

FOREST ETIQUETTE

Taking care of Slovenia's forests

Forest flowers, mushrooms, forest fruits and moss are vital to the forest ecology and rules restrict what can be picked. Forests cover 59.8% of Slovenia's territory, which ranks the country as the third most forested country in the European Union (after Sweden and Finland).



Trees and bushes are living beings; you should respect them and cause them no harm. Tree names are becoming increasingly popular as Slovenian first names: Gaber (beech), Bor (pine), Jelka (fir), Tisa (yew), Brin (juniper).



Walking trails lead us through the forest, so please use them and do not go off trail. In Slovenia, there are around one hundred forest and natural science educational trails that teach about plants, animals, forestry, natural phenomena and traditional crafts.



Waste and rubbish do not belong in the forest. Clean up after yourself. Our forests absorb around 7.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide and produce around 5.5 million tonnes of oxygen annually.



Lighting a fire in a forest area is forbidden as the fire could destroy trees and wildlife. There are 71 indigenous tree species in Slovenian forests: 61 deciduous and 10 coniferous. The most common tree species are beech and spruce.



Forest animals are very shy. Do not disturb them with noise. Keep your dog on a lead. The lynx is the most endangered species in Slovenian forests.



In forest areas, driving (if not prohibited by a special sign) is allowed only on roads. Do not leave your vehicle on any property, but rather ask the owner of the property for permission. 75% of Slovenian forests are privately-owned, 22% are state-owned, and 3% are municipality-owned.



Water is precious. Forests clean and store water and help to protect drinking water quality. Do not release any harmful substances into the water or soil. In Slovenia, virgin forests (forests whose composition and growth have remained virtually unaltered by people) cover around 540 hectares.

