

## Images of Slovenia

Most people think of Slovenia and they have a joke ready right away: »Oh, Slovenia, that little country where you can ski off the highest peak directly into the sea.« Yes, it is a small country but it sure is beautiful.

There are so many unique things that represent us. But which one is **the one**? I think that *kozolci* (hayracks) are a good choice. We have about 30 different types and most of them can only be seen in Slovenia, so I put a *toplar* in the poster. I decided not to include our traditional costumes because that is slowly becoming a worn-out symbol, a stereotype for every country.

I also included *Triglav* which is our highest peak and we are very proud of it. We even have a saying that you are not a true Slovenian if you have not been to *Triglav* yet.

Every country has a traditional food or drink and so do we. I did not want to put in *pršut* or *prekmurska gibanica*, because they represent a region more than the whole country. So I finally decided on *žganci* and *potica*. *Žganci* mostly represent our history and an every-day-food of average people, while *potica* is a pastry for festive occasions. It is original and our specialty. The recipes are a kind of family secret, passing from generation to generation.

Animals were trickier. I was choosing between a Lipizzaner and Proteus or *človeška ribica*, as we call it. I decided to put in both, because we are well known for Lipizzaner and the Proteus is just so fascinating and unique.

I also had to include our greatest poet. I was thinking about *Srečko Kosovel* but then I figured out he is not as known as *France Prešeren*. After all, he wrote many excellent poems which were translated in over 25 languages.

As for music I did not know what to do really. At first I thought that we are not recognizable in that area at all. I later remembered that *Avseniki* are pretty well known but I do not think that that is the music of our generation so I opted for *Laibach* instead. They are widely known even though most people do not even know they are from Slovenia.

And last but not least I included a lime leaf which has become our symbol because it is so wide spread in Slovenia and very useful from leaves to bark.

So that was a little something about Slovenia and I hope people all over the world will get to know the beauties of our cute little country where you can ski from *Triglav* directly into *the Adriatic sea*. :)

