Triglav National Park
in brief

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1 GENERAL INFORMATION

The Triglav National Park (TNP) is the only Slovenian national park. The park was named after Triglav, the highest mountain in the heart of the park, which is also the highest summit in Slovenia (2864 m). The origin of the name Triglav is rather uncertain. Triglav (»three-headed«) owes its name to its characteristic shape as seen from the south-east side or to the highest Slavic deity who was supposed to have its throne on the top of the mountain. The mountain is a true national symbol and is featured on the national coat of arms and the flag.

The Triglav National Park extends along the Italian border and close to the Austrian border in the north-west of Slovenia, that is, in the south-eastern section of the Alps. Its territory is nearly identical with that occupied by the Eastern Julian Alps. The park covers 880 square kilometres, or 3% of the territory of Slovenia. The Triglav National Park is one of the oldest European parks; the first protection dates back to 1924 when the Alpine Conservation Park was founded. The principal task of the Triglav National Park Public Institution is the protection of the park, but it also carries out specialist and research tasks.

| TNP history milestones: | 1906 or 1908 – first proposal by Prof. Albin Belar; unfortunately, the idea was not realized  
1924 – The Alpine Conservation Park in the Triglav Lakes Valley was founded (1600 ha)  
1961 – The decree promulgating the Triglav Lakes Valley as the Triglav National Park (2000 ha)  
1981 – the Law on the Triglav National Park defined the park's present borders  
2003 – The Julian Alps and the Triglav National Park were included into the UNESCO MAB (Man and Biosphere) network  
2004 – The Park was awarded the European Diploma of Protected Areas  
2007 - European Union Prize for cultural heritage / Europa Nostra awards for the safeguarding of a rare and authentic example of 18th century alpine architectural and ethnological heritage on Pocar Farm in Zgornja Radovna. |
| Total area: | 83.807 ha |
| Central area: | 55.332 ha |
| Peripheral area: | 28.475 ha |
| Highest point: | Triglav – 2864 m |
| Lowest point: | Tolminka Gorge – 180 m |
| Landscape features: | Young folded ranges of the Eastern Julian Alps, diverse relief forms with pointed summits, steep rock faces and deeply-carved glacier valleys. |
| Climate: | Average temperatures in the warmest month range from 20 °C in the valley and 5.6 °C in the mountains, and in the coldest month the temperatures range between 0.7 °C and – 8.8 °C. The annual average of precipitation exceeds 1500 mm. There are 120 to 146 precipitation days in a year. |
| Forest: | Forest covers two thirds of the park territory; the predominating tree species on the south side of the park is the beech, whereas spruces and larches are characteristic of the northern side of the park. |
| Waters: | Subterranean waters, karst springs, water courses and glacier lakes are |
Invaluable TNP assets. The mountain ridges between the Sava and the Soča rivers mark the watershed between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of settlements:</th>
<th>33 (21 entirely, 12 partly)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number of inhabitants:</td>
<td>2,444 (Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, October 2010)</td>
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<td>Municipalities in the park:</td>
<td>Bovec (30.9%), Bohinj (26.1%), Kranjska Gora (16.5%), Bled (4%), Tolmin (8.5%), Kobarid (3.9%), Gorje (10%) and Jesenice (0.1%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human activities:</td>
<td>Agriculture with pastoral economy, crafts (wood and wool products), tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local produce:</td>
<td>Bovec Sheep Cheese, Tolminc Cheese, Mohant Cheese and wood and wool products</td>
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<td>Average annual number of visitors:</td>
<td>1,6 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of TNP Public Institution employees:</td>
<td>63 (December 2012)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Managing authority:</td>
<td>Triglav National Park Public Institution</td>
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</table>
2 AIMS OF THE PARK

NATURE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPE
The primary aim of national parks worldwide is the protection of nature, conservation of outstanding nature and culture, protection of endemic, rare and threatened plant and animal species, natural ecosystems and elements of inanimate nature, as well as the conservation and maintenance of the cultural landscape.

ENSURING SUSTAINABLE PARK DEVELOPMENT
The Triglav National Park (TNP) strives to ensure coordinated, sustainable development of the area and the industries practiced in the park, in particular agriculture, forestry and tourism, and to provide suitable material and other conditions for the life and work of the local population.

PROMOTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENJOYMENT OF THE PARK
Only protected nature can provide this generation and the generations to come with spiritual relaxation and growth. By providing guidance (info centres and info points, info boards, park trails), organising guided tours, outdoor biological workshops, creative workshops and various educational programmes, the TNP creates opportunities for visitors to enjoy the park. As for recreation, the TNP only supports activities that are in compliance with the primary objective of the national park.

RESEARCH
Research in the form of regular research and research projects is conducted in several different fields. Data acquired, results and findings are used in preparation of professional groundwork and as guidelines for further work.

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES
Education and awareness-building play an important role in understanding and respect for the park. TNP’s activities in this field are: preparation and issue of publications, planned public relations activities, design and execution of diverse educational programmes, intended in particular for the young, and awareness-building campaigns

MANAGEMENT
The mission of the Triglav National Park is to provide professional implementation support to decisions on nature protection and development and to open up possibilities for coordination of different interests and activities in the protected area. Proper management ensures implementation of the park’s objectives and sets an example of management conduct for other protected areas. An important element of the park's activities is participation in the preparation of the new Triglav National Park Act and preparation of professional groundwork for the TNP Management Plan.
3 RULES OF CONDUCT IN THE PARK

Visit the TNP with care
Mountain tops, wild and deep gorges, rich flora, cultural landscape with mountain pastures and picturesque small villages with rich cultural heritage invite you to visit the Triglav National Park. It is an exceptional experience to get to know the nature, cultural landscape and the people of the park, but in doing so we should always observe the primary objectives of nature protection. At TNP, we wish to provide visitors with ample opportunities for rich, hands-on experience of the Park and its theme trails. However, please remember that we are all just guests of a beautiful yet highly sensitive natural environment and that by visiting a national park we take on the responsibility to help maintain its state of preservation.

Rules of conduct in the National Park
- Respect the customs and traditions of the people who live in the park.
- Do not make any noise so as not to disturb the wildlife.
- Admire the plants, but do not pick them, do not leave any waste in the park, but take it with you, along with wonderful memories.
- Dogs should be kept on a leash
- Park trails are intended for hikers, and cycling along the trails is not permitted.
- Follow the signs on information posts along the trails.
- Leave vehicles in designated places.
Forests cover two thirds of the park’s area including valley bottoms, steep slopes and high plateaus.
The most characteristic tree species in the Triglav National Park are beeches, spruces and larches. Though especially spruces, larches and dwarf pines create the image of the Alpine world, the Julian Alps are also characterised by warmth-loving stands of hornbeams and ashes on the southern side of the park.

Only species and individual trees which adapt to the harsh conditions of the mountainous areas of TNP can thrive. On the Soča side of the park the tree line does not extend above 1600 m a.s.l. The highest reaching tree species is the beech, which is comfortable with frequent cloudiness and abundant precipitation, but spruces and larches manage to survive on higher ground. In the centre of the park and in the north, the higher forest belt is dominated by spruces and larches, which set the tree line at 1800 m a.s.l.

The Triglav National Park contains forests reserves with a total area of over 1000 hectares, which are completely left to natural development.
Agriculture and countryside development
The vision of TNP with regard to agriculture and countryside development is as follows:
• to actively participate in the development activities of regions and/or local communities, which are related to nature and human activity in the natural environment;
• to closely cooperate with the local inhabitants as economic operators;
• to support farming as a prerequisite for the conservation of cultural landscape;
• to introduce sustainable development elements into the implementation of nature conservation measures;
• to raise public awareness, and to inform and educate the general public on the role of agriculture in nature protection and in cultural landscape conservation;
• to integrate the natural and cultural heritage of the TNP area in the rounded development of the wide area of the Julian Alps.
6 SETTLEMENTS AND PEOPLE IN THE PARK

The villages and hamlets of TNP are strung out between 250 metres (the lowest-lying buildings of Zadlaz-Čadrg) and 1000 metres above sea level (Koprivnik in the Bohinj area) and even 1350 metres above sea level (the highest-lying structures of Goreljek).

Within its borders, the TNP incorporates 25 settlements with a total population of 2352 people. Ukanc and Bavšica are located in the central zone of the park, and the remaining 21 settlements are in the peripheral zone.

Two of these settlements are in the Radovna valley – Zgornja Radovna and Radovna. The little village of Perniki lies amidst the forests of the Mežakla plateau. The clustered village of Spodnje Laze nestles on the southern slope of this karst plateau, and Zgornje Laze is set on the plateau a good hundred meters higher. Only a small section of Spodnje Gorje and Krnica extends into the national park. The next little group of settlements rests on the southern slope of the karst Pokljuka plateau – the scattered villages of Podjelje, Koprivnik and Gorjuše. The village of Goreljek is located a few hundred meters higher. In the Upper Bohinj Valley two villages, Stara Fužina and Studor v Bohinju, are within the borders of the national park. Ribčev Laz is located on the south-eastern shore of Lake Bohinj in the Lower Bohinj Valley. The village Strmec na Predelu lies below the Predel pass. Further down, at the Koritnica river, Spodnji Log and Gorenji Log with several hamlets make up the elongated settlement of Log pod Mangartom. The people of Trenča live in numerous hamlets and on isolated farms, whose centre is the village Na Logu. Isolated farms and holiday cottages of the village Soča extend into the Vrsnik valley.

The scattered village of Lepena is located in the parallel glacial valley along the Lepenjica stream. The villages of Zadlaz-Čadrg and Zadlaz-Žabče stand on the remains of glacial terraces on the banks of the Zadlašica at the southern border of the park. At an altitude of nearly 1000 m a.s.l. rests the village Tolminske Ravne, while the village of Čadrg is set on the remains of glacial terraces above the Tolminka gorge. Local inhabitants make their living primarily through agriculture, tourism, wood processing industry, and iron industry and other activities.
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE
Although protection and conservation of pristine nature is the primary objective of a national park, Alpine national parks are endowed with a responsibility to preserve the autochthonous, pristine cultural heritage as the basis for sustainable development. For Slovenia, the Alpine cultural heritage is of utmost importance because it connects Slovenes with the family of Alpine nations.

The cultural heritage of the TNP is very interesting, diverse and picturesque, because the park lies at the meeting point of various climates as well as various cultures, each of them leaving a mark on the cultural heritage of the area. Evaluation and preservation of the cultural heritage is an extremely demanding but rewarding task.

The register of immovable cultural heritage with the Ministry of Culture of RS contains 300 units for the area of the Triglav National Park.

The number of registered units is changing as a number of units are in the process of registration. According to the type of heritage, secular architectural heritage prevails (approximately a third of all registered units), followed by memorial heritage (almost 25%), settlement heritage (approximately 17%), religious architectural heritage (just over 14%) and archaeological heritage (almost 7%).

The protection of cultural heritage encompasses archaeological sites, settlement areas, man-made nature and cultural landscape, buildings, parts thereof and groups of buildings of artistic, historical or technical value. The cultural heritage also includes buildings associated with important persons and events from the political, economic and cultural history of Slovenia. Nevertheless, the above stated do not cover all the contents of cultural heritage.

http://www.tnp.si/national_park/