[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country)

**Slovenia** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en)[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell); [Template:Lang-sl](/wiki/Template:Lang-sl) [Template:IPA-sl](/wiki/Template:IPA-sl)),[[3]](#cite_note-3) officially the **Republic of Slovenia** (Slovene: [Template:Audio](/wiki/Template:Audio),[[4]](#cite_note-4) [abbr.](/wiki/Abbreviation): *RS*),[[5]](#cite_note-5) is a [nation state](/wiki/Nation_state) in southern [Central Europe](/wiki/Central_Europe),[[6]](#cite_note-6)[Template:#tag:ref](/wiki/Template:#tag:ref) located at the crossroads of main European cultural and trade routes.[[7]](#cite_note-7)[[8]](#cite_note-8) It is bordered by [Italy](/wiki/Italy) to the west, [Austria](/wiki/Austria) to the north, [Hungary](/wiki/Hungary) to the northeast, [Croatia](/wiki/Croatia) to the south and southeast, and the [Adriatic Sea](/wiki/Adriatic_Sea) to the southwest.[[9]](#cite_note-9) It covers [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and has a population of 2.06 million.[[10]](#cite_note-10) It is a [parliamentary republic](/wiki/Parliamentary_republic)[[11]](#cite_note-11) and a member of the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations), [European Union](/wiki/European_Union), and [NATO](/wiki/NATO).[[12]](#cite_note-12) The capital and largest city is [Ljubljana](/wiki/Ljubljana).[[13]](#cite_note-13) The territory is mostly mountainous[[14]](#cite_note-14) with a mainly [continental climate](/wiki/Continental_climate),[[15]](#cite_note-15) with the exception of the [Slovene Littoral](/wiki/Slovene_Littoral) that has a sub-[Mediterranean climate](/wiki/Mediterranean_climate) and the north-western area that has an [Alpine climate](/wiki/Alpine_climate).[[16]](#cite_note-16) Additionally, the [Dinaric Alps](/wiki/Dinaric_Alps) and the [Pannonian Plain](/wiki/Pannonian_Plain) meet on the territory of Slovenia. The country, marked by a significant [biological](/wiki/Biodiversity) diversity,[[17]](#cite_note-17)[[18]](#cite_note-18) is one of the most water-rich in Europe,[[19]](#cite_note-19) with a dense river network, a rich [aquifer](/wiki/Aquifer) system, and significant [karst](/wiki/Karst) underground watercourses.[[20]](#cite_note-20) Over half of the territory is covered by forest.[[21]](#cite_note-21) The human settlement of Slovenia is dispersed and uneven.[[22]](#cite_note-22) The [Slavic](/wiki/Slavic_languages), [Germanic](/wiki/Germanic_languages), [Romance](/wiki/Romance_languages), and [Hungarian](/wiki/Hungarian_language) languages meet here.[[23]](#cite_note-23)[[24]](#cite_note-24)[[25]](#cite_note-25) Although the population is not homogeneous, the majority is [Slovene](/wiki/Slovenes).[[26]](#cite_note-26) [Slovene](/wiki/Slovene_language) is the official language throughout the country. Slovenia is a largely [secularized](/wiki/Secularization) country,[[27]](#cite_note-27) but its culture and identity have been significantly influenced by [Catholicism](/wiki/Catholic_Church) as well as [Lutheranism](/wiki/Lutheranism).[[28]](#cite_note-28) The [economy of Slovenia](/wiki/Economy_of_Slovenia) is small, open, and [export-oriented](/wiki/Export-oriented_industrialization)[[29]](#cite_note-29) and has been strongly influenced by international conditions.[[30]](#cite_note-30) It has been severely hurt by the [Eurozone crisis](/wiki/Eurozone_crisis), started in the late 2000s.[[31]](#cite_note-31) The main economic field is [services](/wiki/Service_sector), followed by industry and construction.[[32]](#cite_note-32) Historically, the current territory of Slovenia was part of many different state formations, including the [Roman Empire](/wiki/Roman_Empire) and the [Holy Roman Empire](/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire), followed by the [Habsburg Monarchy](/wiki/Habsburg_Monarchy). In October 1918, the Slovenes exercised self-determination for the first time by co-founding the [internationally unrecognized](/wiki/List_of_states_with_limited_recognition) [State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs](/wiki/State_of_Slovenes,_Croats_and_Serbs). The Slovenians mostly wanted to be with Germany and Austria, but merged that December with the [Kingdom of Serbia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Serbia) into the [Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Serbs,_Croats_and_Slovenes) (renamed [Kingdom of Yugoslavia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Yugoslavia) in 1929). During [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), Slovenia was occupied and annexed by [Germany](/wiki/Nazi_Germany), [Italy](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Italy), and [Hungary](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Hungary_(1920–46)), with a tiny area transferred to the [Independent State of Croatia](/wiki/Independent_State_of_Croatia), a Nazi puppet state.[[33]](#cite_note-33) Afterward, it was a founding member of the [Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia](/wiki/Federal_People's_Republic_of_Yugoslavia), later renamed the [Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia](/wiki/Socialist_Federal_Republic_of_Yugoslavia), a communist state which was the only country in the Eastern Bloc never a part of the [Warsaw Pact](/wiki/Warsaw_Pact). In June 1991, after the introduction of [multi-party](/wiki/Multi-party_system) [representative democracy](/wiki/Representative_democracy), Slovenia split from Yugoslavia and became an independent country.[[34]](#cite_note-34) In 2004, it entered NATO and the European Union; in 2007 became the first [former Communist](/wiki/Postcommunism) country to join the [Eurozone](/wiki/Eurozone);[[35]](#cite_note-35) and in 2010 joined the [OECD](/wiki/Organisation_for_Economic_Co-operation_and_Development), a global association of high-income developed countries.[[36]](#cite_note-36)

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## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|100px|A](/wiki/File:Flûte_paléolithique_(musée_national_de_Slovénie,_Ljubljana)_(9420310527).jpg) [pierced cave bear bone](/wiki/Divje_Babe_flute), possibly [flute](/wiki/Flute), from [Divje Babe](/wiki/Divje_Babe)

### Prehistory to Slavic settlement[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

#### History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

Present-day Slovenia has been inhabited since [prehistoric](/wiki/Prehistoric) times, and there is evidence of human habitation from around 250,000 years ago.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) A [pierced cave bear bone](/wiki/Divje_Babe_flute), dating from 43100 ± 700 [BP](/wiki/Before_present), found in 1995 in Divje Babe cave near [Cerkno](/wiki/Cerkno), is possibly the oldest musical instrument discovered in the world.[[37]](#cite_note-37) In the 1920s and 1930s, artifacts belonging to the [Cro-Magnon](/wiki/Cro-Magnon) such as pierced bones, bone points, and needle were found by archaeologist [Srečko Brodar](/wiki/Srečko_Brodar) in [Potok Cave](/wiki/Potok_Cave).[[38]](#cite_note-38)[[39]](#cite_note-39) In 2002, [remains of pile dwellings](/wiki/Prehistoric_pile_dwellings_around_the_Alps) over 4,500 years old were discovered in the [Ljubljana Marshes](/wiki/Ljubljana_Marshes), now protected as a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](/wiki/UNESCO_World_Heritage_Site), along with the [Ljubljana Marshes Wooden Wheel](/wiki/Ljubljana_Marshes_Wooden_Wheel), the oldest wooden [wheel](/wiki/Wheel) in the world.[[40]](#cite_note-40) It shows that wooden wheels appeared almost simultaneously in Mesopotamia and Europe.[[41]](#cite_note-41) In the transition period between the [Bronze age](/wiki/Bronze_age) to the [Iron age](/wiki/Iron_age), the [Urnfield](/wiki/Urnfield) culture flourished. Archaeological remains dating from the [Hallstatt period](/wiki/Hallstatt_period) have been found, particularly in southeastern Slovenia, among them a number of [situlas](/wiki/Situla_(vessel)) in [Novo Mesto](/wiki/Novo_Mesto), the "Town of Situlas".[[42]](#cite_note-42) In the [Iron Age](/wiki/Iron_Age), present-day Slovenia was inhabited by [Illyrian](/wiki/Illyrians) and [Celtic](/wiki/Celts) tribes until the 1st century BC.

#### Ancient Romans[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|150px|Roman](/wiki/File:Emona_v_Ljubljani_(6).jpg) [Emona's](/wiki/Emona) south wall (reconstruction) in present-day Ljubljana When the Ancient [Romans](/wiki/Ancient_Rome) conquered the area, they established the provinces of [Pannonia](/wiki/Pannonia), and [Noricum](/wiki/Noricum) and present-day western Slovenia was included directly under [Roman Italia](/wiki/Italia_(Roman_Empire)) as part of the X region *Venetia et Histria*. The Romans established posts at [Emona](/wiki/Emona) (Ljubljana), [Poetovio](/wiki/Poetovio) (Ptuj), and [Celeia](/wiki/Celeia) (Celje); and constructed trade and military roads that ran across Slovene territory from Italy to Pannonia. In the 5th and 6th centuries, the area was subject to invasions by the [Huns](/wiki/Huns) and Germanic tribes during their incursions into [Italy](/wiki/Italy). A part of the inner state was protected with a defensive line of towers and walls called [*Claustra Alpium Iuliarum*](/wiki/Claustra_Alpium_Iuliarum). [A crucial battle](/wiki/Battle_of_the_Frigidus) between [Theodosius I](/wiki/Theodosius_I) and [Eugenius](/wiki/Eugenius) took place in the [Vipava Valley](/wiki/Vipava_Valley) in 394.

#### Slavic settlement[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

The [Slavic](/wiki/Slavic_peoples) tribes migrated to the Alpine area after the westward departure of the [Lombards](/wiki/Lombards) (the last Germanic tribe) in 568, and under pressure from [Avars](/wiki/Pannonian_Avars) established a [Slavic settlement in the Eastern Alps](/wiki/Slavic_settlement_of_the_Eastern_Alps). From 623 to 624 or possibly 626 onwards, [King Samo](/wiki/Samo) united the Alpine and Western Slavs against the Avars and Germans and established what is referred to as Samo's Kingdom. After its disintegration following Samo's death in 658 or 659, the ancestors of [Slovenes](/wiki/Slovenes) located in present-day [Carinthia](/wiki/Carinthia_(state)) formed the independent [duchy of Carantania](/wiki/Carantania).[[43]](#cite_note-43) Other parts of present-day Slovenia were again ruled by Avars before [Charlemagne's](/wiki/Charlemagne) victory over them in 803. [thumb|150px|](/wiki/File:Landhaus_Wappensaal_Fuerstenstein_01.jpg)[Prince's Stone](/wiki/Prince's_Stone), symbol of [duchy of Carantania](/wiki/Carantania)

### The Middle Ages to the early modern period[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|left|200px|A depiction of an ancient democratic ritual of Slovene-speaking tribes, which took place on the](/wiki/File:Kaernten_herzogeinsetzung.jpg) [Prince's Stone](/wiki/Prince's_Stone) in [Slovene language](/wiki/Slovene_language) until 1414. In the mid-8th century, Carantania became a vassal duchy under the rule of the [Bavarians](/wiki/Bavaria), who began [spreading Christianity](/wiki/Christianization). Three decades later, the [Carantanians](/wiki/Carantanians) were incorporated, together with the Bavarians, into the [Carolingian Empire](/wiki/Carolingian_Empire). During the same period [Carniola](/wiki/Carniola), too, came under the Franks, and was Christianised from [Aquileia](/wiki/Aquileia). Following the anti-Frankish rebellion of [Liudewit](/wiki/Liudewit) at the beginning of the 9th century, the [Franks](/wiki/Franks) removed the Carantanian princes, replacing them with their own border dukes. Consequently, the Frankish [feudal system](/wiki/Feudal_system) reached the Slovene territory.

After the victory of Emperor [Otto I](/wiki/Otto_I) over the [Magyars](/wiki/Magyars) in 955, Slovene territory was divided into a number of border regions of the [Holy Roman Empire](/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire). Carantania, being the most important, was elevated into the [Duchy of Carinthia](/wiki/Duchy_of_Carinthia) in 976.

By the 11th century, the Germanization of what is now [Lower Austria](/wiki/Lower_Austria), effectively isolated the Slovene-inhabited territory from the [western Slavs](/wiki/Western_Slavs), speeding up the development of the [Slavs of Carantania](/wiki/Carantanians) and of [Carniola](/wiki/Carniola) into an independent Slovene ethnic group. By the late Middle Ages, the historic provinces of Carniola, [Styria](/wiki/Styria_(duchy)), [Carinthia](/wiki/Carinthia_(duchy)), [Gorizia](/wiki/County_of_Gorizia), [Trieste](/wiki/Trieste), and [Istria](/wiki/Istria) developed from the border regions and were incorporated into the medieval German state. The consolidation and formation of these historical lands took place in a long period between the 11th and 14th centuries, and were led by a number of important feudal families, such as the [Dukes of Spannheim](/wiki/Bernhard_von_Spanheim), the [Counts of Gorizia](/wiki/Meinhardiner), the [Counts of Celje](/wiki/Counts_of_Celje), and, finally, the [House of Habsburg](/wiki/House_of_Habsburg). In a parallel process, an intensive German colonisation significantly diminished the extent of Slovene-speaking areas. By the 15th century, the [Slovene ethnic territory](/wiki/Slovene_Lands) was reduced to its present size.[[44]](#cite_note-44) In the 14th century, most of the territory of present-day Slovenia was taken over by the [Habsburgs](/wiki/Habsburgs), the Hungarian clan [Záh](/wiki/Záh_(gens)) administering the territories connecting Slovenia with [Slovakia](/wiki/Slovakia) and [Moravia](/wiki/Moravia) was exterminated in 1330 and Slovenes permanently lost the connection with their [Slovak](/wiki/Slovakia) kinsmen. The counts of Celje, a feudal family from this area who in 1436 acquired the title of state princes, were [Habsburgs'](/wiki/Habsburgs) powerful competitors for some time. This large dynasty, important at a European political level, had its seat in Slovene territory but died out in 1456. Its numerous large estates subsequently became the property of the Habsburgs, who retained control of the area right up until the beginning of the 20th century. [Patria del Friuli](/wiki/Patria_del_Friuli) ruled present western Slovenia until [Venetian](/wiki/Republic_of_Venice) takeover in 1420.

[thumb|200px|The Ottoman army battling the](/wiki/File:Boj_s_Turki-Valvasor.jpg) [Habsburgs](/wiki/Ottoman–Habsburg_wars) in present-day Slovenia during the [Great Turkish War](/wiki/Great_Turkish_War). At the end of the Middle Ages, the Slovene Lands suffered a serious economic and demographic setback because of the [Turkish raids](/wiki/Ottoman–Habsburg_wars). In 1515, a [peasant revolt](/wiki/Slovenian_peasant_revolt_of_1515) spread across nearly the whole Slovene territory. In 1572 and 1573 the [Croatian-Slovenian peasant revolt](/wiki/Croatian-Slovenian_peasant_revolt) wrought havoc throughout the wider region. Such uprisings, which often met with bloody defeats, continued throughout the 17th century.[[44]](#cite_note-44)

### Between the 18th century and the end of World War I[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

Republic of Venice was dissolved in by France and Venetian Slovenia was passed to Austrian Empire in 1797. The [Slovene Lands](/wiki/Slovene_Lands) were part of the [Illyrian provinces](/wiki/Illyrian_provinces), the [Austrian Empire](/wiki/Austrian_Empire) and [Austria-Hungary](/wiki/Austria-Hungary). Slovenes inhabited most of [Carniola](/wiki/Carniola), the southern part of the duchies of [Carinthia](/wiki/Duchy_of_Carinthia) and [Styria](/wiki/Duchy_of_Styria), the northern and eastern areas of the [Austrian Littoral](/wiki/Austrian_Littoral), as well as [Prekmurje](/wiki/Prekmurje) in the [Kingdom of Hungary](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Hungary_(Austria-Hungary)).[[45]](#cite_note-45)Industrialization was accompanied by construction of railroads to link cities and markets, but the urbanization was limited.

Due to limited opportunities, between 1880-1910 there was extensive emigration, and around 300,000 Slovenes (i.e. 1 in 6) emigrated to other countries,[[46]](#cite_note-46) mostly to the US, but also to [South America](/wiki/South_America) (main part to Argentina), Germany, [Egypt](/wiki/Egypt), and to larger cities in Austria-Hungary, especially [Zagreb](/wiki/Zagreb) and [Vienna](/wiki/Vienna). The locations in the United States where many Slovenians settled were areas with substantial industrial and mining activities: Pittsburgh, Chicago, Pueblo, Butte, and the Salt Lake Valley. The men were important as workers in the mining industry, because of some of the skills they brought from Slovenia. The area of the United States with the highest concentration of Slovenian immigrants is [Cleveland](/wiki/Cleveland), Ohio. Despite this, the Slovene population increased significantly.[[46]](#cite_note-46) Literacy was exceptionally high, at 80-90%.[[46]](#cite_note-46) The 19th century also saw a revival of culture in the [Slovene language](/wiki/Slovene_language), accompanied by a [Romantic nationalist](/wiki/Romantic_nationalism) quest for cultural and political autonomy. The idea of a [United Slovenia](/wiki/United_Slovenia), first advanced during the [revolutions of 1848](/wiki/Revolutions_of_1848), became the common platform of most Slovenian parties and political movements in Austria-Hungary. During the same period, [Yugoslavism](/wiki/Yugoslavism), an ideology stressing the unity of all [South Slavic peoples](/wiki/South_Slavic_peoples), spread as a reaction to [Pan-German nationalism](/wiki/Pan-German_nationalism) and [Italian irredentism](/wiki/Italian_irredentism).

### World War I[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|200px|The](/wiki/File:Eingebaute_Mannschaftsunterstände_am_Monte_Sabotino.jpg) [Battles of the Isonzo](/wiki/Battles_of_the_Isonzo) took place mostly in rugged mountainous areas above the Soča River. [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I) brought heavy casualties for the Slovenes, particularly the twelve [Battles of the Isonzo](/wiki/Battles_of_the_Isonzo), which took place in present-day Slovenia's western border area. Hundreds of thousands of Slovene conscripts were drafted into the [Austro-Hungarian Army](/wiki/Austro-Hungarian_Army), and over 30,000 of them died. Hundreds of thousands of Slovenes from [Gorizia and Gradisca](/wiki/Gorizia_and_Gradisca) were resettled in [refugee camps](/wiki/Refugee_camps) in Italy and Austria. While the refugees in Austria received decent treatment, the Slovene refugees in Italian camps were treated as state enemies, and several thousand died of malnutrition and diseases between 1915 and 1918.[[47]](#cite_note-47) Entire areas of the Slovene Littoral were destroyed.

### Kingdom of Yugoslavia[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|200px|The proclamation of the](/wiki/File:KongressfallofAH.jpg) [State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs](/wiki/State_of_Slovenes,_Croats_and_Serbs) at [Congress Square](/wiki/Congress_Square) in [Ljubljana](/wiki/Ljubljana) on 20 October 1918. The [Slovene People's Party](/wiki/Slovene_People's_Party_(historical)) launched a movement for self-determination, demanding the creation of a semi-independent [South Slavic](/wiki/South_Slavic_peoples) state under [Habsburg](/wiki/Habsburg_dynasty) rule. The proposal was picked up by most Slovene parties, and a mass mobilization of Slovene civil society, known as the [Declaration Movement](/wiki/May_Declaration_(1917)), followed.[[48]](#cite_note-48) This demand was rejected by the Austrian political elites; but following the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the aftermath of the [First World War](/wiki/World_War_I), the [National Council of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs](/wiki/National_Council_of_Slovenes,_Croats_and_Serbs) took power in [Zagreb](/wiki/Zagreb) on 6 October 1918. On 29 October, independence was declared by a national gathering in Ljubljana, and by the Croatian parliament, declaring the establishment of the new [State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs](/wiki/State_of_Slovenes,_Croats_and_Serbs).

On 1 December 1918 the [State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs](/wiki/State_of_Slovenes,_Croats_and_Serbs) merged with [Serbia](/wiki/Serbia), becoming part of the new [Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Serbs,_Croats_and_Slovenes); in 1929 it was renamed the [Kingdom of Yugoslavia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Yugoslavia). The main territory of Slovenia, being the most industrialized and westernized compared to other less developed parts of Yugoslavia, became the main center of industrial production: Compared to Serbia, for example, Slovenian industrial production was four times greater; and it was 22 times greater than in [Macedonia](/wiki/Republic_of_Macedonia). The interwar period brought further industrialization in Slovenia, with rapid economic growth in the 1920s, followed by a relatively successful economic adjustment to the [1929 economic crisis](/wiki/1929_economic_crisis) and [Great Depression](/wiki/Great_Depression).

Following a [plebiscite](/wiki/Carinthian_Plebiscite) in October 1920, the Slovene-speaking southern [Carinthia](/wiki/Carinthia_(state)) was ceded to [Austria](/wiki/Austria). With the [Treaty of Trianon](/wiki/Treaty_of_Trianon), on the other hand, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was awarded the Slovene-inhabited [Prekmurje](/wiki/Prekmurje) region, formerly part of [Austro-Hungary](/wiki/Austro-Hungary).

Slovenes living in territories that fell under the rule of the neighboring states: Italy, Austria and Hungary, were subjected to [assimilation](/wiki/Cultural_assimilation).

#### Fascist Italianization of the Slovene Littoral and resistance[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|350px|right|The map showing the present territory of Slovenia, with traditional regional boundaries; the Slovene-speaking areas annexed by Italy after WWI are shown in stripes](/wiki/File:Treaty_of_Rapallo.png)

The [Treaty of Rapallo](/wiki/Treaty_of_Rapallo,_1920) of 1920 left approximately 327,000 out of the total population of 1.3 million Slovenes in Italy.[[49]](#cite_note-49)[[50]](#cite_note-50) After the [fascists took over the power](/wiki/March_on_Rome) in Italy, they were subjected to a policy of violent [Fascist Italianization](/wiki/Fascist_Italianization). This caused a mass emigration of Slovenes, especially the middle class, from the [Slovenian Littoral](/wiki/Slovenian_Littoral) and [Trieste](/wiki/Trieste) to [Yugoslavia](/wiki/Yugoslavia) and [South America](/wiki/South_America). Those who remained organized several connected networks of both passive and armed resistance. The most famous was the [militant anti-fascist](/wiki/Militant_anti-fascist) organization [TIGR](/wiki/TIGR), formed in 1927 in order to fight Fascist oppression of the Slovene and Croat populations in the [Julian March](/wiki/Julian_March).[[51]](#cite_note-51)[[52]](#cite_note-52)

### Slovenia during and after World War II[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv_Bild_121-0721,_Marburg-Drau,_Adolf_Hitler.jpg)[Adolf Hitler](/wiki/Adolf_Hitler) and [Martin Bormann](/wiki/Martin_Bormann) visiting [Maribor](/wiki/Maribor) in April 1941, launching the Nazi anti-Slovene policies.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

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| During WWII, [Nazi Germany](/wiki/Nazi_Germany) and [Hungary](/wiki/Hungary) annexed northern areas (brown and dark green areas, respectively), while Fascist [Italy](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Italy) annexed the vertically hashed black area (solid black western part being annexed by Italy already with the [Treaty of Rapallo](/wiki/Treaty_of_Rapallo_(1920))). Some villages were incorporated into the [Independent State of Croatia](/wiki/Independent_State_of_Croatia). After 1943, Germany took over the Italian occupational area, as well. |

Slovenia was the only present-day European nation that was trisected and completely annexed into both [Nazi](/wiki/Nazi) Germany and Fascist [Italy](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Italy) during WW II.[[53]](#cite_note-53) In addition, the [Prekmurje](/wiki/Prekmurje) region in the east was annexed to Hungary, and some villages in the [Lower Sava Valley](/wiki/Lower_Sava_Valley) were incorporated in the newly created Nazi puppet [Independent State of Croatia](/wiki/Independent_State_of_Croatia).

Axis forces [invaded Yugoslavia](/wiki/Invasion_of_Yugoslavia) in April 1941 and defeated the country in a few weeks. The southern part, including Ljubljana, was annexed to Italy, while the Nazis took over the northern and eastern parts of the country. The Nazis had a plan of [ethnic cleansing](/wiki/Ethnic_cleansing) of these areas,[[54]](#cite_note-54) and they resettled or expelled the local Slovene civilian population to the puppet states of [Nedić's Serbia](/wiki/Nedić's_Serbia) (7,500) and [NDH](/wiki/NDH) (10,000). In addition, some 46,000 Slovenes were expelled to Germany, including children who were separated from their parents and allocated to German families.[[55]](#cite_note-55)[[56]](#cite_note-56) At the same time, the ethnic Germans in the [Gottschee](/wiki/Gottschee) enclave in the Italian annexation zone were resettled to the Nazi-controlled areas cleansed of their Slovene population.[[57]](#cite_note-57)Around 30,000 to 40,000 Slovene men were drafted to the [German Army](/wiki/Wehrmacht) and sent to Eastern front. The Slovene language was banned from education, and its use in the public life was limited to the absolute minimum.[[53]](#cite_note-53) [thumbnail|left|Partisans fighting for Trieste and Primorje region, 1945](/wiki/File:Boji_za_Trst_in_Slovensko_primorje.jpg) In south-central Slovenia, annexed by Fascist Italy and renamed to [Province of Ljubljana](/wiki/Province_of_Ljubljana), the [Slovenian National Liberation Front](/wiki/Liberation_Front_of_the_Slovene_Nation) was organized in April 1941. Led by the Communist Party, it formed the [Slovene Partisan](/wiki/Slovene_Partisans) units as part of the [Yugoslav Partisans](/wiki/Yugoslav_Partisans) led by the Communist leader [Josip Broz Tito](/wiki/Josip_Broz_Tito).[[58]](#cite_note-58)[[59]](#cite_note-59) After the resistance started in summer 1941, Italian violence against the Slovene civilian population escalated, as well. The Italian authorities deported some 25,000 people to the [concentration camps](/wiki/Italian_concentration_camps), which equaled 7.5% of the population of their occupation zone. The most infamous ones were [Rab](/wiki/Rab_concentration_camp) and [Gonars](/wiki/Gonars_concentration_camp). To counter the Communist-led insurgence, the Italians sponsored local anti-guerrilla units, formed mostly by the local conservative Catholic Slovene population that resented the revolutionary violence of the partisans. After the [Italian armistice](/wiki/Italian_armistice) of September 1943, the Germans took over both the Province of Ljubljana and the Slovenian Littoral, incorporating them into what was known as the [Operation Zone of Adriatic Coastal Region](/wiki/Operation_Zone_of_Adriatic_Coastal_Region). They united the Slovene anti-Communist counter-insurgence into the [Slovene Home Guard](/wiki/Slovene_Home_Guard) and appointed a puppet regime in the Province of Ljubljana. The anti-Nazi resistance however expanded, creating its own administrative structures as the basis for Slovene statehood within a new, federal and socialist Yugoslavia.<ref name=Tomasevich\_2001>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>[[60]](#cite_note-60) In 1945, Yugoslavia was liberated by the partisan resistance and soon became a socialist federation known as the [People's Federal Republic of Yugoslavia](/wiki/People's_Federal_Republic_of_Yugoslavia). Slovenia joined the federation as a constituent republic, led by its own pro-Communist leadership.

Approximately 8% of the entire Slovene population died during WWII. The small Jewish community, mostly settled in the [Prekmurje](/wiki/Prekmurje) region, perished in 1944 in the [holocaust of Hungarian Jews](/wiki/Holocaust_in_Hungary). The German speaking minority, amounting to 2.5% of the Slovenian population prior to WWII, was either expelled or killed in the aftermath of the war. Hundreds of [Istrian Italians](/wiki/Istrian_Italians) and Slovenes that opposed communism were killed in the [foibe massacres](/wiki/Foibe_killings), and more than 25,000 fled or were expelled from [Slovenian Istria](/wiki/Slovenian_Istria) in the aftermath of the war.[[61]](#cite_note-61)

### The socialist period[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[200px|thumb|left|Location of Slovenia within Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia](/wiki/File:Locator_map_Slovenia_in_Yugoslavia.svg) [200px|thumb|right|President of Yugoslavia](/wiki/File:Predsednik_Jugoslavije_Tito_in_sovjetski_premier_Hruščov_v_Kopru_1963.jpg) [Josip Broz Tito](/wiki/Josip_Broz_Tito) and President of USSR [Nikita Khrushchev](/wiki/Nikita_Khrushchev) , Koper 1963 Following the re-establishment of Yugoslavia during World War II, Slovenia became part of [Federal Yugoslavia](/wiki/Socialist_Federal_Republic_of_Yugoslavia). A [socialist state](/wiki/Socialist_state) was established, but because of the [Tito–Stalin split](/wiki/Tito–Stalin_split) in 1948, economic and personal freedoms were broader than in the rest of the [Eastern Bloc](/wiki/Eastern_Bloc). In 1947, the [Slovene Littoral](/wiki/Slovene_Littoral) and the western half of [Inner Carniola](/wiki/Inner_Carniola), which had been annexed by [Italy](/wiki/Italy) after the World War One, were annexed to Slovenia.

After the failure of [forced collectivisation](/wiki/Collective_farming) that was attempted from 1949–53, a policy of gradual economic liberalisation, known as [workers self-management](/wiki/Workers'_self-management), was introduced under the advice and supervision of the Slovene Marxist theoretician and Communist leader [Edvard Kardelj](/wiki/Edvard_Kardelj), the main ideologue of the [Titoist](/wiki/Titoism) path to socialism. Suspected opponents of this policy both from within and outside the Communist party were persecuted and thousands were sent to the [Goli otok](/wiki/Goli_otok) [gulag](/wiki/Gulag).

The late 1950s saw a policy of liberalisation in the cultural sphere, as well, and border crossing into neighboring Italy and Austria was allowed again, under limited restriction. Until the 1980s, the [Slovenia](/wiki/Socialist_Republic_of_Slovenia) enjoyed relatively broad autonomy within the federation. In 1956, [Josip Broz Tito](/wiki/Josip_Broz_Tito), together with other leaders, founded the [Non-Aligned Movement](/wiki/Non-Aligned_Movement). Particularly in the 1950s, Slovenia's economy developed rapidly and was strongly industrialised. With further economic decentralisation of Yugoslavia in 1965-66, Slovenia's domestic product was 2.5 times the average of Yugoslav republics.

Opposition to the regime was mostly limited to intellectual and literary circles, and became especially vocal after Tito's death in 1980, when the economic and political situation in Yugoslavia became very strained.[[44]](#cite_note-44) Political disputes around economic measures were echoed in the public sentiment, as many Slovenians felt they were being economically exploited, having to sustain an expensive and inefficient federal administration.

### Slovenian Spring, democracy and independence[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

In 1987 a group of intellectuals demanded Slovene independence in the [57th edition](/wiki/Contributions_for_the_Slovenian_National_Program) of the magazine [*Nova revija*](/wiki/Nova_revija_(magazine)). Demands for democratisation and more Slovenian independence were sparked off. A mass democratic movement, coordinated by the [Committee for the Defense of Human Rights](/wiki/Committee_for_the_Defense_of_Human_Rights), pushed the Communists in the direction of democratic reforms.

In September 1989, numerous [constitutional amendments](/wiki/Constitutional_amendment) were passed to introduce [parliamentary democracy](/wiki/Parliamentary_democracy) to Slovenia.[[62]](#cite_note-62)[[63]](#cite_note-63) The same year [Action North](/wiki/Rally_of_Truth) united both the opposition and democratized communist establishment in Slovenia as the first defense action against attacks by [Slobodan Milošević's](/wiki/Slobodan_Milošević) supporters, leading to Slovenian independence.[[64]](#cite_note-64)[[65]](#cite_note-65)[Template:Request quotation](/wiki/Template:Request_quotation) On 7 March 1990, the Slovenian Assembly changed the official name of the state to the "Republic of Slovenia".[[66]](#cite_note-66)[[67]](#cite_note-67) In April 1990, the first democratic election in Slovenia took place, and the united opposition movement [DEMOS](/wiki/Democratic_Opposition_of_Slovenia) led by [Jože Pučnik](/wiki/Jože_Pučnik) emerged victorious. [thumb|left|Slovenian forces attacking a Yugoslav army tank during the](/wiki/File:Teritorialci_so_z_armbrustom_zadeli_tank_v_križišču_pred_MMP_Rožna_Dolina..jpg) [Ten-Day War](/wiki/Ten-Day_War), 1991. The initial revolutionary events in Slovenia pre-dated by almost one year the [Revolutions of 1989](/wiki/Revolutions_of_1989) in Eastern Europe, but went largely unnoticed by international observers. On 23 December 1990, more than 88% of the electorate voted for a sovereign and independent Slovenia.[[68]](#cite_note-68)[[69]](#cite_note-69) On 25 June 1991, Slovenia became independent[[34]](#cite_note-34) through the passage of appropriate legal documents.[[70]](#cite_note-70) On 27 June in the early morning, the [Yugoslav People's Army](/wiki/Yugoslav_People's_Army) dispatched its forces to prevent further measures for the establishment of a new country, which led to the [Ten-Day War](/wiki/Ten-Day_War).[[71]](#cite_note-71)[[72]](#cite_note-72) On 7 July, the [Brijuni Agreement](/wiki/Brijuni_Agreement) was signed, implementing a truce and a three-month halt of the enforcement of Slovenia's independence.[[73]](#cite_note-73) In the end of the month, the last soldiers of the Yugoslav Army left Slovenia.

In December 1991, a new [constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Slovenia) was adopted,[[70]](#cite_note-70) followed in 1992 by the laws on [denationalisation and privatization](/wiki/Privatization).[[74]](#cite_note-74) The members of the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union) recognised Slovenia as an independent state on 15 January 1992, and the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations) accepted it as a member on 22 May 1992.[[75]](#cite_note-75)[thumb|Slovenia gained](/wiki/File:Tratado_de_Lisboa_13_12_2007_(081).jpg) [European Union](/wiki/European_Union) membership in 2004 Slovenia joined the European Union on 1 May 2004. Slovenia has one Commissioner in the [European Commission](/wiki/European_Commission), and seven Slovene parliamentarians were elected to the [European Parliament](/wiki/European_Parliament) at elections on 13 June 2004. In 2004 Slovenia also joined [NATO](/wiki/NATO). Slovenia subsequently succeeded in meeting the [Maastricht criteria](/wiki/Maastricht_criteria) and joined the [Eurozone](/wiki/Eurozone) (the first transition country to do so) on 1 January 2007. It was the first post-Communist country to hold the [Presidency of the Council of the European Union](/wiki/Presidency_of_the_Council_of_the_European_Union), for the first six months of 2008. On 21 July 2010, it became a member of the OECD.

The disillusionment with domestic socio-economic elites at municipal and national levels was expressed at the [2012–2013 Slovenian protests](/wiki/2012–2013_Slovenian_protests) on a wider scale than in the smaller [15 October 2011 protests](/wiki/15_October_2011_global_protests#Slovenia).[[76]](#cite_note-76) In relation to the leading politicians' response to allegations made by the official [Commission for the Prevention of Corruption of the Republic of Slovenia](/wiki/Commission_for_the_Prevention_of_Corruption_of_the_Republic_of_Slovenia), legal experts expressed the need for changes in the system that would limit political [arbitrariness](/wiki/Arbitrariness).[[77]](#cite_note-77)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|250px|A topographic map of Slovenia](/wiki/File:General_map_of_slovenia.svg)

Slovenia is situated in Central and Southeastern Europe touching the Alps and bordering the Mediterranean. It lies between latitudes [45°](/wiki/45th_parallel_north) and [47° N](/wiki/47th_parallel_north), and longitudes [13°](/wiki/13th_meridian_east) and [17° E](/wiki/17th_meridian_east). The [15th meridian east](/wiki/15th_meridian_east) almost corresponds to the middle line of the country in the direction west-east.[[78]](#cite_note-78) The [Geometrical Center of the Republic of Slovenia](/wiki/Geometric_Centre_of_the_Republic_of_Slovenia) is located at [coordinates](/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system) 46°07'11.8" N and 14°48'55.2" E.[[79]](#cite_note-79) It lies in [Slivna](/wiki/Slivna) in the Municipality of [Litija](/wiki/Litija).[[80]](#cite_note-80) Slovenia's highest peak is [Triglav](/wiki/Triglav) ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)); the country's average height [above sea level](/wiki/Above_mean_sea_level) is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).

Four major European geographic regions meet in Slovenia: the [Alps](/wiki/Alps), the [Dinarides](/wiki/Dinaric_Alps), the [Pannonian Plain](/wiki/Pannonian_Plain), and the [Mediterranean](/wiki/Mediterranean). Although on the shore of the [Adriatic Sea](/wiki/Adriatic_Sea) near the [Mediterranean Sea](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea), most of Slovenia is in the [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea) [drainage basin](/wiki/Drainage_basin). The Alps—including the Julian Alps, the Kamnik-Savinja Alps and the Karavanke chain, as well as the Pohorje massif—dominate Northern Slovenia along its long border with Austria. Slovenia's Adriatic coastline stretches approximately [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)[[81]](#cite_note-81) from Italy to Croatia.

The term "[Karst topography](/wiki/Karst_topography)" refers to that of southwestern Slovenia's [Karst Plateau](/wiki/Karst_Plateau), a limestone region of underground rivers, gorges, and caves, between Ljubljana and the Mediterranean. On the Pannonian plain to the East and Northeast, toward the Croatian and Hungarian borders, the landscape is essentially flat. However, the majority of Slovenian terrain is hilly or mountainous, with around 90% of the surface [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) or more [above sea level](/wiki/Above_mean_sea_level).

Over half of the country ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)) is covered by forests. This makes Slovenia the third most forested country in Europe, after [Finland](/wiki/Finland) and [Sweden](/wiki/Sweden). The areas are covered mostly by [beech](/wiki/Beech), [fir](/wiki/Fir)-beech and beech-[oak](/wiki/Oak) forests and have a relatively high production capacity.[[82]](#cite_note-82) Remnants of primeval forests are still to be found, the largest in the [Kočevje](/wiki/Kočevje) area. Grassland covers [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and fields and gardens ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)). There are [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of orchards and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of vineyards.

### Geology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[thumbnail|right|Solution runnels (also known as rillenkarren) are a](/wiki/File:Žlebiči.jpg) [karst](/wiki/En:Karst_topography) feature on the Karst Plateau, as in many other karst areas of the world. Slovenia is in a rather active seismic zone because of its position on the small [Adriatic Plate](/wiki/Adriatic_Plate), which is squeezed between the [Eurasian Plate](/wiki/Eurasian_Plate) to the north and the [African Plate](/wiki/African_Plate) to the south and rotates counter-clockwise.[[83]](#cite_note-83) Thus the country is at the junction of three important geotectonic units: the Alps to the north, the Dinaric Alps to the south and the Pannonian Basin to the east.[[83]](#cite_note-83) Scientists have been able to identify 60 destructive earthquakes in the past. Additionally, a network of seismic stations is active throughout the country.[[83]](#cite_note-83) Many parts of Slovenia have a carbonate ground, and an extensive subterranean system has developed.

### Natural regions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

The first regionalisations of Slovenia were made by geographers [Anton Melik](/wiki/Anton_Melik) (1935–1936) and [Svetozar Ilešič](/wiki/Svetozar_Ilešič) (1968). The newer regionalisation by [Ivan Gams](/wiki/Ivan_Gams) divided Slovenia in the following macroregions:[[84]](#cite_note-84)\* the [Alps](/wiki/Alps) (*Alpe*)

* the [subalpine landscapes](/wiki/Slovene_Prealps) (*predalpski svet*)
* the [Slovene Littoral](/wiki/Slovene_Littoral) or [Submediterranean](/wiki/Submediterranean) Slovenia (*Primorje* or *submediteranska Slovenija*)
* the [Dinaric](/wiki/Dinaric_Alps) [plateaus](/wiki/Plateaus) of the continental Slovenia (*dinarske planote celinske Slovenije*)
* [Subpannonian Slovenia](/wiki/Pannonian_Plain) (*subpanonska Slovenija*)

According to a newer natural geographic regionalisation, the country consists of four [macroregions](/wiki/Macroregion). These are the Alpine, the Mediterranean, the Dinaric, and the [Pannonian](/wiki/Pannonia) landscapes. Macroregions are defined according to major relief units (the Alps, the Pannonian plain, the Dinaric mountains) and climate types (submediterranean, temperate continental, mountain climate).[[85]](#cite_note-85) These are often quite interwoven.

Protected areas of Slovenia include national parks, regional parks, and nature parks, the largest of which is [Triglav National Park](/wiki/Triglav_National_Park). There are 286 [Natura 2000](/wiki/Natura_2000) designated protected areas, which comprise 36% of the country's land area, the largest percentage among European Union states.[[86]](#cite_note-86) Additionally, according to [Yale University's](/wiki/Yale_University) [Environmental Performance Index](/wiki/Environmental_Performance_Index), Slovenia is considered a "strong performer" in environmental protection efforts.[[87]](#cite_note-87) <gallery mode=packed> File:Strunjan bay (24209577441).jpg|Slovenian coast with [cliffs](/wiki/Cliff) File:Goriska Brda PA64.jpg|Submediterranean Slovenia: [vineyards](/wiki/Vineyard) in the [Gorizia Hills](/wiki/Gorizia_Hills) File:2015-5-Slivnica&Cerkniško jezero (9).JPG|[Dinaric](/wiki/Dinaric_Alps) Slovenia: [intermittent](/wiki/Intermittent_lake) [Lake Cerknica](/wiki/Lake_Cerknica) File:Julian Alps with Prisojnik and Razor.jpg|[Alpine](/wiki/Julian_Alps) landscape: View of Lake Jasna near [Kranjska Gora](/wiki/Kranjska_Gora) with Mounts [Prisojnik](/wiki/Prisojnik) and [Razor](/wiki/Razor_(mountain)) in back File:Cerkno - Labinje.jpg|Pre-Alpine landscape: the village of [Labinje](/wiki/Labinje) near [Cerkno](/wiki/Cerkno) File:Lendava.wi.jpg|Pannonian Slovenia: the town of [Lendava](/wiki/Lendava) in [Prekmurje](/wiki/Prekmurje) </gallery>

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[thumb|left|300px|Different types of clouds in the](/wiki/File:View_from_Mangart_MC.jpg) [Julian Alps](/wiki/Julian_Alps) (northwestern Slovenia), as seen from the top of [Mangart](/wiki/Mangart) in September 2007. [thumb|right|Climate types Slovenia 1970-2000 and climograms for selected settlements.](/wiki/File:Climate_types_Slovenia_1970-2000.JPG) Slovenia is located in temperate latitudes. The climate is also influenced by the variety of relief, and the influence of the Alps and the Adriatic Sea. In the Northeast, the [continental climate](/wiki/Continental_climate) type with greatest difference between winter and summer temperatures prevails. In the coastal region, there is sub-[Mediterranean climate](/wiki/Mediterranean_climate). The effect of the sea on the temperature rates is visible also up the [Soča](/wiki/Soča) valley, while a severe [Alpine climate](/wiki/Alpine_climate) is present in the high mountain regions. There is a strong interaction between these three climatic systems across most of the country.[[88]](#cite_note-88)[[89]](#cite_note-89) [Precipitation](/wiki/Precipitation_(meteorology)), often coming from [Bay of Genoa](/wiki/Bay_of_Genoa),[[90]](#cite_note-90) varies across the country as well, with over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in some Western regions and dropping down to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in [Prekmurje](/wiki/Prekmurje). Snow is quite frequent in winter and the record snow cover in Ljubljana was recorded in 1952 at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).

Compared to Western Europe, Slovenia is not very windy, because it lies in the slipstream of the Alps. The average wind speeds are lower than in the plains of the nearby countries. Due to the rugged terrain, local vertical winds with daily periods are present. Besides these, there are three winds of particular regional importance: the [bora](/wiki/Bora_(wind)), the [jugo](/wiki/Sirocco), and the [foehn](/wiki/Foehn_wind). The jugo and the bora are characteristic of the Littoral. Whereas jugo is humid and warm, bora is usually cold and gusty. The foehn is typical of the Alpine regions in the north of Slovenia. Generally present in Slovenia are the northeast wind, the southeast wind and the [north wind](/wiki/North_wind).[[91]](#cite_note-91)

### Waters[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[200px|thumbnail|left|The](/wiki/File:Triglav_National_Park_(7892861178).jpg) [Soča](/wiki/Soča) River is considered the most beautiful Slovenian river [200px|thumbnail|right|](/wiki/File:Lake_Bohinj.jpg)[Lake Bohinj](/wiki/Lake_Bohinj), largest Slovenian lake, one of the two springs of the [Sava](/wiki/Sava_(river)) River The territory of Slovenia mainly ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), i.e. 81%) belongs to the [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea) basin, and a smaller part ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), i.e. 19%) belongs to the [Adriatic Sea](/wiki/Adriatic_Sea) basin. These two parts are divided into smaller units in regard to their central rivers, the [Mura](/wiki/Mur_(river)) River basin, the [Drava](/wiki/Drava) River basin, the [Sava](/wiki/Sava) River basin with [Kolpa](/wiki/Kupa) River basin, and the basin of the Adriatic rivers.[[92]](#cite_note-92) In comparison with [developed countries](/wiki/Developed_countries), water quality in Slovenia is considered to be among the highest in Europe. One of the reasons is undoubtedly that most of the rivers rise on the mountainous territory of Slovenia. But this does not mean that Slovenia has no problems with surface water and groundwater quality, especially in areas with intensive farming.[[93]](#cite_note-93)

### Biodiversity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

Slovenia signed the Rio [Convention on Biological Diversity](/wiki/Convention_on_Biological_Diversity) on 13 June 1992 and became a party to the convention on 9 July 1996.[[94]](#cite_note-94) It subsequently produced a [National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan](/wiki/Biodiversity_action_plan), which was received by the convention on 30 May 2002.

[thumb|](/wiki/File:P_anguinus1.jpg)[Olm](/wiki/Olm) can be found in [Postojna cave](/wiki/Postojna_cave) and other caves in the country. Slovenia is distinguished by an exceptionally wide variety of habitats,[[95]](#cite_note-95) due to the contact of geological units and biogeographical regions, and due to human influences. Around 12.5% of the territory is protected with 35.5% in the [Natura 2000](/wiki/Natura_2000) ecological network.[[96]](#cite_note-96) Despite this, because of pollution and environmental degradation, diversity has been in decline.

Animals

The [biological diversity](/wiki/Biodiversity) of the country is high, with 1% of the world's organisms on 0.004% of the Earth's surface area.[[97]](#cite_note-97) There are 24,000 animal species, among them [marmots](/wiki/Marmot), [Alpine ibex](/wiki/Alpine_ibex), and [chamois](/wiki/Chamois). There are numerous [deer](/wiki/Deer), [roe deer](/wiki/Roe_deer), [boar](/wiki/Boar), and [hares](/wiki/Hare).[[98]](#cite_note-98) The [edible dormouse](/wiki/Edible_dormouse) is often found in the Slovenian beech forests. Trapping these animals is a long tradition and is a part of the Slovenian national identity.[[99]](#cite_note-99) Some important carnivores include the [Eurasian lynx](/wiki/Eurasian_lynx) (reintroduced to the [Kočevje](/wiki/Kočevje) area in 1973), European [wild cats](/wiki/Wild_cat), [foxes](/wiki/Fox) (especially the [red fox](/wiki/Red_fox)), and [European jackal](/wiki/European_jackal).[[100]](#cite_note-100) There are [hedgehogs](/wiki/Hedgehog), [martens](/wiki/Marten), and snakes such as [vipers](/wiki/Viperinae) and [grass snakes](/wiki/Grass_snake). According to recent estimates, Slovenia has up to 50 [wolves](/wiki/Gray_wolf) and about 450 [brown bears](/wiki/Brown_bear).[[101]](#cite_note-101)[[102]](#cite_note-102) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Carnica_bee_on_solidago.jpg)[Carniolan honey bee](/wiki/Carniolan_honey_bee) is native to Slovenia and is a subspecies of the western honey bee.

Slovenia is home to an exceptionally diverse number of cave species, with a few tens of [endemic species](/wiki/Endemism).[[103]](#cite_note-103) Among the cave vertebrates, the only known one is the [olm](/wiki/Olm), living in Karst and [White Carniola](/wiki/White_Carniola). [thumb|A modern](/wiki/File:Lipizzaner_2.jpg) [Lipizzan](/wiki/Lipizzan)

The only regular species of [cetaceans](/wiki/Cetacea) found in the northern Adriatic sea is the [bottlenose dolphin](/wiki/Bottlenose_dolphin) (*Tursiops truncatus*).[[104]](#cite_note-104) There are a wide variety of birds, such as the [tawny owl](/wiki/Tawny_owl), the [long-eared owl](/wiki/Long-eared_owl), the [eagle owl](/wiki/Eagle_owl), [hawks](/wiki/Hawk), and [short-toed eagles](/wiki/Short-toed_eagle). Other birds of prey have been recorded, as well as a growing number of [ravens](/wiki/Raven), [crows](/wiki/Crow) and [magpies](/wiki/Magpie) migrating into Ljubljana and Maribor where they thrive.[[105]](#cite_note-105) Other birds include [black](/wiki/Black_woodpecker) and [green](/wiki/European_green_woodpecker) [woodpeckers](/wiki/Woodpecker) and the [white stork](/wiki/White_stork), which nests mainly in [Prekmurje](/wiki/Prekmurje).

There are 13 domestic animals native to Slovenia,[[106]](#cite_note-106) of eight species (hen, pig, dog, horse, sheep, goat, honey bee, and cattle).[[107]](#cite_note-107) Among these are the [Karst Shepherd](/wiki/Karst_Shepherd),[[108]](#cite_note-108) the [Carniolan honeybee](/wiki/Carniolan_honeybee), and the [Lipizzan](/wiki/Lipizzan) horse.[[107]](#cite_note-107) They have been preserved [ex situ](/wiki/Ex_situ) and [in situ](/wiki/In_situ).[[109]](#cite_note-109) The [marble trout](/wiki/Marble_trout) or marmorata (*Salmo marmoratus*) is an indigenous Slovenian fish.[[110]](#cite_note-110) Extensive breeding programmes have been introduced to repopulate the marble trout into lakes and streams invaded by non-indigenous species of [trout](/wiki/Trout). Slovenia is also home to the [wels catfish](/wiki/Wels_catfish).

Fungi

More than 2400 fungal species have been recorded from Slovenia[[111]](#cite_note-111) and, since that figure does not include lichen-forming fungi, the total number of Slovenian fungi already known is undoubtedly much higher. Many more remain to be discovered.

Plants

Slovenia is the third most-forested country in Europe, with 58.5% of the territory covered by forests.[[112]](#cite_note-112) The forests are an important natural resource, and logging is kept to a minimum — Slovenians value their forests for the preservation of natural diversity, for enriching the soil and cleansing the water and air, for the social and economic benefits of recreation and tourism, and for the natural beauty they give the landscape. In the interior of the country are typical [Central European](/wiki/Central_Europe) forests, predominantly [oak](/wiki/Oak) and [beech](/wiki/Beech). In the mountains, [spruce](/wiki/Spruce), [fir](/wiki/Fir), and [pine](/wiki/Pine) are more common. Pine trees grow on the [Karst Plateau](/wiki/Karst_Plateau), although only one-third of the region is covered by pine forest. The [lime/linden](/wiki/Tilia) tree, common in Slovenian forests, is a national symbol. The [tree line](/wiki/Tree_line) is at 1,700 to 1,800 meters (or 5,575 to 5,900 ft).[[113]](#cite_note-113) In the Alps, flowers such as [*Daphne blagayana*](/wiki/Daphne_blagayana), [gentians](/wiki/Gentian) ([*Gentiana clusii*](/wiki/Gentiana_clusii), [*Gentiana froelichi*](/wiki/Gentiana_froelichi)), [*Primula auricula*](/wiki/Primula_auricula), [edelweiss](/wiki/Leontopodium_alpinum) (the symbol of Slovene mountaineering), [*Cypripedium calceolus*](/wiki/Cypripedium_calceolus), [*Fritillaria meleagris*](/wiki/Fritillaria_meleagris) (snake's head fritillary), and [*Pulsatilla grandis*](/wiki/Pulsatilla_grandis) are found.

Slovenia harbors many plants of [ethnobotanically](/wiki/Ethnobotany) useful groups. Of 59 known species of ethnobotanical importance, some species such as [*Aconitum napellus*](/wiki/Aconitum_napellus), [*Cannabis sativa*](/wiki/Cannabis_sativa) and [*Taxus baccata*](/wiki/Taxus_baccata) are restricted for use as per the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia.[[114]](#cite_note-114)

## Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Presidential_Palace._Ljubljana.jpg) [Government and Presidential Palace](/wiki/Government_Palace,_Ljubljana) in Ljubljana [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) Slovenia is a [parliamentary democracy](/wiki/Parliamentary_system) republic with a [multi-party system](/wiki/Multi-party_system). The [head of state](/wiki/Head_of_state) is the [president](/wiki/President_of_Slovenia), who is elected by popular vote and has an important integrative role.[[115]](#cite_note-115) He is elected for five years and at maximum for two consecutive terms. He has mainly a representative role and is the commander-in-chief of the [Slovenian military forces](/wiki/Military_of_Slovenia).[[116]](#cite_note-116) The [executive](/wiki/Executive_(government)) and [administrative](/wiki/Administration_(business)) authority in Slovenia is held by the [Government of Slovenia](/wiki/Government_of_Slovenia) ([*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang)),[[75]](#cite_note-75) headed by the [Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Slovenia) and the council of [ministers](/wiki/Minister_(government)) or cabinet, who are elected by the [National Assembly](/wiki/National_Assembly_(Slovenia)) ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)). The legislative authority is held by the [bicameral](/wiki/Bicameral) [Parliament of Slovenia](/wiki/Parliament_of_Slovenia), characterised by an asymmetric duality.[Template:Clarify](/wiki/Template:Clarify)[[117]](#cite_note-117) The bulk of power is concentrated in the National Assembly, which consists of ninety members. Of those, 88 are elected by all the citizens in a system of [proportional representation](/wiki/Proportional_representation), whereas two are elected by the registered members of the [autochthonous](/wiki/Indigenism) Hungarian and Italian [minorities](/wiki/Ethnic_Minorities). Election takes place every four years. The [National Council](/wiki/National_Council_(Slovenia)) ([*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang)), consisting of forty members, appointed to represent social, economic, professional and local interest groups, has a limited advisory and control power.[[117]](#cite_note-117)The 1992-2004 period was marked by the rule of the [Liberal Democracy of Slovenia](/wiki/Liberal_Democracy_of_Slovenia), which was responsible for gradual transition from the [Titoistic](/wiki/Titoism) economy to the capitalist market economy. It later attracted much criticism by neo-liberal economists, who demanded a less gradual approach. The party's president [Janez Drnovšek](/wiki/Janez_Drnovšek), who served as prime minister between 1992 and 2002, was one of the most influential Slovenian politicians of the 1990s,[[118]](#cite_note-118) alongside President [Milan Kučan](/wiki/Milan_Kučan) (who served between 1990 and 2002).[[119]](#cite_note-119)[[120]](#cite_note-120) The 2005-2008 period was characterized by over-enthusiasm after joining the EU. During the first term of [Janez Janša's](/wiki/Janez_Janša) government, for the first time after independence, the Slovenian banks saw their [loan-deposit ratios](/wiki/Loan-deposit_ratio) veering out of control. There was over-borrowing from foreign banks and then over-crediting of customers, including local tycoons.

After the onset of the [financial crisis of 2007-2010](/wiki/Financial_crisis_of_2007–2010) and [European sovereign-debt crisis](/wiki/European_sovereign-debt_crisis), the left-wing coalition that replaced Janša's government in the 2008 elections, had to face the consequences of the 2005-2008 over-borrowing. Attempts to implement reforms that would help economic recovery were met by student protesters, led by a student who later became a member of [Janez Janša's](/wiki/Janez_Janša) [SDS](/wiki/Slovenska_demokratska_stranka), and by the trade unions. The proposed reforms were postponed in a referendum. The left-wing government was ousted with a vote of no confidence. Janez Janša attributed the boom of spending and overborrowing to the period of left-wing government; he proposed harsh austerity reforms which he had previously helped postpone. Generally, some economists estimate that left and right parties attributed to over-loaning and managers' takovers; reason behind was that each block tried to establish economic elite which will support political forces.[[121]](#cite_note-121)

### Judiciary[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Judicial powers in Slovenia are executed by [judges](/wiki/Judge), who are elected by the National Assembly. Judicial power in Slovenia is implemented by courts with general responsibilities and specialised courts that deal with matters relating to specific legal areas. The [State Prosecutor](/wiki/State's_Attorney) is an independent state authority responsible for prosecuting cases brought against those suspected of committing criminal offences. The [Constitutional Court](/wiki/Constitutional_Court_of_Slovenia), composed of nine judges elected for nine-year terms, decides on the conformity of laws with the Constitution; all laws and regulations must also conform with the general principles of international law and with ratified international agreements.[[44]](#cite_note-44)

### Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumbnail|right|200px|Slovenian units as part of Kosovo](/wiki/File:Slokfor.jpg) [KFOR](/wiki/Kosovo_Force) units, with home produced [Valuk](/wiki/Valuk) 6x6 light armoured vehicle in front. [thumb|left|200px|](/wiki/File:Ladji_Ankaran_in_Triglav.jpg)[10412 class patrol boat](/wiki/Project_10412_class_patrol_boat) "Triglav" with [Super Dvora Mk II-class patrol boat](/wiki/Super_Dvora_Mk_II-class_patrol_boat) "Ankaran". The [Slovenian Armed Forces](/wiki/Slovenian_Armed_Forces) provide military defence independently or within an alliance, in accordance with international agreements. Since conscription was abolished in 2003, it is organized as a fully professional [standing army](/wiki/Standing_army).[[122]](#cite_note-122) The [Commander-in-Chief](/wiki/Commander-in-Chief) is the [President of the Republic of Slovenia](/wiki/President_of_Slovenia), while operational command is in the domain of the [Chief of the General Staff](/wiki/Chief_of_the_General_Staff_(Slovenia)) of the Slovenian Armed Forces. In 2008, military spending was an estimated 1.5% of the country's GDP.[[123]](#cite_note-123) Since joining [NATO](/wiki/NATO), the Slovenian Armed Forces have taken a more active part in supporting international peace. They have participated in peace support operations and humanitarian activities. Among others, Slovenian soldiers are a part of international forces serving in [Bosnia and Herzegovina](/wiki/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina), [Kosovo](/wiki/Kosovo), and [Afghanistan](/wiki/Afghanistan).[[124]](#cite_note-124) According to the 2012 [Global Peace Index](/wiki/Global_Peace_Index), Slovenia is one of the world's most peaceful countries.[[125]](#cite_note-125)

### Administrative divisions and traditional regions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

|  |
| --- |
| Traditional regions of Slovenia |
| [center|250px](/wiki/File:Borders_of_the_Historical_Habsburgian_Lands_in_the_Republic_of_Slovenia.png) |
| **1** [Slovene Littoral](/wiki/Slovene_Littoral); **Carniola:** **2a** [Upper](/wiki/Upper_Carniola)  **2b** [Inner](/wiki/Inner_Carniola), **2c** [Lower](/wiki/Lower_Carniola)  **3** [Carinthia](/wiki/Slovene_Carinthia); **4** [Styria](/wiki/Styria_(Slovenia)); **5** [Prekmurje](/wiki/Prekmurje) |

#### Municipalities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

Officially, Slovenia is subdivided into 211 [municipalities](/wiki/Municipalities) (eleven of which have the status of urban municipalities). The municipalities are the only bodies of local autonomy in Slovenia. Each municipality is headed by a mayor (*župan*), elected every four years by popular vote, and a municipal council (*občinski svet*). In the majority of municipalities, the municipal council is elected through the system of [proportional representation](/wiki/Proportional_representation); only a few smaller municipalities use the [plurality voting system](/wiki/Plurality_voting_system). In the urban municipalities, the municipal councils are called town (or city) councils.[[126]](#cite_note-126) Every municipality also has a Head of the Municipal Administration (*načelnik občinske uprave*), appointed by the mayor, who is responsible for the functioning of the local administration.[[126]](#cite_note-126)

#### Administrative districts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

There is no official intermediate unit between the municipalities and the Republic of Slovenia. The 62 administrative districts, officially called "Administrative Units" (*upravne enote*), are only territorial sub-units of government administration and are named after their capital. They are headed by a Head of the Unit (*načelnik upravne enote*), appointed by the Minister of Public Administration.

#### Traditional regions and identities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

Traditional regions were based on the former [Habsburg](/wiki/House_of_Habsburg) [crown lands](/wiki/Crown_land) that included [Carniola](/wiki/Carniola), [Carinthia](/wiki/Duchy_of_Carinthia), [Styria](/wiki/Styria_(duchy)), and the [Littoral](/wiki/Slovene_Littoral). Stronger than with either the Carniola as a whole, or with Slovenia as the state, Slovenes historically tend to identify themselves with the traditional regions of [Slovene Littoral](/wiki/Slovene_Littoral), [Prekmurje](/wiki/Prekmurje), and even traditional (sub)regions, such as Upper, Lower and, to a lesser extent, Inner Carniola.[[127]](#cite_note-127) [thumb|250px|Statistical regions: 1. Gorizia, 2. Upper Carniola, 3. Carinthia, 4. Drava, 5. Mura, 6. Central Slovenia, 7. Central Sava, 8. Savinja, 9. Coastal–Karst, 10. Inner Carniola–Karst, 11. Southeast Slovenia, 12. Lower Sava](/wiki/File:Slovenia,_administrative_divisions_-_Nmbrs_(statistical_regions)_-_colored.svg)

The capital city Ljubljana was historically the administrative center of Carniola and belonged to [Lower Carniola](/wiki/Lower_Carniola), except for the Šentvid district, which was in [Upper Carniola](/wiki/Upper_Carniola) where the border between the German occupation zone and [Province of Ljubljana](/wiki/Province_of_Ljubljana) also was during WWII.[[128]](#cite_note-128)

#### Statistical regions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

The 12 *statistical regions* have no administrative function and are subdivided into two macroregions for the purpose of the [Regional policy of the European Union](/wiki/Regional_policy_of_the_European_Union).[[129]](#cite_note-129)These two macroregions are:

* [East Slovenia](/wiki/East_Slovenia) (*Vzhodna Slovenija* – SI01), which groups the Mura, Drava, Carinthia, Savinja, Central Sava, Lower Sava, Southeast Slovenia, and Inner Carniola–Karst statistical regions.
* [West Slovenia](/wiki/West_Slovenia) (*Zahodna Slovenija* – SI02), which groups the Central Slovenia, Upper Carniola, Gorizia, and Coastal–Karst statistical regions.

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|Since 2007 Slovenia has been part of the](/wiki/File:Eurozone.svg) [Eurozone](/wiki/Eurozone) (dark blue). Slovenia has a [developed economy](/wiki/Developed_country) and is [per capita](/wiki/Per_capita_income) the second richest of the Slavic countries behind the [Czech Republic](/wiki/Czech_Republic).[[130]](#cite_note-130) Slovenia was in the beginning of 2007 the first new member to introduce the [euro](/wiki/Euro) as its currency, replacing the [tolar](/wiki/Slovenian_tolar). Since 2010, it has been member of the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](/wiki/Organisation_for_Economic_Co-operation_and_Development).[[31]](#cite_note-31)[[131]](#cite_note-131) There is a big difference in prosperity between the various regions. The economically most prosperous regions are the [Central Slovenia](/wiki/Central_Slovenia_statistical_region) region which includes the capital [Ljubljana](/wiki/Ljubljana) and the [western Slovenian regions](/wiki/Slovene_Littoral), as [Goriška](/wiki/Goriška_Statistical_Region) and [Coastal–Karst](/wiki/Coastal–Karst_Statistical_Region). The poorest regions are the [Mura](/wiki/Mura_statistical_region), the [Central Sava](/wiki/Central_Sava_statistical_region) and the [Littoral–Inner Carniola](/wiki/Littoral–Inner_Carniola_Statistical_Region).[[132]](#cite_note-132)

### Economic growth[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[thumb|left||200px|](/wiki/File:Loan_to_deposit_ratio_in_Slovenia_-_including_the_Boom_Period..png)[Loan-deposit ratio](/wiki/Loan-deposit_ratio) in Slovenia by years - including the 2005-2008 Boom Period.[[133]](#cite_note-133) In 2004-2006, the economy grew on average by nearly 5% a year in Slovenia; in 2007, it expanded by almost 7%. The growth surge was fuelled by debt, particularly among firms, and especially in construction. After the [financial crisis of 2007-2010](/wiki/Financial_crisis_of_2007–2010) and [European sovereign-debt crisis](/wiki/European_sovereign-debt_crisis), the price for a boom that veered out of control is now being paid.[[134]](#cite_note-134) The construction industry was severely hit in 2010 and 2011.[[135]](#cite_note-135) In 2009, Slovenian [GDP per capita](/wiki/GDP_per_capita) shrunk by 8%, the biggest decline in the European Union after the [Baltic countries](/wiki/Baltic_countries) and Finland.

In August 2012, the year-on-year contraction was 0.8%, however, 0.2% growth was recorded in the first quarter (in relation to the quarter before, after data was adjusted according to season and working days).[[136]](#cite_note-136) Year-on-year contraction has been attributed to the fall in domestic consumption, and the slowdown in export growth. The decrease in domestic consumption has been attributed to the fiscal [austerity](/wiki/Austerity), to the freeze on budget expenditure in the final months of last year,[[137]](#cite_note-137) to the failure of the efforts to implement [economic reforms](/wiki/Microeconomic_reform), to inappropriate financing, and to the decrease in exports.[[138]](#cite_note-138)

### National debt[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

Slovenia's total [national debt](/wiki/Government_debt) at the end of September 2011 amounted to 15,884 million euros or 44.4% of GDP.[[139]](#cite_note-139) In August 2012, the three main [ratings agencies](/wiki/Credit_rating_agency) have all downgraded Slovenian sovereign debt. An increase in 2013 estimates about Slovenia allegedly being in need of a bailout was attributed by Finland’s Europe Minister [Alexander Stubb](/wiki/Alexander_Stubb) to "financial sharks" who would like to capitalize on it by creating [self-fulfilling prophecies](/wiki/Self-fulfilling_prophecy)[[140]](#cite_note-140) and [Die Welt](/wiki/Die_Welt) ranked Slovenia among the three least vulnerable European countries topped only by Germany and Estonia.[[141]](#cite_note-141)[[142]](#cite_note-142)

### Services and industry[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[thumb|250px|A graphical depiction of Slovenia's product exports in 28 color-coded categories.](/wiki/File:Slovenia_treemap.png)

Almost two-thirds of people are employed in services, and over one-third in industry and construction.[[143]](#cite_note-143) Slovenia benefits from a well-educated workforce, well-developed infrastructure, and its location at the crossroads of major trade routes.[[31]](#cite_note-31) The level of [foreign direct investment](/wiki/Foreign_direct_investment) (FDI) per capita in Slovenia is one of the lowest in the EU,[[31]](#cite_note-31) and the labor productivity and the competitiveness of the Slovenian economy is still significantly below the EU average.[[144]](#cite_note-144)[[145]](#cite_note-145) Taxes are relatively high, the [labor market](/wiki/Labor_market) is seen by business interests as being inflexible, and industries are losing sales to China, India, and elsewhere.[[146]](#cite_note-146) High level of openness makes Slovenia extremely sensitive to economic conditions in its main trading partners and changes in its international price competitiveness.[[147]](#cite_note-147) The main industries are motor vehicles, electric and electronic equipment, machinery, [pharmaceuticals](/wiki/Pharmaceutical), and fuels.[[31]](#cite_note-31) An increasing burden for the Slovenian economy has been its rapidly ageing population.[[148]](#cite_note-148)

### Energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) In 2011 electricity production was 14,144 GWh, electricity consumption was 12,602 GWh. Electricity production by source: hydro 3,361 GWh, thermal 4,883 GWh, [nuclear](/wiki/Krško_Nuclear_Power_Plant) 5,899 GWh.

Current investments: new 600 MW block of Šoštanj thermal power plant is in construction and will be finished by 2014. New 39.5 MW HE Krško hydro power plant was finished in 2013. By 2018, 41.5 MW HE Brežice and 30.5 MW HE Mokrice hydro power plants will be built on the Sava River. Construction of ten hydropower plants on the [Sava River](/wiki/Sava) with a cumulative capacity of 338 MW is planned to be finished by 2030. A large [pumped-storage hydro power plant](/wiki/Pumped-storage_hydroelectricity) Kozjak on the [Drava River](/wiki/Drava) is in the planning stage.

Renewable energy in Slovenia: at the end of 2011 at least 87 MWp of photovoltaic modules were installed and 22 MW of [biogas](/wiki/Biogas) powerplants.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) There is a plan and obligation that at least 500 MW of wind power will be installed by 2020.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Solar hot water heating is gaining popularity in Slovenia.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left||300px|Source: Slovenian Tourism in Numbers](/wiki/File:Tourism_in_Slovenia_-_key_European_markets.png)[[149]](#cite_note-149) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) Slovenia offers tourists a wide variety of natural and cultural amenities. Different forms of tourism have developed. The tourist gravitational area is considerably large, however the tourist market is small. There has been no large-scale tourism and no acute environmental pressures.[[150]](#cite_note-150) The nation's capital, Ljubljana, has many important [Baroque](/wiki/Baroque) and [Vienna Secession](/wiki/Vienna_Secession) buildings, with several important works of the native born architect [Jože Plečnik](/wiki/Jože_Plečnik) [[151]](#cite_note-151) and also his pupil, architect Edo Ravnikar.

At the northwestern corner of the country lie the [Julian Alps](/wiki/Julian_Alps) with the picturesque [Lake Bled](/wiki/Lake_Bled) and the [Soča](/wiki/Soča) Valley, as well as the nation's highest peak, [Mount Triglav](/wiki/Mount_Triglav) in the middle of [Triglav National Park](/wiki/Triglav_National_Park). Other mountain ranges include [Kamnik–Savinja Alps](/wiki/Kamnik–Savinja_Alps), [Karavanke](/wiki/Karavanke) and [Pohorje](/wiki/Pohorje), popular with skiers and hikers.[[152]](#cite_note-152) The [Karst Plateau](/wiki/Karst_Plateau) in the [Slovene Littoral](/wiki/Slovene_Littoral) gave its name to [karst](/wiki/Karst), a landscape shaped by water dissolving the carbonate bedrock, forming caves. The best-known caves are [Postojna Cave](/wiki/Postojna_Cave) and the [UNESCO](/wiki/UNESCO_World_Heritage_Site)-listed [Škocjan Caves](/wiki/Škocjan_Caves). The region of [Slovenian Istria](/wiki/Slovenian_Istria) meets the [Adriatic Sea](/wiki/Adriatic_Sea), where the most important historical monument is the [Venetian Gothic](/wiki/Venetian_Gothic_architecture) Mediterranean town of [Piran](/wiki/Piran) while the settlement of [Portorož](/wiki/Portorož) attracts crowds in summer.[[153]](#cite_note-153) The hills around Slovenia's second-largest town, [Maribor](/wiki/Maribor), are renowned for their wine-making. The northeastern part of the country is rich with spas,[[154]](#cite_note-154) with [Rogaška Slatina](/wiki/Rogaška_Slatina), [Radenci](/wiki/Radenci), [Čatež ob Savi](/wiki/Čatež_ob_Savi), [Dobrna](/wiki/Dobrna), and [Moravske Toplice](/wiki/Moravske_Toplice) growing in importance in the last two decades.[[155]](#cite_note-155) Other popular tourist destinations include the historic cities of [Ptuj](/wiki/Ptuj) and [Škofja Loka](/wiki/Škofja_Loka), and several castles, such as the [Predjama Castle](/wiki/Predjama_Castle).[[156]](#cite_note-156)[[157]](#cite_note-157) Important parts of tourism in Slovenia include congress and [gambling tourism](/wiki/Gambling_tourism). Slovenia is the country with the highest percentage of [casinos](/wiki/Casino) per 1,000 inhabitants in the European Union.[[158]](#cite_note-158) [Perla](/wiki/Perla_hotel_and_casino) in [Nova Gorica](/wiki/Nova_Gorica) is the largest casino in the region.[[159]](#cite_note-159) Most of foreign tourists to Slovenia come from the key European markets: [Italy](/wiki/Italy), [Austria](/wiki/Austria), Germany, [Croatia](/wiki/Croatia), [Benelux](/wiki/Benelux), [Serbia](/wiki/Serbia), [Russia](/wiki/Russia) and [Ukraine](/wiki/Ukraine), followed by UK and [Ireland](/wiki/Ireland).[[160]](#cite_note-160) European tourists create more than 90% of Slovenia's tourist income.

### Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumbnail|River excursions in Ljubljana.](/wiki/File:Ljubljana_BW_2014-10-09_11-06-24.jpg) [thumbnail|left|](/wiki/File:Pendolino_ETR_310.jpg)[Pendolino](/wiki/Pendolino) tilting train [thumb|left|Motorways in Slovenia in 2011; capital Ljubljana lies in the intersection of north-south and west-east main directions](/wiki/File:Motorways-SLO-map.svg) The location at the junction of major geographic units and the area being traversed by major rivers have been the reasons for the intersection of the main transport routes in Slovenia. Their course was established already in the Antiquity. A particular geographic advantage in recent times has been the location of the intersection of the [Pan-European transport corridors](/wiki/Pan-European_transport_corridor) [V](/wiki/Pan-European_transport_corridor_V) (the fastest link between the North Adriatic, and Central and Eastern Europe) and [X](/wiki/Pan-European_Corridor_X) (linking Central Europe with the Balkans) in the country. This gives it a special position in the European social, economic and cultural integration and restructuring.[[161]](#cite_note-161) The road freight and passenger transport constitutes the largest part of transport in Slovenia at 80%.[[162]](#cite_note-162) Personal cars are much more popular than public road passenger transport, which has significantly declined.[[162]](#cite_note-162)[[163]](#cite_note-163) Slovenia has a very high [highway and motorway density](/wiki/Highways_in_Slovenia) compared to the European Union average.[[164]](#cite_note-164) The highway system, the construction of which was speeded up after 1994,[[165]](#cite_note-165) has slowly but steadily transformed Slovenia into a large [conurbation](/wiki/Conurbation).[[166]](#cite_note-166) Other state roads have been rapidly deteriorating due to neglect and the overall increase in traffic.[[164]](#cite_note-164) The existing Slovenian railways are out-of-date and can't compete with the motorway network.[[167]](#cite_note-167) The maintenance and modernisation of the Slovenian railway network has been neglected due to the lack of financial assets.[[168]](#cite_note-168) Due to the out-of-date infrastructure, the share of the railway freight transport has been in decline in Slovenia.[[169]](#cite_note-169) The railway passenger transport has been recovering after a large drop in the 1990s.[[170]](#cite_note-170) The Pan-European railway corridors V and X, and several other major European rail lines intersect in Slovenia.[[168]](#cite_note-168) All international transit trains in Slovenia drive through the [Ljubljana Railway Hub](/wiki/Ljubljana_Railway_Hub).[[171]](#cite_note-171) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Lukakoper.jpg) [Port of Koper](/wiki/Port_of_Koper)

The major Slovenian port is the [Port of Koper](/wiki/Port_of_Koper). It is the largest Northern Adriatic port in terms of container transport,[[172]](#cite_note-172) with almost 590,000 [TEUs](/wiki/Twenty-foot_equivalent_unit) annually[[173]](#cite_note-173) and lines to all major world ports.[[174]](#cite_note-174)[[175]](#cite_note-175) It is much closer to destinations east of the [Suez](/wiki/Suez_Canal) than the ports of Northern Europe.[[174]](#cite_note-174) In addition, the maritime passenger traffic mostly takes place in Koper.[[176]](#cite_note-176) Two smaller ports used for the international passenger transport as well as cargo transport are located in [Izola](/wiki/Izola) and [Piran](/wiki/Piran). Passenger transport mainly takes place with Italy and Croatia.[[177]](#cite_note-177) [Splošna plovba](/wiki/Splošna_plovba),[[178]](#cite_note-178) the only Slovenian shipping company, transports freight and is active only in foreign ports.[[176]](#cite_note-176) Air transport in Slovenia is quite low,[[169]](#cite_note-169) but has significantly grown since 1991.[[179]](#cite_note-179) Of the three international airports in Slovenia, [Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport](/wiki/Ljubljana_Jože_Pučnik_Airport) in central Slovenia is the busiest,[[179]](#cite_note-179) with connections to many major European destinations.[[180]](#cite_note-180) The [Maribor Edvard Rusjan Airport](/wiki/Maribor_Edvard_Rusjan_Airport) is located in the eastern part of the country and the [Portorož Airport](/wiki/Portorož_Airport) in the western part.[[179]](#cite_note-179) The state-owned [Adria Airways](/wiki/Adria_Airways) is the largest Slovenian airline.[[179]](#cite_note-179) Since 2003, several new carriers have entered the market, mainly low-cost airlines.[[164]](#cite_note-164) The only Slovenian [military airport](/wiki/Military_airbase) is the [Cerklje ob Krki Air Base](/wiki/Cerklje_ob_Krki_Air_Base) in the southwestern part of the country.[[181]](#cite_note-181) There are also 12 [public airports](/wiki/Public_airport) in Slovenia.[[179]](#cite_note-179)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[Template:Historical populations](/wiki/Template:Historical_populations)

[Template:Bar box](/wiki/Template:Bar_box) With 101 inhabitants per square kilometer (262/sq mi), Slovenia ranks low among the European countries in population density (compared to 402/km2 (1042/sq mi) for the [Netherlands](/wiki/Netherlands) or 195/km2 (505/sq mi) for [Italy](/wiki/Italy)). The [Inner Carniola–Karst Statistical Region](/wiki/Inner_Carniola–Karst_Statistical_Region) has the lowest population density while the [Central Slovenia Statistical Region](/wiki/Central_Slovenia_Statistical_Region) has the highest.[[182]](#cite_note-182) According to the 2002 census, Slovenia's main ethnic group are the [Slovenes](/wiki/Slovenes) (83%), however their share in the total population is continuously decreasing due to their relatively low [fertility rate](/wiki/Fertility_rate). At least 13% (2002) of the population were immigrants from other parts of [Former Yugoslavia](/wiki/Former_Yugoslavia) and their descendants.[[183]](#cite_note-183) They have settled mainly in cities and suburbanised areas.[[184]](#cite_note-184) Relatively small but protected by the [Constitution of Slovenia](/wiki/Constitution_of_Slovenia) are the [Hungarian](/wiki/Hungarians_in_Slovenia) and the [Italian ethnic minority](/wiki/Italians_in_Slovenia).[[185]](#cite_note-185)[[186]](#cite_note-186)[[187]](#cite_note-187) A special position is held by the autochthonous and geographically dispersed [Roma ethnic community](/wiki/Roma_in_Slovenia).[[188]](#cite_note-188)[[189]](#cite_note-189) Slovenia is among the European countries with the most pronounced ageing of population, ascribable to a low birth rate and increasing life expectancy.[[190]](#cite_note-190) Almost all Slovenian inhabitants older than 64 are retired, with no significant difference between the genders.[[191]](#cite_note-191) The working-age group is diminishing in spite of immigration.[[192]](#cite_note-192) The proposal to raise the retirement age from the current 57 for women and 58 for men was rejected in a [referendum in 2011](/wiki/Slovenian_referendum,_June_2011).[[148]](#cite_note-148) In addition, the difference among the genders regarding life expectancy is still significant.[[191]](#cite_note-191) The [total fertility rate](/wiki/Total_fertility_rate) (TFR) in 2014 was estimated at 1.33 children born/woman, which is lower than the replacement rate of 2.1.[[193]](#cite_note-193)