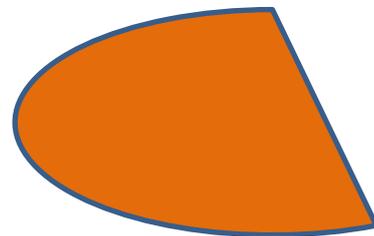
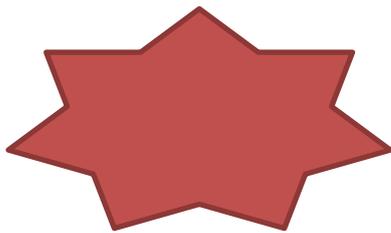


Pippi`s travel diary - Slovenia



My journey began...

Hello friends! This is my travel diary from Slovenia. The children here call me **Pika Nogavička**.

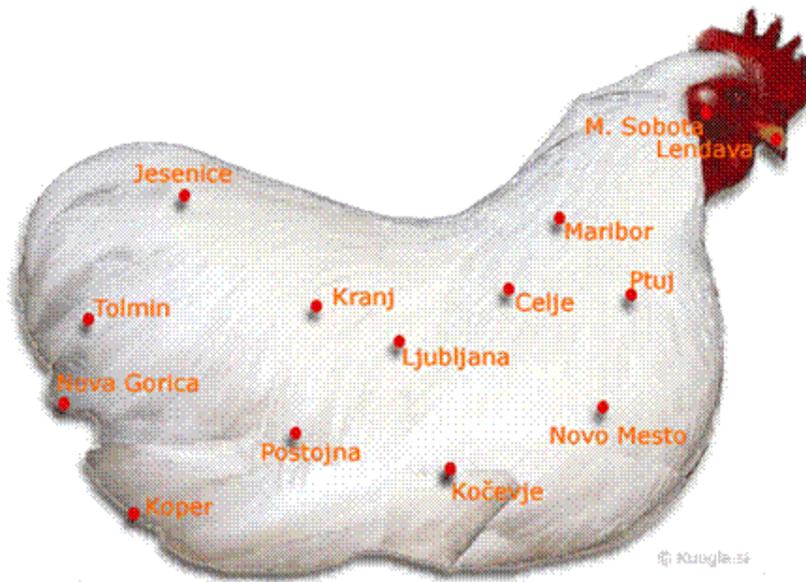
They are all very friendly. I asked them to tell me something about their homeland.



Let's see, what they told me..

National symbols

Slovenia is a small, beautiful country. It has the shape of a hen.



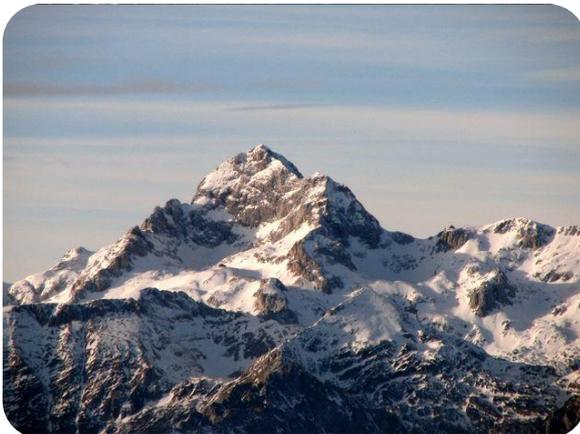
Its flag has 3 fields: white, blue and red. Its coat of arms consists of three symbols: 3 golden stars, the mountain Triglav and 3 waves that symbolize the water.



Landscape

In Slovenia everyone finds his own favorite place. If you love high mountains, you have to visit the northwest part of the country.

If you like to bath in the sea, you have to go to the southwest.



Slovenia is also called the green country. 57% of Slovenia's surface is covered by forests.



We also have many beautiful streams, waterfalls, rivers and lakes.



Landscape

And if you are more of an adventurer, you can follow the trail of the long forgotten times. Almost every city in Slovenia has a long history that goes back to the Roman times.



Fauna

Although Slovenia is very small, you can find a big variety of living creatures there. Some of the animal species are indigenous: for example the Carniolan bee, the proteus, the Styrian hen and the Karst shepherd.



Slovenia is also known as the homeland of the majestic white Lipizzaner horse.



Sports

We like to call ourselves a very sporty nation. The favorite sports of the Slovenes are: skiing, cross country skiing and mountain climbing. But of course many people also play soccer, basketball, handball and tennis, like everywhere else.

There are only a little over 2 Millions of us, but we have many excellent sportsmen and sportswomen. 😊 If you like skiing, you probably have heard of our skier Tina Maze. This year, she won many medals. Of course, she isn't the only successful athlete. Many of them are well known and some of them play for different sports teams all over the world.



Tina Maze - skier



Anže Kopitar -
hockey player

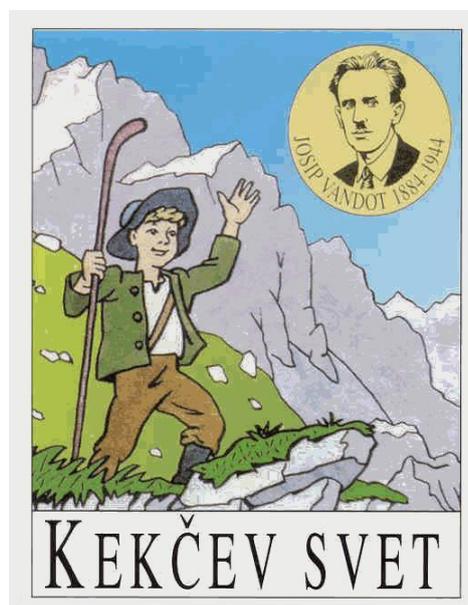


Dejan Zavec- boxer

Arts

Because the Slovene language is spoken by relatively few people, our story books, poems and movies aren't known all over the world.

Nevertheless, we are very proud of our authors, who wrote some great stories. One, for example, is the writer Josip Vandot. His story about a brave and cunning boy, called Kekec was also made into a movie.



On this link, you can find a song (from this movie) all children in Slovenia know...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XViah7DJrM>

Arts

The Slovenian folk music is very lively. It is always played by an accordion and some wind instruments. The instant, you hear it, you just can't sit still. ☺



National costumes

There isn't only one typical national costume in Slovenia... Every region has its own style, but since the 19. Century a combination of all styles made up a costume that is still worn on folk festivals as the Slovene national costume. What does it look like?

Well, the men's hats are decorated with capercaillie feathers, their leather trousers end just under the knees and the vest is decorated with tiny embroidered carnations.

The women wear a special head cover, called **avba**, a colourful scarf with fringes covers their shoulders, and their dresses are long and tight to the waist.



Food

Typical Slovenian food is hearty. It consists of potatoes, cabbage, turnips and different types of sausages or roast.



But the best are the sweets, prepared by the Slovenian confectioners. The cream cakes - **kremšnite**, **prekmurske gibanice** and **potice** are simply mouth-watering.





Like you, the children in Slovenia also have to go to school. They start primary school, when they are 6 years old. Before that age, they go to the kindergarten. There they play and learn, some of them also learn a little English.

Of course, I wanted to play with them, so they showed me all of their favorite games.

We played many fantastic games, we danced and we jumped over the jump rope... We went for walks and they took me along on great trips.

I really enjoyed my visit to Slovenia!