

SLOVENIA IN BRIEF

The Republic of Slovenia lies at the heart of Europe where the Alps and the Mediterranean meet the Pannonia plains and the mysterious Karst. Slovenia has a population of 2 million and its capital city is Ljubljana. The country's official language is Slovenian. Apart from the singular and plural it employs the dual, a very rare phenomenon in linguistics. In nationally-mixed regions Italian and Hungarian are also spoken.

In Slovenia, the sun shines approximately 2,000 hours per year. And yes, there is plenty of snow in winter. As a beautiful and picturesque country, Slovenia makes a great tourist destination. Mountains, lakes, waterfalls, forests, caves, hills, plains, rivers and the sea - you name it, you can find it all within the country's modest 20,273 km², as well as many natural and landscape parks. You can ski in the morning and surrender yourself to the luxury of the Adriatic Sea in the afternoon. The highest mountain is called Triglav - the name means 'three-heads' - and it is 2,864m high. The mountain is a true national symbol and is featured on the national coat of arms and the flag. Last but not least, Slovenia has 15 natural spas at which you can take care of your health with the help of their thermal mineral waters.

Slovenia proclaimed its Constitution in December 1991 and its constitutional system is a parliamentary democracy. Slovenia is one of the most successful countries in the transition from socialism to a market economy. It boasts stable GDP growth and ranks among those countries with the lowest degree of risk. The already completed privatization process and many other measures are adding to its competitiveness. Slovenia joined the EU on May 1, 2004.