

Slovenia



The Central European nation of Slovenia lies along the eastern Alps bordering the Adriatic Sea. Its landmass is roughly 20,000 sq. km, making it slightly smaller than New Jersey. Formerly part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and later of Yugoslavia, the Slovenes have close ties with Western Europe, which has helped its modernization process post-Communism. It shares its borders with Austria, Croatia, Hungary, and Italy.

A diverse climate gives the country a Mediterranean feel along the coast, yielding to a continental climate with hot summers and cold winters inland. Its terrain is equally as diverse the some coastal land along the Adriatic, an alpine region as it borders Italy and Austria, and a mixture of mountains, valleys and rivers. Its natural resources include lignite coal, lead, zinc, mercury, uranium, silver, hydropower, and forests.

The Republic of Slovenia, locally known as Slovenija, the country is a parliamentary republic centered in Ljubljana and supported by 182 municipalities. A small country, Slovenia has proven to be a leader in economic stabilization among the former Soviet countries. The work force is well-educated and GDP per capita is higher than most. It joined the UE in 2004 and plans to adopt the Euro by 2007, though many of its major industries are still state-owned, and taxes remain relatively high.

Among its industries Slovenia offers ferrous metallurgy and aluminum products, lead and zinc smelting; electronics (including military electronics), trucks, electric power equipment, wood products, textiles, chemicals, and machine tools. It exports manufactured goods, machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, and food to Germany, Italy, Croatia, Austria and France. It imports machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods, chemicals, fuels and lubricants, and food stuffs mainly from Germany, Italy, Austria, France, and Croatia.

