

# THE NATURAL HERITAGE OF SLOVENIA

PRIMARY SCHOOL IVAN CANKAR LJUTOMER  
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# The location of Slovenia

**Slovenia is a small country in Central Europe between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea. It borders Hungary in the east, Croatia in the south, Austria in the north and Italy in the west. It covers an area of 20, 273 square kilometres.**



# National symbols

In Slovenia there are about two million people. The official language is Slovenian. The capital city is Ljubljana. It is also the largest city in the country. Other major cities are Maribor, Celje and Kranj. The currency of Slovenia is Euro. The flag is white, blue and red with the coat of arms in the top left corner. The [national anthem](#) is called Zdravljica.





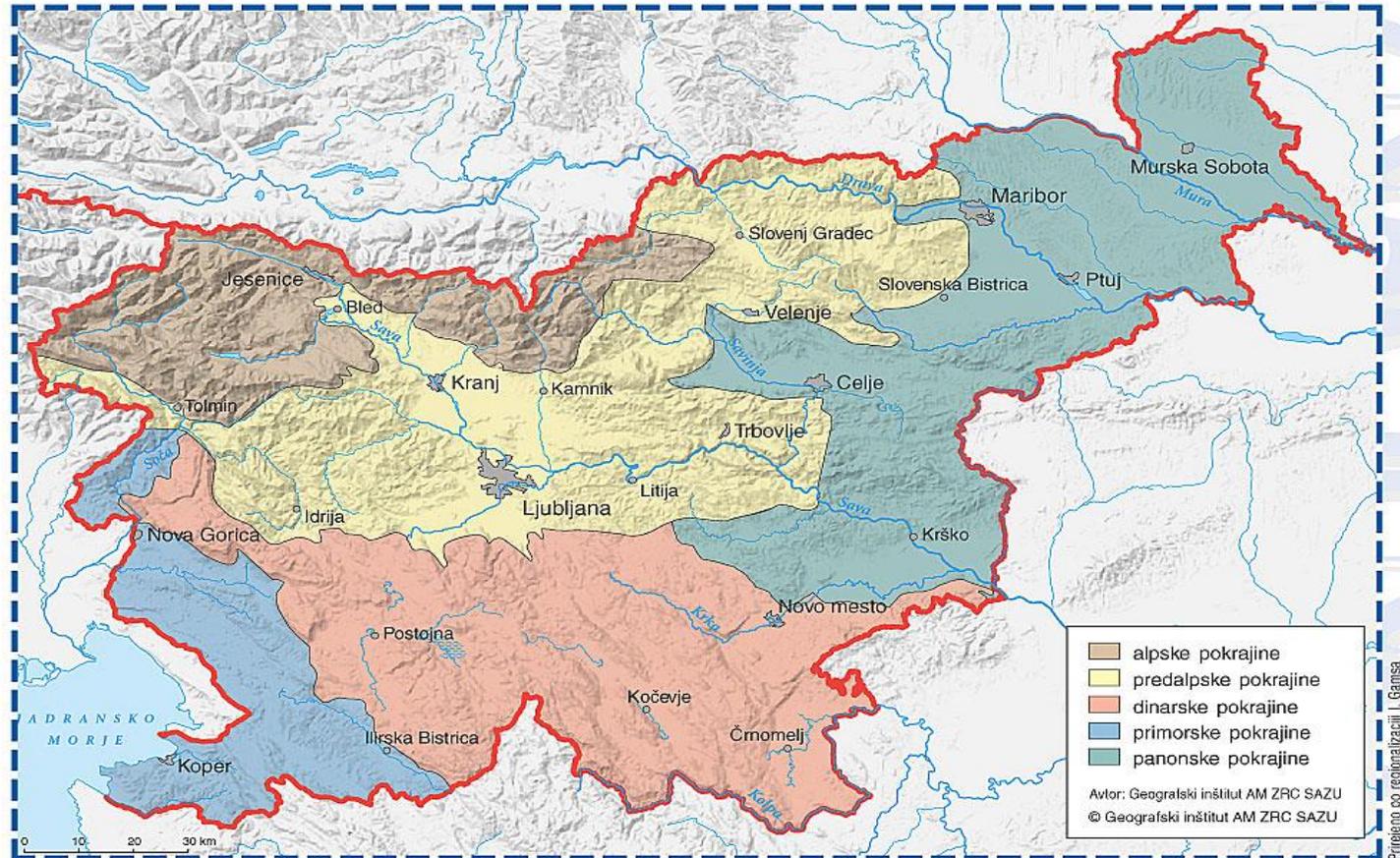
# Geographical features



**You can see lots of mountains, forests, caves and hills in Slovenia. There's also the sea called the Adriatic Sea. The longest river is the Sava River (it's 221 km long) and the highest mountain is Triglav (it's 2864 m long). The largest and the most famous cave in Slovenia is Postojna Cave. The most famous lake is lake Bled.**



# Landscapes



# Slovenian Alps

**Slovenian Alps** region includes 3 major mountain groups: the Julian Alps, Kamnik-Savinja Alps and the Karavanke. These mountains form a natural border with Austria, Slovenia's northern neighbour. Slovenia's highest mountain, Mount Triglav (2,864 metres) is a part of the Julian Alps. The Julian Alps are adorned by two beautiful glacial lakes: **Lake Bled**, in the middle of which is an island with a church, and **Lake Bohinj**.

Other important sights are:

- **Vintgar gorge** (the natural gorge)
- the enormous pine forests of the **Pokljuka Plateau** (important biathlon competitions take place there)
- the emerald river **Soča** (especially popular with people who like adrenaline sports: kayaking, canoeing and rafting)
- the world's largest ski jump **Planica**
- **Kranjska Gora** (a World Cup skiing venue)



[Lake Bled and Bled island](#)



Lake Bohinj



Planica



Pokljuka Plateau



the river Soča



the Alps

# Waterfalls

There are a lot of waterfalls in this part of Slovenia. One of the most impressive and the biggest waterfalls is Waterfall Savica.

Other waterfalls worth seeing are also:

- Peričnik waterfall
- Martuljek waterfalls
- Šum waterfall
- Stegovnik waterfall



Waterfall Savica



Vintgar gorge



Peričnik waterfall



Martuljek waterfalls



Šum waterfall

# Pannonian Landscape

- The land in the **north-eastern** and **eastern** parts of Slovenia is hilly and flat. In the hilly parts of the **Pannonian Landscape** (Slovenske gorice, Haloze, Kozjansko, Bizeljsko, Goričko) there are lots of vineyards. Viticulture is therefore highly developed.
- The land in the plains of **Pomurje** is flat and fertile. A lot of people are engaged in farming.
- The eastern part of Slovenia has lots of **natural thermal spas** and **health resorts** (Radenci, Banovci, Rogaška Slatina, Laško, Čatež).



## Well-known places in this landscape:



- **Murska Sobota** (famous for the Renaissance Sobota Castle)
- **Ljutomer** (a town of the first Slovenian 'mass rally', trotters, films and wine)
- **Velika Polana** (the European village of storks)
- **Ižakovci** (you can take a ferry across the river Mura, it's also famous for its Island of love)
- **Maribor** (famous for the oldest vine in the world, the 2012 European Capital of Culture;)
- **Veržej** (famous for **Babičev mlin**, the only floating mill where visitors can view the interior and buy flour and other milling products.)
- **Ptuj** (Slovenia's oldest town)
- **Podčetrtek** (famous for the Terme Olimia spa, named after the village of Olimje, the location of a monastery containing the oldest pharmacy in Europe)
- **Velenje** (the mining town)
- **Mozirje** (famous for Mozirski Gaj Horticultural Park)
- **Rogatec** (the location of Slovenia's largest open-air museum)

## Other important parts of natural heritage in this landscape

**The Goričko Natural Park** is the second largest natural park of Slovenia.

The hills after which Goričko was named were created by the Pannonian Sea which flowed here millions of years ago.) A part of Goričko is also a village called **Grad**, famous for **Grad Castle** (the word „grad“ means castle in the Slovenian language). The castle has got 365 rooms and it's one of the largest baroque castles in Slovenia. Close to the village of Grad, the last volcano in today's Slovenia was active 3 million years ago. **The Adventure park Vulkanija** was established at this spot. It offers numerous activities for the whole family.

**Lake Bukovnica (Bukovniško jezero)** calls for a nice walk or a fishing break and invites you to taste its spring water, believed to have natural healing properties.

**Lake Gajševsko jezero** (a large lake – the result of a dam on the river Ščavnica; it offers a refuge to lots of animal and plants species; people can go fishing and windsurfing there)

**Jeruzalem** is a wine-bearing landscape. More than a hundred years ago Crusaders came from the holy city to these wine-bearing hills. They were amazed by the beauty of the landscape and they exclaimed: „This place is sacred! Just like Jerusalem!“ And that's how our Jeruzalem was born.

**Razkriški kot** is the path of natural and cultural heritage which leads from the water spring Ivanov izvir in Šafarsko along a lot of energetic healing points and rare tree sorts and ends where the river Ščavnica mouths into the river Mura

A part of the path Razkriški kot is also a **prehistoric settlement Gradišče** in Šafarsko, where they perform a play about the life of our ancestors, agricultural life, cultivation of land by a stone plow.

Reconstruction of the original prehistoric village is built on the location of archaeological findings.



Razkriški kot



**Murska Sobota Castle**



**Ljutomer**



**Ižakovci**



**Ptuj**



Maribor



Mozirje



Veržej – the floating mill



Rogatec – Open Air Museum



The Adventure park Vulkanija



Goričko natural park



Lake Gajševsko jezero



Bukovnica lake



Jeruzalem



Grad Castle

# Mediterranean Landscape

It's in the **south-western part** of Slovenia. The climate there is sub-Mediterranean. Winters are therefore mild and summers are hot and dry.

This is a very varied landscape, characterised by vineyards, olive trees and Mediterranean fruit trees. On the coast, sea salt is produced; the sea has fish in abundance; truffles can be found in the woods and meadows. There are also chestnut trees, herbs and spices aplenty, as well as a multitude of wild animals.

Well-known places:

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- **Piran, Izola, Koper, Strunjan, Portorož** and **Ankaran** are coastal towns – tourism is highly developed there.
  - Koper is the most important town on the Slovenian coast and the sixth largest town in Slovenia. It also has an important commercial port.
  - **Sečovelje** is famous for its salt pans.

# *Tourists attractions in the Mediterranean Landscape*

- ***Sailing the sea***- Feel the wind in your hair and sail the blue sea. You can anchor your boat in the largest marina in Slovenia, Marina Portorož, or in Marina Izola.
- ***Nature Park Strunjan***-The most characteristic part of the Strunjan landscape park is the 80-metre cliff composed of layers of flysch, which form a huge wall. A large white cross on the top of the cliffs overlooks Moon Bay, which boasts the most spectacular sunsets.
- ***Portorož***-The port of flowers invites you to take a stroll down the promenade. Even on a cold day a walk along the beach of Portorož and its piers, where you can take a deep breath of sea air, feels good.



Piran Bay



Sečovlje salt pans



Port of Koper



Piran



Portorož beach



Portorož marina



Strunjan nature park

# Dinaric and Karst Landscape

- Slovenia's karst landscape spans the area from the **Karst Plateau** along the border with Italy to **Krško Polje** on the border with Croatia.
- This landscape is characterised by the smell of **Karst prosciutto**, and local food is offered up paired with the notable local **Karst Teran wine**.
- This landscape is adorned by the natural **Karst caves**: Postojna Cave, Škocjan Caves and Vilenica Cave.
- **Postojna cave** (the largest Karst cave in Slovenia) consists of more than five kilometres underground halls and natural tunnels which can be explored on foot and on the electric train. You can see the multi-coloured dripstones and the unique **human fish** there.
- In the vicinity of Postojna cave is the largest **cave castle** in the world. It's built into a 123-metre-high rock face.
- The Karst is also home to white **Lipizzaner horses**, named after the village of Lipica, where they were first bred in 1580 by crossbreeding the original Karst horse with Spanish, Neapolitan and Arab breeds.

- In these forests there are animals that are not found elsewhere in Slovenia - [the brown bear](#), [wolf](#) and [lynx](#).
- [Cerknica lake](#): the lake is formed when the disappearing river floods the karst field and disappears when the water drains.



Cerknica lake



Karst plateau – Nanos



Cave Castle



Lipizzaner horses



a human fish



red wine and prosciutto



Bela Krajina – the river Kolpa



Kočevje Rog