

S L O V E N I A

NATACHA 14



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NATACHA
SLOVENIJA

You, cyclists who like to climb, discover in these few pages what makes the list of the national challenge in Slovenia so rich.

GEOGRAPHY

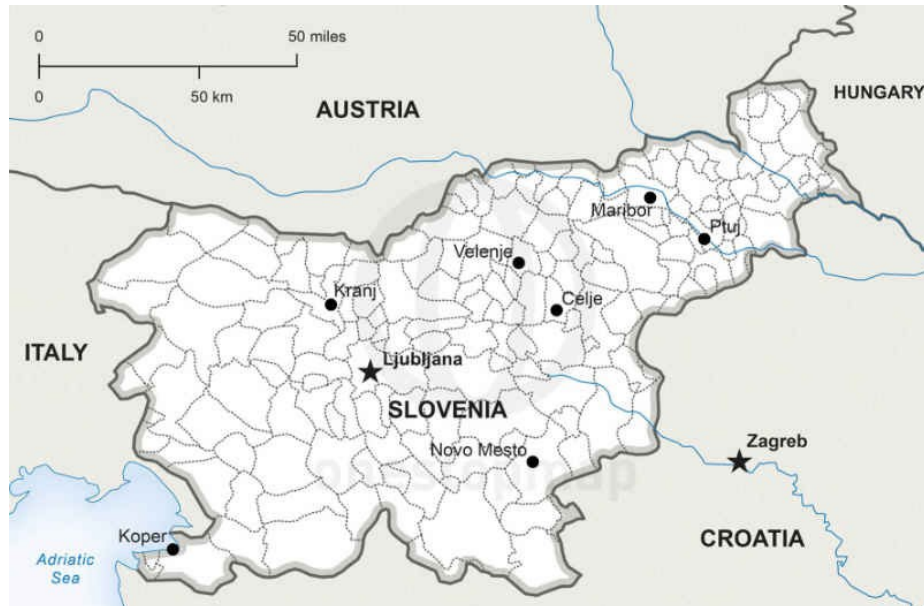
MEDIA

TOURISM

SPORT

Slovenia

Slovenia is the northernmost country of the former Yugoslavia. It is also the first that joined the European Union, in 2004, together with the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and the Baltic countries among others. It has an area of 20,000km² and its capital is Ljubljana. It's bounded by Italy to the west, Austria to the north, Hungary to the north-east and Croatia to the south and to the east. It has a narrow access to the Adriatic sea, in the south-west, to the south of Trieste. For the cycling fans, it's necessarily Primož Roglič, Tadej Pogačar and Matej Mohorič's land.



Geography of Slovenia (see the map below)

In a few words, mountain dominates in the north and south. Between both we find plateaus and high hills. Northeastward the relief gets lower.

1-The northern mountains belong to the Eastern Alps

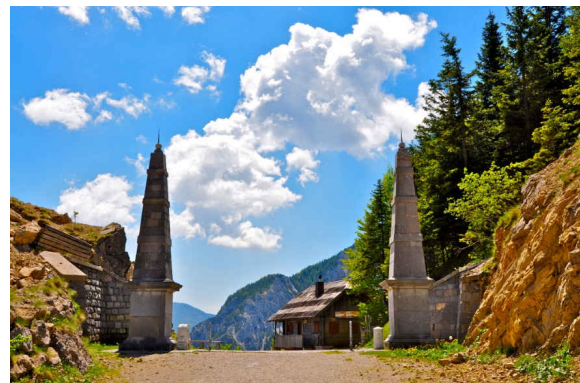
From north-west to north, there are 4 ranges along the border with Italy and Austria:

-The Julian Alps (Julijske Alpe), in the far north-west, where the highest point of Slovenia is located: Triglav (« three heads », 2864m). There we've selected 3 BIGs (Mangartško sedlo, Vršič and Bled) to which we've added 6 other climbs: Pokljuka, Planina Kuhinja, Tolminske Ravne, Kolovrat, Bohinjsko sedlo and Lig).

-The Karawanks are separated from the Julian Alps by the Sava River. They peak at Stol / Hochstuhl (2236m) and we visit the range at the prelaz Ljubelj (Loiblpass in Austria, 005).



Triglav National Park



Prelaz Ljubelj / Loiblpass

-The Kamnik-Savinja Alps (Kamniško-Savinjske Alpe in Slovenian) are situated north of Kamnik and north-east of Kranj. Their highest point is Grintavec (2558m). We approach it in the Kamniška Bistrica Cirque (015), at the Planina Jezerca Alpine Pasture (014) and at the BIG Črnivec (016).

-Pohorje and Kozjak are located west of Maribor. They are separated from each other by the Drava River. Črni vrh (1543 m) and Kapunar (1051m) are their respective summits. Kope (040) is very near to Črni vrh. Above Maribor, we can criss-cross Pohorje thanks to Trije Kralji (042) and the BIGs Mariborsko Pohorje (043) and Rogla (041). The Radlpass (Radeljski prelaz in Slovenian) is the closest climb to Kapunar, we've classified it in the Austrian list. In the Slovenian challenge, Sveti Duh na ostrem vrhu (044) allows the visit of the range.



Kamniška Bistrica



Pohorje above Maribor

2-In the north-east, the relief substantially decreases and turn into hills:

The Slovenske gorice (« Slovene Hills ») are located east of Maribor. They don't exceed 400m high and are bounded by the Drava to the west and the Mura to the east, the borders with Austria to the north and with Croatia to the south. The region is notorious for its vineyards. There we've chosen Jeruzalem (053).

In the far north-east, beyond the Mura (therefore the region is called Prekmurje or Pomurje), the hills are still lower. They are part of the Goričko Landscape Park:

<https://www.naravniparkislovenije.si/en/nature-parks/goricko-landscape-park>

We've selected the tripoint Slovenia-Austria-Hungary (Tromejnik, 055) and Pečarovci (054).



Slovenske Gorice



Kum

3-The centre is occupied by high hills (« hribovje » in Slovene), actually it is mid mountain: North-west to Ljubljana, the Škofjeloško hribovje (« Škofja Loka Hills »). Črni vrh nad Novaki (1271m, 012) lies in this range.

West to the capital city, the Polhograjsko hribovje (« Polhov Gradec Hills »). Toško Čelo (570m, 026) represents them in our list.

To the east, the Posavsko hribovje (« the Sava Hills »). Kum (1204m, 059), Podmeja (731m, 045) and Ostenk (522m, 058) are in the challenge. The hills are prolonged to the east and the border with Croatia by Kozjansko (Grad Podsreda, 050, and Svete Gore, 051).



4-The ranges that lie in the south of Slovenia are the northern part of the Dinaric Alps. On the small map below, we can see that they are lined up in rows facing south-east:



A1 : The Kras and the Istria Mountains (Brkini on the big map). The Kras is a karst plateau located between Trieste in the south and Nova Gorica / Gorizia in the north, therefore it follows the border with Italy. We visit it at Cerje (018) and along the Rihemberk Castle from Branik (023). Istria is a coastal region (Viewpoint in Pacug, near Piran, 031), but the hinterland is overlooked by the Mount Slavnik (1028m, 035). Between both there are low hills, like the BIG Korte (253m, 032), Sveti Anton (372m, 034) and the Socerb Castle (430m, 033).



The coastal Slovenia (Piran)

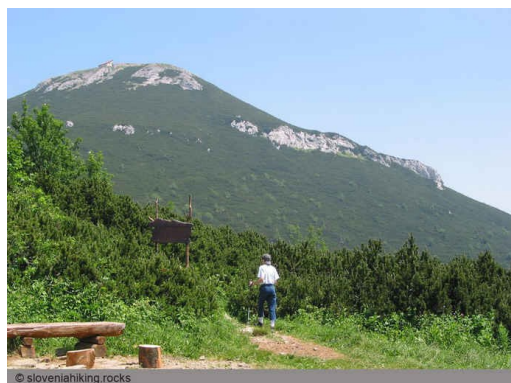


Trnovski gozd

B1 : Trnovski gozd is another karst plateau, covered with a forest (« gozd » in Slovene) and its highest point is Veliki Golak (1495m). The range is represented in the list: Predmeja (Mala Lazna, 022) at the bottom of the Golak, Oblakov vrh (019), Idrijske Krnice (020), Gore (021) and Sedlo Godovič (024).

B2 : Snežnik-Gorksi kotar (Javorniki is on the big map, Gorski kotar is in Croatia). We climb Snežnik to Sviščaki (067) and the northern side of the range from Postojna to Koča Mladika (066).

North-west of Snežnik we find the Nanos plateau (025).



Snežnik



Nanos

B3 : South and south-east of Ljubljana, the Inner Carniola plateau (Krim, 1107m, 029) and the one of Lower Carniola, crossed by the Krka River, north of Novo Mesto.

C1 : Kočevski rog (summit at Visoki rog, 1099m) that we visit at Baza 20 (601m, 071) and Mirna gora (1001m, 074).

Between Snežnik and Kočevski rog, the Goteniška gora. Its highest point, Goteniški Snežnik, (1289m) is situated north of the BIG Strma Reber (069).

C2 : Gorjanci/Žumberak (summit at Trdinov vrh / Sveta Gera, 073, Žumberak is in Croatia).

Tourism in Slovenia

3 particular geographical points are highlighted by a monument:

The Geometric Centre of the Country (GEOSS, 056),

The tripoint Slovenia-Austria-Hungary (Tromejnik Trdkova, 055) in the far north-east,

The 15th Meridian in Vrhtrebnje (064).



GEOSS



The 15th Meridian

Green tourism

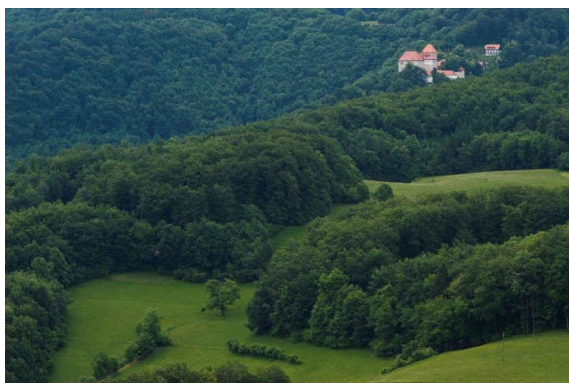
In 2021, 13% of the Slovenian territory was considered as protected area, in one form or another: 1 national park (Triglav), 3 regional parks (Kozjansko, Notranjska and the Škocjan Caves), 34 landscape parks, 66 nature reservations and more than 1200 natural monuments.

More details on <https://naravniparkislovenije.si/en>

Some climbs of the challenge allow to visit them:

Mangartsko sedlo (001), Vršič (002), Pokljuka (003), Planina Kuhinja (006) and Tolminske Ravne (007) are located in the Triglav NP.

Grad Podsreda (050) and Cerkev Svete Gore (Zagaj, 051) lie in the Kozjansko regional park and Koča Mladika (066) in the Notranjska one.



Podsreda Castle



Koča Mladika Viewpoint

Among the landscape parks, Goričko, already mentioned, is in the Prekmurje Hills.

Several summits are the centre of a natural park: Golte (037), Nanos (025), Kum (059) and the Jeruzalem vineyards (053).

Snežnik (067) belongs to a UNESCO site spreaded over 18 countries and called « Primeval Beech Forests ».

Some roads are scenic and some summits belvederes, like Šmarjetna gora (013) above Kranj, Nanos (025), Krim (029), Kriška vas (030), Panoramski razgled Pacug (031) above Piran on the Istrian Coast, the Podmeja (045) and Ostenk (058) hairpins above Trbovlje, Kum (059) and Mirna gora (074).



Šmarjetna gora



Mirna gora

Blue tourism

At the bottom of the Julian Alps and the Karawanks, the Lake Bled (004) is one of the most idyllic postcards that could exist. Not far from there, the Lake Bohinj (Bohinjsko jezero) is the largest in Slovenia. It lies at the foot of the Fužina Hills (UNESCO Tentative List) and, in the challenge, near Pokljuka (003).

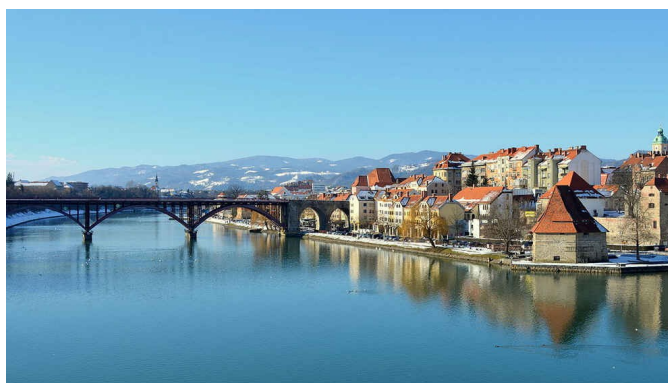


With its almost 1000km, the Sava is the Yugoslav river par excellence. It rises (it has two different springs) upstream from the Lake Bohinj and Kranjska Gora, it crosses Slovenia from NW to SE (Kranj and Ljubljana in particular), it is the border between Slovenia and Croatia (where it flows through Zagreb), then between Croatia and Bosnia, it flows into Serbia and finally reaches its confluence with the Danube at the foot of the Belgrade Fortress.

In the Slovenian Challenge, it can be seen in Kranj (Šmarjetna gora, 013), at the GEOSS (056), at the bottom of Kum (059) in Budna vas-N (061), from the Rajhenburg Castle (062) or at the top of Grmada (063).



The Sava from Rajhenburg



The Drava through Maribor

The Drava is another international river (750km). It rises in Italy (Dobbiaco, Bolzano), flows through the south of Austria (Lienz and Villach) and the north-east of Slovenia (Maribor), crosses the border with Croatia, where it flows along the border with Hungary and it finally flows into the Danube near Aljmaš (see CRO-034 Aljmaš Dalj planina).

In the challenge, the Drava can be seen at the bottom of the two southern sides of Sveti Duh na Ostrem vrhu (044) and in Maribor (Mariborsko Pohorje, 044).

Where to go skiing?

Of course in Kranjska Gora, that means Vršič north side (002) and on the Pokljuka plateau (003), that are two notorious sport places at international level. Or on Soriška planina (Bohinjsko sedlo, 010), in Črni vrh nad Novaki (012), Ambrož pod Krvavcem (Planina Jezerca, 014), Golte (037), Kope (040) and in Trije Kralji (042).



Biathlon in Pokljuka



Kranjska Gora

Cultural tourism

Memorial sites

-The Ljubelj / Loibl Tunnel (005) was dugged during World War II by forced labourers (like the French STO) and deported prisoners in German camps. Two camps were built (one on each side of the pass) to concentrate the workers.

-On the edge of the Cerje Plateau, a monument is dedicated to the defenders of the Slovenian homeland (018). It is a seven-storey fortress, each storey representing a period of the national history, from prehistoric times to the two world wars and the war for the independence. At the top of the tower, the panorama symbolises the view into the future.

-Baza 20 (071)

It is a group of wooden barracks hidden in the forest and used in World War II as headquarters by the leaders of different Slovenian resistance groups, among which the National Liberation Movement of Slovenia (OFSN).



Cerje



Baza 20

A lot of castles:

Bled (004), Rihemberk (023), Ljubljana (027), Socerb above Črni Kal (033), Celje (046), Podsreda (050), Bogenšperk (057), Rajhenburg (062) and Kostel (070).



Rihemberk



Celje

Religious buildings

Sveta Gora (017) is crowned by a basilica built in the 16th century, destroyed during World War I and rebuilt in the interwar period.

« Suspended » churches belong to the Slovenian landscape. For instance, Sveti Rupert (Završe, 039) Sveti Duh na Ostrem vrhu (044), Cerkev Sv. Gore (051) or Osredek pri Krmelju (060).



Sveta Gora



Cerkev Sv. Gore

Sport in Slovenia

Top 10 in europoints

Mangartsko sedlo (1489),

Kum (1159),

Nanos (1058),

Prelaz Ljubelj (1027), Planina Jezerca (1025), Predmeja (998), Kolovrat / Nagnoj (991), Golte (959), Vršič (952) and Rogla (905).



The road to Mangartsko sedlo



Planina Jezerca

Top 10 in bomb

Torka (41pts),

Mangartsko sedlo (39),

Kum (38),

Sveta Gora (35),

Idrijske Krnice (34),

Nanos (33),

Kolovrat / Nagnoj and Pavličevo sedlo (32),

Rajhenburg, Planina Kuhinja, Planina Jezerca, Osredek, Pokojišče, Golte and Šmarjetna gora (31).



The road to d'Istrijske Krnice



and to Torka

Top10 in elevation gain

Mangartsko sedlo (1429m),

Predmeja (1100),

Nanos (1071),

Rogla (1056), Golte (1047), Črni vrh nad Novaki (1023), Planina Jezerca (1020), Bohinjsko sedlo (1005), Kolovrat / Nagnoj (1003) and Vršič (984).



Rogla



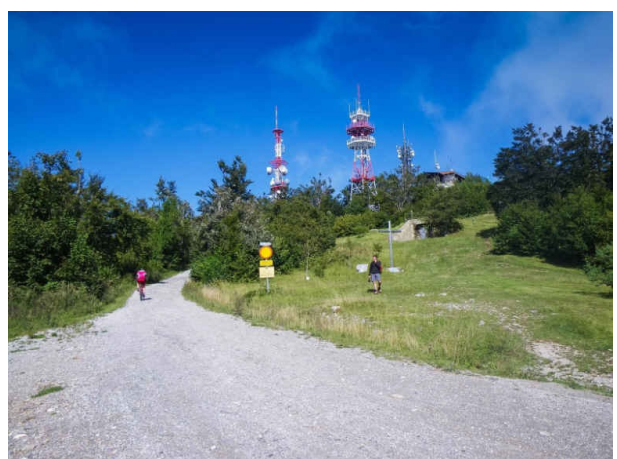
Golte

Top10 in distance

Snežnik (28km),

Kolovrat / Nagnoj (26),

Predmeja, Bohinjsko sedlo et Pokljuka (24), Sedlo Godovič (20), Črni vrh nad Novaki et Trije Kralji (19), Krim (18) and Mangartsko sedlo (17).



The top of Krim

Slovenia in the media

The Tour of Slovenia

This stage race exists since 1993, with a few famous winners: Roglič (2015 and 2018) and Pogačar (2021), a few Italians (Ulissi 2x and Nibali), the Pole Majka and the Estonian Taaramäe.

Several uphill finishes:

Vršič (in 2003, 2004 and 2005), Šmarjetna gora (2003), Trije Kralji (2014 + a normal KOM in 2015), Golte (2016), Svetina (2016, ITT with finish at Celjska koča), Rogla (2017) and Sveta Gora (2021).

Some 1st category climbs:

Strma Reber (2014 and 2015), Črni vrh (2016), Pavličevo sedlo (2018) and Predmeja (2019).

Or others:

Peciča (2003), Prelaz Ljubelj (tunnel in 2004 and 2005), Bogenšperk (2014, 2016 and 2017), Budna vas (2015 and 2017), Črnivec (2016), Črni Kal (2017, the major part is included in Socerb, 033), Jezersko sedlo (2018), that is the Slovenian side of the Austrian BIG Seeberg Sattel, Planina pri Sevnici (2018 and 2019) and Vahta (2019)



Rogla 2017: 1 Majka 2 Visconti 3 Haig



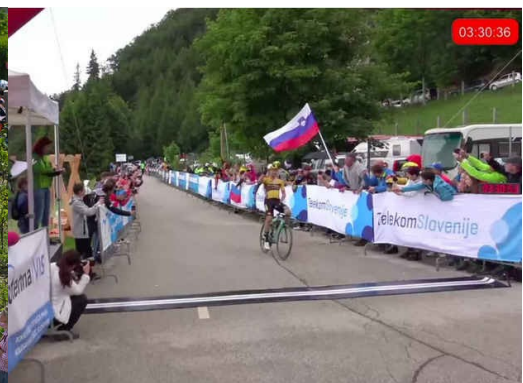
Sveta Gora 2021: 1 Ulissi 2 Pogačar 3 Sobrero

In 2020, the finish of the **Road National Championships** was in Ambrož pod Krvavcem, that means at km3 of the Planina Jezerca climb.

The **Giro d'Italia** went 6 times through Slovenia (1922, 1971, 1994, 2001, 2004 and 2021). No information available for 1922 and 1971. In 1994, the riders crossed Črni vrh before the finish in Kranj. In 2001, Vrhovlje pri Kojskem was the last climb before the finish in Nova Gorica and in 2021, Gornje Cerovo was climbed 3 times and Kostanjeviška cesta one time in the rain before a finish in the Italian part of the same town (Gorizia).



The Giro d'Italia in Slovenia (2021-14)



Roglič 2020 champion in Ambrož

The **GP Kranj** was created in 1967. In recent years (in 2019 and 2021 for instance), it has become an urban race. In the past, however, its profile was much more hilly, crossing Gornje Jezersko at 900m, at the bottom of the hairpins of the Seeberg Sattel Slovenian side, climbing the hills around Kranj, like Senično or Brezje pri Tržiču, and above all finishing uphill on Šmarjetna gora, in 2003.

The **GP Adria Mobil** is a race 1.2 created in 2015. Its route (from Novo Mesto to Novo Mesto) is steady with two KOM, Brezovica (near Semič) and Vahta (selected in the challenge).

The **Velika nagrada Slovenske Istre** (GP Slovenian Istria) started in 2014. At first it was called « GP of Izola ». In 2014, the riders climbed Sveti Anton-NE (034), but without the Kubed short cut. The route is the same since 2015: Baredi is climbed 4 times from Izola, then the Strunjan Belvedere. We've preferred Pacug to it, due to the Piran side.

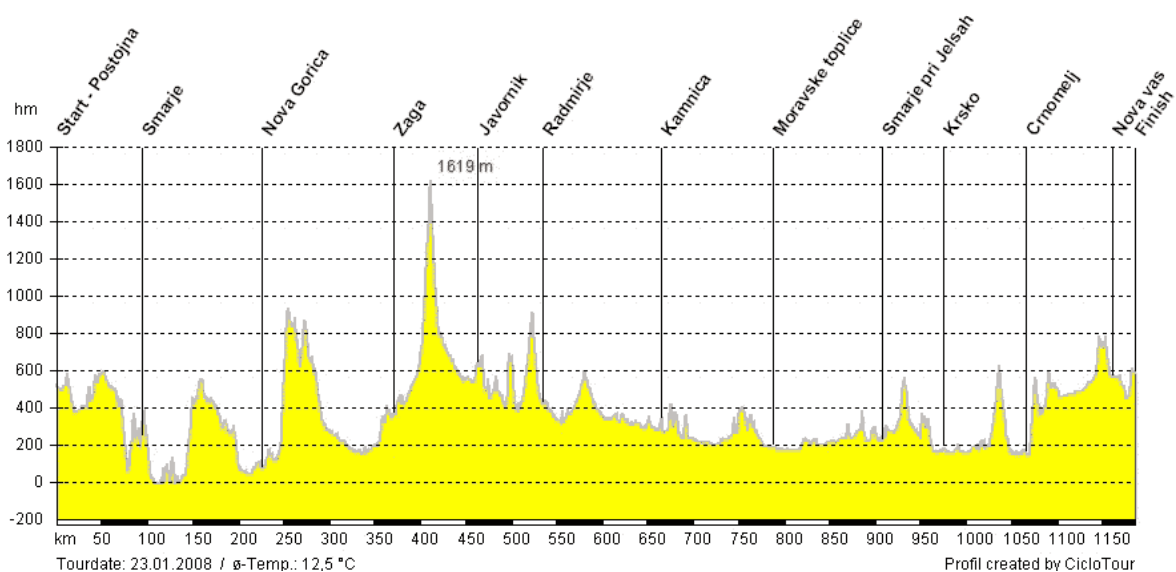


Baredi (Izola) in 2019

Race Around Slovenia Extreme

It's an ultraracing race (1200km and 13000m elevation gain) in 12 stages. Informations and the list of stages on: https://prijavim.se/index_page/news/2009/zacetek_dos_ras_extreme_2015/

Profile 2008:



In 2008, the ultraracers crossed among others Predmeja (815m), Col (844m) the first part of Sedlo Godovič (024), Vršič (1611m), Šenturška Gora (655m), Črnivec (902m) and Vahta (598m).

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