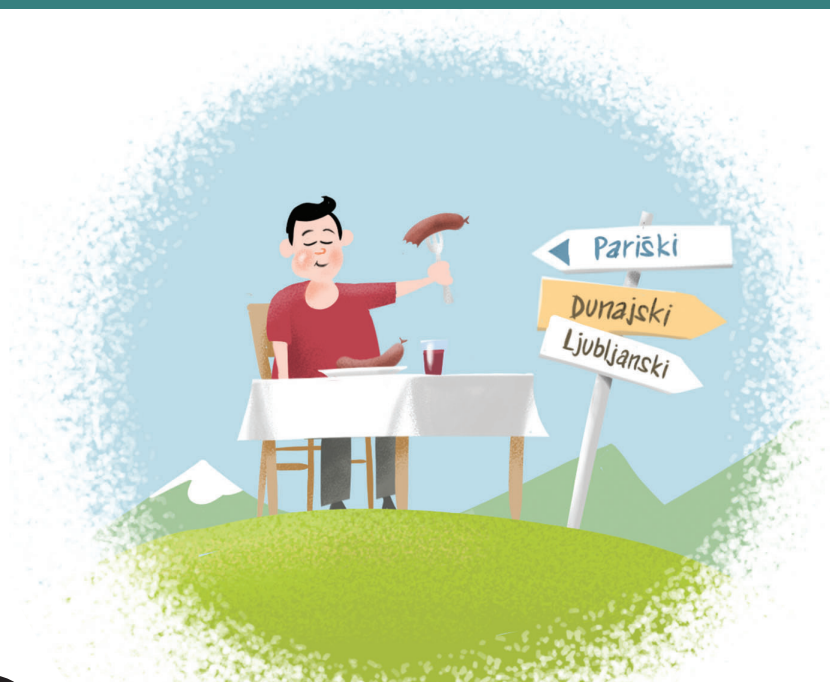


A FARM ≠ HOTEL

MAKE A VISIT TO THE FARM A REWARDING
AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCE



Association
of tourist
farms of Slovenia





When the time is not your master

Holidays are a time when we can forget about the constant battle over time. We get up when we wake up and go to bed when we are tired. And we also eat when we are hungry. But the latter is not quite the case: on the farm, the schedule is an important element of the workday. The housewife as well as other family members have plenty of other chores; they devote their time to feeding livestock, cleaning in the stable, gardening and working the fields, vineyards, orchards; cleaning the house, even helping with bureaucracy... On the farm, unlike in restaurants, all meals are prepared from scratch, so keeping to an agreed schedule is most important; (any changes to agreed time schedule should be communicated in advance). Food is served on the table straight from the stove, when the food is warm and fresh, when it's most aromatic and delicious. Late-comers may not get the best of the culinary delights the house has to offer, and this would not make the housewife very happy She wants the guests to get the best of everything! This is why meal time is very important. Aside from cooking, there are many things to be organized, cleaned, washed and preparations made for the next day before she can go to rest. She works late hours and she is not on vacation.



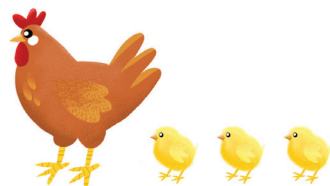
When a farm is a new world

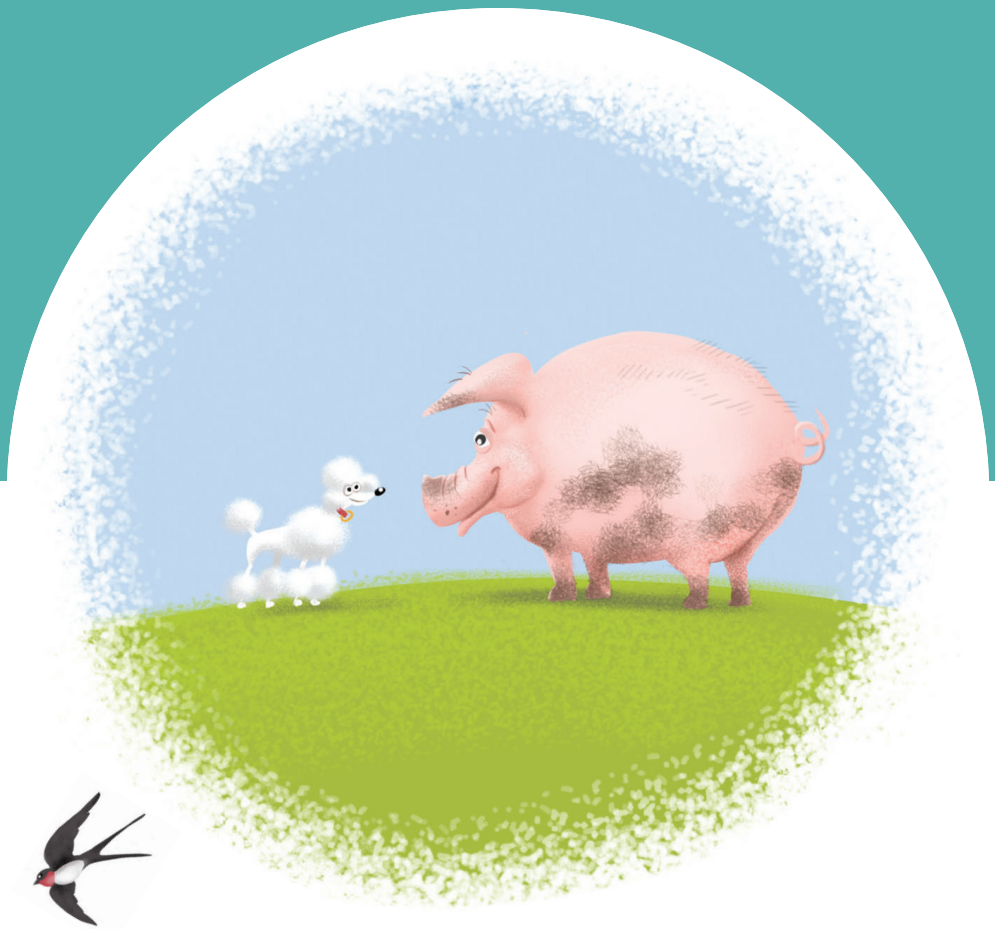
Children also need a vacation and for those who live in the city, a visit to the farm means a new world. Children may learn that milk comes from a cow and not from a local grocery store, and that lettuce, tomatoes, carrots and other vegetables come from the ground. When they pick up chicken eggs, they see that they have been laid by chickens, and when they feed the piglets with their hosts they find out where the sausages come from. They learn that stinky cow dung - when dried, ground, bagged and sold to gardeners - can be a great fertilizer. This is also a perfect opportunity to get familiar with agricultural machinery, enter the wine cellar ... But they should always ask for permission of the hosts. They are reluctant to see that the guests, especially the children, enter the barn on their own: animals have their own habits, they can only eat what their owners prepare, at a certain time. Agricultural machinery is not intended for play, so the possibility of damage is not excluded. In the (wine or vegetable) cellar there are items intended for use by the hosts only. The farm is their home where they have to make a living; they are pleased to show their guests around, but only when accompanied by a family member when time permits.



When there is no menu at dinner table

We visit the tourist farm because we would like to eat and drink something special. The offer is therefore to a large extent limited to seasonally grown vegetables, which is, whatever nature has to offer at that time of year. This is the beauty of traditionally grown local products. Food is produced on many farms according to strict organic standards. So don't expect commercially produced salami or oranges at breakfast; you will feast on farmer's breads, homemade cottage cheese and salami, and herbal tea harvested from the garden. The kitchen does not offer an à la carte menu, instead the housewife puts seasonal produce in the pot and is more than willing to listen to her guests' wishes. Similar is the case with beverages: a bit of mineral water mixed with the local wine will make an excellent spritzer, but do not expect commercial hard liquor, such as whiskey, cognac, cocktails or energy drinks. Aside from freshly produced meals, you will have a chance to spoil your palette with a variety of homemade juices of different flavors and quality spirits made from organic fruits (plum, fruit, William, juniper ...)





When a dog is not a plush toy

Can you imagine a farm without a dog or cat? Hardly. Choosing a dog suitable for a tourist farm is not the easiest thing, as the furry friend has to perform his basic function on the one hand, which is to be a guard dog, and a friendly pet to all guests, on the other. The dog has to be people friendly and patient, especially to children who sometimes forget that they are dealing with a living animal, not a plush toy. Farmer dogs must also be tolerant of other pets guests bring to the farm. Most farms are "animal friendly" farms, but a four-legged friend must always be announced before arrival. Then, the applicable rules should also be observed: where the pet may/may not be, whether it can socialize with domestic animals, if it has to be on a leash, etc. The hosts will help the guests who bring a pet to the farm, but they must inform the farm ahead of time and respect mutual arrangements accordingly.



When being ecologically responsible is not a burden

Our parents taught us to go outdoors in hiking boots, to the sea in flip flops, to the garden in rubber boots, and to wear slippers in our living rooms and bedrooms. The same rule applies to the tourist farm. Most guests bring slippers with them, but if forgotten most farms will have some to lend you while on their premises. Some of them are even hand-made. They will be placed in front of the rooms for you to use. You will be requested not to wear muddy shoes inside, to clean them before entering the house and leave them in front of the room. By the pool, of course, it's different: we are always barefoot there.....

Just like at home, linen and towels are treated in the same manner. They belong on the hanger after use, should you request new ones, please place them under the sink. You will receive a fresh supply in the evening.

As most of our farms are organic, they appreciate clean water and strive to save energy, they don't want to waste things. For cleaning and washing, they mostly use harmless detergents and home-made cleaning solutions.



When you are never bored and don't miss your gadgets

Cell phones and I-pads are used on farms as well, so guests can have access to the world outside or listen to their favorite music whenever they want to. The difference between the town and village is that here, the gadgets, as listed above, are not the center of life. On the farm, time passes quickly even without these kind of "toys". Given the distance of farms from urban centers, a mobile signal is not always ideal, and a wireless transmitter in the house may not reach every room. Therefore, should there be problem, the hosts will be glad to advise you where and when to connect a laptop or an I-pad. Before booking, it is also good to know there may not be as many television programs available; maybe Animal Planet shows can be replaced by visiting stables, chickens and bunnies. And one more thing to do before arriving at the farm: fill your wallet with enough cash. They don't accept cash cards everywhere, and the bank machine just may be too far away ...





When mine is not yours

Farms are usually surrounded by fruit trees of various varieties - apple, pear, plum, peach, apricot, cherry... and a variety of berries, such as raspberries, blackberries, grapes in the vineyard, especially inviting at the right time of the year. It must be remembered, however, that all the fruits of the farmers are produce; they will produce juices, jams, grape must and lastly wine. For the host, any fruit is valuable, all seasonally ripe fruits will be served at the table and most of the time you will also get some to take home. This does not mean that the guests are free to pick or harvest the fruits on their own if they so desire. Let the host invite you to the garden, to the vineyard, to the orchard and to the cellar in the fall. Along with it, you and your children will try the best nature has to offer and find out more interesting things about the farm.