

Slovenia in Brief



The Republic of Slovenia lies at the heart of Europe where the Alps and the Mediterranean meet the Pannonian plains and the mysterious Karst. Slovenia has a population of 2 million and its capital city is Ljubljana. The official language is Slovene, one of the South Slavonic languages.

In Slovenia, the sun shines approximately 2000 hours per year. And yes, there is plenty of snow in winter.

As a small, beautiful and picturesque country, Slovenia makes a great tourist destination. Mountains, lakes, waterfalls, forests, caves, hills, plains, rivers and the sea - you name it, you can find it all within a modest 20.273 km² (half the size of Switzerland), as well as many natural and landscape parks. You can ski in the morning and surrender yourself to the luxury of the Adriatic Sea in the afternoon.



Slovenia has 46.6 km of sea coast - an inch per inhabitant.

The highest mountain is called Triglav - the name meaning "three-heads" - and it is 2864m high. The mountain is a true national symbol, featured on the national coat of arms and the flag.

Slovenia is also known for its great wines and delicious traditional food.

The currency is called the Slovenian Tolar (SIT).

It is very easy to get here as the country is connected with the rest of the world by a modern highway network, railway system, international airport and ports.

Arts and Culture



In modern times the earliest signs of the Slovenian spirit have surfaced in the field of culture. Ever since the poetry of France Prešeren, culture has formed the heart of our national being.

Urban culture has developed in Slovenia over the last two centuries, which has also seen the gradual evolvement of fundamental institutions such as National Museum, and the Slovenian Philharmonics.

Nowadays Slovenia has a myriad of theatres, cinemas, libraries and educational facilities and is well known abroad by its current cultural export.

The band Laibach is absolutely pivotal in the field of **music**. Their early industrial sound from the 1980s still has a cult following around the world. Young composer Mitja Vrhovnik Smrekar is establishing himself as a very reputable writer of theatre music.

Slovene **literature and poetry** is mostly very traditional, but international translations of the literary works of Drago Jančar, Tomaž Šalamun and Aleš Debeljak prove that even the smallest cultures can create work of high quality and also contribute to the most current global literary tendencies.

The history of our country's **visual arts** is rich with important artists. Recently the painters of the group Irwin have gained an international reputation. Their work is presented in all relevant overviews of world-wide contemporary art.

The Slovenian **architect and sculptor** Marjetica Potrč has succeeded in making a break- through into international artistic circles. As a winner of the significant Hugo Boss Prize 2000, she had a solo exhibition in the Guggenheim Museum in New York in 2001. She is very active on the international scene (in 2003 she exhibited in Valencia, Salzburg, Bern). In 2003 she received Jakopič's award, the highest national award in fine arts.

The emerging field of **digital media** arts has its own eco-system and the development of this particular field of art on a global scale was partly enabled through the work of Marko Peljhan and Vuk Ćosić.

Dance theatre has a disproportionately active centre in Ljubljana and its most notable representative in Slovenia is Iztok Kovač whose performances are constantly admired on international festivals.

Video art has been around in our country for thirty years, its most notable practitioners in the last two decades are Marina Gržinić & Aina Šmid.

Related links

[National Museum of Slovenia](http://www.narmuz-lj.si/ang/ang.html) (<http://www.narmuz-lj.si/ang/ang.html>)

[Slovenian Philharmonics](http://www.filharmonija.si/) (<http://www.filharmonija.si/>)

[Museum of Modern Art](http://www.mg-lj.si/) (<http://www.mg-lj.si/>)

Information on museum archives, collections, coming exhibitions, etc.

[Slovene Ethnographic Museum](http://www.etno-muzej.si/) (<http://www.etno-muzej.si/>)

An insight into the museum's temporary and travelling exhibitions, collections, events, etc.

[Slovenia Landmarks](http://www.burger.si/Slovenija_menuji.html) (http://www.burger.si/Slovenija_menuji.html)

Virtual tour through numerous Slovenian museums.

[Slovenian National Theatre - DRAMA](http://www.sngdrama-lj.si/) (<http://www.sngdrama-lj.si/>)

Information on repertory, programme, guest performances, etc.

[Mladinsko Theatre](http://www.mladinsko-gl.si/) (<http://www.mladinsko-gl.si/>)

What is new, past and coming performances, performing dates, etc.

[Cankarjev Dom](http://www.cd-cc.si/) (<http://www.cd-cc.si/>)

Information on this major cultural institution in Slovenia, calendar of events, archives, etc.

[National and University Library in Ljubljana - NUK](http://www.nuk.uni-lj.si/) (<http://www.nuk.uni-lj.si/>)

Information on the greatest Slovenian library service and holdings, access to Slovenian on-line catalogue and more.

[Related category in the Slovenian web catalogue Mat'Kurja](http://www.matkurja.com/eng/resources/arts/)

(<http://www.matkurja.com/eng/resources/arts/>)

Related ministry

[Ministry of Culture](http://www.gov.si/mk/) (<http://www.gov.si/mk/>)

Gives the information on who's who, what's up and where to; it also contains a directory of links to most important cultural institutions.

Economy



Slovenia is among the most successful of the countries in transition from socialism to a market economy. It boasts a stable growth in GDP and ranks among the countries with the lowest degree of risk. The already completed privatisation process and many other measures are increasing the competitiveness of its economy directed towards the EU.

Currency:	Slovenian Tolar (SIT), made up of 100 stotins
GDP per capita:	9,878 USD (1998); 10,109 USD (1999); 9,105 USD (2000); 9,451 USD (2001); 11,004 USD (2002)
Growth in gross domestic product (GDP):	4.6% (2000); 2.9% (2001); 2.9% (2002); 3.1% (forecast 2003)
Standardised rate of unemployment (ILO):	7.6% (1999); 7.0% (2000); 6.4% (2001); 6.4% (2002); 6.3% (forecast 2003)
Inflation rate (%):	9.1 (1997); 7.9 (1998); 6.1 (1999); 8.9 (2000); 8.4 (2001); 7.5 (2002); 5.5 (forecast 2003)

External Trade:

Exports (in mio USD):	9,051 (1998); 8,546 (1999); 8,732 (2000); 9,252 (2001); 10,357 (2002)
Imports (in mio USD):	10,111 (1998); 10,083 (1999); 10,116 (2000); 10,144 (2001); 10,929 (2002)
Export/import ratio (%):	86 (2000); 91.2 (2001)

Major external trade partner countries (2002):

Exports:	Germany, Italy, Croatia, Austria, France
Imports:	Germany, Italy, France, Austria, Croatia

Related links

[Bank of Slovenia](http://www.bsi.si/) (<http://www.bsi.si/>)

Currency exchange rates, laws and regulations and other useful links and contacts.

[Trade Point](http://www.tradepoint.si/) (<http://www.tradepoint.si/>)

Offers trade related information, Slovenian Company Catalogue, trading customs, banking, import.

[Slovenian Export Corporation](http://www.sid.si/sidang.nsf) (<http://www.sid.si/sidang.nsf>)

Works on promotion of exports and ensuring competitive conditions for Slovenian companies on foreign markets, offers downloads, etc.

[Port of Koper](http://www.luka-kp.si/) (<http://www.luka-kp.si/>)

Quick access to rail and road connections, sea links, news and sailing list on line etc. (in 9 languages)

[The Business Opportunities Exchange System BORZA](http://www.gzs.si/eng/borza/) (<http://www.gzs.si/eng/borza/>)

Complete information on business environments, offers active business opportunities search etc.

[Chamber of Commerce and Industry](http://www.gzs.si/eng/) (<http://www.gzs.si/eng/>)

Provides various consulting and other business services and various information resources (such as Business Opportunities Exchange System).

[TIPO](http://www.investslovenia.org/) (<http://www.investslovenia.org/>)

Investment-related information; includes sections devoted to the legal aspect, the tax rate, etc.

[Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development](http://www.gov.si/zmar/) (<http://www.gov.si/zmar/>)

Provides you with information on upcoming conferences, projects, annual spring and autumn reports and analysis (Acrobat PDF) on the international environment, current economic trends, economic development forecasts etc.

[Economic Mirror / IMAD](http://www.gov.si/zmar/apublici/aekonogl.html) (<http://www.gov.si/zmar/apublici/aekonogl.html>)

Provides standardized macroeconomic analyses, estimates and forecasts.

[Slovenia Business Week](http://www.gzs.si/eng/news/sbw/) (<http://www.gzs.si/eng/news/sbw/>)

An electronic business weekly with current news on a variety of topics concerning Slovenian economy and business.

[Slovenia News](http://slonews.sta.si/) (<http://slonews.sta.si/>)

Covers news on politics, commerce, culture, science and sport

[Slovenian Tolar \(SIT\)](http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/currency/) (<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/currency/>)

[Related category in the Slovenian web catalogue Mat'Kurja](http://www.matkurja.com/eng/resources/business/)

(<http://www.matkurja.com/eng/resources/business/>)

Related ministry

[Ministry of the Economy](http://www.mg-rs.si/english/) (<http://www.mg-rs.si/english/>)

Provides information on main areas of its activity, priority tasks, organisation structure etc.

Food and Drink



Recipes

Slovenian food is a feast for the gourmet. Many restaurants offer a wide range of traditional national dishes, as well as international dishes like pizza, pasta and oriental dishes. Try some of the traditional recipes and enjoy the Slovenian taste.

For more information visit <http://www.matkurja.com/eng/country-info/food-drinks/recipes/>.

Wines

Slovenia lies on the southern slopes of the Alps and touches the Mediterranean, so it enjoys the best of both worlds, as well as climatic uncertainties from both north and south. The country has also always been at the crossroads of north and south, east and west, and travellers have brought viticultural knowledge from all the prominent viticultural nations.

However, the tradition of wine production is very long, going back at least to the time of the Roman Empire. Nowadays, 38 vine varieties are grown in 14 wine districts. This, together with the natural conditions mentioned above, provides a very rich diversity of taste, smell and colour in the different wines.

For more information visit <http://www.matkurja.com/projects/wine/>.

Related links

[Mrs. Mauro's potica](http://www.shopfest.com/mrsmaurospotica/) (<http://www.shopfest.com/mrsmaurospotica/>)

Mrs. Mauro's is the place to buy Slovenian cake on American soil.

[Italian bakery](http://www.potica.com/page3.html) (<http://www.potica.com/page3.html>)

An Italian bakery in Minnesota does Slovenian potica.

[Culinary Slovenia](http://www.kulinarika.net/) (<http://www.kulinarika.net/>)

Dynamic web site that presents the Slovenian culinary heritage to its visitors from the whole world and enables interaction with them.

[Related category in the Slovenian web catalogue Mat'Kurja](http://www.matkurja.com/eng/resources/entertainment/food/)

(<http://www.matkurja.com/eng/resources/entertainment/food/>)

Geography



Slovenia is situated in Central Europe and covers an area of 20,273 km² (that's half the size of Switzerland). It has borders with Italy (280 km), Austria (330 km), Croatia (670 km) and Hungary (102 km).

Relief

Four major European geographic regions meet in Slovenia: the Alps, the Dinaric area, the Pannonian plain and the Mediterranean.

The coastline is only 46.6 km long, but there is 26,000 kilometres of rivers and streams, some 7,500 springs of drinking water, including several hundred of first class therapeutic mineral springs.

The highest peak: Mt Triglav (2864 m)

Average height above sea level: 556.8 m

Landscape

Forests cover half the territory, as much as 10,124 km²; Slovenia is the third most forested country in Europe, right after Finland and Sweden. Remnants of primeval forests are still to be found, the largest in the Kočevje area. Bears, which can no longer be found north of this region, still live in these forests and it also is possible to encounter a wolf or a lynx.

Grassland covers 5593 km² of the country and fields and gardens 2471 km². There are also 363 km² of orchards and 216 km² of vineyards.

Climate

Most of Slovenia has a continental climate with cold winters and warm summers. The average temperatures are -2°C in January and 21°C in July. The average rainfall is 1000 mm for the coast, up to 3500 mm for the Alps, 800mm for south east and 1400 mm for central Slovenia.

Biodiversity

Slovenia is home to more than 50,000 animal species and 3,000 plant species.

Environmental protection

Approximately 8% of the Slovenia's territory is specially protected; the largest area with such a regime is the Triglav National Park with a surface area of 848 km². The Skocjan caves were

entered on the world heritage List at UNESCO in 1986 and the Sečovelje salt pans are included on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

Related links

[Spatial Information](http://www.zrc-sazu.si/pic/) (<http://www.zrc-sazu.si/pic/>)

The Slovene Academy of Science and Arts is the major centre for the scientific study of Slovenia.

[Environmental Agency](http://www.arso.gov.si/) (<http://www.arso.gov.si/>)

Offers up to the minute information on weather conditions in Slovenia.

[Slovenia Landmarks](http://www.burger.si/) (<http://www.burger.si/>)

A comprehensive presentation of Slovenia with 1856 virtual reality panoramas, including an interactive map.

[Waters of Slovenia](http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/waters/) (<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/waters/>)

Slovenian rivers, lakes, waterfalls, mineral and thermal waters.

[Pearls of the Floral Wealth of Slovenia](http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/floral-wealth/)

(<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/floral-wealth/>)

Learn about 20 endemic plants; pictures and detailed descriptions.

[Karst and Kras](http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/karst/) (<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/karst/>)

A comprehensive paper about Karst investigations in Slovenia.

[Sečovelje Salt pans](http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/slovenian-sea/secovlje/)

(<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/slovenian-sea/secovlje/>)

The first wetland in Slovenia to be included in the Ramsar list of wetlands of international importance.

[Related category in the Slovenian web catalogue Mat'Kurja](http://www.matkurja.com/eng/resources/science/geography/)

(<http://www.matkurja.com/eng/resources/science/geography/>)

Related ministry

[The Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy](http://www.gov.si/mop/) (<http://www.gov.si/mop/>)

Site covers main areas of its activity, staff details, major projects and so on.

History



Some Important Milestones:

6th century AD	The Slavic ancestors of present day Slovenia first settle in the area in the 6 th century AD.
7th century	The Slavic Duchy of Carantania, the first Slovenian state.
745	Carantania becomes part of the Frankish empire; the Slavs convert to Christianity and gradually lose their independence.
around 1000	The Freising manuscripts, the first known writings in the Slovenian and Slavic dialect in Latin script.
14th century to 1918	All the Slovenian regions pass into the possession of the Habsburgs, later the Austro-Hungarian monarchy.
1550 and 1584	The Reformation brings literacy, the first printed book in 1550 and in 1584 the first Slovenian translation of the Bible.
1918	Formation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.
1945	Federal Peoples' Republic of Yugoslavia (officially declared on 29 November 1945).
April 1990	First democratic elections.
23 December 1990	88.5% of voters at the referendum vote in favour of an independent Slovenia.
25 June 1991	Slovenia officially declares its independence.
15 January 1992	The EU officially recognises Slovenia's independence.
22 May 1992	Slovenia becomes a member of the UNO.
1 February 1999	Association Agreement with the EU comes into effect.
26 April 2003	Slovenia signed EU Accession Treaty in Athenes.

Related links

[10 Years of Independence](http://www.uvi.si/10years/) (<http://www.uvi.si/10years/>)

National celebration on the 10th anniversary of Slovenia's independence

[Freising Manuscripts](http://www.kortlandt.nl/editions/freis.html) (<http://www.kortlandt.nl/editions/freis.html>)

The earliest known text written in Slovenian on the website of a Dutch Professor of Balto-Slavic languages

[Neanderthal flute](http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/--) (<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/-->)

One of the most important archaeological discoveries in Slovenia

[Freising Manuscripts](http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/freising-manuscripts/)

(<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/freising-manuscripts/>)

[First printed book](http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/first-slovene-book/) (<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/first-slovene-book/>)

[The plebiscite](http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/plebiscite/) (<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/plebiscite/>)

26 December 2000 - Independence Day and the 10th Anniversary of the Plebiscite

[More historic dates](http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/publications/facts/general/#07) (<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/publications/facts/general/#07>)

Important dates in Slovenian history from the end of the 6th century to the present day.

[Becoming an independent state](http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/publications/facts/international-relations/#05)

(<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/publications/facts/international-relations/#05>)

History of events leading up to Slovenian independence.

[Related category in the Slovenian web catalogue Mat'Kurja](http://www.matkurja.com/eng/resources/science/history/)

(<http://www.matkurja.com/eng/resources/science/history/>)

Holidays



1st and 2nd

New Year

January

8th February

Prešeren Day, Slovenian Cultural Holiday

Easter Sunday and Monday

27th April

Day of Uprising Against Occupation

1st and 2nd May

Labour Day

Whit Sunday

25th June

National Day

15th August

Assumption Day

31st October

Reformation Day

1st November

All Souls' Day

25th December

Christmas

26th December

Independence Day

Related links

[10 Years of Independence](http://www.uvi.si/10years/) (<http://www.uvi.si/10years/>)

National celebration on the 10th anniversary of Slovenia's independence

[France Prešeren](http://www.preseren.net/ang/) (<http://www.preseren.net/ang/>)

The highest Slovenian awards for cultural achievements, awarded on the Slovenian Day of Culture, 8 February, are named after France Prešeren. Find out more about our most important poet.

[Celebrating National Holidays](http://www.uvi.si/eng/office/responsibilities/holidays/) (<http://www.uvi.si/eng/office/responsibilities/holidays/>)

Role of the Public Relations and Media Office in relation to the celebration of national holidays.

[The plebiscite](http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/plebiscite/) (<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/plebiscite/>)

26 December 2000 - Independence Day and the 10th Anniversary of the Plebiscite

[Christmas in Slovenia](http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/christmas/) (<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/christmas/>)

Different customs are associated with this popular family holiday.

Language



The Slovenian language has played a special role throughout Slovenian history. It is still considered one of the foundations of national identity. In spite of various influences, it has preserved its special features - the most notable being the archaic dual form. This is the grammatical number used for two people or things in all inflected parts of speech.

Even a limited proficiency in Slovenian will make your trip both easier and more rewarding. It will save you time finding what you want, whether that is a hotel room, a special dish on the menu or an item you want to buy.

Conversational phrases given here anticipate situations you are likely to encounter, with comments on customs and lifestyle providing the necessary background information.

Good morning.	<i>Dobro jutro (before 8 a.m.).</i>
May I introduce myself.	<i>Dovolite, da se predstavim.</i>
soft boiled egg	<i>mehko kuhano jajce</i>
Close the window!	<i>Zaprite okno! / Zapri okno! (familiar)</i>

Related links

[Slovene for Travellers](http://www.ijs.si/lit/slovene.html) (<http://www.ijs.si/lit/slovene.html>)

It is the place from which the contents of this page are taken.

[Greenberg's list of the Slovene language](http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/~ljubljan/learningL2.html) (<http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/~ljubljan/learningL2.html>)

The most accurate learning materials for English speakers.

[FIDA](http://www.fida.net/eng/) (<http://www.fida.net/eng/>)

The project FIDA is dedicated to a listing of the Slovene language corpus.

[Slovene Alphabet](http://www.ijs.si/slo-chset.html) (<http://www.ijs.si/slo-chset.html>)

This very old page about the Slovene Alphabet gives you a fairly complete idea about a few specific characters we use.

[Courses of Slovene](http://www.ff.uni-lj.si/center-slo/tecaji/index-eng.html) (<http://www.ff.uni-lj.si/center-slo/tecaji/index-eng.html>)

Do you want to learn Slovene? See the courses of Slovene organised by the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana.

[Slovene](http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/slovene/) (<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/slovene/>)

Detailed paper about the Slovenian language (historical overview, the linguistic situation today). Includes additional information about the earliest known Slovenian text (10th c.), first Slovenian book (1550), first translation of the Bible (1584).

[Related category in the Slovenian web catalogue Mat'Kurja](http://www.matkurja.com/eng/resources/science/linguistics/)

(<http://www.matkurja.com/eng/resources/science/linguistics/>)

People



Slovenia has a population of 1,964,036, of which 83.06 % are Slovenes (2002 census).

In Slovenia there are also two national minority communities of Italians (2,258 – 2002 census) and Hungarians (6,243 – 2002 census). They are considered indigenous minorities and their rights are protected under the Constitution.

Other ethnic groups include Croats, Serbs, Bosnians (Muslims), Macedonians, Montenegrins and Albanians. The statutes and special rights of Gypsy communities living in Slovenia are determined by statute.

Basic statistics

Population by age groups, December 2002:

0-14 years	15.0%
15-65 years	70.2%
65 and over	14.8%

Life expectancy:

<i>year</i>	<i>years for men</i>	<i>years for women</i>
1995	70.27	77.76
1997	71.01	78.62
1998	71.05	78.68
1999	71.37	78.75
2000	71.94	79.10
2001	71.13	79.57

Distribution of population

Approximately 50% urban and 50% rural.

Population density

98 inhabitants per km² in 2001, which is much lower than in the majority of other European states (460/km² in the Netherlands, 195/km² in Italy).

Language

The official language of Slovenia is Slovenian. Apart from singular and plural it employs dual number, a very rare phenomenon in linguistics.

In nationally mixed regions Italian and Hungarian are also spoken.

Religion

The majority of Slovenes (almost 60%) are Roman Catholics, although there are around 30 other religious communities, spiritual groups, societies and associations registered in Slovenia.

Slovenes abroad

There are indigenous Slovenian minorities in Italy, Austria and in Hungary. Between 250,000 and 400,000 Slovenes (depending on whether second and subsequent generations are counted) live outside the country, in other continents and in EU countries.

Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

Related links

[The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia](http://www.stat.si/) (<http://www.stat.si/>)

Provides national statistics on the current situation and movements in the economic, demographic and social spheres.

[The Office for Religious Communities](http://www.gov.si/uvs/) (<http://www.gov.si/uvs/>)

Its activities include maintaining a register of active religious communities and providing information on the relevant legislation.

[Genealogy and Heraldry in Slovenia](http://genealogy.ijp.si/) (<http://genealogy.ijp.si/>)

Useful page when looking for Slovenian ancestors, doing genealogical research on Slovenian roots from abroad; searching for names etc.

[Minorities: An Enriched Expression of the Cultural Heritage](http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/minorities-cultural-heritage/)

(<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/minorities-cultural-heritage/>)

Slovenia has established an exemplary system of minority protection.

[Related category in the Slovenian web catalogue Mat'Kurja](http://www.matkurja.com/eng/resources/society/people/)

(<http://www.matkurja.com/eng/resources/society/people/>)

Sport



The first great achievements accomplished by Slovenian sportsmen and women in the history of world sports were mainly in **gymnastics**. Particularly famous was Leon Štukelj (1898-1999) who, between 1922 and 1936, won eight gold, four silver and five bronze medals in three Olympic games and three world championships.

The dreams of many Slovenes became reality when the **Slovene national football team** with its coach Srečko Katanec (Head Coach of the Slovenian National Team since 1st July 1998 until 12 June 2002) qualified for the first time for the European Championship in 2000 and for the 2002 Football World Cup. Many fans have sold their cars and other valuable objects just to be able to fly to Korea and Japan to support their heroes. That's how popular football has become in the last two years. Today 40% of the population is actively engaged in all fields of sports.

Over the last twenty years it is the **skiers** who have achieved the best results and stood on the winning podiums at major world competitions. Slovenian ski jumpers are also very successful. The annual final competition of the **ski-jumping** World Cup each year takes place at Planica, at the largest natural ski-jump in the world.

Alpinists occupy a special place in Slovenian sport. **Mountaineering and alpinism** have a very long tradition in Slovenia. In mid-November 1999 Tomaž Humar completed a solo ascent of the south face of Daulaghiri, described as a challenge for the third millennium. And on 7 October 2000 Davo Karničar became the first person to ski non-stop down from the 8,848- metre summit of Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain.

Related links

[Football Association of Slovenia](http://www.nzs.si/) (<http://www.nzs.si/>)

All about the Slovenian football team; provides news, updates, results and match reports

[Olympic Committee of Slovenia](http://www.olympic.si/) (<http://www.olympic.si/>)

Landmark sporting achievements by Slovenes, includes presentation of Slovenian Olympic heroes

[Leon Štukelj](http://stukelj.infotehna.si/english/menu.htm) (<http://stukelj.infotehna.si/english/menu.htm>)

In November 1998 a world sporting legend Leon Štukelj (1898-1999) celebrated his hundredth birthday. The website includes information on his life, his splendid achievements, and much more.

[Leon Štukelj](http://www.uvi.si/eng/calendar/events/leon-stukelj/) (<http://www.uvi.si/eng/calendar/events/leon-stukelj/>)

[Planica](http://www.planica.info/) (<http://www.planica.info/>)

[Tomaž Humar](http://humar.live.over.net/) (<http://humar.live.over.net/>)

[Davo Karničar](http://www.everest.simobil.si/) (<http://www.everest.simobil.si/>)

Sports and the Olympic Tradition

(<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/olympic-tradition/>)

An Important Part of Slovenia's Cultural Heritage

Extreme sports: few in number and crazy

(<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/background-information/extreme-sports/>)

About Slovene exceptional sportsmen.

Related category in the Slovenian web catalogue Mat'Kurja

(<http://www.matkurja.com/eng/resources/entertainment/sports/>)

State



Slovenia proclaimed its constitution in December 1991 and its constitutional system is parliamentary democracy.

Conventional long/short form: Republic of Slovenia, Slovenia

Local long/short form: Republika Slovenija, Slovenija

Head of state

The **President of the Republic** (elected for a maximum two five-year terms by direct elections). The current President is Dr Janez Drnovšek (elected in December 2002).

Legislative authority

The **National Assembly** (90 deputies). The present chairman is Borut Pahor.

Political parties represented in Parliament (National Assembly), elections of 15 October 2000:

- Liberal Democracy of Slovenia (LDS) - 34 deputies
- Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS) - 13 deputies
- United List of Social Democrats (ZLSD) - 11 deputies
- Slovenian People's Party (SLS) - 10 deputies
- New Slovenia-Christian People's Party (NSi) - 8 deputies
- Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia (DESUS) - 4 deputies
- Slovene National Party (SNS) - 4 deputies
- Youth Party of the Slovenia (SMS) - 4 deputies
- 1 representative of the Hungarian minority
- 1 representative of the Italian minority

The **National Council**, which performs an advisory role. Members elected for a five-year term (40 members). The president is Janez Sušnik.

Executive authority

The Government consists of the Prime Minister and other ministers. The Government and the ministers are independent within the framework of their jurisdiction, and responsible to the National Assembly.

The current coalition government is headed by Prime Minister Anton Rop, MA.

The government consists of a coalition between the Liberal Democracy of Slovenia, United List of Social Democrats, Slovenian People's Party and the Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia.

Judiciary

Judicial power in Slovenia is implemented by courts with general responsibilities and specialised courts.

State Prosecutor

There are 11 regional public prosecution offices, 4 higher public prosecution offices and the Office of the State Prosecutor General of the Republic of Slovenia.

Ombudsman for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

The first Slovenian Ombudsman was elected in September 1994. The Ombudsman reports to the National Assembly on his work.

Constitutional Court

The Constitutional Court decides on the conformity of laws with the Constitution. The Constitutional Court is composed of nine judges - legal experts. They are elected for a term of nine years.

Capital

Capital: Ljubljana (330,000)

Other major towns: Maribor, Celje, Kranj, Velenje, Ptuj, Koper, Novo mesto, Jesenice, Trbovlje, Nova Gorica, Murska Sobota

Municipalities

193 (11 of them have the urban municipality status: Celje, Koper, Kranj, Ljubljana, Maribor, Murska Sobota, Nova Gorica, Novo Mesto, Ptuj, Slovenj Gradec, Velenje)

Related links

[Slovenian State Institutions](http://www.gov.si/) (<http://www.gov.si/>)

Main entry point that gives you access to all principal state institutions and their online information, services and resources.

[Slovenia News](http://slonews.sta.si/) (<http://slonews.sta.si/>)

Covers news on politics, commerce, culture, science and sport.

[Facts about Slovenia](http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/publications/facts/) (<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/publications/facts/>)

Short and concise 4-page fact-sheets on politics, international relations, culture, accession process to EU, tourism etc.

[The Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia](http://www.us-rs.si/basis/consten.html) (<http://www.us-rs.si/basis/consten.html>)

In June 1991 Slovenia became an independent, internationally recognized state. It introduced its own currency, established control of all its borders and passed a new Constitution, on 23 December 1991.

[State Symbols](http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/insignia/) (<http://www.uvi.si/eng/slovenia/insignia/>)

All about Slovenian national insignia: the coat-of-arms, the flag and the anthem, including mp3, Real Player and the score.

[Related category in the Slovenian web catalogue Mat'Kurja](http://www.matkurja.com/eng/resources/government/)

(<http://www.matkurja.com/eng/resources/government/>)

Tourism



Tourism is one of the most promising sectors of the economy in Slovenia.

Every year 1.2 million foreign tourists visit Slovenia. The largest number of tourists comes from Germany, Italy, Austria, Croatia, Great Britain, the Netherlands and other European countries. In addition, the number of tourists from the United States is steadily growing.

Visiting Slovenia could provide an interesting mixture of leisure, recreation and exciting excursions.

Slovenia is especially attractive to those who enjoy mountains and lakes, or spending time on the ski slopes. There are more than seven thousand kilometres of marked mountain trails for hiking and climbing. You can also try high-adrenaline sports or spend time on the Mediterranean coast. Last but not least, Slovenia has 15 natural spas, where you can take care of your health with help of thermal mineral waters.

But you could also choose to "travel back through time" in museums, castles, churches and galleries and then go on to enjoy yourself in the evening at one of our casinos as well.

We invite you to come and get to know the country yourself!

Related links

[Slovenian Tourist Board](http://www.slovenia-tourism.si/) (<http://www.slovenia-tourism.si/>)

The official website of Slovenian tourism, providing useful information about: hotels, campings, touristfarms, health resorts, ski centres, golf, hiking, bicycling, riding, nautical information, wine, weddings, and much more.

[Ljubljana Tourist Information Portal](http://www.ljubljana-tourism.si/) (<http://www.ljubljana-tourism.si/>)

Guide to Ljubljana covering major events, accommodations, excursion tips, sights of interest and much more.

[Related category in the Slovenian web catalogue Mat'Kurja](http://www.matkurja.com/eng/resources/entertainment/tourist/)

(<http://www.matkurja.com/eng/resources/entertainment/tourist/>)

National Insignia

The coat of arms, the flag and the anthem of the Republic of Slovenia are determined by the Constitution. Their use is determined by the law, which among other things prescribes the flying of the flag on state holidays.

The Coat-of-arms

The national coat-of-arms of Slovenia is a shield in the middle of which, on a blue background, is a representation of Mt. Triglav in white, under which are two undulating blue lines which represent the sea and rivers and above which are located three golden, six-pointed stars forming a downward-pointing triangle. The shield is bordered in red. The design of the shield is in accordance with accepted principles of geometry and colour.



Geometric code for designing the coat-of-arms

The three-dimensional representation of the coat-of-arms is divided into an upper, concave part and a lower, convex part. The transition between the two is soft, running diagonally from the left and the right sides along the outer edge of the representation of Mount Triglav. The graphic lines of the coat-of-arms in a three-dimensional representation are also determined by the "Geometrical rules for drawing the coat-of-arms".

Colour code for designing the coat-of-arms

CMYK

Blue C100 M60 Y0 K10

Red C0 M100 Y100 K0

Yellow C0 M10 Y100 K0

White C0 M0 Y0 K0

SCOTDIC CODE 777 - INTERNATIONAL COLOUR CODIFICATION SYSTEM (2034)

Blue N46 N722509

Red N23 N074014

Yellow N6 N197512

White N1 N95

[Detailed explanation of the symbols of the coat-of-arms](http://www.uvi.si/img/insignia/grb.html) (<http://www.uvi.si/img/insignia/grb.html>)

Prepared by its designer the sculptor Marko Pogačnik (Flash presentation)

The Flag

The Slovenian flag is the white-blue-red national flag of Slovenia with the national coat-of-arms of Slovenia. The proportions of the width of the flag to the length thereof are of one to two. The colours of the flag are in the following order: white, blue and red. Each colour occupies one third of the width of the flag. The national coat-of-arms is located on the upper lefthand portion of the flag such that the top half of the shield covers the white stripe while the lower half covers the blue stripe.



Geometric and artistic code for designing the Slovenian national flag

The proportion between the width and the length of the flag is one to two. The width of the flag is one-half of the length; the length is double the width of the flag.

The colours of the flag are in the following order: white, blue and red. Each colour occupies one-third of the width of the flag.

The coat-of-arms is located in the upper left-hand corner, with the central point of the coat-of-arms covering the point which is one-quarter of the length of the flag and the point where the white and blue colours meet. The top half of the coat-of-arms, where the stars are, is on the white stripe, and the lower half on the blue stripe. The height of the coat-of-arms is one-third of the flag.

Colour code for designing the flag

CMYK

Blue C100 M60 Y0 K10

Red C0 M100 Y100 K0

Yellow C0 M10 Y100 K0

White C0 M0 Y0 K0

SCOTDIC CODE 777 - INTERNATIONAL COLOUR CODIFICATION SYSTEM (2034)

Blue N46 N722509

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White N1 N95

The Anthem

The national anthem is the seventh stanza of the France Prešeren poem **Zdravljica (A Toast)** set to the tune by Stanko Premrl's choral composition of the same name.

History of the anthem

France Prešeren (1800-1849) is Slovenia's greatest and most celebrated poet. The national awards for culture bear his name, and are awarded on the **National Day of Culture** (8th February), an official holiday.

A widely renowned figure of European Romanticism, Prešeren established through his prodigious work a focus for Slovenia's first national programme.

Zdravljica represents the peak of Prešeren's political poetry. It was written in autumn 1844, removed from the manuscript of the collection of poems *Poezije* (1847) by the censors, and published on 26th April 1848 in the newspaper *Novice* after the collapse of Metternich's absolutism and the termination of censorship. Its dominant idea, a radical demand for freedom of the Slovenian nation, arises from the humanistic vision of equality and friendly coexistence of all nations, and all people's right to independence. It originates from the concepts of the French Revolution of equality, freedom and brotherhood, which were adjusted to the basic political needs of the Slovenian people at the time of the 'Spring of Nations' and concerned their independence. However, Prešeren's "Marseillaise" reaches beyond the nature of a political manifesto and bears a strong note of intimate humanity.

In the history of constituting the Slovenian nation Prešeren's *Zdravljica* was of extreme conceptual significance. It became particularly topical during the occupation and National Liberation Struggle from 1941 to 1945, and in the period of what was called the 'Slovenian Spring' in the eighties when it started to be sung as the national anthem on state holidays and major public events.

Zdravljica was proclaimed the new Slovenian anthem on 27th September 1989 when the Slovenian Assembly adopted the Amendments to the Slovenian Constitution. The Law on the National Anthem of the Republic of Slovenia adopted on 29th March 1990 specified the seventh stanza set to the music of Stanko Premrl as the actual anthem.

Following the independence of Slovenia, the National Assembly adopted (in 1994) the law governing the official crest, the national flag and the anthem of the Republic of Slovenia.

Source: Summarised from Enciklopedija Slovenije, Vol. 9.

The Slovene national anthem in English, Slovene, Hungarian, Italian, German, French and Spanish

National Anthem - France Prešeren: A Toast (English)

The vintage, friends, is over,
And here sweet wine makes, once again,
Sad eyes and hearts recover,
Puts fire into every vein.
Drowns dull care
Everywhere
And summons hope out of despair.

To whom with acclamation
And song shall we our first toast give?
God save our land and nation
And all Slovenes where'er they live,
Who own the same
Blood and name,
And who one glorious Mother claim.

Let thunder out of heaven
Strike down and smite our wanton foe!
Now, as it once had thriven,
May our dear realm in freedom grow.
May fall the last
Chains of the past
Which bind us still and hold us fast!

Let peace, glad conciliation,
Come back to us throughout the land!
Towards their destination
Let Slavs henceforth go hand-in-hand!
Thus again
Will honour reign
To justice pledged in our domain.

To you, our pride past measure,
Our girls! Your beauty, charm and grace!
There surely is no treasure
To equal maidens of such race.
Sons you'll bear,
Who will dare
Defy our foe no matter where.

Our hope now, our to-morrow -
The youths - we toast and toast with joy.
No poisonous blight or sorrow
Your love of homeland shall destroy.
With us indeed
You're called to heed
Its summons in this hour of need.

**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.**

At last to our reunion -
To us the toast! Let it resound,
Since in this gay communion
By thoughts of brotherhood we're bound
May joyful cheer
Ne'er disappear
From all good hearts now gathered here.

Translated by Janko Lavrin

Himna - France Prešeren: Zdravljica (Slovene)

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

Himnusz - France Prešeren: Pohárköszöntő (Hungarian)

Éljenek mind a népek,
kik várják a nagy napot,
mely a földkerekségnek
hoz békésebb virradatot?
Mennyi rab
lesz szabad
és jó szomszéd a nap alatt!

Fordította: Tandori Dezső

L'inno nazionale - France Prešeren: Il Brindisi (Italian)

Evviva tutti i popoli
Che il giorno anelano veder,
Che ovunque splende il sole,
All'odio e liti ponga fin;
Che in liberta
Ognun vivra
E amico con il suo vicini!

Traduzione di Francesco Husu

National Hymne - France Prešeren: Das Trinklied (German)

Es leben alle Völker,
die sehnend warten auf den Tag,
daß unter dieser Sonne
die Welt dem alten Streit entsag!
Frei sei dann
jedermann,
nicht Feind, nur Nachbar mehr fortan!

Übersetzung Klaus Detlef Olof

L'hymne - France Prešeren: Le Toast (French)

Vivent tous les peuples du monde
Qui aspirent à voir le jour
Ou le soleil dansant sa ronde
N'éclairera que de l'amour,
Ou tout citoyen
Sera libre enfin,
En paix avec tous ses voisins!

Traduction Viktor Jesenik

El himno - France Prešeren: Brindis (Spanish)

Vivan todos los pueblos
que ver el día anhelan,
brille do brillare el sol,
que ponga fin a las querras,
sean libres
los hombres,
con el prójimo apacibles.

Traducción Juan Antonio Prenz