

SLOVENIA CUSTOMS

Greetings:

Upon meeting, people smile, shake hands, and greet each other with *Kako se imate?* (How are you?). Informally, the term is *Kako se imaš?* Some people kiss on both cheeks when greeting.

"Hello" is expressed with *živijo* or *Zdravo*. *Dobro jutro* (Good morning), *Dober dan* (Good day), *Dober večer* (Good evening), and *Lahko noč* (Good night) are also common. Women are addressed as *Gospa* (Madam) or *Gospodična* (Miss), and men as *Gospod* (Sir).

Gestures:

Slovenes use hand movements to emphasize speech. In conversation, speakers maintain a certain distance from each other, even if they are longtime acquaintances.

When conversing with another person, one stands straight and does not place the hands in the pockets.

Holidays:

Official holidays are New Year's Days (1–2 Jan.), National Culture Day (8 Feb.), Day of Uprising against the Nazi Occupation (27 Apr.), Labor Days (1–2 May), National Day (25 June, for independence in 1991), Reformation Day (31 Oct.), and Independence Day (26 December, for the 1990 plebiscite to form an independent state). Easter, Assumption Day (15 Aug.), Day of the Dead (1 Nov.), and Christmas are religiously oriented official national holidays.

Slovenes celebrate seasonal events such as the harvest and grape-picking days. A festival that honors butchering and the harvest is called *Koline*. On this day, farmers share newly butchered pork and special sausages with neighbors.

Pust is the Slovene equivalent of Mardi Gras.

The day before a holiday is also celebrated. The name for such evenings is suffixed with *-ovanje*: *Silvestrovanje* (New Year's Eve), *Miklavžovanje* (St. Nicholas Eve), *Kurentovanje* (the evening before *Pust* when according to tradition the *Kurent*, a demon figure, chases away the winter), *Kresovanje* (Midsummer's Night Eve), and so on.