter of which you prefer. Expect to pay about £1.80 for a large beer.

Wines are good quality and cheap! This region is famous for its white wines which tend to be slightly sweeter than other areas. Expect to pay anything from 50 pence a glass to £2.00 for a high quality.

Juices are also good quality if they are made in Slovenia, beware of imported juices because this is where they charge more.

We have many **mineral waters** if you prefer them to ordinary tap water, they will ask if you want fizzy or still. Beware of the imported Evians etc as they will cost you 4x the price of the Slovene ones.

Tobacco products – cheaper than UK. Marlboro are about the most expensive and cost £3.00 a pack of 20.

Other articles. In the shops you will find various things quite a bit cheaper than in the UK so if you are looking for something in particular then it's worth looking around. Clothes, shoes etc are cheaper, electrical equipment more expensive.

Please note that it is always advisable to have travel insurance and also to carry an EHIC card with you which you can order free of charge on line from this address

<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad/EHIC/Pages/about-the-ehic.aspx>