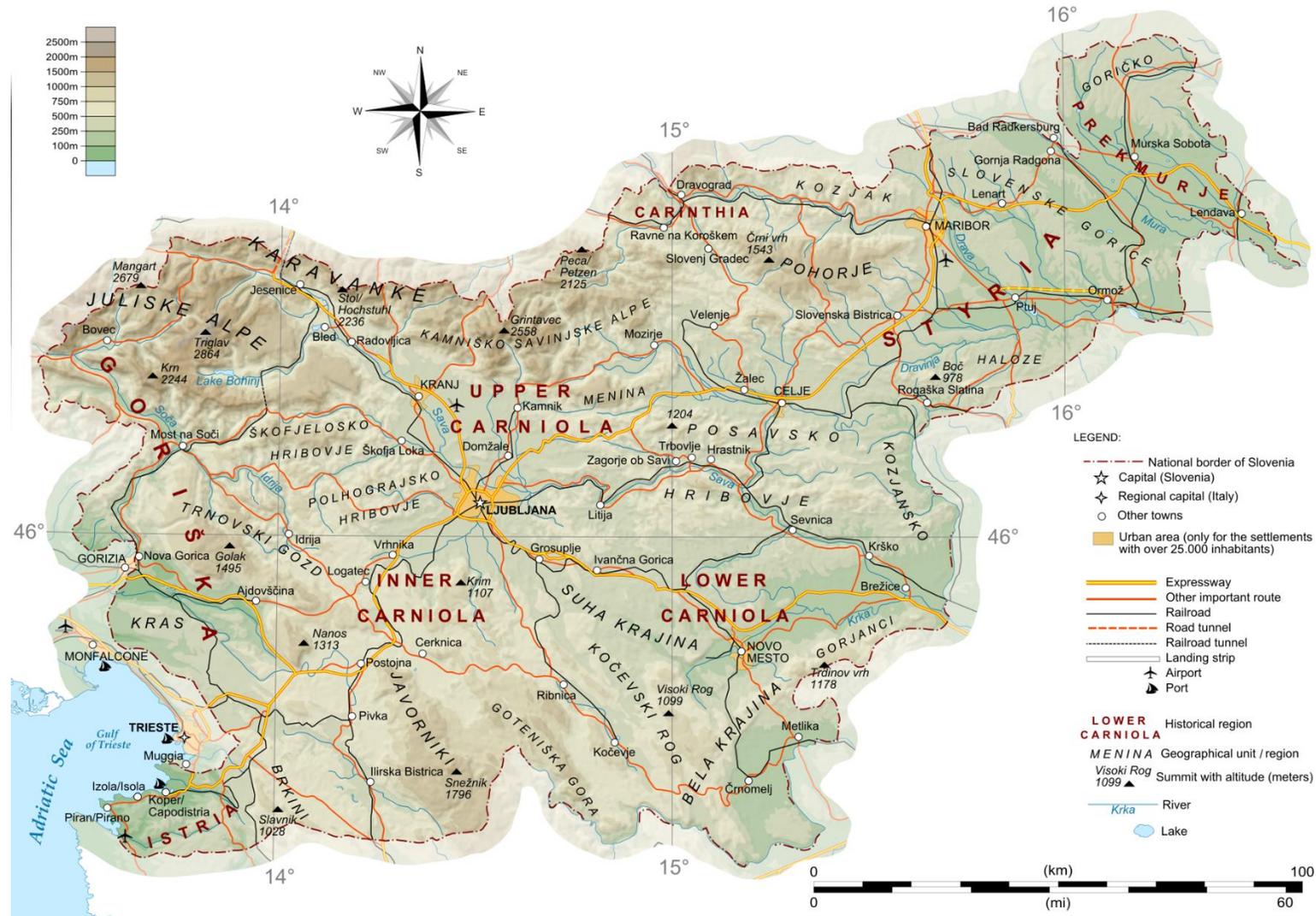




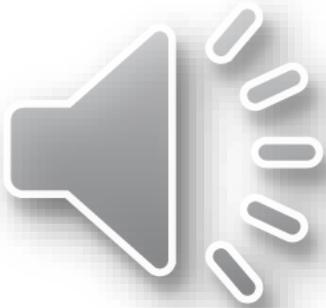
SLOVENIA



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.





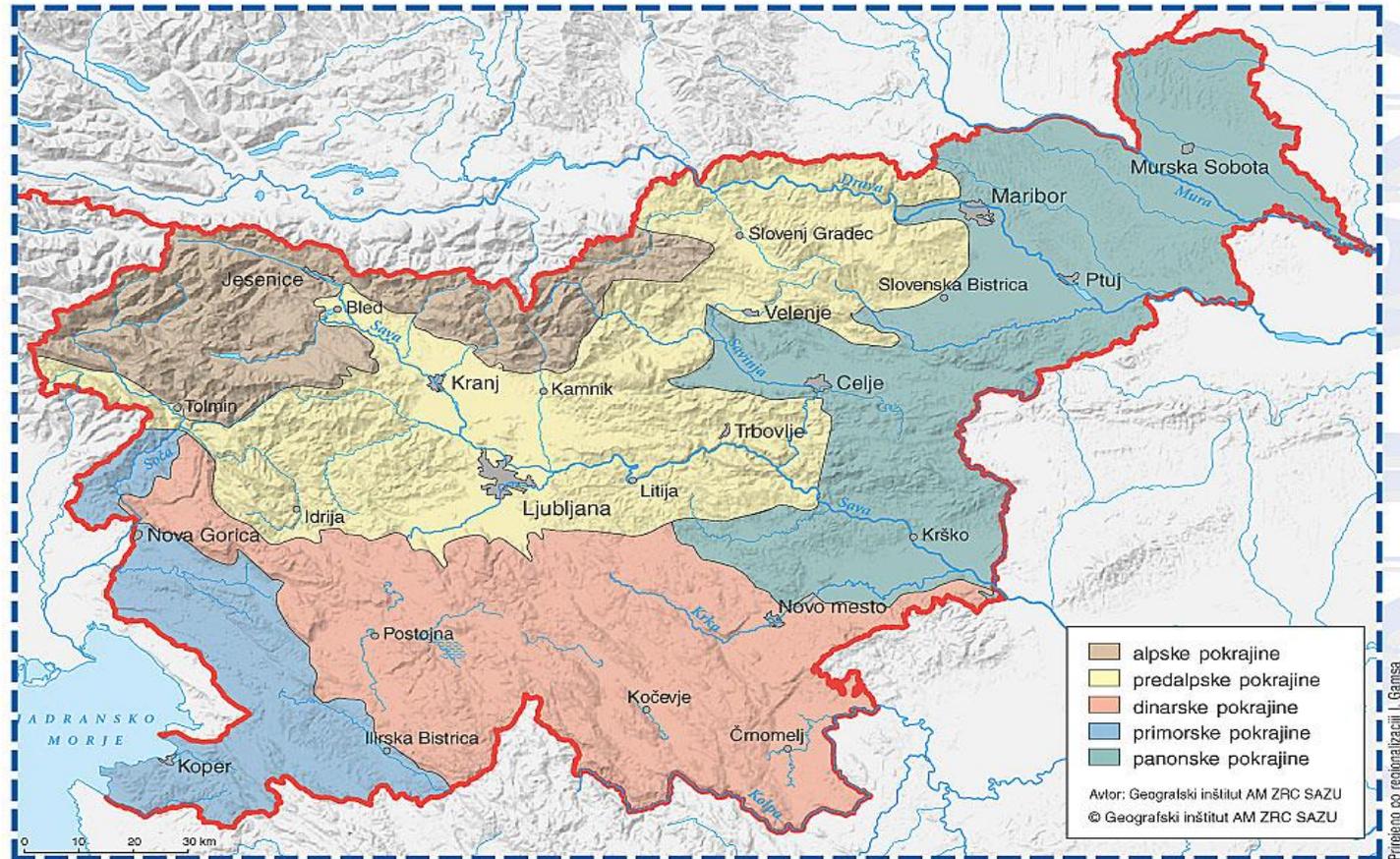
Geographical features



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 m long) and the highest mountain is Triglav (it's 2864 m high). 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:

- **Blejski Vintgar** (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)



Planica



Pokljuka Plateau



the river Soča



the Alps

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) 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).



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** (there is a floating mill on the river Mura and you can take a ferry across the river)
- **Maribor** (famous for the oldest vine in the world, the 2012 European Capital of Culture;)
- **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)



Murska Sobota Castle



Ljutomer



Ižakovci



Ptuj

Mediterranean Landscape

It's in the **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:

- **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.



Piran Bay



Sečovlje salt pans



Port of Koper



Piran

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.



Krško Polje



Cave Castle



Lipizzaner horses



a human fish



red wine and prosciutto

The presentation was made by:

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