

SLOVENIA

Slovenia is a Central European country with the area of 20.273 km². It borders four countries: Austria, Italy, Hungary and Croatia. More than half of its area is covered with forests. Among European countries only Sweden and Finland have a greater share of forests. The majority of Slovenian population are Slovenes. The population of Slovenia also includes two national minorities – the Italian and Hungarian community, and other ethnic groups like Croats, Serbs, Bosnians, Yugoslavians, Macedonians... The religion of the majority of population is Roman Catholicism. The official language of Slovenia is Slovenian.

ŠTAJERSKA

Styria is the English name for Štajerska. Štajerska region is located in the northeast of Slovenia. It isn't an official Slovenian region, its borders are made mostly by the consciousness of people in this region. It includes one fourth of Slovenia. It lies between the rivers Mura, Sava, Sotla and the beginning of Sotla.

Štajerska consists of two natural landscapes. The Panonska landscape and about a half of Predalpske landscapes.

Panonska is mostly made of low country. The Panonian sea has flown away from Panonija a long time ago, and so a low country was left. It also has a few mountains, but they aren't as big as the ones in Predalpske landscape.

This landscape is also full of rivers. The biggest ones are Mura and Sava which flow through the region. The soil in Panonija is mostly brown. There are a lot of fields on this land.

Predalpska landscape is more of a passage between the Panonija and Alpe landscapes. It is full of mountains and it continues into Alpe

Štajerska has its own dialect that is distinctive for that region. It has a little different accentuation of a few letters. And so a lot of foreigners or even Slovenes have troubles understanding their dialect.

The people in this region like to drink alcoholic beverages. It is a tradition that they drink at every special occasion that comes by and when they have time. There is a brewery Laško in that region. A lot of Slovenian people love its beer, because it has more flavour than the one from Union brewery. It has a tradition of top-level wine, which comes from landscapes in Štajerska. Like Haloze, Goričko and other landscapes.

Over the river Mura, they have a special cake "over-Mura-moving cake" (prekmurska gibanica), which is a speciality in that landscape. The region is also known for good doughnuts and "flancati".

In general are for this part of country songs more typical than dances and they are unique. They are gentle, roguish and cheerful. One of the central figures is certainly the Kurent of Ptujsko polje. He brings good luck to the inhabitants from house to house. Famous is also the dance »Po zelenoj trati«, which is a Slovenian variant of Hungarian Chardash.