



# embrace Piran

TOURIST BOARD PORTOROŽ  
INFORMATION: TIC PIRAN, TARTINIJEV TRG 2, 6330 PIRAN  
T: +386 (0)5 673 44 40, E: TICPI@PORTOROZ.SI, WWW.PORTOROZ.SI

## footsteps



PANORAMA VIEW FROM PIRAN

If the Tartini Square is the heart of the town then the 1st of May Square, also known as the Old Square, must be the heart of the old Punta quarter. It used to be the administrative centre of town up until the 13th century. Here you can enjoy a glass of local wine, do some shopping and it's child-friendly too. Its central elevated platform is the venue for many events during summer.

After a severe draught in 1775, a **STONE RAINWATER HARVESTING SYSTEM** was built in the square, connecting the gutters from the neighbouring buildings. The stairs there lead to the elevated platform entrance, watched over by two sculptures representing **LAW AND JUSTICE**.

The old city of Piran was probably fortified with walls as early as the 7th century. It has eight defensive towers, and the city quarters were named after the town gates, preserved to this day. These are: the first and second Raspo gates, the Marciana gate, the Mugla gate, the Dolfin gate, Campo gate and the baroque St. George's gate. They were built in different time periods, but they were all gates **THROUGH WHICH PEOPLE ENTERED THE TOWN**.

*If the Tartini Square is the heart of the town then the 1st of May Square, also known as the Old Square, must be the heart of the old Punta quarter. It used to be the administrative centre of town up until the 13th century.*



STRUNJAN NATURAL PARK - MOON BAY

Where did you, who now wonder the streets of Piran and read these lines, enter its gates? Will your path take you to Punta, where the locals revive old customs of socialising together and preserve their precious culture of living? Will you stop at a restaurant or tavern within the town or by the sea? Will your trip end up in the hinterlands? Will you visit the the 700 years old plus Sečovlje salt pans, where salt is produced with traditional methods to this day? Will you treat yourself to fresh fish, a glass of local wine, taste the genuine local extra virgin olive oil, and maybe have a dish that our grandmothers used too cook, practicing the art of putting together simple ingredients? Will you let yourself be surprised by the many events in town?

We still appreciate and know how to do all of the above. And we are happy to share it with you.

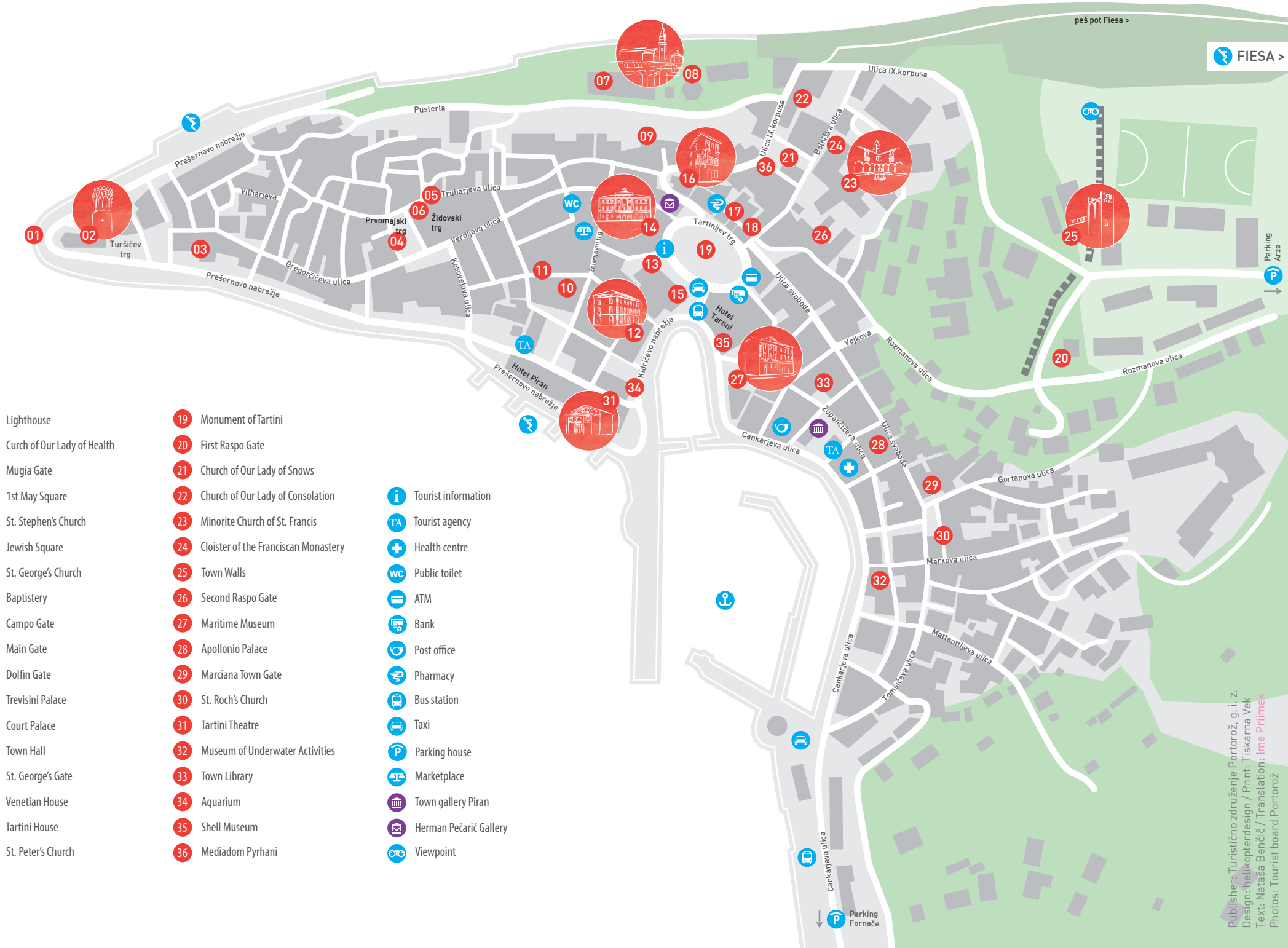
Events that cultivate tradition, gastronomy and wine-making, that never lost their roots in tradition, novelties that look to history and tales from our ancestors for inspiration for today's stories.

Do you want to get to know, feel, smell, taste and witness all of this? Why then... **EMBRACE PIRAN!**

- 01 Lighthouse
- 02 Church of Our Lady of Health
- 03 Mugla Gate
- 04 1st May Square
- 05 St. Stephen's Church
- 06 Jewish Square
- 07 St. George's Church
- 08 Baptistery
- 09 Campo Gate
- 10 Main Gate
- 11 Dolfin Gate
- 12 Trevisini Palace
- 13 Court Palace
- 14 Town Hall
- 15 St. George's Gate
- 16 Venetian House
- 17 Tartini House
- 18 St. Peter's Church

- 19 Monument of Tartini
- 20 First Raspo Gate
- 21 Church of Our Lady of Snows
- 22 Church of Our Lady of Consolation
- 23 Minorite Church of St. Francis
- 24 Cloister of the Franciscan Monastery
- 25 Town Walls
- 26 Second Raspo Gate
- 27 Maritime Museum
- 28 Apollonio Palace
- 29 Marciana Town Gate
- 30 St. Roch's Church
- 31 Tartini Theatre
- 32 Museum of Underwater Activities
- 33 Town Library
- 34 Aquarium
- 35 Shell Museum
- 36 Mediadom Pyrhani

- i Tourist information
- TA Tourist agency
- Health centre
- WC Public toilet
- ATM
- Bank
- Post office
- Pharmacy
- Bus station
- Taxi
- Parking house
- Marketplace
- Town gallery Piran
- Herman Pečarič Gallery
- Viewpoint



Publisher: Turistično združenje Portorož, g. i. z.  
Design: helikopterdesign / Print: Tiskarna Vek  
Text: Nataša Benčič / Translation: Ina Primšek  
Photos: Tourist board Portorož



# embrace Piran

PORTOROŽ PIRAN  
PORTOROSE PIRANO



welcome

*It's the town's inhabitants who write its history. A story that our ancestors spun and that we, who live here, keep on weaving.*

the heart of  
the town

*We might be able to trace Piran's relevance as far back as the 7th or 8th century. Back then it was known as Piranon.*

under the  
piranese angel

art and  
history

*St. George's church is the largest church in town and its namesake is the town's patron saint.*

SAILING REGATTA IN PIRAN



Looking at the **MAJESTIC CITY WALLS**, and when walking along their ramparts, it's hard to imagine that **WORK ON THE FIRST CITY WALLS MOST LIKELY BEGAN IN THE DISTANT 7TH CENTURY**. The walls were meant to protect the town. They were its shield, **A SAFE EMBRACE**. And so, in 1991, Piran became a member of the European Walled Towns Association. What once represented safety is now, luckily, a long standing tourist attraction. Nevertheless, the walls still cradle the town and they are, in its entirety, recognised as a protected monument of cultural heritage. Within their embrace they hold streets and squares, palaces,

churches, art galleries, museums and the aquarium, as well as numerous restaurants, taverns and cafes.

It feels as if time here has stopped long ago, no matter the season. There is a sense of calm and reassurance, inviting you to stay. Stay here and enjoy the abundance of home-made food, propose a toast to yourself, enjoy the arts and take a walk along the winding streets through the town which, as we say, literally "grew on salt" from the nearby saltpans in Sečovlje. There is something in the air ... something undefined, whispering to us: Stop, be here..., stay here... **EMBRACE PIRAN!**



The embrace is like a closed circle. Begin by the town's entrance and stroll along the sea to Tartini Square. This is its ballroom, the heart of the town. We might be able to trace Piran's relevance as far back as the 7th or 8th century. Back then it was known as Piranon. The main square used to be a dock, a harbour for fishing boats. In 1894, land reclamation took place and it became a square. There was even an electric railroad that passed through between 1909 and 1953, connecting Piran with Portorož and Lucija. The present day platforms, in their elliptical shape, made from white stone and designed by the famous architect Boris Podrecca, mirror the layout of the very same railroad which

once stood there. Tartini Square is named after Giuseppe Tartini, a celebrated violin virtuoso of his time, who was born in Piran. His statue, made in 1896 by sculptor Antonio dal Zotto, adorns the square to this day. **TARTINI HOUSE**, where the maestro was born, is among the oldest in town. The Tartini memorial room holds a variety of interesting exhibits, among these, the priceless Tartini violin.

The town **THEATRE**, also bearing Tartini's name, is the venue for many artistic events of various types, including those with a long-standing tradition.

The Veneziana, a beautiful beige building on Tartini Square is the the finest example of Venetian gothic architecture in Piran

PIRAN'S PUNTA



and was built in the mid-15th century. Looking at it, it's not hard to imagine a maiden gazing down from the balcony and waiting for her darling... The legend has it that a rich Venetian merchant fell in love with a beautiful girl from Piran and to prove his love, he gifted her with this house. Rumours of a romance spread far and wide, so the lovers made an inscription on the facade: "**LAŠSA PUR DIR**" or "Let them talk" ... and lived happily ever after.

Tartini Square and the monument are presided over by the **MUNICIPAL PALACE**. The second floor of the palace facade features a stone sculpture of a winged lion holding an open book under its paw in memory of the Most Serene Republic of Venice. The open book

signifies peace, while a closed one means war. The interior of the palace, which to this day hosts the municipal authorities, **IS ADORNED WITH THE WORKS OF MANY ARTISTS**, but a special place is held by a painting created by a true Piranese legend, **DOMENICO TINTORETTO**.

Other most notable buildings on Tartini Square include the Baroque House, the Apollonio Palace, the Law Palace and the Loggia. The entrance to the square is symbolically marked by the stone pillars of the flag posts, dating back to the 9th century.

While Tartini Square hosts many local events, it is first and foremost a gathering place, a place for people. It is the heart of the town.

FAMILY TIME IN PIRAN

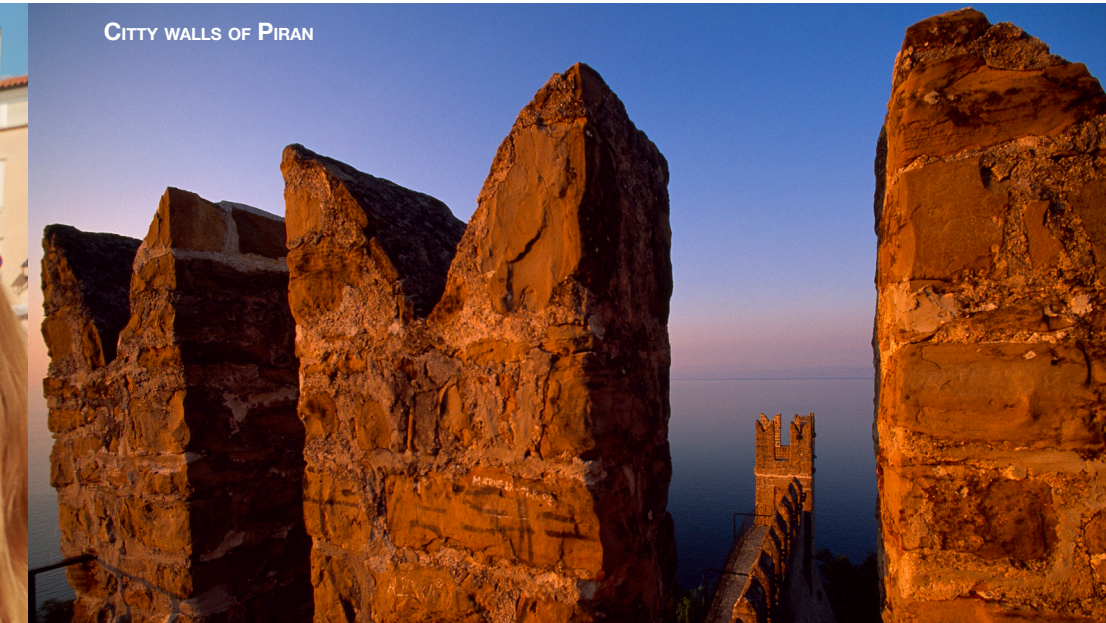


The cobbled street, behind the Venetian house on Tartini Square, stretches up to **St. George's Cathedral**. It underwent numerous developments since the 12th century. This baroque church, with its bell tower and baptistery, dominates Piran's skyline and is truly its most recognisable monument. It is supported by structure walls and arches which were, as was the church itself, completely renewed to save them from the effects of time and sea. The church hosts the parish museum of St. George with a treasury, lapidaries and an archaeological pit.

Next to the presbytery on the same street, there is the **GEORGIOS PASTORAL AND CULTURAL CENTRE**, which with its outdoor space and hall, offers an alternative location for hosting events in Piran. Many excellent concerts, performed by extraordinary musicians from all over the world, are also held in the cathedral.

St. George's church is the largest church in town and its namesake is the **TOWN'S PATRON SAINT**. Piran has a rich sacral heritage that was built up throughout different periods of history.

CITY WALLS OF PIRAN



There are the churches of St. Mary of the Snows, St. Mary the Consoler, St. Mary of Health, St. Peter, St. Roch, St. Stephen and the **FRANCISCAN CONVENT AND MONASTERY AND THE CHURCH OF St. FRANCIS**.

**THE CLOISTER** is a marvel of architecture, a special place of peace and beauty, and has long been the venue for art exhibitions and classical music events of which **PIRAN MUSICAL EVENINGS** have the longest tradition. The town of Piran is protected in its entirety as a monument of cultural

*The town of Piran is protected in its entirety as a monument of cultural heritage.*

heritage. It prides itself on its **MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES**, safeguarding the town's legacy. The Maritime Museum of Sergej Mašera resides in the Gabrielli Palace next to the port. It features exhibits documenting Slovenian maritime history and the maritime past of the North Adriatic coastal area.

PRESENTATION OF THE SALT COLLECTION IN THE SEČOVLJE SALINA NATURE PARK



The museum also offers permanent external exhibitions: in **VILLA SAN MARCO IN PORTOROŽ**, **TONA'S HOUSE IN SVETI PETER** and the **SALTMaking MUSEUM IN THE SEČOVLJE SALT PANS**.

**THE AQUATIC DIVING MUSEUM** is a lively mosaic of the history of diving in Slovenia and around the world, from its beginnings to today. **THE PIRAN AQUARIUM** has several tanks, holding around 140 species of sea creatures found in the Slovenian sea. **THE CIVIC GALLERY** was recently renovated by architect Boris Podrecca

and has an important place in the European context of visual arts. It features a rich permanent art collection and hosts various events, including the traditional Ex-Tempore workshop of visual and ceramic arts.

Besides the Civic Gallery, you can also visit the **HERMAN PEČARIČ GALLERY**, a former tailor shop from between 19th and 20th century. It hosts a collection of paintings bequeathed by the artist to the town of Piran, including the **OPEN AIR SCULPTURES** collection, also known as the **FORMA VIVA** on the Seča peninsula.