

HOW TO ADAPT TO SLOVENIAN CULTURE

Have you ever wondered how to adapt to Slovenian culture? If so, then read this blog post about what table manners are, how to dress, how to celebrate Holidays, what are useful phrases in Slovenia or how to get around Ljubljana.

MEETING AND GREETING

When meeting someone for the first time the most common greeting is a handshake and a welcoming smile.

It is customary to maintain eye contact during the greeting process.

Close friends and family may kiss on the cheek and give each other a little hug.

First names are only used among close friends and family.

Others are addressed using the honorific titles “Gospa” (Madam), “Gospodična” (Miss), or “Gospod” (Sir).

Do not use a person’s first name until invited to do so as this is considered rude and presumptuous.



Hand shaking with smile is the most common gesture or kiss on cheek with closer friends.

HOW TO DRESS

Slovenians do dress quite smartly, but you don't have to follow suit; if you prefer to dress more casually you will feel at ease. Ljubljana is a cosmopolitan capital city with a large student population so really any style of dress will fit in. Our preference though is for smart casual.

TABLE MANNERS

So, what are table manners in Slovenia?

If you are invited to a Slovenian's house:

Arrive on time or within 5 minutes of the stipulated time as this demonstrates respect for your hosts.

Dress conservatively and in clothes, you might wear to the office and in the free time wear casual style, this also depends on your personal style.

It is common to remove your shoes at the door. Most hosts will offer slippers for guests to wear.

Slovenians tend to separate their business and personal lives.

Therefore, it is a good idea to refrain from initiating business discussions in social situations.

Expect to be offered some form of refreshments, even if you have not been specifically invited to a meal.

It is common for the host to accompany guests to their car when they leave.



Food should be eaten with utensils. Chewing and slurping is strictly impolite.

GIFT GIVING ETIQUETTE

Slovenians exchange gifts with family and close friends at Christmas and birthdays.

This is a culture where it is the thought that counts so the cost of the gift is not important.

If invited to dinner at a Slovene's house, it is considered good manners to bring flowers to the hostess and a bottle of wine to the host.

Gifts should be nicely wrapped; there are no real colour prohibitions.

Gifts are usually opened when received.

PHRASES

In Slovenia the official language is Slovenian language (or Slovene), which is similar to other Slavic languages, particularly close to Serbian and Croatian.

Many Slovenes speak English very well, some use German and Italian as a foreign language. Slovenes generally appreciate any effort you make in their language.

Read below for a list of common, useful everyday phrases and greetings with which you can make a great impression on the local people.

Dober dan – Hello

Nasvidenje – Goodbye

Živijo - Hi

Adijo – Bye

Dober večer - Good evening

Dobro jutro – Good morning

Ja prosim - Yes, please

Ne, hvala – No, thanks

Hvala lepa, Najlepša hvala – Thank you very much.

Hvala enako – Thanks to you too

Ni za kaj/Prosim - You´re welcome

Kako si/ste(formal) - How´re you

Dobro/ V redu - I´m fine

Pa ti/ vi(formal)? - And you?

Samo trenutek – Just a second

Lepo se imej/imejte (formal)? - Have a nice day

HOW DO SLOVENES CELEBRATE HOLIDAYS

Slovenia celebrates the New Year with two days off. They light up the fireworks and listen to the concerts. They celebrate it on 31st of December. So, if you want to go watch the fireworks go to the centers of cities. also keep in mind that the shops will be closed for 2 days.

Slovenian culture is celebrated on 8th of February. Achievements of Slovenian artist are rewarded. For this day festivities are culturally oriented. France Prešeren is a well known Slovenian artist and he made the Slovene anthem. This day all of the museums in Slovenia are free.

TIPPING

In Slovenia a tip is not an obligation, but is appropriate for good service.

Tipping isn´t a big part of the culture in Slovenia.

However, it's not an uncommon practice and waiting for staff in tourist areas are fairly accustomed to receiving tips of between and 10% and 15% of the bill.

Service staff generally receive poor wages, so if you choose to leave a small amount of change, then the gesture will be appreciated.

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