



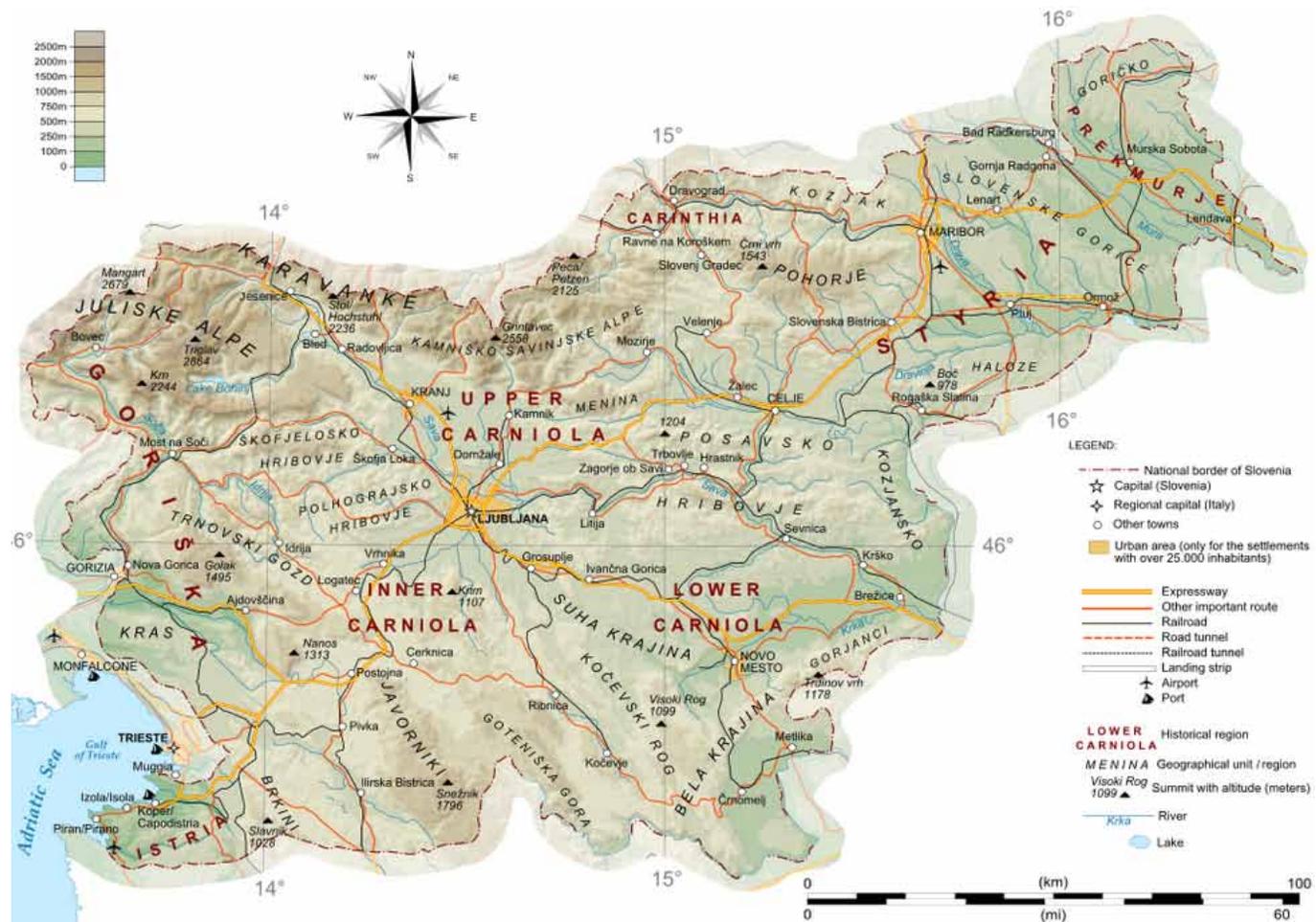
25
25 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE
REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA



I FEEL
SLOVENIA



Slovenia in Brief



Slovenia is the only country in Europe that encompasses the Alps, the Mediterranean, the Pannonian plain and the Karst.

Full name: Republic of Slovenia (Republika Slovenija)

Population: 2,062,874 (2015)

Capital: Ljubljana (about 270,000 residents)

Political System: Parliamentary democracy

Currency: Euro: (EUR 1= 100 cents)

Official languages: Slovenian; in ethnically mixed border areas also Hungarian and Italian.

Nationalities (2002 census): Slovenian 83%; Italian 0.1%; Hungarian 0.3%; Croat 1.8%; Serbian 2.0%

Religion (2002 census): Roman Catholic 57.8%, Muslim 2.4%, Orthodox 2.3%, other Christian 0.9%, unaffiliated 3.5%, other or unspecified 23%, none 10.1%.

Surface Area: 20,273 km² (7,827 sq. mi) about the size of Massachusetts

Bordering countries: Austria, Italy, Hungary, Croatia

Length of coastline: 46.6 km (28.5 miles)

Geography: Slovenia is geographically divided into four basic types of landscape - Alpine in the north, (42.1%), Mediterranean in the south-west (8.6%), Dinaric mountain area in the south (28.1%), and Pannonian Plain in the east (21.2%)

Climate: Continental in the central part, Alpine in the north-west and sub-Mediterranean along the coast and its hinterland.

Highest mountain: Triglav 2,864 m (9,396 ft)

Largest protected area: Triglav National Park (207,091 acres or 4% of the territory of Slovenia)

Largest underground cave: Postojnska jama - 19.5 km (11.8 miles)

Largest lake: Cerknica Lake (intermittent) - 26 km² (10 sq mi)

Longest river: Sava - 221 km (137 miles)

Time zone: GMT/UTC +1

State observed holidays: January 1 (New Year's), February 8 (Cultural Day), Easter Monday, April 27 (Resistance Day), June 25 (Statehood Day), August 15 (Assumption Day), October 31 (Reformation Day), November 1 (Day of Remembrance of the Dead) December 25 (Christmas), December 26 (Independence and Unity Day)



Slovenia borders Italy to the west, Austria to the north, Hungary to the east and Croatia in the south. The shape of the country is reminiscent of a chicken, its size compares to that of Massachusetts.

Useful websites:

General information about Slovenia: www.slovenia.si & www.slovenia.info

Slovenian Government's site: www.vlada.si

Government Communication Office: www.ukom.gov.si

History of Slovenia



3900 BC: Pile dwellings on the Ljubljana Marshes. (Source: www.visitljubljana.si)

Slovenia lies at the crossroads of the Alps, the Pannonian Plain and the Mediterranean – an area of dynamic history. Various peoples helped shape the area's cultural heritage. The first evidence of human habitation in the territory of the present-day Slovenia goes back 250,000 years. Pile dwellings on the Ljubljana Marshes date back to 3900 B.C. The Illyrians from the early Iron Age were followed by the Celts, who in the 3rd century BC established the

Celtic Kingdom of Noricum. Noricum became a Roman province and the period of the Roman Empire left a rich heritage in numerous towns that now carry Slovenian names. For example Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, was founded 2000 years ago as the Roman colony Emona.

In the 6th century, Slovenia's Slavic ancestors emerged from beyond the Carpathian Mountains and settled in the territory of present-day Slovenia. As early as

the 7th century, the first state of Slovenians was founded in the area, the principality of Carantania, which endured for almost 300 years. It was not until 1991 that Slovenians again lived in their own sovereign state. Until the late 20th century, foreign rulers governed the Slovenians: first the Habsburg Monarchy and then the Austro-Hungarian Empire from 1867 to the end of World War I in 1918.

Throughout these years, Slovenians managed to establish and preserve a national identity, mainly through culture and language. Since 1550, when the Protestant Primož Trubar penned the word Slovenians for the first time, a common Slovenian national identity has slowly developed. The compulsory elementary schooling introduced in the 18th century, enabled the Slovenians to survive as a nation, however the Habsburg Monarchy prevented them from achieving political autonomy. The idea of a unified Slovenia only emerged in 1843. In 1848 a small group of Slovenian intellectuals drew up the first Unified Slovenia national plan.

The collapse of Austria-Hungary (1918) divided the Slovenian ethnic territory among four states. The largest, central part came under the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians, later renamed Yugoslavia (1929), while Northern Carinthia became

part of Austria, and most of the Western regions (Primorska and Notranjska) were given to Italy. Prekmurje, with mixed Hungarian/Slovenian population, was divided between the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Serbs and Hungary. After World War II, most of the Slovenian territory under Italy was reunited with Slovenia, which became one of the republics of Yugoslavia, under the communist rule (1945-1991).

After being part of Yugoslavia for more than seventy years, the Slovenians almost unanimously opted for independence. In a 1990 plebiscite, almost 90 per cent of the Slovenian electorate voted in favor of Slovenian independence and sovereignty. On June 25, 1991, Slovenia became an independent state. The determination to build a nation based on the principles of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law was challenged immediately. A relatively short yet decisive armed conflict with the Yugoslav army resulted in months of negotiations. Those times of transition were a trial of the will of the Slovenian nation, requiring determination and courage, as well as the intellectual capacity, spiritual power, unity, responsibility and statesmanship.

This was soon confirmed by actions of the international community. In January 1992, the European Community recognized Slovenia. On April 7, 1992, the new nation was recognized by the United States and soon after diplomatic relations between the two countries were established. On May 22 1992, Slovenia joined the United Nations (UN). In October 1997 it became a non-permanent member of the Security Council for a period of two years. In 2004 Slovenia became a member of the European Union (EU) and NATO. Slovenia presided over the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2005 and over the Council of the EU in 2008. The country joined the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 2010. For the past 25 years Slovenia has been advocating effective multilateralism and international justice, with the UN as its core focus. Slovenia's international engagement is firmly based in endeavors for peace and security, the rule of law, sustainable development, and human rights.

Prince's Stone (Knežji kamen)



The principality of Carantania was notable for the ancient ritual of installing their dukes. The ritual took place at the Prince's Stone and was performed in a Slavic language. It persisted in its original form until 1414. The installation ritual was described by French historian Jean Bodin in his book *Les Six Livres de la République*. Thomas Jefferson underlined a reference to it in his copy of the book, which gave rise to speculation that it inspired him in writing the draft of the "Declaration of Independence".

Interesting Fact

- The first book in the Slovenian language was printed in 1550 A.D. but the first written document had been written about 500 years before. The Freising Manuscripts, written closely before the year 1000, are the earliest preserved writings in Slovenian as well as the earliest Slavic texts, written in the Latin alphabet. They are stored in the Bavarian State Museum in Munich.



Slovenia's independence was declared on 25 June 1991, and was followed by a short war, which claimed dozens of lives. In 1992, Slovenia joined the United Nations. In 2004 Slovenia became a member of the European Union and the NATO and in 2010 it joined the OECD.

Historic Milestones:

55,000 BC: The oldest musical instrument in the world, a bone flute, which was found in Divje Babe cave near Cerklje, Slovenia.

4th and 3rd century BC: The arrival of Celts; the Noricum Kingdom.

14 AD: Ljubljana, the present capital of Slovenia, is established as the Roman colony of Emona.

40 AD: The Noricum Kingdom is incorporated into the Roman Empire by Caesar Claudius. The entire territory of modern Slovenia is within the borders of the Roman Empire.

5th and 6th century AD: Invasions by the Huns and Germanic tribes.

6th century AD: The Slavic ancestors first settle in the territory of present-day Slovenia.

7th - 11th century: The Principality of Carantania is established, the oldest known independent tribal union in this area.

745 AD: Carantania becomes part of the Frankish empire; the beginnings of the conversion to Christianity.

9th century: The spread of the Frankish feudal system; the Slovenian nation begins to form.

10th century: The Freising manuscripts,

the first known written documents in the Slovenian dialect.

11th century: The regions of Carniola, Styria, Carinthia and Gorizia begin to develop; intensive German colonization.

11th to 14th centuries: The development of medieval towns in Slovenia.

1335: Most of the territory of Slovenia is taken over by the Habsburgs Monarchy.

1456: The last male representative of the only Slovenian noble dynasty, the House of Celje, is murdered in Belgrade.

1550: The reformation movement brings literacy; the first book in the Slovenian language is printed.

1584: The Bible is translated into the Slovenian language by Jurij Dalmatin.

1774: Compulsory universal primary education is launched in the territory of the present-day Slovenia by Austrian empress Maria Theresa.

1809-1813: After Napoleon's conquest Slovenia becomes its territory known as Illyrian Provinces.

1844: Poet France Prešeren writes the patriotic poem Zdravljica ("A Toast"). In 1990, the seventh stanza of his Zdravljica was declared the national anthem of Slovenia.

Interesting Fact:

• Soča Valley, a land of aquamarine river rapids and dense emerald forests, was once the site of WWI's Isonzo Front, where 1.7 million soldiers died and is still known as the largest mountain battle in the entire history of mankind. As Austro-Hungarian soldiers clashed with Italian forces in the surrounding mountains, a young Ernest Hemingway collected the wounded in his ambulance. He described The Isonzo Front in the Julian Alps in his famous novel "A Farewell to Arms".

1848: The first Slovenian political program Unified Slovenia is launched.

1915 - 1917: World War I battles between the armies of Italy and Austria-Hungary, with Slovenian soldiers on both sides, are fought in the Soča Valley in Slovenia.

1918: Formation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians.

1941 - 1945: Slovenia is occupied by the armies of Fascist Italy, Nazi Germany and Hungary during World War II.

1945: Slovenia becomes part of the Federal Peoples' Republic of Yugoslavia.

April 8, 1990: First multiparty democratic elections.

December 23, 1990: 88.5% of voters in a referendum vote in favor of an independent Slovenia.

June 25, 1991: Slovenia officially declares its independence.

December 23, 1991: Adoption of the new

Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia.

January 25, 1992: The European Community officially recognizes Slovenia's independence.

May 22, 1992: Slovenia becomes a member of the UN.

March 29, 2004: Slovenia becomes a member of NATO.

May 1, 2004: Slovenia becomes a member of the EU.

January 1 - June 30, 2008: Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

July 21, 2010: Slovenia's accession to the OECD.

Interesting Fact:

• Slovenia adopted the euro on January 1, 2007. Before that, Slovenian currency was the tolar.

The Political System

The Constitution

Slovenia became a sovereign state on June 25, 1991, when the Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Basic Constitutional Charter on the Sovereignty and Independence of the Republic of Slovenia. On December 23, 1991, the Assembly also adopted the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia. As the country's supreme legal document, the Constitution laid the foundations of state authority, rule of law and the status of individuals in the Republic of Slovenia. Hence, one chapter is dedicated solely to human rights and freedoms, which also contains provisions ensuring special rights for the Hungarian, Italian and Roma ethnic communities. Among other provisions, the Constitution defines the Republic of Slovenia as a parliamentary democratic republic. The state's authority is based on the principle of the separation of legislative, executive and judicial powers.

The President

The President of the Republic, as the Head of State, serves as the commander in chief of Slovenia's armed forces, calls general elections, nominates and proposes to the National Assembly candidates for the PM position, nominates candidates for judges of the Constitutional Court and members of the Court of Audit, appoints and recalls ambassadors, accepts the credentials of foreign diplomats, and grants clemency.

His duties also include meetings with other countries' heads of state and royalty and ceremonially signing into law acts that have already been adopted by the legislative branch and signed by the prime minister.

The President's ability to affect government policy is greatly limited. He does not possess, for example, the power to veto legislation or direct foreign policy, like the U.S. President. He is elected for a five-year term in a direct general election. A President may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. The Head of State of the Republic of Slovenia has been since December 2012 President Borut Pahor.

The Government

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia is the executive body and, at the same time, the supreme body of the state administration. The Government consists of the Prime Minister and other Ministers (Secretaries). Its executive-political function involves mainly the execution of policies agreed by the National Assembly and the implementation of the laws and other regulations passed by the National Assembly. The government sets, directs and implements the state policies in accordance



Parliament of the Republic of Slovenia. (Official website: www.ds-rs.si)

with the laws and other general acts of the National Assembly. As the highest body of the state administration, it implements legal, political, economic, financial, organizational and other measures. The Government proposes to the National Assembly legislation, the state budget and other general acts to the National Assembly. Whereas the president holds mostly ceremonial powers, the Prime Minister holds most of the true executive power. Since September 2014, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia has been Miro Cerar.

The Parliament

The highest legislative authority is the Slovenian parliament. It consists of two legislative chambers; the National Assembly, which has the right to enact laws, and the National Council, which among other powers, has the power to veto legislation.

The National Assembly consists of 90 deputies. 88 of whom are representatives elected in general elections; the other two are elected representatives of the Italian and Hungarian national communities. Regular elections to the National Assembly are held every four years. Every citizen over eighteen years old has the right to vote and run for office. The current President of the

National Assembly is Milan Brglez. The National Assembly has a similar role as the U.S. House of Representatives and the President of the National Assembly acts as the Speaker of the House.

National Council consists of 40 elected representatives of employers, employees, farmers, tradesmen and the self-employed, as well as from the non-profit sector and local interest groups. The National Council performs an advisory role. Members are elected for a five-year term. The current President of the National Council is Mitja Bervar.

The Judicial System

The task of the judiciary is to implement the rule of law, to decide on the rights and duties of citizens, and charges brought against them. The unified system of courts includes courts with both general and specialized jurisdictions. Courts with general jurisdiction include 44 district, 11 regional, and 4 higher courts. There are 4 specialized courts, which rule on labor-related and social security disputes, and the Administrative Court, which provides legal protection in administrative affairs and has the status of a higher court. The Constitutional Court decides on the conformity of laws with the Constitution

and acts as the Supreme Court of Slovenia. The Constitutional Court is composed of nine justices. They are elected for a term of nine years.

The state prosecution holds a special place in the justice system. It is both, an independent state authority, as well as part of the executive branch of power. The State Prosecutor General is appointed by the National Assembly.

Ombudsman

Under the Constitution, the Republic of Slovenia has an Ombudsman whose responsibility is the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in relation to state and local authorities, and persons in public office. The Ombudsman is nominated by the President of the Republic and elected by the National Assembly by a two-thirds majority vote for a period of six years, and the possibility of serving another term. The Ombudsman reports to the National Assembly on his work. The annual reports are an important reflection on the situation of basic human rights and freedoms in Slovenia. The law allows the Ombudsman or anyone else to initiate proceedings against violations of human rights.



National Insignia

Slovenia has three national symbols established by the Constitution – the coat of arms, the flag and the anthem. A detailed description of the Slovenian flag and coat of arms, as well as their proper use, is regulated by a special act.

National flag

The national flag of Slovenia features three equal horizontal bands of white (top), blue, and red, with the Slovenian coat of arms located in the upper hoist side of the flag centered in the white and blue bands. The flag's colors are considered to be Pan-Slavic, but they actually come from the medieval coat of arms of the Duchy of Carniola, consisting of a blue eagle on a white background purged on a red-and-gold crescent. The Slovenian tricolor was raised for the first time in history during the Revolution of 1848.

Coat of Arms

The coat of arms is a shield with the central image of Mount Triglav, Slovenia's highest peak, in white against a blue background at the center. The two wavy blue lines beneath represent the Adriatic Sea and local rivers, whereas three six-pointed golden stars arranged in an inverted triangle above Triglav are taken from the coat of arms of the Counts of Celje, the great dynastic house of the late 14th and early 15th centuries.

Anthem

The Slovenian national anthem consists of the seventh verse of the poem *Zdravljica* (A Toast), written in 1844 by Slovenia's greatest and most celebrated

poet France Prešeren, set to music written by the Slovenian composer Stanko Premrl in 1905.

"Zdravljica" was originally written as a drinking song (in Prešeren's original

manuscript, the layout of the words resemble a wine glass). However, it was also a politically charged piece – the underlying theme of pan-Slavic nationalism was controversial in Austro-Hungary, of which Slovenia was part at the time).

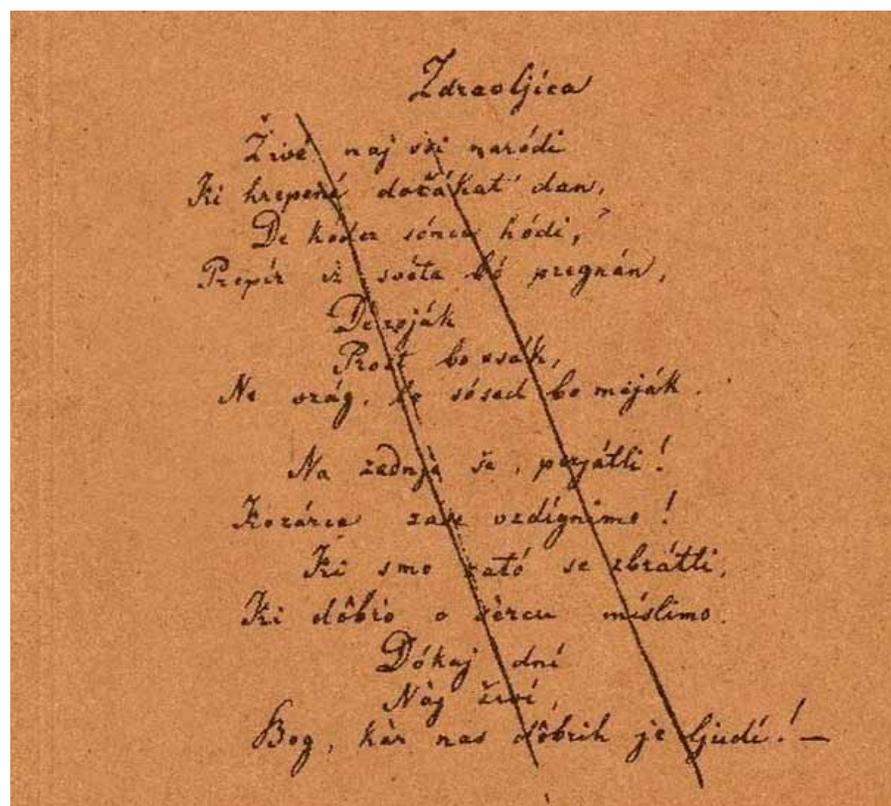
Unlike most anthems, the Slovenian one calls for the unity of nations instead of glorifying one single country.

European Union Insignia & Anthem

Since Slovenia acceded to the European Union on May 1 2004 the European Union flag is displayed next to the flag of the Republic of Slovenia and the European anthem is played alongside the Slovenian anthem.

The European flag symbolizes both the European Union and, more broadly, the identity and unity of Europe. It features a circle of 12 golden stars on a blue background. They stand for the ideals of unity, solidarity and harmony among the peoples of Europe. The number of stars has nothing to do with the number of member countries, though the circle is a symbol of unity.

In 1972, the Council of Europe adopted the theme of the Ninth Symphony by Ludwig Van Beethoven as its anthem. In 1985, "Ode to Joy" was adopted by EU leaders as the official anthem of the European Union. The melody symbolizes European ideals of freedom, peace and solidarity. The Friedrich von Schiller's lyrical verse from 1785 "Ode to Joy" expresses idealistic vision of the human race becoming brothers.



*Žive naj vsi narodi
ki hrepene dočakat' dan,
da koder sonce hodi,
prepri iz sveta bo pregnan,
da rojak
prost bo vsak,
ne vrag, le sosed bo mejak!*

*May God bless every nation
still yearning for that glorious day
when through the entire creation
all discord will be chased away,
when we'll see all men free,
and neighbors friends not foes
will be.*

(Translated by Vladimir Pregelj)

A censored manuscript of the Toast (*Zdravljica*). At first, the Austrian censorship did not allow for the poem to be printed because of its political message.

Culture of Slovenia



Library Under the Treetops is a world-famous urban project in Ljubljana. First-class reading is chilled and served for your pleasure under the mighty trees at several locations across Ljubljana and around Slovenia.
(Source: www.slovenia.info, Photographer Nada Žgank)

The national identity of Slovenians emanates from their culture, which underpins everything – its political awareness, its place in Europe, the Slovenian state and it also inspired our future. Slovenian language, art, music, poetry constituted the Slovenian identity through many centuries and guided the Slovenian people towards independence.

The first book in Slovenian was printed in 1550, however the first written document in the Slovenian language – the Freising Manuscripts – was written about 500 years earlier. Academia Philharmonicorum, predecessor of the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra was established as early as 1701. The importance of culture to Slovenians is not only reflected in historic records but it features in every aspect of Slovenian life. In the old town of the capital Ljubljana, one can visit Prešeren Square with a statue not of a military or political leader, but the Slovenian national poet France Prešeren. Public squares and markets in Slovenia are filled with artworks and monuments dedicated to artists, architects, musicians, and writers.

Markets in Slovenian towns are also where festivals, carnivals, concerts and sports events take place. Cultural

events in Slovenia are very well attended – various festivals (especially in the summer months) thrill visitors who come from near and far. Theater and concerts are popular. Slovenians also love to read, sing and play music. Almost every Slovenian has a passion to be a writer, painter, poet, cook, dancer, wine-maker, musician, director, actor, blogger, or craftsperson. In addition to traditional skills handed down from generation to generation, Slovenians are world renowned in modern art.

Music

Before the 18th century, the music performed in Slovenian lands was mostly of the folk and religious types. At the same time talented Slovenian composers like Jacobus Gallus (1500-1591) worked in European music centers like Prague and Vienna.

Slovenia has rich tradition of choral singing. The roots go back to the late 15th century when Jurij Slatkonja, the Slovenian-born bishop of Vienna established the Vienna Court Cappella, later known as Vienna Boys Choir. Choral singing has always been very popular among Slovenians. Another popular music activity with a long tradition is wind bands.

In 1970s and 1980s an alternative and diverse rock scene developed with numerous bands and popular festivals such as Metalcamp and Punk Rock Holiday in Tolmin, and Schengenfest in Vinica, Bela Krajina. Slovenian jazz groups and jazz artists are of high caliber and collaborate with international musicians. In the last two decades cappella jazz vocal ensembles became popular. Among these, the most internationally recognized is Perpetuum Jazzile.

In the minds of many foreigners, Slovenian folk music means a form of polka that is still popular today, especially among expatriates and their descendants. However, there are many styles of Slovenian folk music beyond polka, kolo and waltz. Landler, štajeriš, mafrine and šaltin are a few of the traditional music styles and dances.

Traditional Costume

Folk costumes in Slovenia are most widely used for festivals, contests, or on holidays. Dancers wearing traditional dress also perform as a way to preserve and share Slovenia's culture.

The traditional dress for a Slovenian woman consists of a shirt (usually white), skirt, apron, decorated headscarf,

and white socks, and may include a belt and scarf or a sash. As in other Central European national costumes, the Slovenian traditional dress varies by region.

The male version of the traditional Slovenian costume consists of a white shirt, vest, cropped pants sometimes made of leather, white socks, leather boots or shoes, and sometimes a pocket watch. Different styles of hats can also be worn for the male Slovenian costume, depending upon the region from which the costume originates.

Literature

Like other modern European literatures, Slovenian literature began developing during the Protestant reformation. Interest in the Slovenian language and national identity continued during the Enlightenment and blossomed during the period of romanticism, when Slovenian literature reached its first peak in the poetry of France Prešeren (1800 – 1849). Slovenian literature and writings of the second half of the 19th century were dominated by realism. A second peak in Slovenian literature was reached during the period of Moderna with writer Ivan Cankar. After WWI, expressionism and social realism were two dominant and coexisting literary movements. In the late 1950s Slovenian literature was influenced by new Western literary trends – post-symbolism, existentialism, modernism and postmodernism. It also remained close to the Central European tradition, characterized by a dominance of lyric poetry over prose and drama. Tomaž Šalamun, also known in the United States, was the most prominent modern poet. His most distinctive works were translated into English, along with those by Drago Jančar, Boris Pahor, Lojze Kovačič, Dominik Smole, Andrej Blatnik, Vladimir Bartol and Edvin Flisar.

Architecture

Until the late 19th century, houses of regional design with an open-hearth kitchen dominated Slovenia. In the early 20th century, regional differences began to vanish as houses were rebuilt, following trends in urban architecture. Some beautiful examples of Alpine, Mediterranean, and Pannonian variations of houses were saved and restored. The most abundant and characteristic wooden architectural structure is the kozolec (hayrack), a free standing, mainly wooden, partially-open yet roofed structure which is used for drying and storing hay and grain.



The 1850 oil portrait of poet France Prešeren by German painter Franz Goldenstein.

A double linked hayrack, known as a toplar, is also unique to Slovenia.

Traditionally, stone in Primorska and Istria, logs in the central Slovenian and in eastern Slovenian regions, and mud were used as building materials. Modern architecture was introduced in Slovenia by Max Fabiani and, in the mid-war period by Jože Plečnik and Ivan Vurnik. In the second half of the 20th century national and universal style were merged by the architects Edvard Ravnikar and Marko Mušič.

Slovenia has numerous churches and chapels that date as far back as the 10th century. Slovenia also has hundreds of wayside shrines, often Alpine in character, built since the end of the 15th century.

Theater

Production of theater performances on Slovenian soil began in the sixteenth century by students of various religious schools (mainly Jesuits). The text of Škofjeloški pasijon ('The Škofja Loka Passion') is a fine example of Baroque religious theater.

The official theater tradition began in 1789, when the stage of the State Theater (normally a venue for German plays) hosted Anton Tomaž Linhart's production of his comedy Županova Micka. In 1867, as a result of nationalist movements, a Dramatic Society was

established, which performed newly written Slovenian theater pieces.

By the end of the First World War, the only professional theater in Ljubljana had become a well-developed company. The second oldest professional Slovenian language theater, which remains a successful company to this day, is in Trieste, which today is part of Italy. With the creation of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, these companies were combined in 1919 by the theater in the town of Maribor.

The years following Second World War were characterized by a veritable explosion of new professional theater companies: Ljubljana City Theater and Slovenian Youth Theater, followed by theaters in Celje and, a bit later, in Nova Gorica. In the past two decades, theaters have also been founded in Ptuj, Koper and Novo Mesto. There are also two opera and ballet houses: in Ljubljana and Maribor and two professional puppet theaters.

It is of little surprise that in the past three decades theater has been the art form that has received the most media recognition and won the most praise internationally. Also within this framework, the prestige of modern dance expanded with Betontanc (Concrete Dance) and by Matjaž Farič, Slovenian dancer, choreographer and director, and especially internationally renowned dance troupes such as choreographer Iztok Kovač's En Knap.

Visual Arts

The visual arts have traditionally been important in Slovenia. Fine local church painters appeared as early as the 12th and 13th century. But what could be perceived as national painting developed slowly and became recognizable as such only during the Romantic period.

Painting with a high artistic value only began to blossom in the beginning of the 20th century and was linked to Impressionism: Ivan Grohar, Rihard Jakopič, Matej Sternen and Matija Jama presented works of Slovenian Impressionism at an acclaimed exhibition in Vienna in 1904 and reached the pinnacle of Slovenian painting.

In the years following Second World War, this relatively small club of excellent artists began to expand with

Summer 1889 by Ivana Kobilca



Ivana Kobilca (1861 - 1926) is the most prominent Slovenian female painter and a key figure of Slovenian cultural identity. She is one of the Slovenian realists who created their most important paintings in the 1880s. She studied and painted in Vienna, Munich, Paris, Sarajevo, Berlin, and Ljubljana.

the development of the Academy of Fine Arts, from which emerged new names of great renown, such as Gabrijel Stupica, Riko Debenjak, Maksim Sedej, Božidar Jakac, Veno Pilon and France Mihelič.

After 1960, the Ljubljana School of Graphic Art, in close association with the Ljubljana Graphic Art Biennial, rose to prominence with artists such as Janez Bernik, Andrej Jemec and Jože Ciuha. Until his death, the city of Paris was the creative environment of Zoran Mušič (1909-2005), Slovenia's most renowned Modernist painter.

Modern Slovenian sculpture has progressed along much the same path as painting. The wave of Slovenian

sculpture began with Alojz Gangl and later with Jakob Savinšek and Kralj brothers, both also painters. A number of conceptual visual art groups formed, including OHO, Group 69, and IRWIN. The history of Slovenian photography is also very rich. The oldest and the most precious are glass-plate photographs by the Slovenian photographic innovator Janez Puhar.

Source: Leopoldina Plut - Pregelj, Carole Rogel: *The A to Z of Slovenia* (The Scarecrow Press, Inc., Lanham, MD 2010)

Interesting Facts:

- On the Museum Night in June, Prešeren's Birthday on December 3 (which is also called the Merry Day of Culture) and on the National Day of Culture on February 8, all museums and galleries are open to the public for free. In addition, all theater, opera shows and other performances are also available at no cost.
- Apart from some children's cartoons, foreign films are not dubbed, but have Slovenian subtitles.

Slovenian Language

Slovene or Slovenian (both terms can be used) is the official language of the Republic of Slovenia. Since May 1, 2004 it is also one of the official languages of the European Union.

... **Perfect for the spies** — Slovenian is spoken by around 2.4 million people, most of which live in Slovenia. This makes it almost ideal for a code language: Slovenian speakers have a pretty slim chances of being understood outside Europe.

... **A South Slavic Language** — Slovenian is one of many Slavic languages, among them Russian, Polish, Serbian and Czech, a family of languages, spoken by 400 million people in Europe. Slovenian is closely related to Croatian and Slovak, but there are significant differences among Slavic languages; like English and German in the Germanic group. With some of the other Slavic languages it shares the Latin, not the Cyrillic, script. In fact, the oldest Slovenian written texts (cca. 1000 AD) are in the Latin script (Freising Documents) and are also the oldest documents in any Slavic language using the Latin script.

... **A very diverse language** — Although it is spoken by merely some 2.4 million people worldwide, most of them in Slovenia, it is – with its over 45 dialects -- linguistically a very diverse language.

... **A romantic language** — Forget French or Italian: Slovenian has the word love in its very name. It is also one of the few languages in the world that uses a dual form, not only singular and plural. This special form refers to two people, objects or concepts. It is very precise in the matters of two: there is no ambiguity in Slovenian about how many of you are going to dinner. Singular is *sedi* (he/she is sitting). Dual is *sedita* (the two of them are sitting). Plural is *sedijo* (they are sitting).

... **Language of courtesy** — Slovenian speakers have a chance to use two forms of 'you' for formal and informal situations. The informal form is only used when addressing people you know well and children. When addressing an adult who is not a close friend, you should use the formal form, using 2nd person plural (ending in - te).

... **Language of gender equality** — There is a special form to express feminine gender – you will usually recognize it by its "a" ending. I would like a pineapple. *Rad bi ananas. Rada bi ananas.*

Beside the masculine gender (the noun usually ends with a consonant)

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Singular	jogurt	miza	jabolko
Dual	jogurta	mizi	jabolki
Plural	jogurti	mize	jabolka

and the feminized gender (usually ending in "a") the Slovenian language also has a neuter gender (ending in "o" or "e").

... **A very precise and flexible language** — Nouns, adjectives, pronouns and numerals decline. There are six cases: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, locative and instrumental. Their use is determined by the function of a word in a sentence and role of prepositions.

THE SLOVENIAN ALPHABET / SLOVENSKA ABECEDA

Slovenian has five vowels (A, E, I, O, U) and twenty consonants. The Slovenian alphabet features all the English letters except Q, W, X, and Y. The Slovenian alphabet includes additional characters č, š and ž, which are pronounced as

- ch (ČOKOLADA: cho-ko-lah-dah)
- sh (ŠPAGETI: shpa – geh – tee)
- gh (ŽIRAFKA: ghi – ra – pha).

GREETINGS ON ARRIVAL

- Hello.....Dober Dan.
- Good morning.....Dobro jutro.
- Good evening.....Dober večer.
- Hi.....Živjo.

ON DEPARTURE

- Good bye.....Nasvidenje.
- See you.....Adijo.
- Good night.....Lahko noč.
- Good luck.....Srečno.

BASIC EXPRESSIONS:

- Yes.....Ja.
- No.....Ne.
- Please.....Prosim.
- Thank you.....Hvala.
- You're welcome.....Ni za kaj.
- Excuse me / Sorry.....Oprostite.
- Congratulations!.....Čestitam!
- Happy birthday!.....Vse najboljše!
- Welcome!.....Dobrodošli!
- I don't speak Slovenian.....Ne govorim slovensko.
- My name is John.....Moje ime je Janez.
- Help!.....Na pomoč!

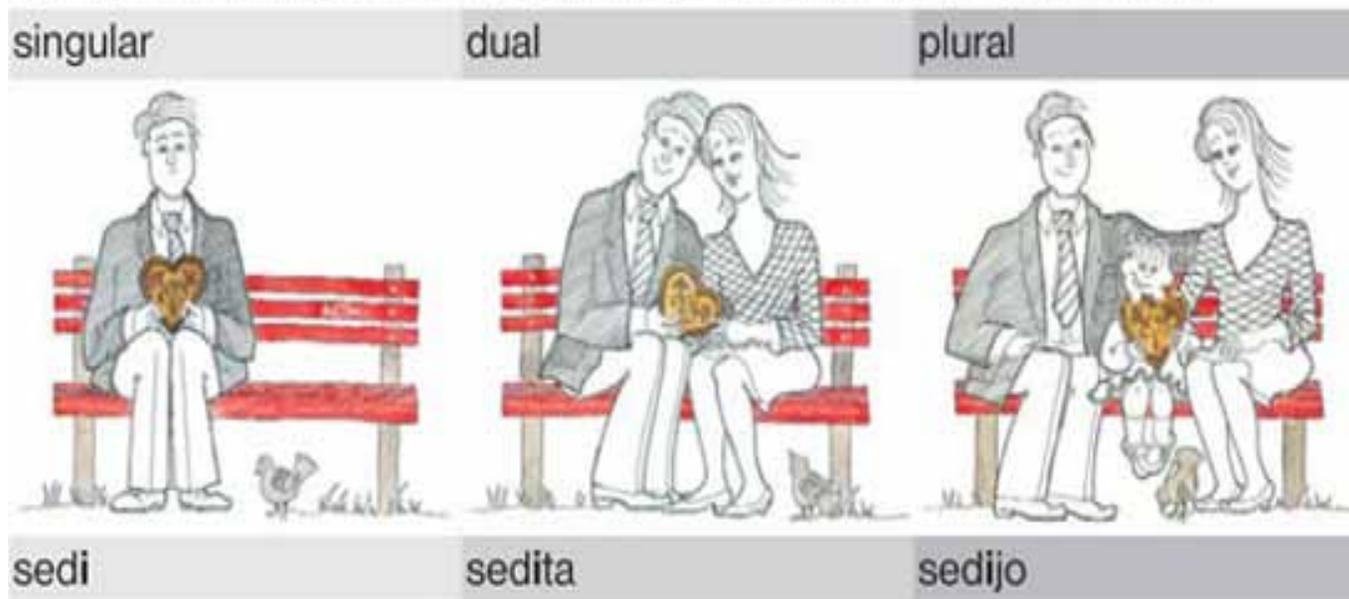
BASIC COLORS

- white.....bela
- yellow.....rumena
- orange.....oranžna
- red.....rdeča
- blue.....modra
- green.....zelena
- brown.....rjava
- grey.....siva
- black.....črna
- gold.....zlata
- silver.....srebrna

NUMBERS

- 1.....ena
- 2.....dva
- 3.....tri
- 4.....štiri
- 5.....pet
- 6.....šest
- 7.....sedem
- 8.....osem
- 9.....devet
- 10.....deset

Like most languages it has singular and plural, but it also has dual.

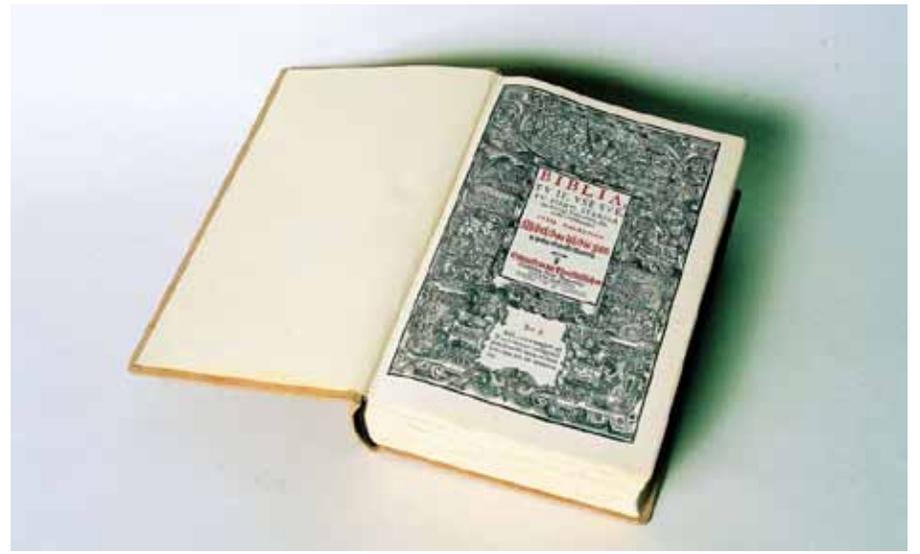


SEDETI (to sit)

Taken from a book *Žepna slovenščina/Pocket Slovenian* published by the Centre for Slovenian as the Second and Foreign Language (Source: <http://centerslo.si>)

DID YOU KNOW?

- Slovenians have very innocent and mostly quite funny swear words. For example: Tristo kosmatih medvedov! (Three hundred hairy bears!) or Prekle za kurn'k (Poles for a hen house!), Krščen matiček (Baptised Matthew!), Je bela cesta (White is the road!). To spice it all up, Slovenians usually borrow more explicit swear words from other languages - Croatian, Bosnian, Serbian and English.
- Slovenia is ranked among the top European countries regarding the knowledge of foreign languages. The most often taught foreign languages are English, German, Italian, French and Spanish.
- In writing, the 24-hour clock system is used in Slovenia (e.g. 1 p.m. is 13:00). In spoken language, the 12-hour clock is used (e.g. seven in the morning and seven in the evening).
- Slovenia uses the metric system. Distances are measured in meters and kilometers, not feet and miles. 1 mile equals 1,651 meters. Fruit and vegetables are usually sold by the kilo. A pound is approximately half the weight of a kilo.
- The first book in the Slovenian language was printed in 1550 A.D. but the first written document had been written about 500 years before. The Freising Manuscripts, written closely before the year 1000, are the earliest preserved writings in Slovenian as well as the earliest Slavic texts, written in the Latin alphabet. They are stored in the Bavarian State Museum in Munich.
- The architectural appearance of Slovenia's capital city was decisively influenced by the famous Slovene architect Jože Plečnik, a disciple of Otto Wagner. Jože Plečnik began his career in Vienna and Prague - many architectural features of the three capitals look similar.



The first translation of the Bible to Slovenian was in 1584 by Jurij Dalmatin. Dalmatin's Bible established Slovenian as a mature literary language and served as a model for further translations and original writings in the following two centuries. About 80 original copies have been preserved around the world. (Source: National and University Library - www.nuk.uni-lj.si)

Taste of Slovenia

The Slovenian culinary tradition is very diverse and it varies significantly as you move from region to region, featuring influences from Mediterranean, Central-European and Panonian culinary traditions. Slovenia has over 24 different gastronomic regions with over 170 distinguishable and characteristic dishes. Traditional Slovenian cuisine includes an abundance of wild game and fish, but soups, pastries, meats, stews, cabbage, beans, and potatoes also dominate the culinary tradition. Slovenia has many interesting food festivals, including the Saltworkers' Festival, the Cabbage Festival, Chestnut Sunday, Bean Day and a Festival of roasted potatoes.

TOP 8 SLOVENIAN DISHES

KRANJSKA KLOBASA

Slovenian Carniolian sausage or kranjska klobasa is one of the most popular dishes in Slovenia. It is usually smoked, but it can also be left unsmoked



and cooked fresh. Traditionally it is eaten with sauerkraut or fermented turnip, however it can also be served with horseradish or mustard.

PREKMURSKA GIBANICA

Prekmurska gibanica is a festive Slovenian layered cake that takes its name from the region of Prekmurje. It is made with nuts, apples, poppy seeds and cheese.



IDRIJSKI ŽLIKROFI

Small boiled dumplings are filled with potatoes, onions, lard, zaseka (grained bacon with lard) or smoked bacon, spices and herbs. Žlikrofi can be dressed with different toppings and sauces. One of them is with a typical meat sauce called bakalca, which is made from mutton or rabbit meat.

SOČA RIVER TROUT

Slovenia's sea is full of excellent fresh fish, but it is possibly the gorgeous Soča River valley that provides the tastiest. The Soča River Trout can be prepared in a variety of ways; often just rolled in buckwheat or corn flour and fried or wrapped in the Karst prosciutto ham called pršut.

BLEED CREAM CAKE

The Bled sweet vanilla cream custard is a signature dessert of the lakeside town

of Bled, one of Slovenia's most popular tourist destinations. The recipe was invented by pastry chef Ištvan Lukačević in 1953 and since then more than 12 million original Bled cakes or kremšnitas were served at the Park Hotel in Bled.



BOGRAČ

Bograč is a popular thick stew that takes its name from the large pot in which it is cooked. It is a type of goulash made with three different meats, spices, pepper, tomatoes, potato and (when in season) fresh mushrooms. A bograč cooking competition is organized every year in Slovenia.

ŠTRUKLJI

Made from stretched dough, štruklji are well-known all over Slovenia. The

most typical are štruklji made from leavened dough, cooked in a tablecloth with fillings of walnuts, curd cheese, raisins and sugar. Štruklji can also be savory: stuffed with eggs fried on cracklings and sprinkled with parsley, or filled with sliced fried sausage or salami, olives and spices.

POTICA

Alongside "štruklji", potica is the most typical Slovenian dessert. It can be made with more than 80 different fillings. Potica is baked using a round baking dish made of clay, and each region prepares it slightly differently. The most characteristic potica fillings include tarragon, honey, walnut, poppy seed, chive, raisin and cottage cheese.



Interesting Facts:

- If a Slovenian invites you to a restaurant he or she will probably pay the bill. Slovenian hosts are usually very keen to pay so don't argue...too much!
- Smoking is forbidden in all enclosed public spaces.
- Tax and tip are included in the overall price in Slovenia.
- Slovenia has many interesting gastronomic festivals, including the Saltworkers' Festival, Festival of Roasted Potatoes, the Cabbage Festival, Chestnut Sunday and Bean Day.

SLOVENIAN WINE

Slovenia is covered with vineyards (83 square miles - 1% of the land area) spread in three distinct wine regions: the Drava Valley in northeast, lower Sava Valley in southeast and Slovenian Littoral in the southwest. Each of those regions has a very specific soil due to diverse geology, which give the wines of Slovenia a wide palette of tastes.

Viticulture (cultivation of grapevines) and winemaking have existed in this region since the time of the Celtic and Illyrian tribes, long before the Romans introduced winemaking to France, Spain and Germany. The oldest grapevine in the world, estimated to be over 400 years old, grows in Maribor, Slovenia's second biggest city. To this day, it still bears annually between 150 and 250 pounds of red grapes, from which wine is produced.

(Source of the photographs: www.slovenia.info, Photographer: A. Fevžer)



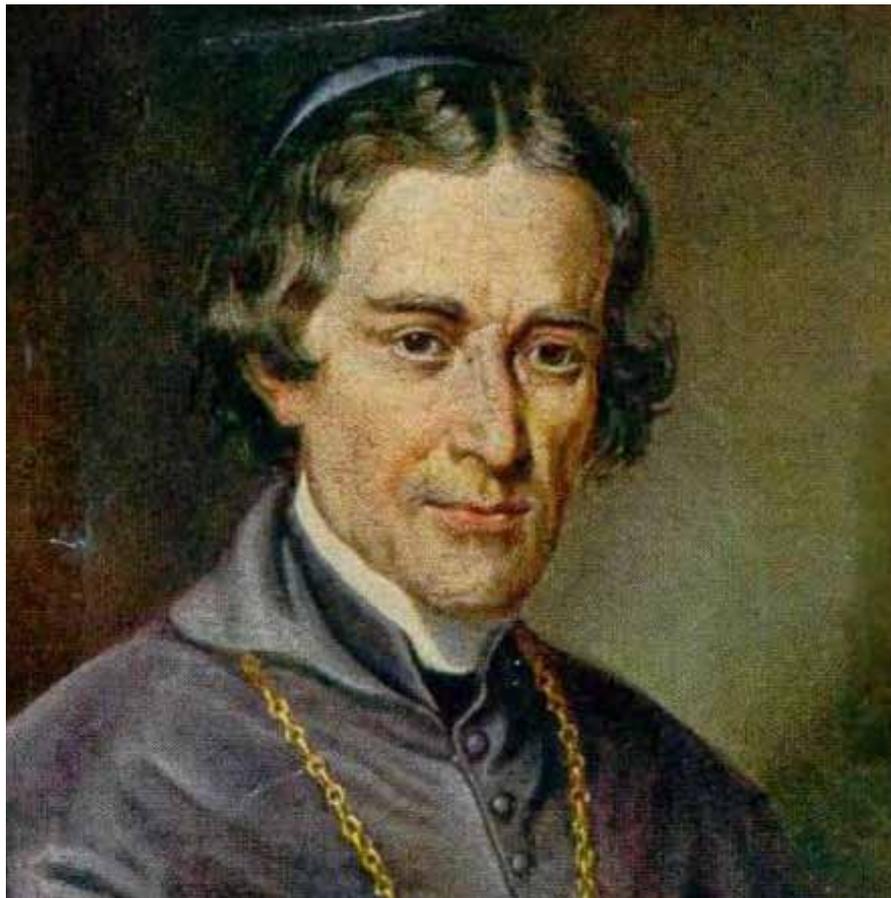
Interesting facts:

- In 1799 the first Slovenian-language cookbook was published, written by Slovenian poet Valentin Vodnik.
- 24 natural thermal springs have enabled Slovenia to not only develop health spas, but also to bottle renowned mineral waters, such as Radenska and Donat, rich with magnesium.
- 1 % of Slovenia's territory is covered by vineyards.

Slovenian Emigration to America

Deep and lasting ties between Slovenia and the United States have been forged by the many Slovenians who immigrated to the U.S. Around 180,000 people in America consider themselves to be of Slovenian origin, while some estimates are higher between 250,000 to 300,000 people of Slovenian origin. There are a number of Slovenian associations and organizations. The biggest ones are SNPJ – Slovenian National Benefit Society, KSKJ – American Slovenian Catholic Union, AMLA – American Mutual Life Association and SUA – Slovenian Union of America. The Slovenian community in the U.S. has remained dynamic and active not just by preserving cultural traditions and customs, but also in terms of developing all aspects of bilateral collaboration between Slovenia and America. Their role was particularly visible and important during the period of Slovenia's efforts towards independence and international recognition.

The first Slovenians in the United States were missionary priests. Two of the earliest missionaries were Father Anton Kappus and Father Frederic Baraga. As early as in the 1730s some Slovenians settled in small farming



Father, later bishop Frederic Baraga as depicted by painter Matevž Langus.

communities in Georgia. There were a few Slovenian soldiers who fought in the American Revolution. Slovenian priests built some of the first churches and schools in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and neighboring parts of Canada. Many of these early immigrants were bilingual Slovenian-German speakers. However, up until the 1880s the number of Slovenian immigrants to the U.S. remained small.

The largest numbers of Slovenian immigrants arrived in America between 1880 and World War I. Most of these came between 1905 and 1913, although the exact number is impossible to determine because Slovenians were often classified as Austrians, Italians, Croats, or under other, broader labels, such as Slavonic or Slavic. These later arrivals migrated to the industrial cities or to mining towns in the Upper Midwest, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Two later periods of increased immigration to the United States were the years immediately after World War I (1919–1923) and World War II (1949–1956). Most Slovenian immigrants to the United States were of the Catholic faith; however, a minority practiced the Lutheran faith.



The Kurentovanje carnival takes place every year in February and is one of the most ethnologically significant Slovenian annual festivals. The most famous Slovenian carnival or “pust” figure is the Kurent. People wear traditional masks and costumes to chase the winter away. Kurentovanje festival also takes place every year in Cleveland, OH. (Source: www.slovenia.info, Photographer Dunja Wedam)

The Slovenian diaspora in the U.S. played an important role, both at the time of country's fight for independence as well as in its endeavors to join NATO and deepen U.S.-Slovenia relations.

Slovenians often joke that after the capital Ljubljana, the second biggest Slovenian city in the world is Cleveland, OH, where around 100,000 people of Slovenian ancestry live. In Cleveland Slovenia is represented by a Consulate General.

Famous Slovenian-Americans

Frederic Baraga (1797-1868) was a missionary, ethnologist, a linguist and a grammarian of Native American languages. He was born in Mala vas in Dolenjsko (Lower Carniola) region in Slovenia. After studying law in Vienna, he entered the Ljubljana Seminary and was ordained priest in 1823. Baraga worked as a missionary among North American Indians of the Great Lakes

region around 1830. In 1853 he became the first bishop of the Upper Michigan Diocese. He wrote several books in the Native American languages, history and ethnology books, grammars and dictionaries. The most important two are the Chippewa-English dictionary and grammar of the Chippewa language, both still in use today.

Frank Lausche (1895-1990) was a politician and Ohio's only five-term governor. He was born in Cleveland to Slovenian parents. After serving in the WWI, Lausche entered the John Marshall School of Law, graduating in 1920. For the next twelve years, Lausche practiced law in Cleveland. In 1932, he embarked upon career in politics, first by becoming a municipal judge in Cleveland. He was elected as the 47th mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, as the 55th and 57th Governor of Ohio, and as a United States Senator from Ohio for two terms (1957-1969). A member of the



Democratic Party, Lausche became well known for his moderate views. While he served as governor, Harry Truman, a Democrat, and Dwight Eisenhower, a Republican, both considered selecting Lausche as their vice-presidential running mate.

Frankie Yankovic (1915-1998) was a Slovenian-American accordionist and Grammy Award-winning polka musician. He was known as the “America's Polka King”. Born to Slovenian immigrant parents, Yankovic was raised in South Euclid, Ohio. He released over 200 recordings in his career. In 1986 he was awarded the first ever Grammy in the Best Polka Recording category.

Joseph Sutter Suhadolnik (1921) is a Slovenian-American known as “the father of the 747”. In the 1960s, he was chosen to head the design and engineering team working on the Boeing 747. Creating the world's first wide-body aircraft was a tremendous and unprecedented challenge. At first sales were slow, but in a few years the 747 became the backbone of many international fleets. Sutter was awarded the U.S. Medal of Technology for his work on the Jumbo Jet and other Boeing aircraft. Subsequently, he served on the commission investigating the 1986 Challenger explosion.

December 2006 and her space flight in 2013 was her second in six years. She spent 195 days in space, setting a new record for female astronauts. She completed four spacewalks lasting a total of 29 hours and 17 minutes. Astronauts Ronald Šega (b.1952) and Jerry Linenger (b. 1955) are also of Slovenian ancestry. Interestingly, Slovenian inventor Herman Potočnik Noordung made the first designs for a space station in 1929, and his sketches inspired the design of the dancing spaceships in 2001: A Space Odyssey.

Amy Klobuchar (1960) is the senior United States Senator from Minnesota. She is a member of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, an affiliate of the Democratic Party. She is the first woman to be elected as a senator from Minnesota and is one of the twenty female senators serving in the 113th United States Congress. Born in Plymouth, Minnesota, Klobuchar is the daughter of James John “Jim” Klobuchar, an author and a retired sportswriter and columnist for the Star Tribune. Jim Klobuchar's grandparents were Slovenian immigrants and his father was a miner on the Iron Range. Amy is fond of her Slovenian roots and every Thursday morning when the Senate is in session, Minnesotans are invited to join Senator Klobuchar for coffee and potica.



Sunita Williams (1965) is a Slovenian-American astronaut. Her achievements make her one of the most visible astronauts carrying out important missions on the International Space Station (ISS). The space shuttle Discovery first took her to the ISS in

Sources:

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Edward Gobetz: *Slovenian American Inventors and Innovators* (2011)

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25 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE
REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA



Slovenian Economy: Growing Again

Slovenia's position at the intersection of traditional trade routes, its well-developed physical and ITC infrastructure along with its highly skilled workforce make it an attractive proposition for business location. Slovenian economy has weathered the global economic crisis and has turned the corner back to solid economic growth.



Slovenia is widely recognized for its industrial design, innovation and green technologies. The photo features "trobla" wooden amplifier. (Source: www.trobla.com)

Slovenia has enjoyed impressive economic development since gaining independence. With the economic growth exceeding the average growth rate of the EU, the country caught up and fulfilled the criteria to join the Euro area in 2007. The global economic crisis of 2008 slowed down the economy fuelled mainly by exports and investment. It took a couple of years for the economy to return to growth. The gross domestic product (GDP) of Slovenia grew by 2.6% in 2014 and at a similar rate in 2015.

Slovenia today is an open, export-oriented economy. Exports of goods and services account for 65% to 70% of GDP. The main trading partners of Slovenia are the European Union (EU) countries,



Pipistrel Taurus Plane. (Source: <http://www.pipistrel.si/en>)

accounting for around three quarters of the total exports and imports. Germany, Austria, Italy and Croatia are at the top of the list, followed by France, Russia, Serbia and Poland.

The U.S. features among top trading partners outside the EU. Bilateral trade is on the rise in the last few years. New opportunities are expected to open up with the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, the agreement currently being negotiated between the EU and the U.S.

Slovenia is strategically well positioned for business opportunities both in the EU as well as the neighboring region of the Western Balkans. Advanced transport and communications networks provide Slovenia-based companies with a competitive advantage in serving these markets quickly and effectively. In addition to a well-developed infrastructure, Slovenia offers clusters of specialised suppliers and competitive overall supply chain costs.

Slovenia has a long tradition of

engineering and a strong culture of innovation. Due to a highly educated and competitive workforce, it enjoys a reputation as a productive and forward-thinking economy, increasingly relying on knowledge-based industries. In services, sectors such as telecommunications, business and financial services are among the fastest growing, while technology-intensive production in sectors such as pharmaceutical, chemical, electrical and electronic equipment, machinery and automotive industries represent about half of all value added in the manufacturing sector.

Companies such as Gorenje, Kolektor, Iskra, Hidria, Elektronček and many others displayed great resilience throughout the economic crisis and have continued to grow. With a combined 7,000 employees in Slovenia, Lek and Krka are the leading producers of generic drugs in the region. Slovenia is also proud of a number of high-tech companies, which have grown out of

their niche and became market leaders in their respective fields. Akrapovič is a world market leader in high-end exhaust systems for motorcycles and performance cars, while Pipistrel has won a number of international recognitions, including NASA awards for its ultra-light airplanes.

Slovenia boasts several world-class architects. Some brought to life award-winning timber constructions. Both primary wood products and wood-based building materials are used for panel, timber frame and solid timber constructions. Plentiful Slovenian wood resources are also used in innovative applications such as wooden bike frames (Woodster bike) and sunglasses frames (Wood Stock).

Technology-based entrepreneurship is growing rapidly and a number of Slovenian start-ups are gaining traction, while others have already grown into global operations, including Zemanta, Celta and Outfit7 with the Talking Tom Cat application.

Interesting Facts:

- Slovenia is the only country in the world with the word LOVE in its name. The country's brand is built around the logo I FEEL SLOVENIA.
- Slovenia is the third-most-forested country in Europe after Finland and Sweden. Forests cover almost 3,900 sq. miles, almost 60% of the territory.
- Hostel Celica (Cell) is very popular among tourists in the capital. The Celica Hostel in Ljubljana is a former military prison with comfortable and imaginatively designed rooms / cells for guests.

Education in Slovenia

Elementary Education

Public educational system, encompassing all levels of education from preschool to adult education, is predominantly financed by the state, which is also responsible for planning and development of each field. Private education was not allowed until 1990, but several private schools at all levels (mostly higher educational institutions) have been established since. The few private elementary schools in existence are financed by the state: 85 percent of funding comes from the state budget.

Compulsory elementary education lasts nine years, beginning at age six and ending at age 15. Language of instruction is Slovene, but along the Italian or Hungarian border the language of instruction is also Italian or Hungarian. Students of other minorities have additional help with learning Slovene language in school, and special arrangement is in place for the Roma children. Elementary schools are organized into three cycles: grades 1 to 3, grades 4 to 6 and grades 7 to 9. Curriculum is centralized for the entire state and varies by grade as well as the length of school day. Slovene students begin learning foreign languages early: the first in the second grade, and the second one is added to the curriculum in the fifth grade. Most students with special needs have been mainstreamed.

The school year lasts 190 days, beginning in September, and ending in late June. The school year is broken by short vacations in the Fall (one week), Christmas /New year (one week), semester break in January or early February (two weeks) and the last week in April (one week).

Public elementary schools, attended by majority of children are free, but parents do pay for textbooks and sometimes also for other expenses, e.g., field trips. Home schooling is also an option for parents. All students have health insurance which includes their regular medical and dental exams. Schools must provide meals for students, which are subsidized for those from socially and economically deprived families.

Children of foreign nationals residing in Slovenia are also entitled to compulsory primary school education. Enrollment in the international elementary school program, intended for students of foreign nationals under the IBO (International Baccalaureate Organization) system, is available.

International schools in Slovenia include the British International School



Slovenian and American children prepare traditional Slovenian dish “žlikrofi” at the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, DC in May 2015 as part of the Embassy Adoption Program partnership with DC Public Schools and Washington Performing Arts Society.

of Ljubljana, Danila Kumar International School, QSI: Quality Schools International, and the French School of Ljubljana.

Secondary Education

Following the completion of elementary school, students enroll in secondary schools: 40 percent into general, college preparatory four-year gymnasias (gimnazija) with emphasis on humanities, 40 percent into technically oriented four-year gymnasias and 20 percent into two- or three-years vocational schools.

“Gimnazije” high schools offer students (aged 15-18) four years of general education aimed at upgrading and extending the knowledge gained during the elementary education. Upon the completion of gimnazija students take a high-school leaving exam, called “matura”, which in general, college preparatory high schools (gimnazije) includes 3 compulsory subjects (math, native language and a foreign language) and two elective subjects. This exam allows students to enroll in universities, which mostly do not have entrance exams. There is also a vocational matura - a high school diploma for technically oriented high schools, which does not allow entrance to universities. Technically oriented four-year high schools are specialized in educating

students for various occupations, e.g. chemical, electrical or engineering technicians, nurses, and secretaries. The dual system (general and vocational) of secondary education allows students to change schools through a system of shorter additional programs and external exams (matura).

An international baccalaureate program is offered under the aegis of the IBO by Gimnazija Bežigrad, Ljubljana and II. Gimnazija Maribor, where English is the language of instruction. Citizens from other EU nations have the right to receive upper-secondary education under the same conditions as Slovenian citizens. The QSI: Quality Schools International organizes SAT testing four times a year.

Higher Education

In Slovenia, there are several types of higher education institutions, namely universities, faculties (departments), art academies and independent higher education institutions. Today, there are four universities (University of Ljubljana, University of Maribor, University of Primorska and University of Nova Gorica), an independent institution of higher education (Faculty of information studies Novo mesto), one International Association of Universities (EMUNI-EURO Mediterranean University) and 44 private higher education institutions in Slovenia (as of

June 2015).

In 1999, Slovenia signed the Bologna declaration, a blueprint for the reform of the higher education in European Union. One of the reform goals was to enable greater mobility of students in EU member states. By the school year 2010-11, all institutions of higher education in Slovenia were reorganized to align with the Bologna declaration. This means that the four or five years of undergraduate studies and graduate master’s and doctoral studies were replaced by study programs, organized in three cycles.

Higher education attainment and student’s performance are measured in ECTS (the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credits. First cycle qualification (Bachelor): Bachelor programs generally require three to four years of study. The credit requirement is 180 to 240 ECTS credits. Second cycle qualification (Master): Master programs generally require one to two years of study. The credit requirement for Master programs is 60 to 120 ECTS credits.

Third cycle qualification (PhD): Additional 180 ECTS credits are required to receive PhD title and require about three years of study.

Tuition Fees

There is no tuition for undergraduate and master’s study (the first and second cycle) at the universities. The

government funds full-time students while institutions of higher education charge tuition to part-time students.

Students with limited financial resources are eligible to apply for government scholarships. Employer scholarships to support the attainment of qualification for specific occupations are also available. Talented students are eligible to apply for Zois scholarships. Slovenia also provides scholarships to Slovenian national minorities in neighboring countries and Slovenians abroad and also to citizens of countries

that have signed bilateral or multi-lateral agreements on educational cooperation based on reciprocity.

The government provides subsidies for accommodation to short-cycle higher education and higher education students. Short-cycle higher education and higher education students are, under the specified conditions, also entitled to subsidized meals, transportation subsidies and other rights and benefits in accordance with special regulations, unless they are employed or registered as job seekers.



Find more information about the university and exchange programs available for foreign students in Slovenia at: www.studyinslovenia.si.

Interesting Facts:

- The University of Ljubljana was established in 1919.
- The architectural appearance of Slovenia's capital city was decisively influenced by the famous Slovene architect Jože Plečnik, a disciple of Otto Wagner. Jože Plečnik began his career in Vienna and Prague - many architectural features of the three capitals look similar.

Castles of Slovenia



Bled Castle. (Source: www.slovenia.info, Photographer: Matevž Lenarčič)

Interesting Facts:

- A hundred castles still stand in Slovenia, while only ruins remain of some five hundred more.
- The church on the Bled Island is very popular for weddings. The tradition says that the groom must carry his bride up the 99 steps from the lake to the church to ensure a long and happy marriage.

Bled Castle

In terms of written sources, the Bled Castle is the oldest in Slovenia. It was first mentioned as early as 1004. For 800 years, it was the seat of the Bishops of Brixen. Remnants of the castle's distant past are evident in the castle's museum collection, which includes a large collection of armor and weapons. Printed works and the reconstruction of Gutenberg's wooden printing press are also on display. The upper courtyard of the castle houses a small Gothic chapel built in the 16th century. Today the castle as well as the church with the bell on the Bled Island are one of the most popular wedding locations in Slovenia.

The castle is situated on a steep cliff rising 426 feet above the glacial Lake Bled. The terrace of the castle offers the finest view of the Bled lake, the town of Bled and of the wider region. Numerous cultural events are held in the castle's courtyard. The Medieval Days feature reenactments of armies of knights and soldiers clashing as well as performances with fire jugglers, flaming metal bullets, fire-eaters and "fiery" swordsmen.

The castle inspired the legend of Poliksena who was married to Hartman Kreigh, master of the Bled Castle. Kreigh was not a good master and farmers often revolted against him and complained about him to the bishop and the emperor. Until one day he mysteriously disappeared. The mourning widow collected all her gold and silver and ordered that a bell be cast from the gold and silver in memory of her husband for the chapel on Bled Island. When the bell was being transported to the island, a storm broke out and the boat

sank together with the boatmen and its precious cargo. The bell sank into the muddy depths. According to the legend, its peals, however, can still be heard on stormy nights from the bottom of the lake. Poliksena left the castle for a convent in Rome. When the Pope heard about her sad story, he had a new bell cast and had it sent to the island.



Brdo Castle.
(Source: www.visitljubljana.com)

Brdo Castle

The Renaissance castle in Brdo was built at the beginning of the 16th century. Well-known aristocratic families, including the Zois family and the Karadjordjević family once resided in the castle. After World War II, the Yugoslavian dictator Josip Broz Tito used the castle as his summer residence. Throughout its history the castle has welcomed presidents, kings and dignitaries.

Since independence in 1991, the State Protocol Services of the Republic of Slovenia operate protocol facilities at the Brdo estate and its surroundings. A

number of high-level government and diplomatic meetings have taken place at Brdo. HRH Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, Pope John Paul II and the former U.S. Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush have all enjoyed the magical surroundings of the castle.



Mokrice Castle.
(Source: www.slovenia.info)

Mokrice Castle

Mokrice Castle was first mentioned in historical records in 1444. It obtained its basic Renaissance features in the 16th century. Subsequent owners of the castle, mostly of nobility, rearranged the castle, introducing parks and gardens. The Von Gagern brothers lived, painted and wrote novels here. Today Mokrice Castle is a luxury hotel and site of protocol events, conferences, meetings and other official functions.

Several legends evolved around Mokrice Castle, which is situated very close to the border with Croatia. The most famous one features Countess Barbara, a young widow who fell in love with a nobleman. He left to travel, never to return again. The countess waited for him for many years until she gave in to her despair one spring morning. Heart-broken, she climbed to the top of a tower and threw herself off it. She died but her heart is said to have remained alive and can still be found at Mokrice castle. Legend says that every year on December 4, the feast day of St. Barbara, an old cannonball would roll three times around the castle courtyard, pushed by the spirit of the unfortunate countess.

Predjama Castle & the Legend of Erazem

Predjama Castle is a magnificent Renaissance castle, built under the natural arch of a cave in the village of Predjama in southeast Slovenia, about 15 miles away from Postojna. With hundreds of years of fascinating, often violent history, the Predjama Castle is said to be haunted.

It is believed that the castle was built in the 12th century. It was first mentioned in writing in 1202, when it was known as Jama (Cave) Castle.

The undoubtedly most famous of all castle inhabitants was the 15th century knight Erazem of Predjama. He is the



Ljubljana Castle. (Source: www.slovenia.info, Photographer: Matevž Lenarčič)

main protagonist of numerous stories: some glorify him as a handsome, noble knight, while the others portray him as a bandit and a robber baron.

One of the legends says that he killed a relative of an emperor during an argument. He ran to hide in the impregnable castle at the time owned by Gašpar Ravbar, the Lord of Trieste. The castle was believed to be accessible only from one side. However, when Gašpar Ravbar tried to starve Erazem by cutting

bribed one of the servants to put up a flag up next time Erazem uses the bathroom. Located at the top floor, at the very edge of the palace, the bathroom was the fortress' weak point. A single cannon ball was fired and unfortunately for the knight, caught him by surprise.

The bravest visitors may ascend along Erazem's tunnel. A passage leads to a refuge in a hollow, where an observation post on the rocky cliff offers a wonderful view over the surrounding

Ljubljana Castle

As the House of Habsburg in 1335 took over the region including present-day Slovenia, they demolished the fortress of the Spanheim family, standing on the hill above the town of Ljubljana. In the second half of the 15th century they started building a new one, which still stands today. Its main purpose was to defend against Ottoman invasions, which were most frequent in the 15th and 16th century. It also served as defense from number of peasant rebellions. In the 17th and 18th centuries the castle functioned as a military hospital and an arsenal. When in 1809 Napoleon occupied Ljubljana, the war with the Habsburgs broke out. After the French had left, the Habsburgs used the castle as a jail. This only changed at the end of Second World War, when first Italians and then Germans took over the castle. In the 1970s, renovation began and today the castle is a popular tourist destination. It offers an outstanding view over the city, a romantic atmosphere and a place for numerous cultural events.

When visiting the Ljubljana castle, a visitor can get into a time machine. Six time stations present various pieces of history of the castle and of the city. The journey starts in the Roman Emona and continues to show the period when St. George became involved in the fights between pagans and Christians and defeated the terrifying dragon. In the Middle Ages' depiction, Ljubljana Castle saw the arrival of Emperor Frederick III of Habsburg. Not surprisingly, a soldier represents Napoleon's Illyrian Provinces. The 19th century was a dark



Predjama Castle & the Legend of Erazem. (Source: www.slovenia.info)

off the food supplies, he was surprised that after a year and a day Erazem was still alive. What he didn't know was that the castle had a secret tunnel, which led to a nearby village. This shaft allowed Erazem to secretly supply the castle with food throughout the siege; he also used it to continue with his robberies.

Unable to solve the mystery, Gašpar

countryside. The rooms of the castle and their furnishings were renovated to give visitors an idea of how people once lived and worked in the castle. The living quarters, the chapel, and the dungeon are among the most interesting sights. The exhibition also features a range of weapons, oil paintings and a Pietà dating from 1420.

period for Ljubljana Castle, with its jail and prisoners. The 20th century is marked by some great names, including the former Ljubljana mayor, Ivan Hribar.

Celje Castle

Celje Castle is the largest medieval castle in Slovenia and was once home to the renowned Counts of Celje. The Counts of Celje were the most important noble family that ruled over, lived and owned land in the territory of the present-day Slovenia. Its last residents left the castle in 1400 and moved to the Prince's Mansion (Knežji dvorec) in the town of Celje. When the dynasty died out, its leader held the rank of a prince of the Holy Roman Empire and many other titles in territories of present-day Central Europe. From the thirteenth to the fifteenth century, the Counts of Celje were the main rivals to the Habsburg Monarchy. They ruled an area stretching much beyond present day Slovenia.

The most famous story about Celje Castle concerns the forbidden love between Frederick II of Celje and Veronika of Desenice, a lady of minor nobility. Frederick's father, Herman II of Celje, was particularly opposed to their love affair. To separate the lovers, he had his son Frederick locked in a narrow 75-foot-high tower for more than four years. Since then, the tower has been known as Frederick's Tower. Veronika was accused of witchcraft on the grounds that she had seduced and enticed Frederick to the point of obsession. This was the first known witch trial in the territory of the present-day Slovenia. The court acquitted Veronika, however her life was not spared. Herman II ignored the ruling of the court, and incarcerated her in Ojstrica Castle where she was drowned in a bathtub in 1425.



Ruins of the Celje Castle. (Source: www.grad-celje.com)

Interesting Fact:

- A feature of the coat of arms of the Counts of Celje — the three golden stars — was incorporated into the coat of arms on the Slovenian flag in 1991.

Nature in Slovenia



Logarska Valley. (Source: www.slovenia.info, Photographer: Tomo Jeseničnik)

Slovenia's total area is only about the size of Massachusetts, however it is the only country in Europe that encompasses the Alps, the Mediterranean, the Pannonian plain and the mysterious Karst. Green is the dominant color of Slovenia and the country is dedicated to promoting an environmentally friendly economy and green sustainable tourism.

Around 60 percent of Slovenia is

covered by forests, making it the third most forested country in Europe. Over one million new trees are planted in Slovenia every year and one can find virgin forest only 40 miles from the capital city of Ljubljana. Other natural areas are meadows and thickets. There are many endangered and protected species of flowers, particularly in mountain areas. The plant diversity is

exceptional. Fertile soil is mainly found in the east of the country and in flat areas in river valleys. The sunny sides of hills in the south and west of Slovenia offer good conditions for viticulture.

With over a third of its territory protected as natural heritage, Slovenia is also one of the most biologically rich and diverse areas in Europe. It comprises just 0.004% of the Earth's surface, yet it is home to more than 2% of land and freshwater creatures. Many species of bird nest in Slovenia, and the territory is a staging area for migratory species. The forests are home to a large population of brown bears. Many other very rare and endangered animal species inhabit the woods such as the wolf, the lynx, the wildcat, the capercaillie bird and the pheasant. These are all protected. Also protected is the ibex, which can be seen in the mountains. Slovenia's rivers, lakes and sea are home to a rich variety of aquatic species.

Slovenia is one of the most water-rich countries in Europe. It has 17,000 miles of rivers, streams and other waterways. Slovenian rivers are divided into the Adriatic and Danubian or Black Sea watersheds. The supreme river of the Adriatic watershed is the Soča River, also

known as the Emerald River. Slovenia's biggest river is the Drava and the longest river is the Sava. Ljubljana, Kolpa, Krka and Savinja rivers ultimately run into the Danube River and then the Black Sea. There are over 300 enchanting waterfalls in Slovenia, many of them in western Slovenia. The highest waterfall, Kloma, is 419 feet high, while the most frequently visited is the Savica Fall near Lake Bohinj. The waterfall of Boka near Bovec is regarded as the most powerful, while the valley of Logarska dolina boasts the fine Rinka Fall.

Numerous thermal springs in Slovenia were discovered in ancient Roman times and their soothing and healing effects can be experienced in the numerous natural spas and thermal resorts. Two Slovenian natural sparkling mineral waters that enjoy an international reputation are Radenska Three Hearts and Donat Mg. However, most people drink tap water in Slovenia, as it is clean and uncontaminated.

Slovenia also features numerous lakes spread across the country. While Lake Bled is the most famous lake in Slovenia, intermittent Lake Cerknica is the biggest. When the Cerknica field is flooded, it boasts an area of 6,200 acres,

Interesting Facts:

- Triglav National Park is one of the oldest national parks in Europe, protected since 1906. Mount Triglav is the highest mountain in Slovenia at 2,864 meters (9,396 feet). Triglav means "the three-headed one."
- Slovenia is the third-most-forested country in Europe after Finland and Sweden. Forests cover almost 3,900 sq. miles, almost 60% of the territory.
- Slovenia is one of most water-rich countries in Europe. It has almost 17,000 miles of rivers, streams and other watercourses as well as numerous thermal and mineral springs and subterranean waters.



Triglav – the highest Slovenian mountain is depicted also on the coat of arms. (Source: www.slovenia.info, Photographer: K. Kunaver)



There are over 8,000 karst caves, springs & sink holes in Slovenia. The photo features UNESCO protected Škocjan Caves. (Source: www.slovenia.info, Photographer: Miha Krivic)

but interestingly, it dries out in May or June. Etched between the mountains of Bohinj, Lake Bohinj is the largest glacial lake in Slovenia. Seven lakes are spread across the valley below Triglav, which is commonly referred to as the Seven Lakes Valley in Triglav National Park.

Triglav National Park is the only national park in Slovenia. There are three regional parks and 45 landscape parks. The three regional parks in Slovenia, encompassing large natural homogenous areas are Kozjansko, Notranjska and Škocjan Caves. The Škocjan Caves, one of the largest underground canyons in the world, has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1986. The most attractive among the landscape parks are

the Logarska dolina, the Sečovelje salt pans on the Adriatic Coast, and the Ljubljana Marshes Nature Park.

The Sečovelje salt pans are more than 700 years old. A Nature park since 2001, the salt pans are listed by UNESCO as a marshland of international importance. Today only a small section is still used to make salt. The abandoned areas host a treasure of plant and animal life, including the Etruscan shrew, the smallest mammal in the world.

The region of Kras provided the name for Karst phenomena, used in geography all around the world. Karst topography features landscape formed by dissolution of soluble rocks such as limestone, dolomite, and gypsum. It is characterized

by underground drainage systems with sinkholes, dolines, formations such as stalactites and stalagmites, disappearing and reappearing rivers, intermittent lakes and caves. There are more than 8,000 caves in Slovenia. The biggest and most popular of these is Postojna Cave, home of the endemic species of the proteus salamander or human fish.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES & SPORTS

Slovenians enjoy nature and the outdoor lifestyle. Every weekend thousands of Slovenians take up exercise such as hiking, skiing, cycling, and swimming. Slovenia is one of the most mountainous countries in Europe. The country has around 6,200 miles of hiking trails. The most popular trails are

in the Julian Alps and in the Kamniško-Savinjske Alps. The Karavanke range also features peaks rising above 6,000 ft. The most popular trail is the one that leads to the top of 9,396 ft high Mount Triglav – Slovenia's highest mountain.

The Slovenia's clean emerald rivers offer many opportunities for fly-fishing. There are 93 fish species in Slovenia. The marble trout, which was not long ago on the verge of extinction, is the most precious one. The trout lives in the Soča, Idrijca, Bača, Vipava, Reka and Rižana rivers. Slovenia's coastline is short, but offers numerous options for water sports. Piran, Portorož and Izola are attractive destinations for swimmers, while Strunjan also offers a natural health resort.



The Sečovelje salt pans are more than 700 years old and are listed by UNESCO as a marshland of international importance. Today only a small section is still used to make salt. The abandoned areas host a treasure of plant and animal life. (Source: www.portoroz.si)



The Soča River is also known as the Emerald River. Some scenes from The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian were filmed in Slovenia's Soča valley. (Source: www.slovenia.info, Photographer: Domen Grögl)



Anže Kopitar, the NHL's first player from Slovenia, brought the Stanley Cup to the Bled Castle after winning the 2012 championship with Los Angeles Kings. (Source: www.anzeseleven.com)

Most of the lakes and their banks offer excellent opportunities for recreation and relaxing walks with beautiful views, picnic areas and camping sites. Slovenia's exceptionally diverse landscape, valleys and quiet country roads make it ideal for cycling. Hard-core bikers can take on mountain passes or even underground biking trails, which used to be galleries of an abandoned mine.

The long skiing tradition in Slovenia is attested to by the writings of Sigmund von Herberstein, in 1549, where he mentions the local skiers on the Bloke Plateau. A century later, Slovenian polymath Janez Vajkard Valvasor precisely described the Bloke wooden skis in his book *The Glory of the Duchy of Carniola*. At the time they were used primarily as a means of transport. Today skiing is the country's most popular sport. In Slovenia, there are dozens of well-tended ski resorts. The best known Kranjska gora and Mariborsko Pohorje

both host Alpine Skiing World Cup races. Ski jumping, snowboarding and cross-country skiing are also popular among Slovenians. The Planica ski jump is one of the five largest ski jumps in the world and has hosted over 60 world records.

Slovenians take great pride in their athletes. Alpine skier Tina Maze won three medals at the World Championship in Alpine Skiing in Vail, Colorado, in February 2014. She was declared by the *New York Times* as one of the greatest skiers in history. She won 4 medals at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, bringing the total number of medals won by Slovenia in 2014 to eight. At the Olympics, Slovenia was declared the smallest country to win a medal and was second to Norway for winning the most medals per capita. You might also have heard of basketball player Goran Dragič (point guard for Miami Heat) and hockey player Anže Kopitar who plays for the Los Angeles Kings. Thanks to Kopitar, the Stanley Cup visited Slovenia twice.

BEEKEEPING IN SLOVENIA

Beekeeping has a strong and proud tradition in Slovenia. Slovenia's climate and landscape, with its diverse flora, provide excellent conditions and forage for the bees.

In the past, Slovenia has been home to excellent beekeepers who greatly contributed to the global body of beekeeping knowledge. Slovenian-born Anton Janša (1734-1773) was the first teacher at the beekeeping school established by the Austrian Empress Maria Theresa in Vienna. He was renowned as a great theoretician and practitioner. He authored two books on beekeeping in German: *A Treatise on*



Beehive panels. (Source: www.slovenia.info, Photographer: Dunja Wedam)

Bee-swarming (1771) and *A Full Guide to Beekeeping* (1775). Priest and teacher Peter Pavel Glavar (1721-1784) as well as Anton Žnideršič (1874-1947) contributed to developing Slovenian beekeeping. A hundred years ago, Slovenian beekeepers and bee merchants controlled the trade in Carniolan bee colonies and queens all over the world.

Today Slovenia is the only European Union member state to have protected its native bee, the Carniolan bee. This indigenous Slovenian species is regarded as the second most widespread bee breed in the world and it is famed for its docility, hard work, calm character, utilization of forest forage, and excellent sense of orientation. It is cherished for rapid spring development, good cleaning instinct, disease resistance and frugality.

The painted wooden front panels of beehives became a rural art form in Slovenia – hives, painted in various colors and bearing interesting scenes are today recognized as open-air art.

In the days when people still had no refined sugar, there was hardly a farm in

Slovenia that did not keep bees. Honey was the only sweetener available, and beeswax was an indispensable material for candle making. Today, Slovenian honey produced by Carniolan bees, is a product with the EU protected geographical indication (PGI).

Slovenia produces around 2,000 metric tons of honey a year, which is sufficient for domestic needs and some export. Slovenian beekeepers can boast a relatively rich selection of different types of honey (flower honey, forest honey, acacia honey, linden honey, spruce honey). Additional beekeeping products include: beeswax, pollen, royal jelly and propolis (bee glue).

Slovenia proposed to the United Nations to declare May 20 as World Bee Day. The initiative aims to recognize that bees and beekeeping are essential to ensuring food security, as well as preserving ecosystems and natural biodiversity. Honeybees perform about 80 percent of all pollination worldwide.



Carniolan Bee.
(Source: www.slovenia.info,
Photographer: Dunja Wedam)



Every year on the third Friday in November on the occasion of Slovenian food day, Slovenian beekeepers donate honey for kindergarten and primary-school children all over Slovenia as part of a project entitled "Honey Breakfast". On this day children in Slovenia eat traditional Slovenian breakfast, which consists of home-made bread, butter and honey spread on it, organic milk and locally produced apples.

Interesting Facts about Slovenia



The Najevnik Linden in the Koroška region is said to be over 780 years old. (Source: www.slovenia.info)



Lipizzaners are Europe's oldest domesticated breed of horses. Interestingly, they are born black or gray and slowly turn white by the time they are five to eight years old. (Source: www.slovenia.info, Photographer: B. Kladnik)



Dragon Bridge in the capital city of Ljubljana. (Source: www.slovenia.info, Photographer: ZLT Archive)

- Linden leaf is an important symbol of Slovenians. Traditionally at least one linden tree was planted in the center of every settlement: in front of a village church, in the castle yard, or in a town square. The linden tree marks the place where the village community met for social gatherings and where decisions on matters of common interest were made.
- Slovenia has 28 miles of coastline featuring the highest cliff in the Adriatic. Located in the Strunjan peninsula, it is 262 feet high.
- The world-renowned Lipica stud farm, famous for its Lipizzaner horses, has operated since 1580. The Lipizzaner horses are known as a worldwide tourist attraction due to their white color, their incredible learning ability and their performance skills.
- Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, is the wettest capital in Europe. This doesn't mean that there are lots of rainy days but the rains are usually very heavy. Ljubljana was first mentioned in documents as a city in 1243 A.D.
- Most of the population is Catholic/Christian. With more than 3,000 churches, chapels and religious monuments, Slovenia is a country with the largest number of religious buildings per capita in Europe.
- Dozens of thermal springs in eastern Slovenia have therapeutic properties. The benefits of Slovenian thermal waters were first discovered by the Romans.

QUIZ ABOUT SLOVENIA

- Slovenia's coastline lies at the:
 - Atlantic sea
 - Adriatic sea
 - Ionian sea
- Which of the following countries is a neighbor of Slovenia?
 - Germany
 - Serbia
 - Hungary
- Slovenia became an independent country in:
 - 1981
 - 1991
 - 2001
- Which animal is bred in the town called Lipica?
 - bear
 - dog
 - horse
- Where does the endemic species Proteus salamander (also called "baby dragon") live?
 - cave
 - lake
 - ocean
- What does "Triglav" mean?
 - 3 heads
 - 3 peaks
 - 3 towers
- What is the most popular winter sport in Slovenia?
 - soccer
 - swimming
 - skiing
- How many islands does Lake Bled have?
 - 0
 - 1
 - 23
- How many miles of coastline does Slovenia have?
 - 28
 - 200
 - 0

The letters of the correct answers spell out the name of the capital of Slovenia:



25 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE
REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

I FEEL
SLOVENIA