

SLOVENIA¹.

Read and match the paragraphs to the headings

- 1.The emerald beauty
- 2.The oldest vine
- 3.Like hiking?
- 4.Slovenia's most popular musicians
- 5.Forests cover more territory than urban areas
- 6.The longest word in Slovene
- 7.Resembling Venice
- 8.Nuclear Power Plant



A) Slovenia is known for good wines. But one thing about wine is particularly special in Slovenia. It is *Stara Trta*, 400 year old vine that is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest vine on earth. It sits in the old part of Maribor. Every year it only yields about 50 kg of grapes, which makes about 25 liters of wine. And not only is the wine special - the bottles are specially made by the artist Oskar Kogoj. All in all, this maybe the best gift to bring from Slovenia.

B) It's *dialektičnomaterialističen*, and it means materialistic in a dialectic way. Whatever that means. With 26 letters, it's the undisputed champion in length. (This isn't the case in English, where debates rage about what the longest real word is.) In Slovene, some words come close like: *buržoazno-nacionalističen*, (bourgeoisie nationalistic) and *starocerkvenoslovanščina* (Old church Slavic).

C) The turquoise Soča river, which starts in Slovenia's Julian Alps, looks so unreal, in fact, that Disney chose to film the fantasy adventure film "Prince Caspian" by its banks. It has inspired great poets from Italy and Slovenia, and continues to wow visitors to this day.

D) Slovenia has one nuclear power plant, which is located in the town of Krško. Krško is jointly run by Slovenia and Croatia and it provides enormous amounts of power to both countries. It supplies a full 25% of Slovenia's energy needs, and about 20% of Croatia's. It is expected to retire in 2023.

E)The beautiful little town of *Kostanjevica na Krki* is built on an artificial river island. With only 750 residents, it's a small village – but with Venice flair. And definitely cheaper.

F) There are plenty of candidates, from rock group Siddharta, to cult legends Laibach, and many more... but one often overlooked superstar is Slavko Avsenik. The song "*Na Golici*" has become a cult classic.

G) About 58% of Slovenia's territory is forested. If that sounds like a lot, it's because it is. Especially in Europe. In fact, among European countries, only Finland has more forests (as a percentage of its total area). Slovenia comes second. It's ahead of its neighbours -- even ahead of Russia. The big European countries like France and Germany are about 30% forested.

H) The country has over 7,000 kilometres of mountain hiking trails. If you walked every trail in Slovenia, it would take you 3 months of non-stop, 24-hour walking. That's without stopping. Luckily, there are places to stop: the country has close to 200 mountain huts scattered across the country.