

I FEEL  
SLOVENIA

SLOVENIA

An aerial photograph of a lush, green Slovenian landscape. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by terraced vineyards with neat rows of grapevines. Interspersed among the fields are small, white houses with red-tiled roofs, typical of a rural village. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a clear, bright sky, suggesting a sunny day. The overall scene is peaceful and idyllic, showcasing the natural beauty and agricultural heritage of Slovenia.

# SLOVENIA IN NUMBERS

Surface area: **20,271 km<sup>2</sup>**  
Number of cities: **69**  
Forest: **58%**  
Coastline: **47 km**  
Marked mountain trails: **10,014 km**  
Protected land area for biodiversity conservation: **40.5%**

Population: **2,130,638**  
Life expectancy at birth: **79.5 years** (boys), **84.7 years** (girls)  
**50.3%** of the population are men, compared to **49.7%** women.  
Residents have more than **64,000** different names, **71%** of which are unique.  
The most common names are Franc and Marija. However, only **5%** of Frances and **5%** of Marijas are younger than **50**.  
Expected period of schooling: **17.5 years**  
Residents who have completed tertiary education: **26%**  
People living in urban areas: **19%**

Slovenia's cities are smaller in size than in most other countries. A city is defined as a settlement with more than 3,000 inhabitants. On the other hand, almost half of Slovenian settlements have fewer than 100 inhabitants.



Number of tourists annually: **6.6 million**

Animal species recorded: **24,000**  
Plant species recorded: **4,000**  
Peaks over 2,000 m: **352**  
Landscape parks: **46**  
Museums and galleries: **100**  
Castles, palaces, manors and fortress-type buildings with preserved structures: **351**  
Printed books published annually: **5,721**

Slovenia's residents rank just below the top in the EU in terms of life satisfaction. With an average score of **7.7**, they rank **second** overall.



The Slovenian passport ranks as the **eight** most powerful in the world, granting visa-free entry to **184** countries.

# A YOUNG COUNTRY WITH A RICH HISTORY

**6th cent.** Settlement of the Slavic ancestors in the territory of present-day Slovenia

**7th cent.** The first Slavic state – the Principality of Carantania

**10th cent.** The first known text in Slovenian – the Freising Manuscripts

**1550** The first books in Slovenian – *Abeceđnik* (Alphabet Book) and *Katekizem* (Catechism) by Primož Trubar



Boštjan Podlogar/STA

**1774** Introduction of compulsory schooling

The first train on Slovenian territory **1846**

The first Slovenian political programme – *Zedinjena Slovenija* (United Slovenia) **1848**

The first play in Slovenian – *Županova Micka* (Micka, the Mayor's Daughter) **1849**

The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes is established **1918**

The first Slovenian university is founded **1919**

The first Olympic gold medal won by Slovenian gymnast Leon Štukelj – in the all-around individual competition and horizontal bar event **1924**

The Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia is established **1945**

**1948** The first Slovenian sound feature film – *Na svoji zemlji* (On Our Own Land)

**1951** The first Slovenian youth film – *Kekec*



Archive of the Slovenian film Centre

The black-and-white film, a true blockbuster, was shown in cinemas around the world, including in China.

**1968** The first television news broadcast in Slovenian on TV Ljubljana (now RTV Slovenija)

**1972** The first Slovenian motorway Vrhnika to Postojna



Silvester Čotar

Plebiscite on Slovenia's independence **1990**

In the plebiscite held on 23 December 1990, nearly 90% of Slovenians voted in favour of independence.

**1991**

25 June

Declaration of Slovenia's independence



Martin Ozmec

The first Slovenian currency – the tolar

23 December

The first constitution of independent Slovenia

Slovenia joins the United Nations **1992**

## ALL FIRSTS

**1993** Slovenia joins the Council of Europe

**2004** Slovenia joins the European Union (EU)



Salomon 2000

Slovenia joins the political and military alliance NATO

**2007** Slovenia joins the Schengen Area, allowing passport-free travel within member countries

Adoption of the euro as Slovenia's official currency



Miran Kambič

**2010** Slovenia joins the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

**2020** Slovenia goes to space – Launch of the first two Slovenian satellites



Archive of SkyLabs

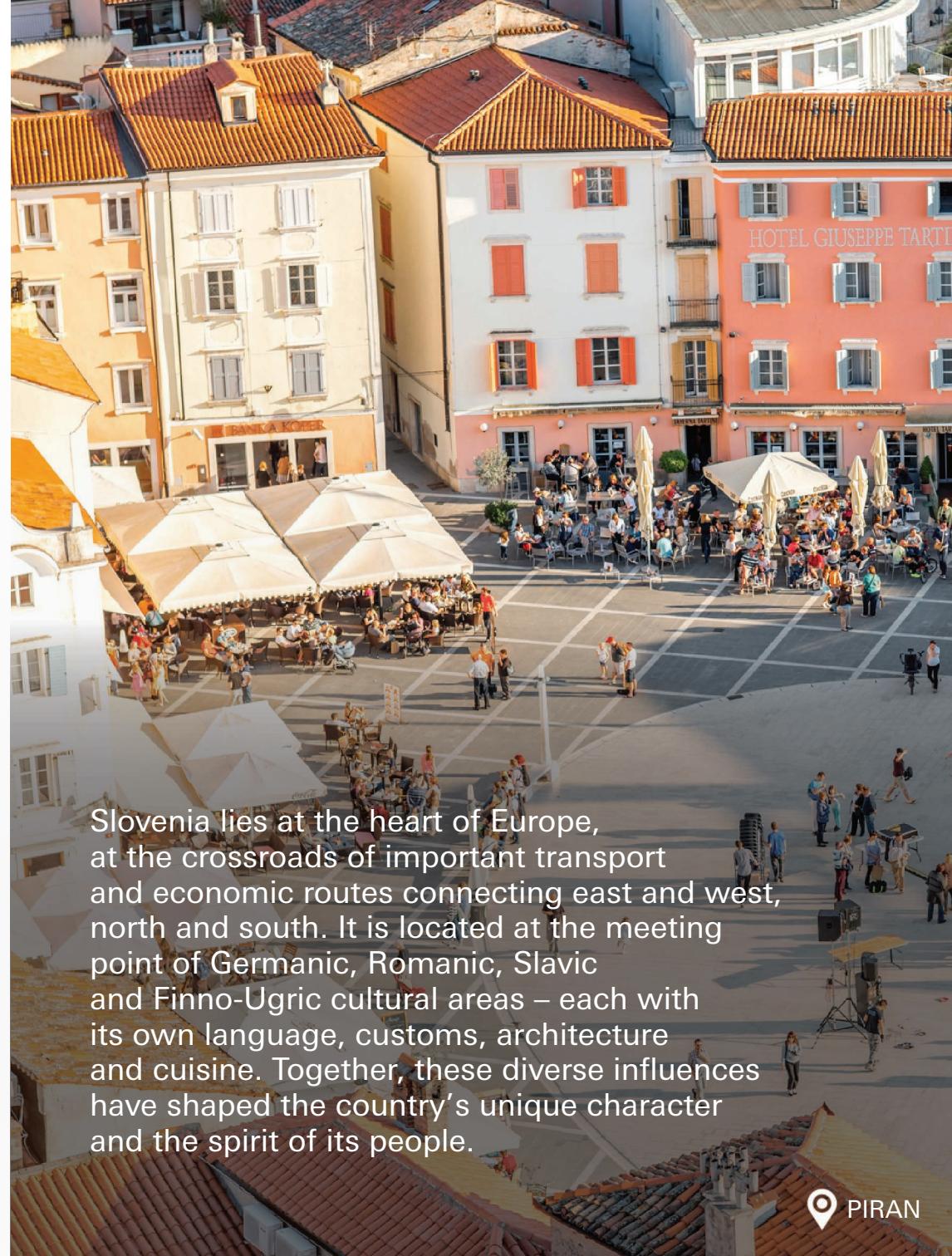
**2021** Slovenia joins MED 9 – a group of like-minded Mediterranean EU Member States

**2025** Slovenia joins the European Space Agency (ESA)

Slovenia joins the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN)



Government of the Republic of Slovenia/STA



Slovenia lies at the heart of Europe, at the crossroads of important transport and economic routes connecting east and west, north and south. It is located at the meeting point of Germanic, Romanic, Slavic and Finno-Ugric cultural areas – each with its own language, customs, architecture and cuisine. Together, these diverse influences have shaped the country's unique character and the spirit of its people.

# NATIONAL SYMBOLS AND THE IDENTITY OF SLOVENIANS

Slovenia is a parliamentary democratic republic, represented by its coat of arms, flag and national anthem.



It is said that one can only become a “true” Slovenian by climbing to the top of Triglav.

Slovenia’s **national anthem** is the seventh stanza of the poem *Zdravljica* (A Toast), written by France Prešeren, Slovenia’s greatest poet. Its powerful message speaks of equal opportunities for all and peaceful coexistence between nations.

*God’s blessing on all nations,  
Who long and work for that bright day,  
When o’er earth’s habitations  
No war, no strife shall hold its sway;  
Who long to see  
That all men free  
No more shall foes, but neighbours be.*

**The colours of the Slovenian flag** – white, blue and red – originate from the medieval coat of arms of the Duchy of Carniola, the historic region in which Slovenians once lived.

**The coat of arms** of the Republic of Slovenia features a white silhouette of Triglav, the country’s highest and most iconic mountain. The two wavy blue lines beneath it symbolise the Adriatic Sea and the country’s many rivers. Mountains are a central element of the Slovenian identity. Mountaineering, alpine climbing and skiing are not just sports; they are deeply ingrained in the Slovenian way of life.

Slovenians are often referred to as **a nation of poets**. They have forged their national identity through literature rather than warfare over the centuries. Culture is of paramount importance to Slovenians and is even honoured with a national cultural holiday. **Prešeren Day** is celebrated on 8 February with a rich programme of free cultural events taking place across the entire country.

**Traditional folk music** plays an important role in celebrations and social gatherings. Many Slovenians play the accordion, and even more enjoy singing and dancing to its music, both at home and in Slovenian communities around the world.



The linden tree holds a special place in Slovenian history. For centuries, villagers would gather beneath its broad canopy to converse, make important decisions and even resolve disputes.

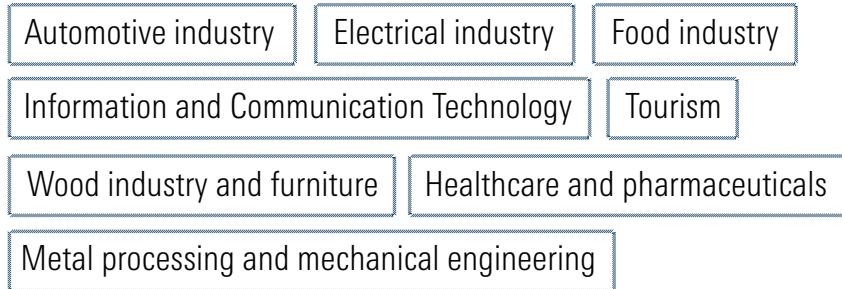
**The national costume** is the traditional attire worn on special occasions to symbolise national identity. It began to take shape in the 19th century, with colours and patterns varying across Slovenia’s different regions. The costume is often adorned with a **red carnation** pinned to it, which is another cherished symbol of Slovenian heritage.



# MADE IN SLOVENIA

Slovenia has a long **industrial tradition** and a **highly educated, skilled workforce**. The country successfully combines experience and knowledge with innovation, creative thinking and environmental responsibility. It is strongly export-oriented, a focus that is greatly supported by its excellent geostrategic location.

Key economic sectors



Slovenia focuses on **niche markets** with high added value, in which many of its companies hold leading global positions. Their inspiring accomplishments include: high-quality pharmaceuticals, innovative skis, software used by NASA, state-of-the-art mobile homes, premium exhaust systems for motorbikes and sports cars, and solid-wood buildings.

**If you own a car made in Europe, your car has at least one component made in Slovenia.**

# A SOCIETY OF KNOWLEDGE AND DEVELOPMENT

Slovenia is a knowledge-based society with **an excellent education system** that is free of charge up to doctoral level. This provides an excellent foundation for the outstanding scientific results and innovations achieved by Slovenian researchers.

They rank **among the most active in Europe** in terms of the number of scientific publications. Research and innovation efforts are strategically focused on addressing key challenges for sustainable development and improving quality of life. These challenges include climate change and new energy sources, space exploration, pharmaceuticals and medicine, quantum technology and artificial intelligence.

Slovenia has a well-developed network of scientific institutes, led by the **Jožef Stefan Institute**, the country's leading research organisation. Slovenian researchers excel on the international stage and participate in some of the world's most prestigious scientific organisations, including the **European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)**.

The growing importance of science in Slovenian society is further emphasised by the recent introduction of a new national holiday: **Science Day**, celebrated on 10 November.

 The physicist **Jožef Stefan** (1835–1893) was the first person to accurately determine the temperature of the Sun's surface. The fundamental physical law describing black-body radiation is named after him, as is a crater on the Moon.

 **Peter Florjančič** (1919–2020) was one of Slovenia's most prolific inventors. He invented the perfume atomiser, a spraying machine, a frame for photographic slides and more.



 Archive of Elan



 Archive of Akrapovič



 Archive of Krka, d. d., Novo mesto



 Arne Hodalič, Katja Bidovec/Jožef Stefan Institute



# PIONEERS IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DEVELOPMENT

Slovenia has more than four decades of experience in artificial intelligence research. With its expertise, it actively helps shape global guidelines and legislation within international organisations.

It is home to the **International Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI)**, recognised as one of the world's leading research centres in this field. Building on this expertise, Slovenia is in the process of establishing **the Slovenian Artificial Intelligence Factory (SLAIF)** around a new high-performance supercomputer – a hub that will connect industry, research institutions and the public sector.

## Where can the data be used?

Slovenian researchers are developing solutions for forecasting extreme weather events, automatically detecting leaks in water supply systems and identifying misinformation. Alongside research institutions, Slovenian companies are also creating advanced technologies, from software for measurement systems to smart home and smart city solutions, as well as other innovative applications.

Slovenia is also developing its own language model, **GaMS**, designed for both industrial and every-day applications.



# PART OF THE UNIVERSE

The universe is an endless source of data that helps us better understand our planet. In 2020, Slovenia launched its **first two satellites** into space, marking its entry among spacefaring nations.

As a member of the **European Space Agency**, Slovenia is rapidly developing its space sector. Slovenian companies, development institutes and universities are active in all areas, from component manufacturing to the advanced use of space data.

 A century earlier, Slovenian engineer **Herman Potočnik** – **Noordung** (1892–1929) envisioned human life in space. Today, the Noordung Space Technology Centre bears his name.

 Astronaut **Sunita Williams** (1965), an American of Slovenian and Indian descent, has taken part in numerous space missions. She also took a traditional Slovenian dish – the Carniolan sausage – and the Slovenian flag into space, with the flag now having orbited the Earth several times.

## Back to the Moon – or on to Mars?

Slovenia is actively contributing to the search for solutions that will make life beyond our planet possible. For example, companies are developing a robotic spider for space exploration and innovative solutions for 3D printing objects in zero gravity. At the **Planica Nordic Centre**, researchers are studying how space conditions affect the human body to help prepare for long-term missions in space.



# SLOVENIA LIVES AND BREATHES SPORT

Sport holds a truly special place in Slovenian society. This passion is formalised by the fact that 23 September, **Slovenian Sports Day**, is an official national holiday. The country's rich sporting heritage is also showcased in its **Sports Museum**.

You've certainly heard of basketball superstar **Luka Dončić**, cycling sensation **Tadej Pogačar**, climbing champion **Janja Garnbret**, ice hockey legend **Anže Kopitar** and football stars **Jan Oblak** and **Benjamin Šeško**. What they all have in common is their place of origin: they all come from Slovenia.

**The most popular sports** include football, basketball, handball, volleyball, ice hockey, tennis, athletics, winter sports, cycling and motorsport.

Slovenians excel in both team and individual disciplines, achieving **world-class results** on the global stage.

Slovenia has won **55 Olympic medals** to date and is currently ranked as one of the most successful countries in the world in terms of Olympic medals per capita. Slovenian athletes have achieved outstanding results in various disciplines, including alpine skiing, ski jumping, judo, snowboarding and rowing.

Slovenia has well-developed **sports infrastructure and hosts major sporting events**. In 2026, it will host the European Road Cycling Championships. In 2029, it will proudly co-host the European Basketball Championship.

**Ski jumping siblings** Domen and Nika Prevc are both world champions, following in the footsteps of their older brother Peter, who was the first athlete to ever surpass the 250-metre mark. Talent clearly runs in the family.

**2026**

European Road Cycling Championships

**2029**

European Basketball Championship



Grega Valančič, Nebojša Tejić, Jure Makovec/STA



Boštjan Podlogar/STA

Slovenians are renowned for being **passionate supporters** who proudly cheer on their athletes. It is not uncommon to see the Slovenian flag flying alongside sports fields on the other side of the world.

# BEEKEEPING IN SLOVENIA – A WAY OF LIFE

Beekeeping is an **integral part of Slovenia's cultural heritage**, reflecting the country's long-standing commitment to living in harmony with nature. Today, around 11,000 Slovenians, mostly amateur enthusiasts, engage in this unique agricultural practice.

 The Slovenian **Anton Janša** (1734–1773) was the world's first teacher of modern beekeeping and a pioneer of contemporary apiculture.

In Slovenia, bees are kept in traditional apiaries with colourful, often hand-painted, **hive front panels** that brighten the landscape. These vibrant designs not only serve a decorative purpose, but also help the bees to orient themselves.

At Slovenia's initiative, the **United Nations proclaimed 20 May as World Bee Day.**

The traditional Slovenian breakfast features local honey, alongside bread, butter, milk and an apple.



 Stanko Gruden/STA

## Bees in the city?

In Ljubljana, absolutely. Modern beehives have found their home on the rooftops of tall buildings, successfully coexisting with the urban environment. The capital city boasts abundant green spaces and countless flowering balconies, providing clean, abundant forage for the bees.

# SMALL AND LARGE ANIMALS

Slovenia is a European champion when it comes to the number of animal and plant species per square kilometre.

It is home to the **Carniolan honeybee**, the world's second most widespread honeybee. In Slovenia, beekeeping is allowed only with this native bee species, celebrated for its calm temperament, modesty, and diligence.



In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the demand from foreign beekeepers for live Carniolan honey bees was so high that the bees travelled to all parts of the world – from Australia and Japan to South America and Canada.

Slovenia is the cradle of the **Lipizzaner**, one of the world's oldest cultural horse breeds. Since 1580, this noble breed has been carefully developed in Lipica for high-level riding schools, making elegance second nature. Today, 300 Lipizzaner horses still roam the protected grounds of the Lipica Park.

Lipizzaners are born dark. A mutated gene causes them to first turn grey and later white.

Many other remarkable animals also live in Slovenia. The famous **olm** (*Proteus anguinus*) dwells in the mysterious karst underground world, **dolphins** frolic in the Adriatic Sea, and **storks** are increasingly nesting in the countryside. While sightings are rare, Slovenian forests shelter three large carnivores: **the bear, wolf and lynx.**

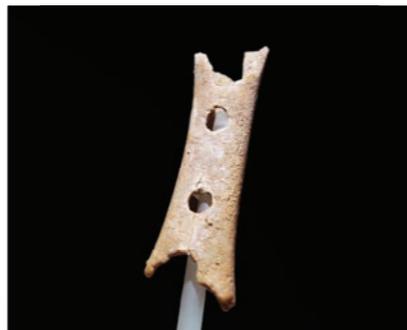




Slovenia is one of the few countries in the world where you can enjoy breakfast in the Alps, lunch in the Karst, and dinner by the sea – all in a single day. The distances are short, yet the contrasts are remarkable: snow-capped peaks, wine-growing hills, the Mediterranean coast, the mysterious underground karst and flat plains are all just an hour or two away by car.

## A HOME TO THE OLDEST...

### Neanderthal flute



📷 Daniel Novakovič/STA

A 60,000-year-old flute – the oldest known musical instrument in the world – was discovered at the Divje Babe archaeological site near Cerklje. Crafted by a Neanderthal from the bone of a young bear, it features four carefully drilled holes. This remarkable find shows that music has accompanied humans for tens of thousands of years!

### Wheel with an axle



📷 Matevž Paternoster

A 5,200-year-old wheel – believed to be the oldest wooden wheel with an axle in the world – was discovered in the Ljubljana Marshes, once home to ancient pile dwellers. Crafted from ash and oak wood, the wheel is surprisingly sophisticated for its time. As for the vehicle it once belonged to, we can only speculate.

### Vine



📷 Boštjan Podlogar/STA

In Maribor, Slovenia's second-largest city, the world's oldest vine – over 450 years old – still thrives in the old town centre. Although it is the youngest of these remarkable discoveries, it has survived countless challenges, including the wartime bombing of the city. It's no surprise that it earned a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

More than half of Slovenia is covered by forests, making it one of the most forested countries in Europe. Almost everywhere you go, forests stretch out over the horizon, giving Slovenia its distinct green colour. The country is also home to a preserved primeval forest, one of the few places on Earth where nature remains truly untouched.



*Carnival kurent*

Traditional carnival figures from Ptuj.

📷 Tinkara Zupan/STA



*Honeybread making*

A traditional handicraft involving the production of honey-based, decorated pastries.

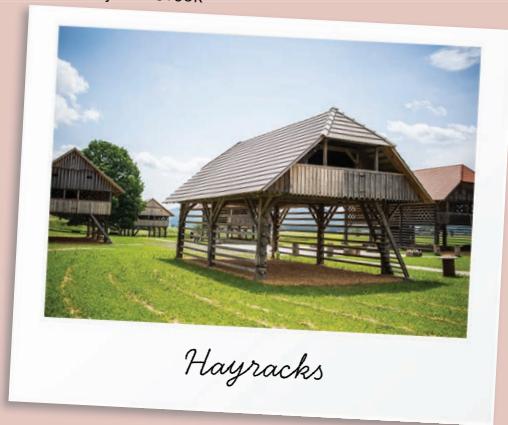
📷 Rasto Božič/STA



*Bela krajina Easter eggs*

Black-dyed Easter eggs decorated using a wax-resist technique.

📷 Matej Leskovšek



*Hayracks*

Wooden structures used for drying hay or grain.

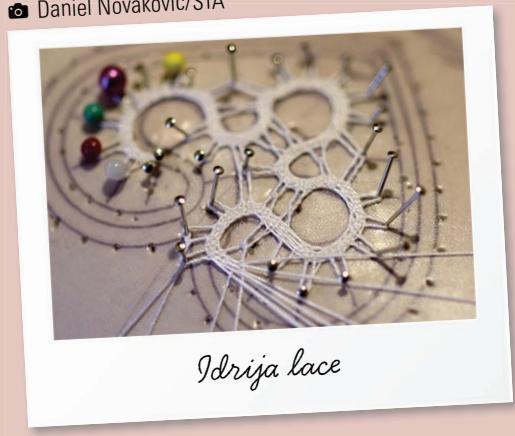
📷 Anže Malovrh/STA



*Škofja Loka Passion Play*

The largest outdoor theatre performance in Slovenia, taking place every few years.

📷 Daniel Novakovič/STA



*Idrija lace*

Bobbin-made lace produced in the town of Idrija.

**RICH  
CULTURAL  
HERITAGE**

# SAY IT IN SLOVENIAN

In Slovenia, they speak **Slovenian** – one of the Slavic languages. The alphabet has 25 letters, including three unique ones – č, š and ž. But don't worry – it is easier than it looks!

- Ž is pronounced like s in pleasure,
- Š is pronounced like sh in show,
- Č is pronounced like ch in cherry.

The uniqueness of the Slovenian language lies in its use of the dual, which denotes exactly two people or things – not one and not three. Everything is more beautiful in twos, isn't it?

Would you like to give someone your phone number or tell a market vendor how many apples you'd like? Here's **how to count** in Slovenian:

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

And before you start – don't forget to say hello!

- Informal: **Živjo!** Hi! | **Zdravo!** Hello! | **Adijo!** Bye!
- Formal: **Dobro jutro!** Good morning! | **Dober dan!** Good afternoon! | **Dober večer!** Good evening! | **Nasvidenje!** Goodbye!

You can easily answer questions with:

**Ja.** Yes. | **Ne.** No. | **Ne vem.** I don't know. | **Ne razumem.** I don't understand.

Or you can simply use gestures: nodding means *yes* and shaking your head means *no*.

Need help finding your way around? You can ask:

**Oprostite, kje je:** | Excuse me, where is the: **avtobusna postaja** bus station

Follow directions:

**levo** left  
**naravnost** straight  
**desno** right

**trgovina** shop  
**stranišče** toilet  
**center** town centre  
**bankomat** ATM?

And don't forget the magic words:

**Ali lahko?** May I? | **Prosim.** Please. | **Hvala.** Thank you.

Would you like to take a short break? Stop at a nearby café or bar and simply order:

**Eno vodo, prosim.** Water, please. | **En čaj, prosim.** A cup of tea, please.

**Eno kavo, prosim.** A cup of coffee, please | **Eno pivo, prosim.** A beer, please.

You might even meet someone you know!

- Informal: **Kako si?** How are you?
- Formal: **Kako ste?** How are you?

Answer politely with: **Dobro, hvala.** Fine, thank you.

Or you might meet someone new (informal):

**Kako ti je ime?**

What's your name?

**Jaz sem Ana.**

My name is Ana.

**Od kod prihajaš?**

Where are you from?

**Sem iz Ljubljane.**

I am from Ljubljana.

**Me veseli.**

Nice to meet you.

Slovenian is enriched by around 50 dialects. High mountains, hills and rivers once physically separated communities, which had only limited contact with one another.

c E h  
F B Č  
A D g i

When you are ready to leave, simply ask:

**Ali lahko dobim račun?** May I have the bill, please?

And finally:

**Srečno!** Good luck!

**Dobrodošli v Sloveniji.** Welcome to Slovenia.





Ivana Kobilca (Ljubljana, 1861–1926)  
*Woman Drinking Coffee*, 1888

Dr Peter Hribar, Cerknica  
The artwork is part of the National Gallery's permanent collection  
© National Gallery, Ljubljana (📷 Janko Dermastja)

## ROLLING INTO TRADITION

Meet the **potica**, a sweet rolled bread with soft dough and a rich walnut and raisin filling. It is a delicious staple of every festive table in Slovenia. It has a distinctive round shape with a hole in the middle. Traditional fillings include walnut, walnut and raisin, raisin, tarragon, and tarragon and cottage cheese. The prepared filling is carefully spread across a thin layer of dough, which is then tightly rolled multiple times.

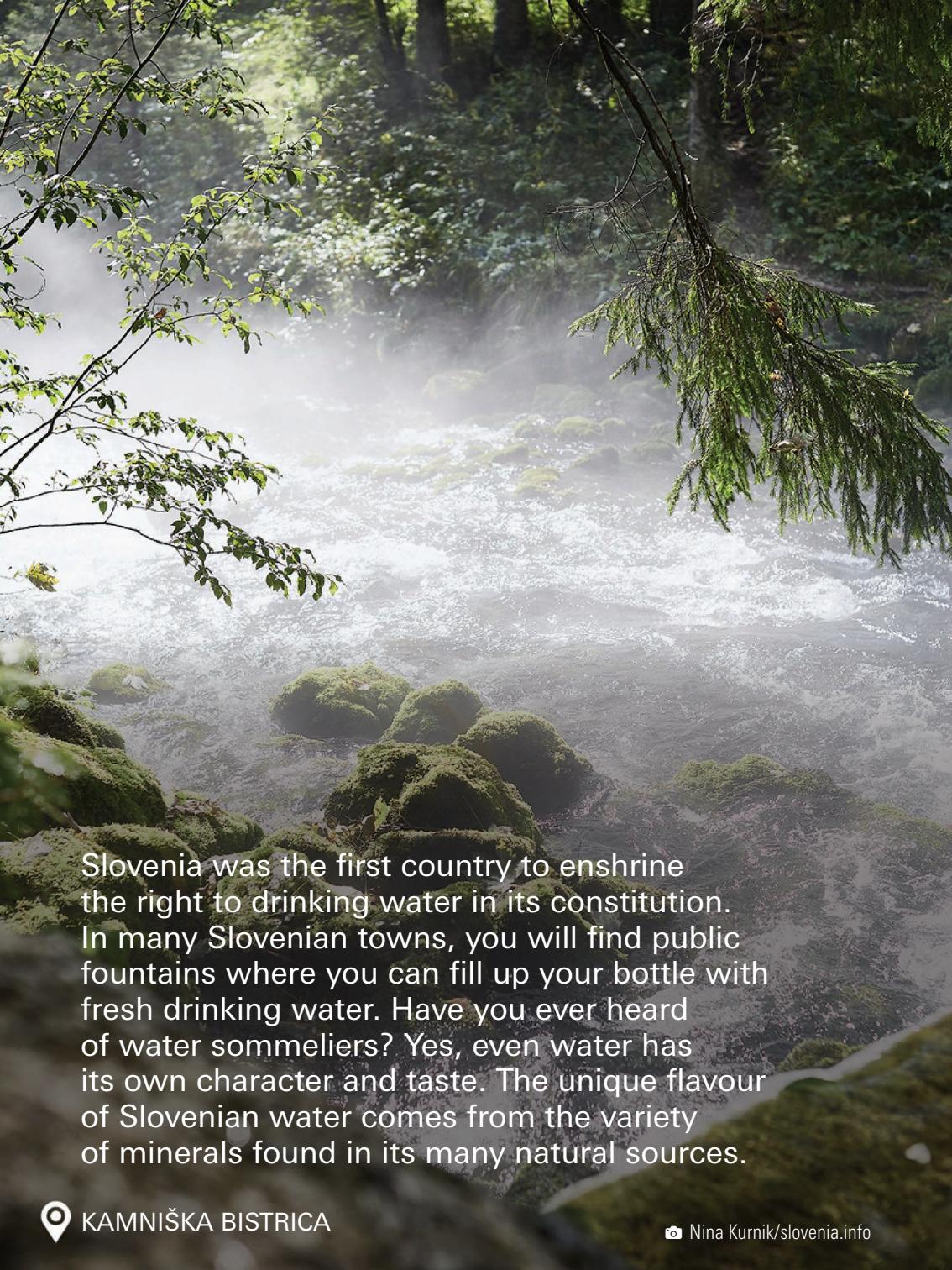


📷 Tomo Jeseničnik/  
Ljubljana Tourism photo library

While potica is traditionally baked, **štruklji** (rolled dumplings) are boiled. This comforting dish, which consists of thin dough with a variety of fillings, has been passed down through the generations for centuries. There are numerous regional variations, including cottage cheese, apple and walnut varieties. Štruklji can be enjoyed as a main course, a side dish or a dessert, whether savoury or sweet.

Potica and štruklji are currently enjoying a revival in popularity. Chefs are breaking free from tradition by offering **a wide variety of shapes, sizes and flavours**. The possibilities for fillings are almost limitless. Have you ever tried meat-, herb-, blueberry- or even mango-filled štruklji? The creativity of these culinary masters knows no bounds. Although walnut potica remains a firm classic, you can also find chocolate, poppy seed, raspberry, coconut and cinnamon versions. Believe it or not, some chefs are even making pistachio potica and štruklji.

You can enjoy both potica and štruklji across the entire country. However, given Slovenia's rich culinary heritage and its 24 distinct gastronomic regions, you could try something new every single day of the year!

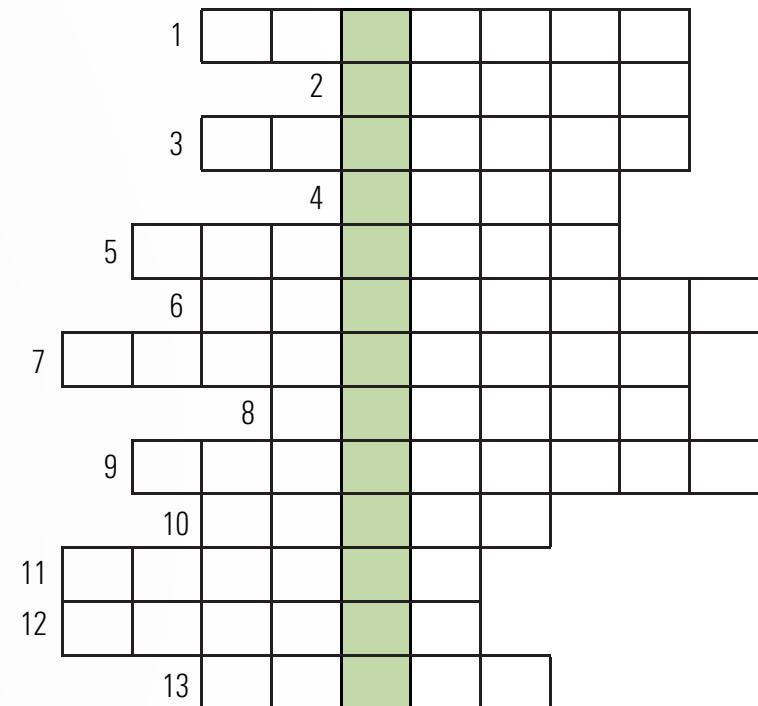


Slovenia was the first country to enshrine the right to drinking water in its constitution. In many Slovenian towns, you will find public fountains where you can fill up your bottle with fresh drinking water. Have you ever heard of water sommeliers? Yes, even water has its own character and taste. The unique flavour of Slovenian water comes from the variety of minerals found in its many natural sources.

# HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW SLOVENIA?

Test your knowledge and see how much you really know!

- 1 The highest mountain and national symbol of Slovenia
- 2 The oldest known musical instrument in the world, discovered in Slovenia
- 3 The surname of a famous Slovenian architect
- 4 Slovenia's currency
- 5 The sport Tadej Pogačar competes in
- 6 The town after which Slovenia's longest underground cave is named
- 7 Slovenia's capital city
- 8 A traditional festive pastry
- 9 Slovenia's official language
- 10 Slovenia's characteristic national colour
- 11 A traditional carnival figure from Ptuj
- 12 The surname of a famous Slovenian basketball player
- 13 How to say *thank you* in Slovenian



## WHAT ARE SLOVENIANS LIKE?

If you are invited into a Slovenian home, you will be offered **slippers** at the entrance. Hospitality is important to Slovenians, so expect to be treated to homemade delicacies that you won't be able to refuse.

Slovenians cherish their **free time spent in the great outdoors**. They enjoy activities such as skiing, hiking, running and cycling. In the summer, they head to the coast, mostly to nearby Croatia.

Most Slovenians live in their **own houses**, typically with **gardens**. Many grow their own vegetables – homegrown produce has its own special charm!

**Sunday** is reserved for rest and family time. If not out on a hike or enjoying nature, families gather for the traditional Sunday lunch, where beef soup and pan-fried potatoes with onions are a must.

**Coffee** is more than just a drink; it provides an opportunity for conversation and relaxation. The phrase *Gremo na kavo* (Let's grab a coffee) has become a local synonym for meeting up for a drink, whether it's coffee, tea or something else.

Communication is unlikely to be a problem as most Slovenians speak **one or more foreign languages**. In addition, you will also learn a great deal about their customs and culture.

With its small size, Slovenia has earned the reputation of being a place where “everyone knows everyone”. Is this a myth or a reality? You decide!

## YES, BUT WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN...

*Biti na konju* – literally “**to be on the horse**”

To be successful; to have achieved your goal

*Ubiti dve muhi na en mah* – “**to kill two flies with one blow**”

To achieve two aims at once

*Živeti kot ptiček na veji* – “**to live like a little bird on a branch**”

To live comfortably, without worries

*Delati iz muhe slona* – “**to make an elephant out of a fly**”

To exaggerate; to make a small problem seem serious

*Hoditi spat s kurami* – “**to go to bed with the hens**”

To go to bed very early

*Počutiti se kot riba na suhem* – “**to feel like a fish out of water**”

To feel uncomfortable or out of place

*Lagati kot pes teče* – “**to lie as fast as a dog runs**”

To lie shamelessly or repeatedly

*Kot slon v trgovini s porcelanom* – “**like an elephant in a porcelain shop**”

To behave awkwardly or clumsily

*Iti po gobe* – “**to go picking mushrooms**”

To fail completely, or to be ruined / even to die

*Krasti bogu čas* – “**to steal time from God**”

To idle, waste time or do nothing useful

*Kupiti mačka v žaklju* – “**to buy a cat in a sack**”

To make a risky or uncertain purchase





Slovenia ranks among the ten safest countries in the world. This high level of safety makes it easy to enjoy carefree strolls through the city streets, charming villages and natural landscapes.

## GOOD TO KNOW

**Country code:** +386

**Time zone:** GMT/UTC +1

**Units of measurement:** metre, litre

**Currency:** euro (EUR)

**Mobile signal:** almost full coverage; prepaid SIM cards available

**Wi-Fi:** available free of charge at selected public locations

**Emergency number:** 112

**Weather:** moderate continental, Alpine and Mediterranean climate

**Tap water:** safe to drink

**Public transport:** bus, train

**Payment methods:** credit/debit cards and/or cash

**Road tolls:** motorway vignette required

**Shop opening hours:** generally 7:00/9:00–19:00/21:00; closed on Sundays and public holidays

**Tourist information:** Tourist Information Centres (TIC) operate in all major towns and cities

**Digital nomad option:** valid for up to one year

**Radio news in English and German:** Radio Slovenia International, Radio SI

### Public holidays:

1 and 2 January: New Year

8 February: Prešeren Day, the Slovenian Cultural Holiday

Easter Monday

27 April: Day of Uprising Against Occupation

1 and 2 May: Labour Day

25 June: Statehood Day

15 August: Assumption Day

31 October: Reformation Day

1 November: All Saints' Day

25 December: Christmas

26 December: Independence and Unity Day

More stories and facts about Slovenia:

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The world belongs to the bold – that’s what I’ve always lived by. Whoever does not try to go beyond the narrow limits of the horizon originally granted to them, whoever never descends into the depths of life, and whoever never leaves the earth to let their spirit soar in higher, purer spheres has indeed lived, but only like a silkworm in its cocoon. Life is the exploration of the unknown. A child who crawls around the table on all fours for the first time explores the world just as carefully, and enriches their knowledge just as much, as a great scholar who sets out on a journey around a larger house, the Earth.

Alma M. Karlin (1889–1950), Slovenian writer and world traveller, from her novel *My Chinese Fiancé*

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