

## **HOW TO ADAPT TO SLOVENIA**

In this blog you will find some facts and tips for Slovenia, that can be useful when you are coming to or visiting Slovenia. Slovenia is small, beautiful, and interesting. It is packed with a fantastic array of things to do and see. Slovenia is very green country.



### **Main facts about Slovenia**

Slovenia officially the **Republic of Slovenia**, is a sovereign state located in southern Central Europe. It has an area of 20,273 square km. Ljubljana is its capital and largest city. Slovene is the official language of the country. Euro (€) (EUR) is its official currency. Slovenia has population of 2.1 million. Slovenia's neighboring are Austria, Croatia, Hungary, and Italy. Flag of Slovenia is at the top features three equal horizontal bands of white (top), blue (middle), and red (down), with the Coat of arms of Slovenia located in the upper left side of the flag centered in the white and blue bands. Slovenia's name means the "Landes of Slovenes".



## Main areas in Slovenia

If you have some free time, it is interesting to see some main places in Ljubljana. Some of the main areas in Ljubljana are Ljubljana castle, Dragon bridge, Plecniks Ljubljana, Tivoli Park, tripple bridge, Portoroz, and Presernov square.

Ljubljana castle has a very beautiful view of the city. You can see many different things from there. It is standing on a hill above the city for about 900 years and is Ljubljana's main attraction. The castle's towers and ramparts offered the most beautiful views of the city.

Dragon bridge was built in 1901, a symbol of Ljubljana, which has been proudly reigning since. Some people say that you cannot say that you were in Slovenia if you did not take a picture with one of the dragons. Dragon bridge is important, because of the dragons that are both scary and magnificent at the same time.

Tivoli Park, if you want to relax Tivoli Park is one of the best options. It is Ljubljana's central park, a popular place for socializing and relaxing. It is crisscrossed with walking recreational paths that continue into the slopes of Roznik.

Tripple bridge was built in 1842 and was opened in 1932. The Tripple bridge remains a fitting example of how to regulate traffic in a sustainable way. Tripple bridge belongs to Plecnik's most famous works. Tripple bridge is also near Presern's square

Preserns square is the main center of capital Ljubljana and has a statue of Preseren that is the biggest poet. The world whose central town square is aroid with a statue of a poet rather than some political or military hero. France Preseren (1800 – 1849) was one of Europe's great Romantic poets.

Portoroz Is the most touristic place especially at the summer time and by the sea. It also has many beaches and you can swim in the sea. Portoroz is very crowded and has more than 300 people.

Postojna cave is a long karst cave system near Postojna, southwestern Slovenia. Postojna cave is the most attractive in the world with magnificent stalactite sculptures and a varied animal world. Embark on an unforgettable underground train ride and experience a mighty underground paradise formed by tiny droplets over millions of years. You will remember this experience forever. In Postojna cave was explored 24,340 m of underground tunnels. It is the second-longest cave system in the country. As well as one of its top tourism sites. The caves were created by the Pivka River.



## **Main celebrations and how to celebrate**

### **New Year**

January 1 and 2, we celebrate New Year. Slovenia celebrates the New Year with two days off.

### **Slovene culture**

On February 8, we celebrate day of Slovene culture. On that day achievements of Slovenia's artists are rewarded, and cultural festivities are organized for this day.

### **Resistance of Slovenia**

April 27, we celebrate resistance day. Slovenia recognizes Yugoslavia's Liberation Front, which organized resistance against Germany in WWII.

### **Labor day**

On May 1 and 2, we celebrate Labor Day. Not content with a single day off in recognition of Labor Day, Slovenia takes both May 1 and 2 for Labor Day celebration.

### **Kurentovanje**

Is a tradition in Slovenia to ward of winter. It is on Sunday when it is Pust.

### **Slovene Statehood**

on June 25, we celebrate day of Slovene statehood. Statehood Day, or the Day of Slovene Statehood, celebrates Slovenia's independence from Yugoslavia, which it gained in 1991.

### **Assumption day**

On August 15, we celebrate Assumption Day. Is a religious holiday, is marked by church attendance and ceremonies in Slovenia.

### **Easter**

Is in April. Heralds spring and we color eggs. It is a Cristian holiday.

## Independence day

On December 26, we celebrate Independence Day. It celebrates the day it was voted that Slovenia would break away from the country of Yugoslavia and form an independent nation.



## **Transport**

If you are going to school or work, you can go by bus. Boarding the bus is only possible at the first door next to the driver. You pay for the city bus ride immediately after entering by validating the card. There are two validators. You need to wait approximately 10 minutes. You can move around by walking, but be careful of cars. You can drive by car but usually there is a lot of traffic in some parts of Ljubljana. And you need, if there's traffic, extra 15 minutes.

You can also travel by bicycle. In the more visited cities, you can find places for renting bicycles. Bicycle is kind for nature and is ecological. Many municipalities, along the lines of the Slovenian capital, offer city bike rental. In some places, you can rent also an electronic bike. Some bike rentals close in the winter and some are open all year. If you want to rent a bicycle, you need to register in a mobile app or web page [Bicikelj.si](http://Bicikelj.si). When you rent a bicycle the first hour is for free. Still, be careful when you are driving!





## Etiquette

When you meet someone for the first time you shake hands and introduce yourself. First names are offend used just for friends and family. Others are usually called "gospa" (madam), "gospodična" (miss), "gospod" ( sir).

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

When you go somewhere, for example to some meeting, come 5 minutes before starting. This means that you are respectful, important and that you take time for it.

Always respect others. Be principled.

## Table manners

Table manners in Slovenia are not so difficult. You need to sit properly. If you are hosting, make sure you are polite and that you properly serve your guests. If you are the guest, be respectful, kind and eat properly. Table manners include hundreds of rules. And here are some key table manners rules that will help you if you find yourself in an uncommon situation.

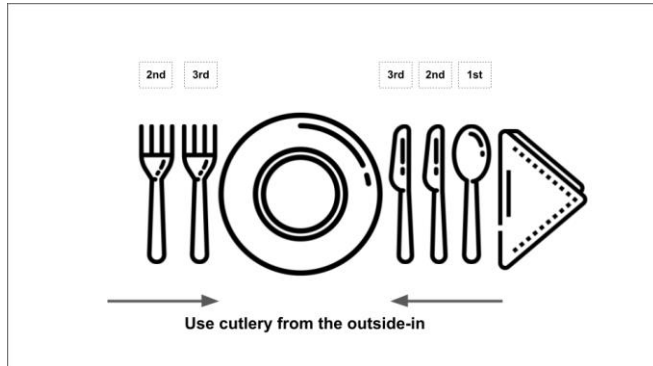
### I) Invitations

If you are invited to lunch/dinner/breakfast always respond, if you are going or not. If you do not, it is not polite to the host. You can say *thank you for inviting me/ us to dinner/lunch/ breakfast, but sorry I cannot come, because... or thank you for invitation, but I already have some plans.*

### II) Good table manner during the meal

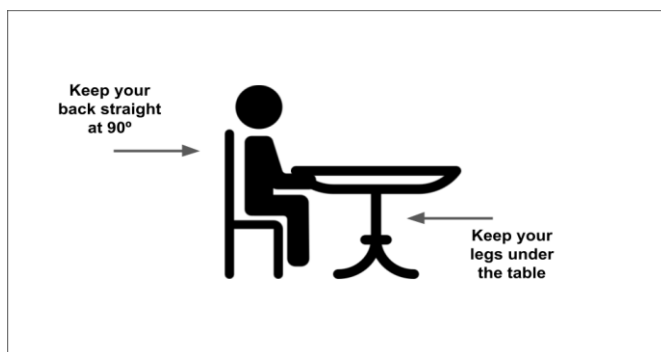
Eat to the left, drink to the right. Any plate to the left of your main plate belongs to your setting. The same rule applies to any glass to the right of your main plate. Be polite. If you don't want something you say "no thank you". Try not to be on the phone at eating and when conversating.

When you are eating, you need to hold knife, spoon and fork nicely.



### III) Posture rules of the dining table

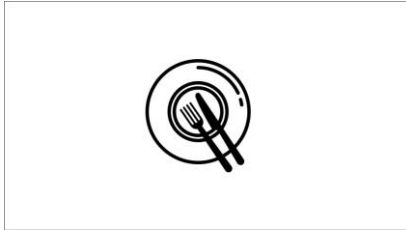
During the meal, remain seated until everyone is finished. Sit with your back straight. Try not to lean forward. Do not slouch on your chair. Keep your feet on the floor. Keep your elbows off of the table. It is acceptable to rest your elbows on the table when food is not on the table. However, it is preferable to avoid it.



### IV) Good table manners after the meal

After you finish eating, place your cutlery on your plate in a 4 or 5 o'clock position.

Fold the napkin and place it on the table, usually on the left side of your plate. Do not place it on top of your plate. When the host signal that the meal is over you can slowly leave the table. Push your chair back when you're leaving. Always say the host *thank you for inviting* or *thank you for dinner/lunch/breakfast*.



## Dress code

In Slovenia, you can dress any way you want, but in winter it is very cold. In Slovenia, jeans are always popular. If you go to some dinner or party you dress nicely. Women wear dresses or nice pants and shirt, and men trousers and shirt. We don't have school uniforms, but some schools have it.

Some schools have uniforms, like the British School. Some schools don't have uniforms and you can wear whatever you want. If schools don't have uniforms, schools have rules what you can wear and what not. Like Danila Kumar School, that doesn't have uniforms, but some rules what you can and can't wear.



## Useful phrases

Useful phrases in Slovenia are important words that are good to know when you are meeting someone or when you want to ask something. Here are some words that can be useful.

**Hello** - zdravo/živjo

**Welcome** - dobrodošli

**Please** - prosim

**Thank you** – hvala

**yes/no** - ja/ne

**I don't understand you** – Nerazumem te/vas

**What is your name?** - kako ti/vam je ime?

**My name is** \_\_\_\_\_ – Moje ime je \_\_\_\_\_

**Can we speak in English?** - lahko govorimo/va v angleščini?

In Slovenian language we have š,č,ž that English language don't have.

Č is pronounced as CH like chocolate, chair and choose. Š is pronounced as SH like shoe. Ž is pronounced like a 'soft s' like pleasure, measure.

## SOURCES

Maleducat. "Good Table Manners 6 Rules: How to Table Etiquette Best." *Maleducat*, 5 Aug. 2022, mal-educat.com/good-table-manners.

*Pictures - Zoeken.* [www.bing.com/search?q=pictures](http://www.bing.com/search?q=pictures).

*Visitors.* [www.visitljubljana.com/en/visitors](http://www.visitljubljana.com/en/visitors).

[Wikipedia](#)

[Osnovna šola Breg – Spletna stran OŠ Breg \(os-breg.si\)](#)

[www.sketa.digital/kako-deluje-bicikelj](http://www.sketa.digital/kako-deluje-bicikelj)

[Slovenia - Language, Culture, Customs and Etiquette \(commisceo-global.com\)](#)

*How to Pronounce the Slovenian Č, Š and Ž.* (2022, November 24). Project Ancestry - Austria | Slovenia | Italy.  
<http://www.projectancestry.com/blog/how-to-pronounce-slovene-surnames>