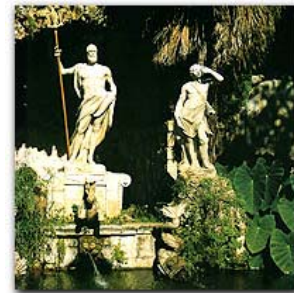




# Country Profile C R O A T I A

**DRAFT VERSION**



## Content:

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Page</u>
• Croatia - at a glance	3
• Ethnicity and religion	4
• History and politics	4
• Economy	6
• Tourism	9
• Geography	11
• Cities recommended for a visit	13
-Zagreb	13
-Split	14
-Dubrovnik	15
-Zadar	16
-Rijeka	17
• Education	18
• Youth employment and unemployment	20
• Governmental structures responsible for youth	20
• Youth and social issues	21
• Active participation of youth in society	22
• Youth organizations	25
• Youth volunteer work	26
• Youth culture and free time	26
• Youth mobility	27
• Festivals	28
• Did you know?	30
• Famous Croats	31
• Useful information	32

# C R O A T I A

... at a glance...

Among 47 European countries Croatia is 26<sup>th</sup> with respect to its population, and also 26<sup>th</sup> with respect to its area. It has 56, 538 square kilometers of land area, 31, 900 sq. km of sea area, 1, 777 km of coastline and more than 4, 000 km of coastline. Of our 1 185 islands 47 are inhabited. The number of inhabitants, according to the latest statistics is 44 437, 460, and counting last three generations there are almost as many Croats living abroad. The abbreviation of the name of Croatia, which we call Hrvatska is HR.

The language we speak is Croatian, and the Latin script is the official one we use. The name of the Croatian monetary unit is kuna (kn or HRK), which has 100 smaller units (lipa-s).



## History of the Croatian kuna:

Back in Roman times, in the provinces of upper and lower Pannonia taxes were collected in the then highly valued marten skins (*The marten is a small animal of the weasel family. The body coloration is as follows: the head is gray, legs and tail are very dark brown or black, the chest has a cream colored patch, and the back is light brown. The martens' prime habitat is the coniferous forest but they are also very at home in the water. The pelt of the marten is very valuable, and they are taken in controlled hunts*). The Croatian word for tax, 'marturina', is derived from the Latin word 'martus' (The Croatian word for

'marten' is 'kuna'). In the Middle Ages many foreign currencies were used in Croatia, but since at 1018 at the latest a home currency was in use. Between 1260 and 1380 the Croatian Viceroy was making a marten-adorned silver coin. However, the diminishing autonomy of Croatia within the Croatia-Hungarian Kingdom led to the gradual disappearance of that currency. The marten currency, kuna, reappeared in 1939 when the Banate Croatia, established within the Yugoslav Monarchy, considered issuing its own money. The kuna was launched in 1941 by the Croatian collaborationist government, abolished with the end of World War II. Finally, following Croatia's declaration of independence in 1991, the kuna currency was introduced as of 30 May 1994.

The **National anthem** of the Republic of Croatia is "Our Beautiful Homeland". Antun Mihanović wrote it, and it was printed for the first time as "Croatian Homeland" in the

newspaper 'Danica' in 1835. Under the name "Our Beautiful" it became the Croatian anthem. A cadet named Josip Runjanin set Mihanović's lyrics to music, with V. Lichtenegger noting and harmonizing the piece in 1891. In 1891, during the exhibition of the Croatian-Slavonian Economic Association in Zagreb, the song was sung for the first time as the Croatian anthem under the title "Our Beautiful".



The Croatian **National Emblems** are the tricolor flag (red, white and blue) and the coat of arms (13 red squares and 12 silver squares in a 5 times 5 pattern). The latter has also a crown composed of five regional symbols.

The **climate** is Mediterranean and continental; continental with hot summers and cold winters; mild winters and dry summers along the coast.

Croatia is divided into **21 counties**: Zagrebačka, Krapinsko-zagorska, Sisačko-moslavačka, Karlovačka, Varaždinska, Koprivničko-križevačka, Bjelovarsko-bilogorska, Riječko-goranska, Ličko-senjska, Virovitičko-podravska, Požeško-slavonska, Slavonskobrodska, Zadarska, Osječko-baranjska, Šibensko-kninska, Vukovarsko-srijemska, Splitsko-dalmatinska, Istarska, Dubrovačko-neretvanska, Međimurska, and the city of Zagreb. Our capital city of Zagreb counts 779 145 inhabitants and has both city and county status.

## ETHNICITY AND RELIGION

Croats are the largest ethnic group (89.6 %), followed by Serbs (4.5 %). Smaller ethnic groups include: Bosnians (0.5 %), Hungarians (0.4 %), Slovenes (0.3 %), Czechs (0.2 %), Roma (0.2 %), Albanians (0.1 %), Montenegrins (0.1 %) and others (4.1 %). Concerning the religions in Croatia, statistics have shown that beside the great majority of Roman Catholics (87.8 %), there are Orthodox (4.4 %), Muslims (1.3 %), Protestants (0.3 %), others and unknown (6.2 %). The Roman Catholic Church enjoys strong state support, but other religions are freely practiced.

## HISTORY and POLITICS

The Croats are believed to be an entirely Slavic people that migrated from Ukraine and settled in present-day Croatia during the 6th century. After a period of self-rule, Croats contracted to the Pacta Conventa in 1091, submitting themselves to Hungarian authority. By the mid-1400s, concerns over Ottoman expansion led the Croatian Assembly to invite the Habsburgs, under Archduke Ferdinand, to assume control over Croatia. Habsburg rule proved successful in preventing the Ottoman's plans, and by the 18<sup>th</sup> century, much of Croatia was free of Turkish control.

In 1868, Croatia gained domestic autonomy at the same time as remaining under Hungarian authority. Following World War I and the end of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Croatia joined the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes became Yugoslavia in 1929). Yugoslavia changed its name once again after World War II. The new state became the Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia and united Croatia and some other states together under the communistic control of Marshall Tito.

After the death of Tito and with the fall of communism throughout Eastern Europe, the Yugoslav federation began to crumble. Croatia held its first multi-party elections since World War II in 1990. Long-time Croatian nationalist Franjo Tudjman was elected President, and one year later, Croats declared independence from Yugoslavia. Tension between Serbs and Croats in Croatia rose, and one month after Croatia declared independence, civil war erupted.

The HDZ under Franjo Tudjman, a former General sacked by Tito in 1967 for nationalism and jailed in the 1970s and 1980s, rapidly attracted mass support. When elections were held in April 1990, the HDZ won 205 of the parliament's 356 seats and the reformed Communist Party only took 73.

In 2000, the opposition parties were better prepared than in previous years. The coalition between the Social Liberals and the Social Democrats, helped somewhat by foreign organisational expertise, surged to a popular victory. The coalition of the Social Democratic Party and the Social Liberal Party gained 71 of the 151 parliamentary seats. The winning parties nominated Social Democrat Ivica Racan to be Prime Minister.

Then, in February 2000, the presidential election was won by Stipe Mesic, representing the HNS, a member of the governing coalition. Along with a new Prime Minister, social democrat Ivica Racan, Croatia has since adopted a more conciliatory, less strident approach both at home and abroad. This has paid dividends, including membership of the World Trade Organization, membership of post-NATO security organization 'Partnership for Peace' and a berth on the fast track in the complex process leading to full EU membership.

By early 2003 Croatia had made sufficient progress to apply formally for EU membership, becoming the second former Yugoslav republic after Slovenia to do so.<sup>1</sup>

The Croatian Parliament, also known as the Sabor is a unicameral body. The Upper House (Chamber of Counties) was eliminated by constitutional amendment in March 2001. The remaining body, the Chamber of Representatives, consists of 151 members, who serve 4-year terms and are elected by direct vote.

The President is the head of state and is elected by direct popular vote for a term of 5 years. The President is limited to serving no more than two terms.

The Prime Minister, who is nominated by the President, assumes office following a parliamentary vote of confidence in the new government. The Prime Minister and government are responsible for proposing legislation and a budget, executing the laws, and guiding the foreign and internal policies of the republic.

Croatia has a three-tiered judicial system, consisting of the Supreme Court, county courts, and municipal courts. Croatia's Supreme Court is the highest court in the Republic. The Supreme Court assures the uniform application of laws. Members of the high court are appointed by the

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<sup>1</sup> Croatian Ministries websites

National Judicial Council, a body of 11 members, and justices on the Supreme Court are appointed for life. The court's hearings are generally open to the public.

The Constitutional Court is a body of 13 judges appointed by Parliament for an 8-year term. The Constitutional Court works to assure the conformity of all laws to the Constitution.

Government Type: Parliamentary democracy.

Constitution: Adopted December 22, 1990.

Independence (from Yugoslavia): June 25, 1991.

President: Stipe Mesic

First president: Franjo Tudjman (†December 10th, 1999).

Prime Minister: Dr. sc. Ivo Sanader

Previous Prime Minister: Ivica Racan

Minister of Foreign Affairs: Miomir Žužul

President of the Parliament: Vladimir Seks

## ECONOMY

Croatia was one of the most prosperous regions of former Yugoslavia, with a per capita output of about one-third above the average of the country.

Privatisation and moving toward the market economy had their slow beginning in 1991 under the Croatian Government. Consequences of the war were (and probably still are) reflected by the economic infrastructure that sustained massive damage. In just a few years, GDP fell about 40 %, but after 1995, the economy started to recover, mainly, thanks to the tourist sector. The solid growth of the middle Nineties halted in 1999. Weak consumer demand and decrease in industrial production led to a recession, and unemployment and inflation created fears of devaluation among the Croatian people. After a very difficult year in 1999, the Croatian economy expanded in 2000. Industrial production, retail trade and a healthy recovery of the tourism sector all contributed to GDP growth in 2000. After the summer of that year, tourism once again proved its value for this country by helping it to recover from the previous period.

The 2002 industrial production growth of 2002 totaled 5.4% compared to 2001, and nearly the same growth rate continued in 2003, which shows a trend towards recovery and further strengthening of the economic system of the Republic of Croatia.

Today, unemployment and a low rate of job creation are Croatia's most serious economic problems. Therefore, the biggest challenge is to generate jobs at a rate that will absorb the new labor force and give a chance to competent and skilled youth.

The major sectors of the Croatian economy and the most attractive investment opportunities are doubtlessly tourism, industry, agriculture and food production, construction, transport and telecommunications. This country has a long tradition in tourism, so it does not come as a surprise that in 2002, revenue from international tourism accounted for 17 % of Croatia's GDP, 36 % of its total exports and 68.2 % of the total services exported (according to the statistics of Croatian National Bank). It is estimated that the whole tourism sector employs

140,00 persons directly and 175,00 indirectly. The National Tourism Board announced encouraging results from the summer tourist season of 2003. Arrivals increased by 6 percent over 2002, while annual income from tourism reached \$7.9 billion (\$4.6 billion from foreign tourists). This revenue figure accounts for 22.4 percent of the GDP of 2003. It is expected that this figure could rise to \$12.1 billion or 31.6 percent of GDP by 2013.

Industry employs approximately 267,000 workers, who represent 25 percent of Croatia's total workforce, and generate approximately 20 percent of its gross income. Within the industry, the largest total income comes from the production of food and beverages, followed by petroleum, chemicals, non-metals, construction material, electrical and optical appliances, paper, printing and publishing, and shipbuilding. In terms of exports, shipbuilding, chemicals and chemical products, clothes manufacturing, food and beverages, machine and equipment manufacturing and electrical appliances manufacturing lead the way.

Industrial goods account for 97% of Croatia's total exports and for the highest share of Croatia's GDP. Industry remains the most important branch of the Croatian economy. In 2002, the Croatian building industry, an important sector of the national economy, had 71,788 employees in 6,955 companies. The total value of construction contracts carried out abroad within the first nine months of 2002 amounted to USD 131.5 m, 95.6% of which was earned in Europe.

Currently, the construction of motorways is one of the major investment projects in Croatia. Building, maintenance and reconstruction of motorways are based on the Public Roads Construction and Maintenance Program made by the Government of the Republic of Croatia. Road and railway infrastructure is not equally developed in all parts of Croatia. Even though great efforts have been put into the construction of new roads over the last several years, substantial investments are still necessary both in terms of the existing as well as new infrastructure, with a special emphasis on better connection between the coastal and continental part of the country. The share of transport in GDP is 8.1%, and in the total number of employees 7.1%.

Distributive trade has an important place in the overall economy in the Republic of Croatia. Almost 45% of Croatian business entities are engaged in distributive trade. Its significance is reflected in the generated added value in GDP (10.0%). This sector employs more than 165,000 workers, i.e. 15.9% of the total workforce in the Republic of Croatia. At the end of December 2002, retail companies held 24,406 outlets active, which represented about 3% more than in the previous year, whereas there were 22,023 shops in the trades and crafts sector. There are 95 inhabitants per each store in Croatia, but this ratio varies depending on the county or city.

Out of a total of 1.98 million hectares of the Croatian forests and woodland areas, 80% are state owned and the rest are in private hands. Conifers make up 13 per cent of the forests, while oak and beech are among the most important broad-leafed species. The production of food, beverages and tobacco generates 20.5% of Croatian GDP. Industry is the second largest sector and it refers to electrical engineering, food processing, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, textiles, wood processing, shipbuilding, telecommunication equipment etc. Agriculture,

including fishing and forestry accounts for about 8 % of the GDP and employ about 6 % of the workforce.

The Croatian food industry includes some of the most successful Croatian companies: 10 out of 50 Croatian companies with the highest revenues in 2001 are producers of food, beverages and tobacco. The major export products of these companies are: Vegeta (food seasoning), biscuits and wafers, chocolate, canned fish, soups, olive oil, cigarettes, beer and alcoholic beverages.<sup>2</sup>

## ECONOMIC INDICATORS

GDP, bn USD	2002	22.4*
GDP per capita, USD	2002	5,569.1**
Population, million (estimated)	2001	4.4
Industrial production (%)	2002	5.4
Inflation rate (%)	2002	2.2
Unemployment rate (%)	2002	22.5
Exports, mil USD	2002	4,898.7
Imports, mil USD	2002	10,713.5
Current account balance, mil USD 1-9/2002		-588.5
Central budget balance (% of GDP) – estimate	2002	-2.2*
Average monthly gross wage, USD	2002	682.4*
CNB's discount rate (%)	2002	4.5
No. of active companies (January-September 2002)		54,379
No. of registered banks		46
Total no. of employees (2002)		1,043,871*

\* preliminary information

\*\* Ministry of Finance estimate

Source: Croatian Bureau of Statistics (CBS), Croatian National Bank (CNB), and Ministry of Finance (MF)

For all further information you can check the Chamber of Economy website: [www.hgk.hr](http://www.hgk.hr)

## TOURISM

The tourist trade in Croatia is more than 150 years old. Although inns and guesthouses were built throughout the country in the first half of the 19th century, the beginnings of tourism are linked with the construction of first hotels designed for tourists, such as those in Opatija (Grand Hotel, built in 1890) and Dubrovnik (Hotel Imperial, built in 1897), as well as with the foundation and activities of tourist societies, especially those on the islands of Krk (in 1866) and Hvar (Hygienic Society in 1868). Poreč and Pula had tour guides as early as 1845, while in Zagreb the first guidebook, called "A Guide for Natives and Foreigners", was



<sup>2</sup> Source: Croatian Bureau of Statistics (CBS), Croatian National Bank (CNB), and Ministry of Finance (MF)



published in 1892. The largest number of bed nights was recorded in the 1986–1987 period, 68,000,000, of which foreign tourists accounted for 86%.

Although the maelstrom of war virtually brought the development of the tourist industry to a temporary stop, it did not completely discourage tourists from coming, particularly to areas unaffected by the war. Besides a steep fall in the volume of trade, many tourist attractions experienced mass-scale destruction, which in turn defined the scope of post-war reconstruction. After a one-year break, tourism revived in 1992 but did not really recover until the next year when 2,300,000 tourists and 13,000,000 bed nights were registered.

Croatia, in the opinion of many, Europe's most beautiful garden has been an attractive naturist destination for five decades. Respectable guests Edward VIII and his beloved Wallis Simpson began naturism from its first beginnings in 1936 on the island of Rab, naturally with the permission of the town authorities. Its long tradition and hospitable population has made this country a favourite of naturists, known lovers of nature and its most loyal protectors, today as in years before. Croatia can really boast of natural beauty. Eight national parks (Brijuni, Kornati and Mljet on the coast and the Plitvice Lakes, Krka, Paklenica, Risnjak and Nothern Velebit inland) and almost 10% of its territory that are environmentally protected, a rich cultural heritage, a developed tourist infrastructure, hospitable people and accessibility are among the major qualities of tourism in Croatia. (In 2003, entrance tickets for Plitvice Lakes were 6,00 Euro in low season and 12,00 Euro in high season; Kornati: individual ticket price 50 HRK=6,5 Euro, and if you are going in group then 30,00 HRK=3,9 Euro).



As a medium sized European country, Croatia abounds with natural environmental diversity. The authentic Mediterranean atmosphere, a thousand islands - each a world in itself, towns rich in historical and cultural heritage are without equal. Of the many medieval towns with cultural and historical monuments, the ones under UNESCO protection are: the Diocletian Palace in Split, the old nucleus of Trogir, the Euphrasius Basilica in Porec, the cathedral in Sibenik and the city of Dubrovnik. The country's inland is rich with mountains and Mediterranean caves, river rafting and the endless fields of Slavonia... There really is plenty to see!

*Health tourism:* There are a large number of health spas sited on thermal and mineral springs. Around Zagreb there is Tuheljske Toplice, Krapinske Toplice, Stubicke Toplice, Varazdinske Toplice, Ivanic Grad (Naftalan) and Topusko. In Slavonia there is Daruvar, Lipik and Bizovac. On the coast there is Vela Luka, Šibenik, Duga Uvala and the Istrian spas. There is also thalassotherapy in Opatija, Crikvenica, Veli Lošinj, Hvar and Makarska.

*Nautical tourism:* Croatia is ideal for sailing: it has an indented coastline, many islands, a good climate and 40 marinas with excellent facilities and service. About half of the marinas belong to the ACI Club (Adriatic Croatia International Club) and the others are independent. Of the twenty-one ACI marinas seventeen are open throughout the year and four during the summer season only. There are 115 registered charter companies in Croatia, which have about 1900

vessels, of which 1600 are sailboats and the rest are motorboats. 1100 vessels sail under foreign flags and around 800 under the Croatian flag. They realize per year more than 30.000 ship-weeks with over 200.000 tourists, and more than 1.000.000 overnight stays. The largest world vessel renters offer their services through local charter companies on the Adriatic. To rent a boat one must be a licensed boat guide, and have passed the exam for handling VHF station (the exams are held in all harbors). When boarding the boat it is necessary to fill out and notarize the list of crew members. Any change in the crew during the cruise must be reported to the port authorities. In most marinas it is possible to hire sailing boats, and there are also sailing courses available.

*Diving:* In Croatia there are over 120 diving centres. (Information: Tel. 01 4848-765)

*Conference tourism:* Croatia has 75 fully equipped conference halls. The largest conference centres in Croatia include Zagreb, Opatija, Dubrovnik, Pula, Rovinj, Cavtat, Porec, Brijuni, Crikvenica and the Plitvice Lakes.

*Hunting tourism:* There is a long tradition of hunting tourism in Croatia, and there are a large number of hunting resorts. In central Croatia and Slavonia one can hunt deer, wild boar, martens, foxes, hares, pheasants, wild geese and wild ducks. In Gorski kotar and Lika there are also opportunities for bear hunting and, in Dalmatia, chamois and mouflon.

*Youth tourism:* There are youth hostels in Dubrovnik, Pula, Šibenik, Zadar and Zagreb.

*Winter tourism:* There are three major ski resorts with many ski lifts and ski runs: Medvednica near Zagreb, Platak near Rijeka and Bjelolasica near Ogulin.

*Sports tourism:* Most hotels and camps have tennis courts (ATP tournament in Umag, WTA tournament in Bol), as well as facilities for basketball and beach volleyball. It is possible to rent boats, fishing and scuba-diving equipment, and there are also scuba diving and sailing schools. One can go rafting on the Dobra and Cetina rivers, and whitewater rafting is organised on the Kupa, Korana, Mreznica, Cetina and Una rivers. The usual price is 250,00 HRK=32,4 Euro + transport per person.

If you are interested in cultural heritage you should know that in the continental part of Croatia, there are some 50 medieval castles, as well as picturesque cities and towns, such as Varazdin, where acclaimed baroque concerts are held. In Croatia there are 4 opera houses, 29 theatres, 151 museums ([www.mdc.hr/croatia](http://www.mdc.hr/croatia) – Museum Documentation Center) and galleries and 147 cinemas. The theatres are generally closed in summer, although a number of them hold series of summer performances both in Zagreb and on the coast.

Today, Croatia is unmistakably a part of Central Europe and the Mediterranean. Leading tourist magazines stress that the Croatian coast remains "the last unspoiled stretch of the Mediterranean."

Association of Croatian Travel Agencies: [www.uhpa.hr](http://www.uhpa.hr)

For all further information you can contact:  
Croatian Tourist Association, Information Department  
Importane Galerija, Iblerov trg 10, 10 000 Zagreb  
Tel: +385 (0)1 45 56 455, Fax: +385 (0)1 4557827  
Contact person: Mrs. Slavija Jačan

AND if you need detailed information such as prices in fastfoods, restaurants, museum entrance prices, taxi, and lot more, just visit [www.adriatic-links.com](http://www.adriatic-links.com)

## GEOGRAPHY

*Location:* Croatia is an Adriatic and a Central European country. It stretches in the form of an arc from the Danube in the northeast to Istria in the west and Boka Kotorska in the southeast.



Its area is 56,538 sq.km, and the area of the coastal sea about 31,900 sq.km. Geographically, it is situated on the crossroads between Central Europe and the Mediterranean.

*Geographical position:* Croatia is situated close to densely populated and industrially developed European countries. Many internationally important transport routes cross Croatia. The Adriatic Sea also enhances the importance of the geographical position of the Republic of Croatia, the northernmost gulf of the Mediterranean that is the closest to the central part of the European continent. The most important routes are centered along the Sava river, the Adriatic and the Drava river; there are also several important transversal routes from the Austrian and Hungarian border to the Adriatic coast (to Rijeka and

Split).

*Natural and Geographical Features:* The area of Croatia can be divided into three major natural and geographic parts: The Pannonian and Peri-Pannonian area comprises the lowland and hilly parts of eastern and northwestern Croatia; mountains higher than 500 m are rare and of an insular character. Most of this area is being used for farming and livestock breeding. Slavonija and Baranja in the east are the most suitable for growing cereals; the humid valleys and the hills are richly afforested while the northwestern part, which gravitates to Zagreb, is industrially the most developed.

The hilly and mountainous area, which separates Pannonian Croatia from its coastal part, is less developed. Its future development will be based on its transit importance, the growth of the already existing wood and timber industry, and the still underexploited potential for the production of healthy food, and winter and rural tourism.

The Adriatic Area includes the narrow coastal belt separated from the hinterland by high mountains. This is predominantly a karst area with very dry summers. The few streams mainly

follow narrow gorges in breaking their way through to the sea. The Croatian coastal area may further be divided into the northern (Istria nad Kvarner) and southern parts (Dalmatia). It also lends itself to a longitudinal division into the islands, the coast proper and the immediate hinterland. The Croatian Adriatic coast is one of the most indented in the world. The largest island is Krk; other large islands include Cres, Brač, Hvar, Pag and Korčula. The largest peninsulas are Istria and Pelješac, and the largest bay is Kvarner Bay.

Rivers: Croatia's rivers belong to the Adriatic and the Black Sea basin. The rivers in the interior are large and calmer (Sava, Drava, Danube). The coastal rivers are shorter and have a higher gradient. The longest coastal rivers are the Mirna and the Rasa in Istria and the Zrmanja, the Krka and the Cetina in Dalmatia. Karst streams running partly underground prevail in Lika.

Lakes: Croatia has no large lakes (the largest, Vrana, near Biograd has an area of 30 sq.km. The most attractive are the Plitvice Lakes (a chain of 16 lakes with the river Korana as the effluent), the Red and Blue Lakes near Imotski (unique karst phenomena), freshwater lake Vrana, a cryptodepression on the island of Cres and lake Prokljan (along the Krka river near Sibenik).

The extreme geographical points of the Republic of Croatia are:

North - Žabink (County of Međimurje) - 46\*33' N i 16\*22' E

South - Island Galijula (County of Dubrovnik-Neretva) - 42\*23' N i 16\* 21' E

East - Rađevac (County of Vukovar-Srijem) - 45\*12' N i 19\*27' E

West - Bašanija (County of Istria) - 45\*29' N i 13\*30' E

### **Cities recommended for a visit**

#### **ZAGREB**

The capital of Croatia is situated on the slopes of Medvednica Mountain (Zagrebacka Gora) and along the banks of the Sava River (elevation 120 m; population 706,770). Its favorable geographic location in the south-western part of the Pannonian Basin, which extends towards the Alpine, Dinaric, Adriatic and Pannonic regions, provides an excellent position for traffic connections between Central Europe and the Adriatic Sea.

Today's Zagreb has grown out of two medieval settlements that for centuries developed on neighbouring hills. The first written mention of the city dates from 1094, when a diocese was founded on Kaptol, while in 1242, neighboring Gradec was proclaimed a free and royal city. High walls and towers, remains of which are still preserved, surrounded both the settlements. Zagreb is an old Central European city. For centuries it has been a focal point of culture and science, and now of commerce and industry as well. Zagreb is the cultural, scientific, economic, political and administrative centre of the of Croatia with the seat of Parliament, President and Government of the Republic of Croatia. Zagreb is the host of internationally known cultural events like the World Festival of Animated Films, Eurokaz Europe Festival of Modern Theatre, International Folklore Festival, and PIP-International Puppet Theatre.

There are three main traffic communications: the western, towards Ljubljana, i.e. West Europe; the eastern, towards Southeastern Europe and the Near East; the south-western, towards Rijeka, Croatia's biggest port.

It is recommended to see the roof of St. Marko Church on the Upper town, St. Stephan's Cathedral, Croatian National Theatre, Stone Gate, Ilica Street, and Flower Square. Other recommendations include:

Tkalčićeva: you mustn't miss this street, for it is zoo-like, exhibiting humans in full chill mode. It simultaneously encourages you to wander, sit, sip, dance, chat, primp and preen.

Trg bana Josipa Jelacica: this Austro-Hungarian styled square is the true center of the city. There's a large variety of cafés, shopping, feeding and people watching everywhere.

Branimirova ulica:

The Croatian fascination with graffiti finds its public wall of appreciation on this city street just east of Glavni kolodvor. A few hundred metres of wall are covered with various images, from human faces to poetry focused on four-letter words. The city actually has local artists update the colourful work of many messages every few years or so. Beautiful, bizarre, creative, sometimes crude and very interesting.



Mimara museum: the city's mega-museum houses loads of artistic treasures with more than 3,750 works in it at all times including sculptures, paintings, crafts and much more. It spans an amazing three millennia, much of it Christian in theme.

Zagreb has a two centuries-old park Maksimir and a century-old Botanical Garden in the very center of the city.

[www.zagreb.hr](http://www.zagreb.hr)

## SPLIT

The city is situated on a peninsula between the eastern part of the Gulf of Kastela and the Split Channel. A hill, Marjan (178 m), rises in the western part of the peninsula. Its mild climate, with 2700 sunny hours per year, makes it an oasis where, sheltered from the wind, one can enjoy the sun even in wintertime. The industrial, university, and business centre of the region nourishes its "green soul" on the hill Marjan. Its forested park infringed by the city and the sea offers pleasant walks away from the city noise under the pines by the sea.

In this city-museum is an endless story leading from the streets in which history lives with the breath of the present. There are museums, galleries and spaces where you can follow the traces of past centuries. Without hiding their pride, the people of Split will tell you that their city is "the most beautiful one in the world and beyond". You'd better not discuss this with them for well spirited Split will convince you in this as soon as you discover it! This for ever young city with a population of about 300,000 that give it its warm Mediterranean temper, has lived

its urban rhythm for as long as 1700 years, with its heart in the Diocletian's Palace and its soul widespread to embrace you. The Spit Summer, a cultural event (open-air operas, plays and concerts), as well as music performances (Melodies of the Croatian Adriatic, the Split Festival of Pop Music) takes place every year.



The Roman Emperor Diocletian spent his declining years in an enormous palace that he had built near his birthplace, Aspalathos, in Dalmatia. With the passing centuries, the original architecture of the palace has been altered, but the people of the city, later called Spalato and then Split, were able to use the structure of the palace, damaging it as little as possible, under Byzantine, Venetian and Austro-Hungarian rule. Thus, a harmonious city came into being within the Roman walls. The peristyle of the palace, Diocletian's mausoleum, Jupiter's temple, the colonnades along the streets, Early Croatian churches, Romanesque houses, the gates of Andrija Buvina and architectural works by Juraj Dalmatinac have remained in a good state. The city is protected by the UNESCO and entered into the register of the World Cultural Heritage.

[www.split.hr](http://www.split.hr)

## DUBROVNIK

The intact city walls of Dubrovnik, which run uninterrupted for 1940 meters encircling the city, are its most recognizable and characteristic feature. This complex structure, one of the most beautiful and strongest fort systems in Europe, is also the city's main tourist attraction. Five fortresses give visitors unforgettable views of the city.

Weddings are held in the small St. Lawrence's chapel or on Minèeta Tower. Performances and concerts are organized on Fort Revelin and St. John's fortress during the Summer Festival. Mount Srđ offers a most beautiful panorama of Dubrovnik, the sparkling white jewel set into the sweep of the blue depths of the Adriatic Sea. The summers in Dubrovnik have been marked for over fifty years by the most significant cultural event in Croatia - the Dubrovnik Summer Festival. From July 10th till Aug 25th, the forty-five day event is filled with music, drama, folklore performances and concerts held on city's squares, terraces of the fortresses and in the churches and palaces. Famous citizens of Dubrovnik include the painter Vlaho Bukovac, writer Ivan Gundulic, Marin Drzic, Ivo Vojnovic, the mathematician and astronomer Marin Getaldić, the composer and author of the Croatian first symphony Luka Sorkočević and the scientist Ruđer Bošković.



Today's name of Dubrovnik is derived from the Croatian word Dubrava, which means oak woods as, in the past, oak trees surrounded Dubrovnik. The Latin name Ragusa - Rausa, was use until the 15th century, and originated from the rock (lat. Lausa - meaning rock) where the first settlement

was established.

Recommended: The Aquarium in the Old City Port, the Dominican Monastery which has an excellent Museum and valuable collection of Dubrovnik Paintings, Dubrovnik Museum, the city walls, Maritime museum, St. Ivans Fortress, Franciscan Monastery, "Little Brothers" Museum, The Cathedral Treasury, Museum of Sigurata Convent, the Synagogue, which is the oldest Sephardic and by the continuity of its function the second oldest synagogue in Europe, the treasures of the State Archives in Dubrovnik.

George Bernard Shaw said "Those who seek paradise on Earth should come to Dubrovnik and see Dubrovnik"

[www.dubrovnik.hr](http://www.dubrovnik.hr)

## ZADAR

Based on a three thousand year old tradition, the Zadar region has evolved to take up 14% of the total territory of the Republic of Croatia, and around 12% of the territorial sea, with as many islands as there are days in the year plus an islands' surface area of approximately 580 km square. Zadar has lived the life of a settlement for more than three millennia. The first written evidence is found in the fourth century, and material evidence, in the ninth century B.C. The first inhabitants were the tribesmen of the Liburnia, but Zadar received its city features after the Roman conquest.



Apart from Zadar, as the seat of the County and the most important historical destination, it is worthwhile mentioning Nin, the oldest royal Croatian town and at the same time a Bishop's seat, where the Croatian state was born. Biograd, once a coronation town and Pag were built according to plans drawn up by Juraj Dalmatinac, thus making them monuments to urban planning. Telascica (a bay on Dugi Otok), Lake Vrana (the largest natural lake in Croatia) and the Velebit Mountain are Nature Parks in the Zadar region.

UNESCO proclaimed Velebit a World Biosphere Reserve in 1978.

The Zadar region is surrounded by no less than five National Parks: Paklenica, Kornati, Plitvica lakes, Krka Waterfalls and Northern Velebit. In only an hour or two by car or by boat it is possible to reach the National Parks from all the tourist resorts in the region.

The churches of St. Donat, St. Chrysogonus (S. Kreševan), St. Mary and the Cathedral of St. Anastasia (Sv. Stošija) are considered synonyms for this town and recommended for sightseeing.

According to Constantine IX Monomachus, in his work "On ruling the empire (De Administratio Imperii)", 10<sup>th</sup> century, the name of the city Iadera originates from the Latin words iam erat - "was already", which means that it was built before Rome. It is a large city and in it are the relics of St. Anastasia the Virgin, as well as St. Grisogono, the monk and martyr. The Church of St. Anastasia is elongated and resembles the church in Constantinople with its red and green columns, vintage painted icons, and the floor of an exquisite mosaic. In its vicinity is the vaulted Church of the Holy Trinity and another above this one, very much resembling a catacomb entered via a spiral stairway.

The Zadar region boasts a wealthy 3000-year-old heritage. Nin, Pag and Biograd were once Royal Towns, and Zadar, with its historical and cultural heritage, is one of the most interesting cities in Croatia, lying in the heart of the region.

[www.zadar.hr](http://www.zadar.hr)

## RIJEKA



Rijeka is situated on the coast of the Kvarner Bay, in the northernmost part of the Adriatic Sea, where the Mediterranean penetrates deepest into the European mainland, coming closest to the Central European countries. As the Dinaric mountain chain is at its narrowest here in the Kvarner hinterland, this allows for easy passage between the Danube basin and the Adriatic, making the geographical and traffics position of Rijeka extremely important. It is a town of rich and turbulent history, a town which has always attracted people seeking new business opportunities, as well as those seeking rest and a good time.

The cosmopolitan character of this Mediterranean town of Middle-European architecture is visible with every step you take. Rijeka is a town of strong industry and traffic, particularly sea-port traffic, but also a town of beautiful palaces (e.g. the Palace of the Grand Duke Joseph, the Governor's Palace - today they house the Historical Archives of Rijeka and the Maritime and Historical Museum of Coastal Croatia in Rijeka), a town of splendid details on secession period buildings, as well as a town featuring lovely examples of European modern architecture. Rijeka began to evolve during the 13th century, however, the most significant development was from 1728 onwards, when the Caroline road towards Zagreb was built, and the construction of a railway link was completed. Being connected with the entire central Europe via Zagreb, Rijeka has become one of the leading harbours on the Mediterranean Sea.

If you have time to explore this town, you should certainly see the Governair's Palace, Adria Palace, Modello Palace, St. Vid's Church, St. Jeronim's Church and Cappuccin's Church of the Lady of Lourdes.

[www.grad-rijeka.hr](http://www.grad-rijeka.hr)

## **EDUCATION**

The organisation of the formal education system starts from kindergarten, elementary school, to the institutions of higher education. In the system of secondary education, the secondary schools, private schools with accreditation, university extensions and other institutions carry out formal education.

In the current academic year university courses of study are carried out by 4 universities (University of Zagreb, Rijeka, Split and Osijek). They include 55 faculties, 4 academies of arts, 3 university departments and 1 course of study operated by a university. Professional courses of study are carried out by 7 polytechnics, 6 independent schools of professional higher education one teachers' academy and 8 teachers' schools of professional higher education.

According to the data of the Ministry of Education and Sports, approximately 95-97 % of elementary school graduates enrol in secondary school, which is not compulsory in Croatia, and approximately 85-90 % of secondary school students graduate within the regularly allowed time period. About 120, 000 students were enrolled in institutions of higher education during the 2000/2001 academic year. The number of graduating college students in the year 2000 was 13, 507. Available information also shows that around 33% of the enrolled students complete university study (8 % of whom finish within the allowed time period).

Student councils in secondary schools involve young people in the direct preparation of school operations, contribution in decision making, problem solving and presentation of possible innovations. However, many more things need to be done in this field because students are still not using the power they have as much as they could.

The Umbrella Students' Association represents only a small number of students, and their representatives need more effort to influence the work of higher education institutions' bodies.

The existing scheme does not have a model of counselling services for secondary school and college students at any level. The student desks at universities do not have the purpose of counselling centres either. Young people also need to invest great effort in establishing suitable contacts and finding necessary information in order to learn about and use their rights and opportunities.

Among the large number of existing problems we can point out some: inflexibility of the programmes that are hard to adapt to the interests of the students, parent, local communities etc, inadequate and out-of-date school property and equipment, material poverty and slow introduction of new technologies. The small number of optional programmes, elective subjects and activities do not allow students to express their creativity and develop their potentials. Obligations and expectations are in conflict with the personality, needs, desires and abilities that students have. There are many young people who cannot enroll in the field of study that corresponds to their abilities because of the poor socio-economical conditions. The scholarship system and support for the room and board cost of regular students only represent a partial help to the mentioned situation.

There are no tuition fees for secondary school students and students who are regularly enrolled at institutions of higher education. During the last six years, scholarships have been awarded to successful students, to student-veterans of the Croatian War of Independence, to students engaged in studies for jobs in short supply, and also to those who will, after they complete their studies, work in regions of particular governmental concern and in the islands.

In most cases, the traditional distribution of roles according to sex is still present in the choice of schools and professions, but there is no noteworthy difference in the accessibility to education according to sex, and the number of young men and women who complete education is equal at all levels.

Students with developmental difficulties are being increasingly integrated into the community, particularly through educational programmes in regular schools, although a number of secondary school students still complete their education in specialised institutions. Concerning the accessibility of university studies to young persons with disabilities, lodging facilities for their needs are made only in the Student Dormitory in Zagreb.

For persons who have dropped out of the regular education system there is possibility to enroll in programmes organised within the adult education system. During the 2000/2001 academic year, approximately 25, 000 persons were educated within relevant institutions, and about 11, 000 of them acquired new professions.<sup>3</sup>

In Croatia, many institutionalised programmes as well as some citizens' associations offer informal education. Users can choose different programmes according to their interest (open universities, university extensions, cultural centres for learning foreign languages, driving schools, professional associations and companies, religious centres, programmes of artistic education, mountain climbing and sport associations, other non-governmental institutions etc).

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<sup>3</sup> National Programme of Action for Youth

## **YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT**

At the moment, Croatia is struggling with a high unemployment rate as the main problem in country. High unemployment is not only the result of the real economic situation, but it is also related to the transition process of moving to the market economy, difficult privatisation process, and of course the heritage of war. The problem affects the lives of youth and prolongs their socio-economic dependence and marginalisation.

At the end of December 2001, according to evidence compiled by the Croatian Office for Employment, the number of unemployed persons was 395, 141. 41.6% of these were young people between 15 and 29 years of age. Appropriate work experience is required for a number of jobs and this represents some difficulties for youth employment. At the end of October 2001, in the age group of 15 to 29 years of age, there were 82, 472 persons without required work experience.

The priority of the social and economic policy in Croatia is certainly to hire young people, so in the year 2002, the Government introduced the Programme of Giving Impetus to Employment. This programme contains measures for the co-financing of employment, self-employment and education aiming to raise employment abilities. The Ministry of Trades, Small and Medium-Sized Entrepreneurship and Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development also promote new employment by crediting relevant projects under more favourable conditions.

The latest statistics from the Central Employment Office show that there were about 329,795 unemployed persons in 2003, which is 15.4% less than in 2002.

## **GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUTH**

In early 1997, the Croatian Government created the State Institute for the Protection of the Family, Motherhood and Youth. Its Youth Department dealt with vocational and administrative issues concerning the protection of youth and the co-ordination of youth programmes on the one hand and of national, regional and local projects on the other.

From 2004, The Ministry of the Family, Veteran's Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity is taking over the responsibilities of the State Institute for the Protection of Family, Motherhood and Youth.

The Youth Department comprises three sections:

- general youth protection issues
- youth advice
- the protection of young people with special needs.

A committee dealing with matters relating to employment, health, social issues, the family and youth has been set up in the House of Representatives of the Croatian Parliament. The Committee for Family, Youth and Sport has the following obligations:

- \* to follow the policy concerning youth and the protection of children and young people and
- \* to take account the status of youth in some documents and monitor their implementation.

Due to their complexity, youth related issues fall within the authority of almost all ministries of the Republic of Croatia, in particular the following: Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Justice.<sup>4</sup>

## **YOUTH AND SOCIAL ISSUES**

As a transition country, Croatia is confronted with risks of social differentiation, social welfare level reduction, and some new risks, such as juvenile delinquency, organised crime, drug addiction, commercial sexual exploitation etc. Therefore, social intervention, support and additional attention are basic tools for preventive measures.

Regions that were affected by the war are especially vulnerable areas and divisiveness and tensions surround young people who live there. The issues of reconstruction and return of property, the return of displaced persons and refugees to their homes, searching for a job, reintegration into society and recovery of co-existence are daily challenges for young people in these areas. Still, the gap between the development of civil society in urban centres and rural areas is exceptionally large. Disadvantaged families are not in a position to provide basic support to the youngsters, which reduces their chances in education and employment.

An indication that the social policy for youth needs to be improved is given by the numerous departures of young people from the country and negative demographic trends in Croatia.

The National Programme of Action for Youth (2002) defines a set of fundamental principles of the government policy on youth between 15 and 29 years of age, and a working plan that guides different segments of central and local government and self-government, as well as public institutions and non-governmental and civil organisations in the implementation of these principles ([www.dzzomm.hr](http://www.dzzomm.hr)).

Some of the basic goals of the national policy towards youth refer to the following:

- Protection of human rights and the fundamental freedoms
- Promotion of mutual respect and understanding among young persons of different sexes, races, nationalities, social origins, religious affiliations, cultural orientation, political convictions and other characteristics
- Prevention of all forms of violence, intolerance and discrimination
- Promotion of active participation of youth in decision making at all levels

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<sup>4</sup> UN Country Data (<http://esa.un.org>)

- Promotion of peaceful resolution of social conflicts, cooperation, and mutual respect among the nations
- Promotion of volunteer work and socially beneficial activities
- Introduction of an open system of formal and informal education, as well as the promotion of continuous and life-long skill oriented learning
- Reduction of social marginalisation, exclusion and inequality
- Promotion of all forms of employment, self-employment and entrepreneurship for young people
- Encouragement of young scientists, researchers, innovators and technologies
- Solving of youth housing problems
- Promotion of youth mobility, infrastructure and funds
- Provision of adequate healthcare and family planning
- Support of youth NGO's and NGO's for youth
- Advancement of youth information and counselling systems
- Promotion of scientific research on youth.

## **ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH IN SOCIETY**

Youth in Croatia is marked by the lack of shared social visions and norms that guide young people in their personal and social development. The transition from socialism to democracy did not mean only independence and national sovereignty, but years of war and aggression, as well as a decade of social and economic instability that left significant scars on young people's lives. It was traumatic as war took a third of the country for four years and only in 1995, a slow process of normalisation of civil life in the country could start.

During the four years of war, an important number of young people were mobilised or sent to the frontline. As a consequence, any kind of revival of youth associations became impossible.

Long-term prospects for the country's future are great, however, and even though some issues are far from complete, movement can be seen in the youth population's slow wake up from passivity.

Today, young people see their future more as a goal that can be achieved depending on one's own strengths and patience, including the support of friends and family, rather than on the institutions of society. In a way, young people take a distance from public life, but at the same time believe that they should be better represented in the political life of the country. Confronted with unemployment, social and economic stagnation, they are showing suspicion towards our government and apathy, which result in avoiding any kind of engagement.

Young persons between 18 and 29 years of age represent 22 % of the Croatian electoral body; they constitute 15 % to 30 % of the membership of political parties and of the body of authorities. Research has shown that the majority of young people are aware of their own political marginalisation. They are not provided with sufficient information about civil society, democracy, and the process of political decision making and political activity issues. The

consequences are visible in their lack of interest in politics. Moreover, they sometimes even try to keep away from cooperation with political institutions. On the contrary, there is understandable dissatisfaction of young people who are interested in this issue with their low-level representation in public bodies. Therefore, active young people in Croatia are more oriented toward participation in a variety of youth organisations, NGO's and citizens' associations.

Since in Croatia there are no suitable institutional mechanisms in charged of youth, inclusion of youth into the development of the society, and the participation of youth in decision making, is mainly based on self-initiative and independent forms of organisation (nongovernmental organisations, cultural initiatives, informal groups . . .). Basic ways of active participation of youth in the construction of society and their contribution to the community are:

- The work of interested non-governmental organisations, and organisations and groups of young people active in the development of the local community;
- Youth volunteer work in social institutions, humanitarian and non-governmental organisations;
- Youth media activity through press, radio stations, publishing houses and the Internet.

In Croatia, the Programme of Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Non-governmental and Non-profit Sector was defined in 2000, in which all the types of associations as active bearers of the development of civil society were included - social initiatives, religious organisations, unions, local communities, institutions, foundations, interest groups and male and female citizens' initiatives. This programme is based on the following values: social responsibility, cooperation, solidarity, social justice, transparency, personal power and responsibility, appreciation of differences, participation in decision making, self-organisation and continuing education.

Unfortunately, there are no classical youth information centres in Croatia, and only one of their functions is performed by larger Internet clubs and youth tourism bureaus in macro-regional centres. The lack of information centres affects the level to which young persons are informed and the degree of their social activity.<sup>5</sup>

Youth non-governmental organisations have been receiving financial support from the state budget, through competitions held by the Office for NGOs of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, and through the executive bodies of the local and regional self-management units. The Office for NGOs was founded in November 1998, with the aim of developing trust and cooperation between the Croatian government and NGO sector. According to their data, there are about 17 000 registered non-governmental organisations. There are 1 420 domestic NGOs registered on national level, 55 foreign organisations and 38 foundations. The remaining 90 % of organisations are registered only at local level.

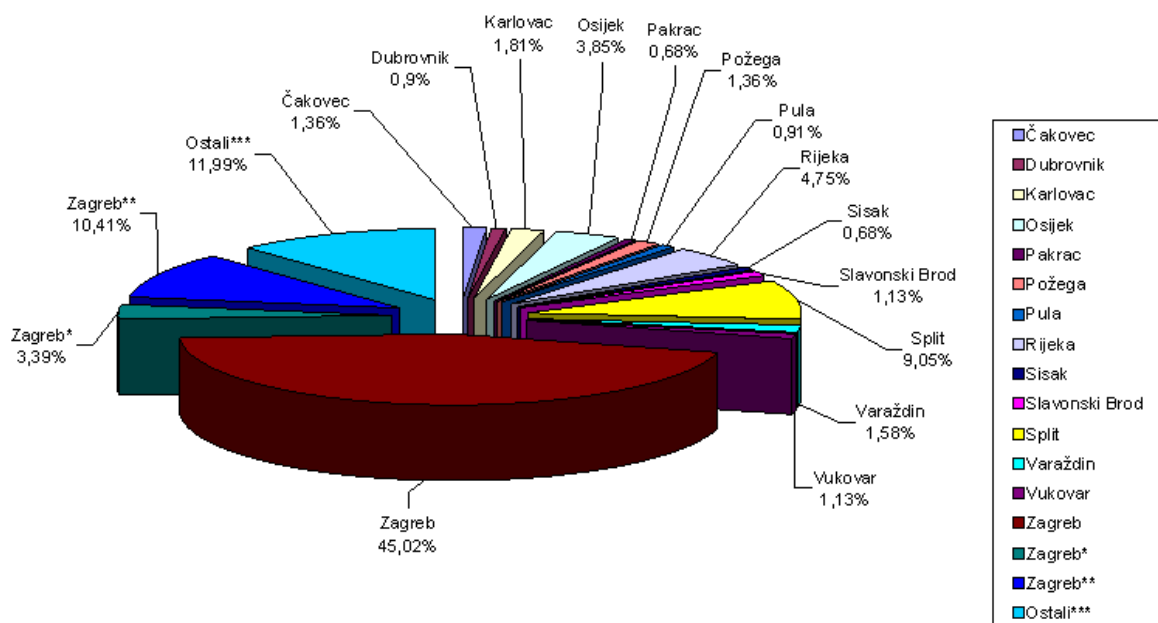
State funding for NGO development declined, from approximately 3 million Euros in 2001 to 2,3 million in 2002, and remained at 2,3 million in 2003.

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<sup>5</sup> National Programme of Action for Youth

After having evaluated all submitted programs in state administration bodies, the Government of the Republic of Croatia decided at its seating of February 27th 2003 to support 442 NGO programs and projects based on applications from 389 NGO's. For the protection and support of human rights 1, 406.975,37 kn; for social welfare 4, 375.449, 31 kn; for unemployment declining through social entrepreneurship 383.848 kn; for support for children and youth 2, 121.325, 70 kn; for non-institutionalised education and innovations in education 2, 716.000.51 kn; for democratization and the development of civil society 1, 606.834,18 kn; for improving the quality of life and health protection 2, 334.940,83 kn; for environmental protection 1, 062.019,10 kn; and for the protection of cultural heritage 1, 081.500.00 kn.<sup>6</sup>

**Graph:** Number of organisations that have received financial support from the state budget for 2003 from the Office for NGOs (showed by towns):



\* NGO's with residence in Zagreb

\*\* Cooperation between NGO's with residence in Zagreb and those in other parts of the country

\*\*\* The rest

In 2003, financial help was provided from State Institute for the Protection of Family, Maternity and Youth through a contest for youth clubs. About 100 organisations applied this year and 36 of them received financial support (amounts vary from 20 000 to 40 000 kn). In 2004, the Ministry of Culture is providing some additional support for projects that are involved in cultural events and issues.

Up to now, foreign donors are still essential supporters, especially Soros (Open Society Institute), USAID through AED (Academy for educational development), CARE International and a few embassies.

<sup>6</sup> Croatian Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs



During the last few years the PRONI Institute for Social Education has been taking care of education of youth workers, and from this year on the State Institute for Protection of Family, Maternity and Youth will be involved in this issue.

The work of youth organisations has been supported through the work of the CLUBTURE network (CLUBTURE was established as a new association of NGO's across Croatia working and helping in exchanging programmes in urban / contemporary / youth / alternative culture...), providing public spaces for their activities (CPS-Mlada Miramida, Multimedia Institute, ZAmirNET, State Institute for Family, Maternity and Youth, and local youth organisations). Besides, there are also several local and institutional organisations providing training and technical assistance, such as Suncokret (Allavida), EOS (Education for Organisations of Civil Society), CARE Int. and CPS.

## **YOUTH ORGANISATIONS**

Independently organised groups and associations of and for youth, as well as the third sector as a whole, is, as some would say a more or less new phenomenon in our country. Among approximately 360 associations in Croatia dealing with children and youth, there are about 130 associations of young persons, and also about 30 active informal groups of youth. They represent the only form of independent youth activity for improvement of the conditions in the society, which is particularly important in transitional societies characterized by social apathy, increased emigration and the turbulent transformation of institutions and social processes. The third sector of youth is in the early developmental phase: there is neither representation nor co-ordination at the national level, nor are there institutional conditions for sustainable and expanding activities.

So far, local youth councils exist only in four cities. A significant problem is the lack of a national umbrella association which would include the majority of the most important national youth NGOs. Up to now, several attempts have been recorded concerning the formation and activities of such associations, but none of these initiatives was accepted and legitimised by the majority of the relevant associations. The lack of this kind of co-ordination is slowing down the communication between the youth NGO sector and the state and local self-management; it causes low public outreach, keeping Croatia outside the framework of the most important European youth organisation, and many opportunities in this respect. Interest for civil initiatives is getting lost in a confusion that exists in the media, because non-governmental organisations do not have enough developed a system of communication with citizens. Some youth organisations show lot of effort through their projects on local level, but there is a lack of effective coordination and mid or long term programming.<sup>7</sup>

The greatest problem concerning youth activities is the lack of availability of adequate premises and operational problems caused by different unfavourable conditions.

Sometimes, NGO members feel that donors manipulate with civil initiatives because they finance only those projects that are suitable to their interests. This leads to a lack of interest

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<sup>7</sup> National Programme of Action for Youth

for projects attractive to donors and of implementing projects that are the result of citizens' ideas.

## **YOUTH VOLUNTEER WORK**

The system of volunteer work is not developed and volunteer opportunities are possible almost solely through non-governmental organisations or a small number of humanitarian institutions. Information on the places for volunteering are not accessible to the general public, which leads to a lack of interest of youth in volunteer work and poor communication among young persons on this issue.

Croatian legislation does not recognise the concept of volunteer work and has not ratified the Convention on the Promotion of International Long-Term Youth Volunteer Work of the Council of Europe, which empowers volunteer services and permits free international mobility of young volunteers. The status of foreign volunteers in Croatia has not been resolved because their work is considered to be another form of work according to the Employment of Foreigners Act.

## **YOUTH CULTURE AND FREE TIME**

The Ministry of Culture promotes cultural creativity of youth in different ways, mostly through its Administration for Cultural Development, which followed alternative culture and youth culture, multimedia culture and development programmes as a separate programme segment in 2001. In the area of musical activity, there were numerous manifestations, which bring together creative young people, as well as various projects of dance ensembles and modern dance expression. Theatre festivals also have their relevance, as well as the programmes from the area of cultural-artistic amateurism, films and video creativity by children and youth. There are big numbers of multimedia activities that popularise youth culture through electronic media. Usually, organised care for youth free time activities is at the level of the non-governmental organisations and religious communities. Youth participation in the creation of these kinds of activities is rare and inadequate, mainly because of high operational costs, lack of workspace and insufficient local community support.

Croatia regularly participates in international student sports competitions (World University Games), although the status of student sports associations has not yet been resolved and there are no university sport leagues.

## **Youth Mobility**

Educational mobility of youth in Croatia is far from desired intensity level and is limited by many factors: social living conditions and economic standards of the parents, the capacities of dormitories, enrollment policy of the colleges and universities, study curricula, employment perspectives etc.

Youth tourist mobility is stagnant; Croatia has got 9 youth hotels, resorts and hostels, with somewhat more than a thousand beds, with only 3 hostels, which have about 490 beds, which meet the criteria of the international system Hostelling International standards, and which operate throughout the whole year. The organization of scouts has 5 international centers in our country, with a total capacity of 600 accommodation places in buildings and camps, of which just 2 centers with only 77 accommodation places operate during the whole year. The universities do not possess any facilities for university students' vacations and recreation.

All youth organisations are free to establish contacts with similar associations' abroad. This co-operation is based on the individual interests of each organisation (eg Jeunesses Musicales of Croatia is a member of the Fédération Internationale des Jeunesses Musicales, so they organise exchanges of young musicians and dancers, a musical camp in Gronan and concert tours in Croatia; their counterparts abroad do likewise).

Three most important associations engaged in youth mobility (the Croatian Ferial and Hostel Association, the Scouts Association of Croatia and the Croatian Musical Youth Organization) have less than 15, 000 members; less than 5, 000 young persons have EURO<26 card, the most important international card promoting youth mobility (the Republic of Croatia has signed so-called Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe, by which it accepted the obligation to support the development of this system), whereas somewhat less than 3, 000 young persons have ISIC student identity card.

In secondary schools, graduation trips, excursions or other travels are noncompulsory activities defined by the annual plan and programme of the school. Often, these activities are influenced by current trend and commercial criteria, not possessing needed educational elements.

Only several large youth associations have the status of full membership in central international organizations and permanent forms of international cooperation and exchanges. Croatia still does not participate in a series of international projects monitored and co-financed by European institutions and organizations.

The programme of the European Voluntary Service is still in the initial phase. There are just several large organizations (like European Scout Voluntary Programme), appoint members within exchange of students, and this is due to the activities of specialized, i.e. branch student associations (AEGEE, AIESEC, ELSA, et.), which send and receive students within exchange programmes and professional internships every year.

Croatian higher education has been increasingly involved into international cooperation through the Council of Europe, UNESCO and rectors' conferences. By signing the Lisbon Convention of the Council of Europe and UNESCO, and by participation on the Declaration on Higher Education for the 21-century of UNESCO, Croatia is gradually included in the international currents and legislation from this important area.

In the area of bilateral scientific and technological cooperation, many contracts, protocols and programmes have been signed, on the basis of which undergraduate and graduate students have the opportunity of completing their studies in foreign countries.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> National Programme of Action for Youth

## **Festivals in Croatia**

### Pontes Festival

For seven years Pontes organizes International literary festival Pontes. Participants are writers, critics, publishers and theoretic from twenty-three (until now) European countries. The festival takes place each year on the island of Krk, during the end of August.

Dubrovnik Summer Games Traditional and most representative international culture festival in Croatia: musical, stage and dance festival in the town of the hundred year civilization heritage, in the unique atmosphere of closed and open stage spaces of the Renaissance-baroque town of Dubrovnik, about 80 drama, ballet, opera, musical performances, promotions of literary works, exhibitions, poet's appearances, off-theater performances, etc. are held during the duration of the Games.

### International Small Scene Theatre Festival

The Festival has brought up, analyzed, and discussed a large number of essential themes and questions pertinent to contemporary theatre, scrutinizing and comparing theatrical achievements in Croatia as well as those of Croatian theatre with the rest of the world, be it in regard to contemporary drama, to the theatre axiom, to theatre classics, to heritage, social themes and challenges, or to opening towards others and towards those who are different.

### International Childrens' Festival

The basic cultural and pedagogical justification of the festival is that it promotes aesthetical education of children and young adults, and develops all artistic forms of children's creativity. The festival not only initiates, but also stimulates many ideas in art forms for children and by children: dramatic and music arts, puppetry, film, literature and visual arts. The festival has been accomplishing this through three aspects: through an annual review of carefully selected Croatian and foreign performing companies (works for children), through workshops as a form of involving children in the act of creation (works by children and education) and through organizing symposiums on creativity and art, and on other topics important for the aesthetic education of children (the scientific aspect)

### Zagreb film festival

This festival is a new cultural manifestation in Zagreb. Festival is taking place in urban area and stimulates innovativeness and co-operation as important defining factors of urban culture. During the festival's five days The Student centre will be a kind of city in a city: it will revive the memories inscribed in rooms where, during the 20th century, some of the most important events on Zagreb cultural scene are taking place: exhibitions of Zagreb choir, Theatre & TD plays, exhibitions in the Gallery of the Student centre, MM centre showings, new wave concerts, and theatre plays performed by alternative groups.

The Motovun Film Festival is fully dedicated to the films made in smaller film industries and independent productions, the films that have compelled respect with their innovations, ideas and the strength of their stories. The setting of the festival are the streets and squares of a

beautiful medieval small town, with open-air showings. Its informal character, numerous events and high-quality films made it gain many supporters and visitors.

#### One Take Film Festival

The One Take Film Festival is an international festival of films shot in one take, that is films shot without interruption, from the moment of turning the camera on to the moment of turning the camera off. One Take Film Festival makes room for a more stimulating concept of film and more exiting film-making. The One Take Film Festival is the only one of its kind in the world, and it takes place in Zagreb. The One Take Film Festival, along with the official competition, offers numerous other events – premieres, lectures, exhibitions, concerts and of course, good time for everyone.

The International Film Weekend in Oprtalj, held for the fourth time already, confirmed the great interest in both Croatian and foreign cinematography  
-Eurokaz International Festival of New Theatre in Zagreb  
-Zagreb Summer Festival

Special Events: The following is a list of festivals and special events that took place in Croatia in 2003. For further details contact the Croatian National Tourist Board .

Feb/Mar 2003 Kvarner Riviera Carnival. Jun 23-Jul 7 International Children's Festival, Sibenik. Jul 1-Aug 15 Zagreb Summer Festival. Jul 10-Aug 25 Dubrovnik Summer Festival. Jul 15-Aug 15 Split Summer Festival. Jul 15-Aug 25 Istrian Cultural Summer. Jul 19-22 Zagreb International Folk Festival. Sep 20-22 Vinkovci Autumn Festival. Sep 24-Oct 4 Varazdin Baroque Evenings, Music Evenings in St. Donat, Zadar (4 July - 6 August), Sinjska Alka (6 August)

#### **Did you know?**

- ◆ That the city of Zadar was the first town on Croatian soil to have a University in 1396. (It was founded by the Dominican order on the grounds of their Monastery of St. Dominic)
- ◆ That Zadar Maraschino liqueur was exported to almost every European country in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and that it found its place on the tables of all the famous rulers - the English King George IV, Napoleon Bonaparte and the Russian Czar Nikolai I...
- ◆ The gothic Zagreb Cathedral is the most eastern situated Gothic Cathedral in the Europe
- ◆ The first parachute was invented by a Croat Faust Vrančić
- ◆ Ivan Vucetić invented dactyliscopy - a method of identification based on fingerprints
- ◆ Lavoslav Ružička in 1939, received the Noble Prize in the field of organic synthesis
- ◆ Vladimir Prelog in 1975 received Noble Prize for the achievements in the field of stereochemistry of natural compounds
- ◆ Stjepan Mohorovičić discovered the existence of a discontinuity layer between the surface and the core of the Earth called today Moho layer

- ◆ According to the local archives, the explorer Marko Polo was born on the island of Korcula in 1254
- ◆ Croatia is the original home of the spotted Dalmatian dog
- ◆ Croatia has won European Gold medal for its Dingač and Pharos red wines
- ◆ Croatia won the "Clean Sea 93" award
- ◆ The gentleman's tie originates from this country. The first one was worn by Croatian soldiers in the 17<sup>th</sup> century
- ◆ In the year 1899, the fossil remnants of the Homo sapiens neanderthalensis species were found at the excavation site located at the Hušnjak hill in Krapina. During a six-year research at the site, led, for the time, by highly expert Dragutin Gorjanović-Kramberger, a total of 876 single fossil Neanderthal fossil remains were found, placing Krapina in the world's scientific heritage as the world's richest Neanderthal finding site.
  
- ◆ Vucedolska golubica (The Dove from Vucedol) - a bird shaped, nicely engraved cult vessel found at Gradac (Archeological Museum in Zagreb). The famous Vucedol culture, the archaeological finds of which - combined in the symbol of the Dove of Vucedol - take us back to the period of 2150-1850 BC.
- ◆ Croatia is the home to the lead graphite technical pencil. Invented by Slavoljub Penkala, the pencil was among 75 other technical advancements invented by the native Croatian
  
- ◆ The plot of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night takes place in the Kornati
  
- ◆ Two Croatian names appear on the map of the Moon. The name of Rudjer Boskovic and the name of Andrija Mohorovicic.
- ◆ Ivan Lupis (1813-1875): naval officer had invented the torpedo, first constructed in Rijeka in 1866.

## FAMOUS CROATS

### RUDER BOSKOVIC (1711-1787)

One of the greatest physicists, philosophers, mathematicians and astronomers of the 18th century. Born in Dubrovnik, he worked in many European centers. His most famous work is the Theory of Natural Philosophy.

### NIKOLA TESLA (1856-1943)

One of the most prominent researchers in the 20th century, inventor of the three-phase current.

### JULIJE KLOVIC (GIULIO CLOVIO, 1498-1578)

He is recognized as the most important illuminator of the 16th century. He was known as the Michelangelo of Miniature Art. Although much of his

inspiration came from Raphael and Michelangelo, he developed his own visual language, brilliantly translating their monumental forms of work on the smallest scale.

IVAN MESTROVIC (1883-1962)

A sculptor, perhaps best known for his sculpture of Native Americans in Chicago.

He was the first living artist ever to be given a one-man show at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and was winner of the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award of Merit in 1953.

MARKO MARULIC (1450-1524)

A poet and philosopher. His works were read across Europe including England and Henry VIII.

MIROSLAV KRLEZA (1893-1981)

The most famous 20th century Croatian writer whose works have been translated the most.

IVAN VUCETIC

Inventor of the method of identification by means of fingerprints-  
DACTILOSCOPY.

JURAJ DALMATINAC (1420-1473)

The constructor of the Sibenik cathedral, architect and sculptor.

MARKO POLO (1253-1324)

A traveller and explorer.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### **Important telephone numbers:**

Police 92

Fire Department 93

Ambulance 94

Public Emergency Centre 985

Telephone numbers 988 - 1,22 HRK/min

Time 95 - 1,53 HRK/min

General Information 981 - 3,05 HRK/min

### **Basic words translated in Croatia:**

YES = DA

NO = NE

PLEASE = MOLIM

THANK YOU = HVALA VAM

GOOD MORNING = DOBRO JUTRO  
 GOOD AFTERNOON = DOBAR DAN  
 GOOD NIGHT = LAKU NOCŔ  
 HELLO / HI = ZDRAVO / BOG  
 GOOD-BYE = DOVID-ENJA  
 WHAT IS YOUR NAME? = KAKO SE ZOVETE?  
 MY NAME IS... = IME MI JE...  
 HOW ARE YOU? = KAKO STE? FINE THANKS, AND YOU? = DOBRO HVALA, A VI?  
 I UNDERSTAND. = RAZUMIJEM.  
 I DON'T UNDERSTAND. = NE RAZUMIJEM.  
 DO YOU SPEAK ENGLISH? = GOVORITE LI ENGLISKI?  
 I DON'T SPEAK MUCH CROATIAN. = GOVORIM MALO HRVATSKI.

**Holidays** in the Republic of Croatia are:

<b>1st January</b>	New Year's Day
<b>6th January</b>	Epiphany
<b>Movable feast</b>	Easter Monday
<b>1st May</b>	International Labor Day
<b>Movable feast</b>	Corpus Christi
<b>22nd June</b>	Anti-fascist Resistance Day
<b>25th June</b>	Statehood Day
<b>5th August</b>	Day of Victory and Patriotic Gratitude
<b>15th August</b>	Assumption Day
<b>8th October</b>	Independence Day
<b>1st November</b>	All Saints' Day
<b>25th and 26th December</b>	Christmas Holidays

**Distances between Zagreb and major European cities**

Amsterdam 1064 km	Berlin 764 km
Bonn 854 km	Bratislava 278 km
Brussels 1023 km	Budapest 302 km
Copenhagen 1124 km	Helsinki 1703 km
Istanbul 1168 km	Kiev 1192 km
Lisbon 2200 km	Madrid 1698 km
Moscow 1873 km	Oslo 1289 km
Paris 1069 km	Prague 490 km
Rome 520 km	Sofia 680 km
Stockholm 1513 km	Trieste 170 km
Vienna 274 km	Warsaw 803 km
Zurich 593 km	



## **Travelling by road**

To enter Croatia drivers must be in possession of valid driving license, vehicle registration document and green card (evidence of insurance.) Apart from several stretches of motorways connecting major inland cities, roads are single carriageway and in satisfactory condition. During the summer peak months the roads are clogged with holiday traffic, especially the Adriatic coastal road (Jadranska Magistrala). This and many other busy roads become slippery when wet, during and after rainfall, tends to become extremely slippery. Please take extra care, remember to cut your speed and avoid overtaking. Driving in Croatia requires driving license or green insurance card. Also, you will have to pay a toll on some bridges and roads, and for personal cars the price is usually from 6 kn (0,8 Euro) to 12 kn (1,6 Euro).

The permitted speed within residential areas is 50 km per hour, other roads 80 km per hour and on motorways 130 km per hour. Petrol stations are opened from 07.00 - 22.00 hours in summer. Petrol stations in major cities and along major international roads are open 24 hours.

Available petrol includes non-leaded Eurosuper 95, Super 98, Normal (for example: 1 l - 5,35 kn=0,7 Euro) and Euro Diesel (1 l - 5,43 kn=0,7 Euro) fuel. Permitted quantity of alcohol in blood: 0.5 per ml. Use of safety belts is obligatory for the driver and co-driver, as well as the back seats if the belts are fitted.

Road assistance:

Automobile breakdown service phone: 987 - 0,31 HRK/min

Croatia AA club phone: 01 4554 433

Weather forecast and road conditions phone: 060 520 520

Accident procedure: Place the triangle sign behind the vehicle/s involved in accident, advise the police (tel. 92) and wait for their arrival. For any damage to vehicle it is obligatory to obtain from police a certificate listing the damage and circumstances.

Association of Croatian Travel Agencies - [www.uhpa.hr](http://www.uhpa.hr)

Collection of maps of Croatian cities and regions - [www.geo-gauss.hr/id18.htm](http://www.geo-gauss.hr/id18.htm)

Croatian Auto Club - [www.hak.hr](http://www.hak.hr)

Croatian Camping Association - [www.camping.hr](http://www.camping.hr)

Croatian National Tourist Board - [www.htz.hr](http://www.htz.hr)

## **Travelling by bus**

The Croatian Bus System is far more developed than the train system. For moving from one place to another I would recommend the public bus service which is a good standard, cheap and usually frequent. The services are run by a array of competing companies, but well integrated and organized. The buses (autobus) are in most cases modern comfortable coaches. Tickets must be purchased before departure, usually from bus station ticket windows. It is advisable to buy a ticket in advance particularly in summer for journeys from Zagreb to the coast.

Examples of Intercity coach service timetables from ZAGREB to

Rijeka: departure every two hours. Journey time 3 hours / cost about 8,6 Euro

Pula: departure every two hours. Journey time 4 hours / cost about 10,1 Euro

Split: departure every hour. Journey time 6-7 hours / cost about 13 Euro

Dubrovnik: 4 departures daily. Journey time 11 hours / cost about 17,3 Euro

Osijek: 4 departures daily. Journey time up to 10 hours/ cost about 10,1 Euro

Plitvice Lakes: departure every two hours. Journey time 3 hours / cost about 8,6 Euro

Sarajevo: 4-5 departures daily. Journeys time 5 hours/cost about 10,1 Euro

Ljubljana: 3-4 departures daily. Journey time 2hours/ cost about 20,2 Euro

Zagreb Central Coach Station: Information phone: 00385 60 313333 and 00385 60 34 0340,

### **Reservations**

Domestic service phone: 00385 1 6157 986

International service phone: 00385 1 6157 983

CroatiaBus phone: 00385 1 6157 966

From SPLIT to

Zagreb: departure every hour - journey time 6-7 hours / cost about 13 Euro

Dubrovnik: departure every hour - journey time 4 hours / cost about 10,1 Euro

Medjugorje: several departures daily Rijeka departure every hour - journey time 5 hours / cost about 11,5 Euro

From DUBROVNIK to

Makarska, Split, Sibenik and Rijeka departure every hour

Medjugorje: several departures daily

From PULA to

Rijeka: departure every hour - journey time 1.30 hours / cost about 4,3 Euro

Trieste: departures 05.00 , 06.00 and 07.00 hours - journey time 3.30 hours / cost about 7,2 Euro

From RIJEKA to

Zadar, Sibenik, Split and Dubrovnik departure every hour

Trieste: departures 06.00 , 14.30 and 17.30 hours - journey time 2.30 hours / cost about 8,6 Euro

Zagreb: departure every hour - journey time 3 hours / cost about 13 Euro

The quoted prices are for one way journey and they are approximate.

When hiring the bus for particular purpose you will pay between 100 and 250 kn.

Local bus tickets: for example, in Dubrovnik you have three choices-buy individual tickets at 7Kn (0,9 Euro) or a book of 20 tickets at 5Kn (0,6 Euro) each from any kiosk, or pay 10Kn (1,3 Euro) in coins on the bus as you enter. If you do pay on the bus, have the right small coins, as there is no change.

In Zagreb, Bus and Tram tickets are bought at news stands at price of 6,50 HRK or from the driver at price of 8,00 HRK and daily tickets at price of 18,00 HRK (all other information available at [www.zagreb-touristinfo.hr](http://www.zagreb-touristinfo.hr)).

There are now plenty of taxis in Zagreb and block-long lines can be found all day just off the main Trg Jelacica square and pedestrian area, along Gajeva and Preadoviceva streets.

### **Travelling by train**

The rail network connects all major Croatian cities, except Dubrovnik. There are direct lines to Slovenia, Hungary, Italy, Greece, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Yugoslavia. There are indirect lines to almost all other European countries. The types of train services that operate in Croatia are the following: EuroCity (EC), InterCity (IC), Express (Ex), Fast (B), Local and Accelerated trains.

Avoid local trains unless you intend to use the Express and the Fast direct services which link all major cities (increased frequency in summer months). These services operate between Zagreb - Rijeka, Pula, Zadar, Sibenik and Split. There is no service to Dubrovnik. Rail information/ reservation phone: 00385 1 4553 238 / and 00385 1 45573 253.

### **Travelling by air**

Croatia Airlines operate domestic service connecting Zagreb with Pula , Osijek, Rijeka, Zadar, Split, Brac and Dubrovnik.

<http://www.croatiaairlines.hr/http://www.croatiaairlines.hr/>

Croatia Airlines information/reservation phone: 00385 1 487 2727.

Airport phone numbers:

Zagreb 01 6265 222

Split 021 203 171

Dubrovnik 020 773 377

Osijek 031 514 400 (town office 031 215 650)

Rijeka 051 842 132

Zadar 023 313 311

Pula 052 550 926

Brac 021 648 615

Useful web links:

Croatia Airlines - [www.croatiaairlines.hr](http://www.croatiaairlines.hr)

Dubrovnik Airport - [www.airport-dubrovnik.hr](http://www.airport-dubrovnik.hr)

Split Airport - [www.split-airport.tel.hr](http://www.split-airport.tel.hr)

Zagreb Airport - [www.tel.hr/zagreb-airport](http://www.tel.hr/zagreb-airport)

### **Travelling by sea**

Jadrolinija, the state ferry company, operate a regular international car and passenger ferry service between Italy and Croatia. From Ancona to Zadar and to Split and from Bari to Dubrovnik In addition, this company operates a regular coastal car ferry service from Rijeka to Dubrovnik calling at Zadar, Split, Hvar and Korcula on the way, and from Dubrovnik to

Rijeka calling at the same ports. The journey one way takes just under 24 hours. This is good way to see and enjoy the Croatian coast.

Jadrolinija mainland to islands car ferry service:

Pula - Mali Losinj, Brestova (Istrian peninsula) - Cres and Losinj, Jablanac - Misnjak/Rab, Zadar - Dugi Otok, Split - Brac, Hvar, Vis, Korcula Vela Luka, Lastovo, Makarska - Brac, Drvenik - Hvar, Dubrovnik - Mljet, Korcula, Lopud, Sipan and Koločep.

Jadrolinija information phone: 00 385 51 666 100 / and 211 444

New service from July 2003 - CATAMARAN SERVICE FOR PASSENGERS ONLY - 4 times per week on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday (in winter 3 times per week).

Catamaran "KRILO" features: speed 26 knots, 200 seats. Price 55 HRK.

Departure	Departure	Arrival
Korcula-06:45	Hvar- 08:25	Split-09:25
Split-18:00	Hvar-19:10	Korcula-20:35

Excursions:

Regular programme of excursions from all major resorts is operated by Atlas. Full details from Atlas branch offices.

Useful web links:

Jadrolinija - [www.jadrolinija.hr](http://www.jadrolinija.hr)

SEM (ferries & boats) - [www.sem.hr](http://www.sem.hr)

## "Gay" travelers

Homosexuality is legal in Croatia since 1977. And it is mostly tolerated even though it is not welcome everywhere, especially in the small communities. There is a society of homosexuals in Zagreb called "Ligma" (Lesbian and Gay Men Action), tel: +385 1 276 188, PO Box 488, 10001 Zagreb.

## Invalid travelers

Because of the increased number of physically disabled people after the war, the greater attention is being paid to all of their problems. The public toilets, railroad stations, bus stations and airports, most hotel and stores have an eased access for the wheel chairs while the ferry and boat access still hasn't been resolved. For all necessary information you can call the Comity of Organizations of Croatian Invalids on the phone number +385 1 48 29 394, Savska cesta3, 10000 Zagreb.

## Eating and drinking

Croatia offers a varied range of food drawing from different culinary cultures, including Middle and Central European and Mediterranean. Breakfast will normally include bread rolls, a boiled egg, a few slices of cheese/or salami, butter and jam. Most of hotels of mid-and superior standard offer a buffet style breakfast with cereals, eggs and bacon.

Snacks will include burek - a light flaky pastry filled with cheese. Snacks of more substance are predominately prepared of grilled meats locally known as pljeskavica - a hamburger like mixture, raznjici - shish kebab, cevapi - minced beef, pork and lamb.

## Lunch & Dinner

Establishments serving main meals are: restoran (restaurant), konoba (tavern type of restaurant) and gostiona (inn) and pizzeria.

A full restaurant menu (jelovnik) will list:

Starters (predjelo) usually prsut - home cured ham and cheese (sir). Choice of soups (juha) clear and light soup and cream soup (krem juha) much thicker vegetable soup, pasta and risotto dishes.

Main dishes consist of grilled and pan - fried pork or veal chop (kotlet) or fillet (odrezak.) Becki odrezak - fried Wiener schnitzel in breadcrumbs, Pariski odrezak - (parisienne schnitzel) fried in batter and Zagrebacki schnitzel stuffed with cheese and ham. Mjesano meso - mixed grill, Janjetina - usually cuts from grilled whole sheep roasted over the open fire.

On the Adriatic coast the sea food menus offer: Starters salata od hobotnice - octopus salad, salata od jastoga - small portion of lobster flesh seasoned with olive oil and herbs. Riba na zaru (grilled fish), riba u pecnici (baked fish) and riba leso (boiled fish,) lignje na zaru (grilled squid) and risotto od liganja - (risotto of squid.) More expensive restaurants offer specialties like rakovica - (crab), ostrige (oysters) skampi (scampi) and jastog (lobster).

Salads usually include zelena salata - green salad and mjesana salata - mixed salad, also krastavci - gherkins and paprika - pickled peppers.

Typical menu for dessert lists: sladoled - ice cream, torta - cake, palacinke - pancakes and rozata - cream caramel.

Average traditional dishes cost about 150,00 HRK (20 Euros), but the prices really vary from place to place.

## Drinking

Pivo - beer mostly light lager variety, better brands are called Karlovacko and Ozujsko pivo.

Vino - wine. Croatia produces many great wines of which the best known are: Vrbnik, Vugava, Kastelet, Grk and Posip all medium dry whites. Dingac, Babić, Primosten and Viski Plavac and Teran all red wines. According to the Croatian Wine Guide, there are 620 various kinds of wine produced from 54 sorts of grapes in Croatia.

Zestoka pica - spirits served up and down the country include lozovaca made from grapes, sljivovica - plum brandy, viljamovka - pear brandy, travarica - made from herbs, pelinkovac - juniper based spirit, vinjak - locally produced cognac, maraskino made from cherries.

July and August are both hot and expensive, and you may like to take advantage of the cheaper accommodation rates and slightly cooler climate by visiting Croatia between March & June and September & October.

Average daily maximum temperature in °F

April 62, May 70, June 78, July 88, August 88, September 78, October 68.

## **Post and telekomunications**

Post Offices are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Saturdays until 1 p.m. There are Post Offices in the larger cities that are open until 10 p.m. in the summer. Postage stamps are sold in Post Offices and at newsstands. Public telephones can be used only with phone cards, which can be purchased in Post Offices and at newsstands, in hotels and tourist complexes.

### **TV, RADIO AND PRESS**

Satellite TV gives you access to CNN (other reachable non-scrambled programs are mostly in German or Italian), and the state news agency, HINA, produces material in English for international distribution on a daily basis.

The state radio station, HRT, is broadcasting the news in English few times a day during the summer.

The first program of Croatian Radio at 92.1 MHz - the news in English each day at 08:30, 10:30, 14:30 and 20:30. On Sunday the first news go at 09:30. The second program of Croatian radio at 98.5 MHz (from July 1, until September 15) - after the news in Croatian comes a report on road conditions in Croatia by the Croatian Autoclub in English, German and Italian language.

International English-language papers (Herald Tribune, the Guardian, the Independent, Europe Today, and some others) as well as English editions of some popular magazines (Times, National Geographic, Vogue, Elle and others) are available in the larger towns and resorts.

## **Customs Duty**

Customs regulations of the Republic of Croatia are in accordance with EU standards. Foreign currency can freely be moved in and out of the country, while the maximum amount for the Croatian currency is 2000 Kunas(259,7 Euro). Valuable professional and technical equipment must be registered with customs at the border. Customs: You should declare all technical goods taken into the country and upon departure present all received receipts in order to claim local VAT/PDV back. There are no known restrictions in how much money you are allowed to bring into the country. The following goods may be taken into Croatia without incurring customs duty: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250g of tobacco; 1l of wine and 1l of spirits; 250ml of eau de cologne and 1 bottle of perfume.

For further information please visit [www.carina.hr](http://www.carina.hr)

## **Tax return for foreign citizens**

Tourists who purchase goods for over 500 kn (64,9 Euro) may claim a tax return when leaving the country with verified "Tax Cheque" receipts through the Croatian Customs Service. A tax refund can be obtained within one year. The equivalent of VAT - PDV - is 22% in Croatia.

Information: Croatian Customs Service (Phone: 01/6102 333).

Notification of tourist stays:

The tourists pay a fee for every day of their stay (aprox. 1 Euro a day). The children up to 12 years of age do not have to pay for this fee and children from 12 to 18 years of age have to pay half of the fee. All tourists have to be registered with the owner of accommodation at the local tourist office. The tourist board has to issue a written permit for the stay of every registered guest.

### **Medical assistance**

During his/her stay in Croatia each tourist has a right to medical care in every hospital, ambulant or a clinic. The prices of services are nominal and they equal the prices paid by Croatian citizens. The visitors from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Great Britain should bring their passports only. The tourists from other countries should have another suitable document beside their passport. Slovenian guests can use their health cards. For the special medical care in private clinics guests pay the same price as local people.

### **Shopping**

Traditional handicrafts that cover a range of items like embroidery (table clothes, clothes and other), lace, silver filigran jewellery or jewellery made of corals and sea shelves, woodcarvings and ceramics make good souvenirs.

If you go shopping for clothes or shoes, the prices in our shops will not be a pleasant surprise. Therefore, if you're not particularly attached to designer's clothes, take a look in small boutiques and on the market. Prices are much lower and the choice gets to be quite good during the high season.

### **Working hours**

In general, working hours for all shops and other services are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. till 7 or 8 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. till 1-2 p.m. During summer season opening hours of shops and boutiques vary from ones like private shops that mostly stay open till 9 p.m. or longer and full day on Saturday, and the others that work in two shifts, closing from noon till 4 p.m. Sundays and public holidays are the usual closing days.

### **Money**

Local currency: 1 Kuna (HRK or kn) = 100 Lipa. Notes are in denominations of 1000, 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5 HRK. Coins are in denominations of 5, 2 and 1 HRK, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 lipa.

Export-import restrictions: The import and export of foreign currency is unlimited. The import and export of our currency - HRK is limited to 2000 HRK, in banknotes up to 500 HRK. For

amounts exceeding 2000 HRK a special permit from the National Bank of Croatia is required.

### C R O A T I A N N A T I O N A L B A N K, Zagreb

#### EXCHANGE RATE LIST NUMBER: 6

The exchange rates quoted in this list are applied as of 01.10.2003.

Exchange rates in k u n a s - Kn (code 191)

Country	Code	Curr.	Unit	Buying rate	Middle rate	Selling rate
Australia	036	AUD	1	4,672658	4,686718	4,700778
Canada	124	CAD	1	4,705300	4,719458	4,733616
Czech Rep.	203	CZK	1	0,236606	0,237318	0,238030
Denmark	208	DKK	1	1,031000	1,034102	1,037204
Hungary	348	HUF	100	2,850781	2,859359	2,867937
Japan	392	JPY	100	5,653913	5,670926	5,687939
Norway	578	NOK	1	0,880975	0,883626	0,886277
Slovakia	703	SKK	1	0,188644	0,189212	0,189780
Slovenia	705	SIT	100	3,236492	3,246231	3,255970
Sweden	752	SEK	1	0,841166	0,843697	0,846228
Switzerland	756	CHF	1	4,902368	4,917119	4,931870
UK	826	GBP	1	11,061047	11,094330	11,127613
USA	840	USD	1	6,031877	6,050027	6,068177
EMU	978	EUR	1	7,678579	7,701684	7,724789
Poland	985	PLN	1	1,634922	1,639842	1,644762

#### **Banks**

Banking hours: 8 a.m. till 7 p.m. Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. till noon on Saturdays. All banks are closed on Sunday and public holidays. Cash machines, though seldom found outside the major towns and resorts, are operative 24 hours a day.

#### **Exchange Offices**

Currencies can be exchanged in banks, exchange offices (Mjenjačnica), hotels and most travel agencies. Exchange rates are published in the daily press and by banks that display them in visible places.

#### **Credit cards**

Standard credit cards like Eurocard/Mastercard, Diners, American Express and Visa are widely accepted in Croatia. All shops, restaurants, agencies, hotels and other services usually have logo stickers on the door or other visible place for you to be sure which credit cards they accept. You can take cash advance on Eurocard/Mastercard and Diners in most post offices.



Banks and moneychangers as well as some hotels accept travellers' checks. Usually a 2 % commission is charged for cashing a traveller's check.

### **Travel documents**

For an up to three-month stay in Croatia, a valid passport is all you need if you come from Europe, most of the American countries, Japan... (Please check our list). Furthermore, there is a list of countries whose citizens can enter Croatia by presenting their identity cards. For more information on visas, please visit [www.mvp.hr](http://www.mvp.hr) - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia - web site.

#### LIST OF COUNTRIES WHOSE CITIZENS DO NOT NEED ENTRY VISAS FOR REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Andorra, Argentina ,Austria, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, El Salvador, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras,	Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Canada, Republic of Korea, Costa Rica, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Macedonia ,Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Nicaragua, Netherlands,	Germany, Norway, New Zealand ,Panama, Paraguay ,Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USA, Uruguay, Vatican, Great Britain, Venezuela
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#### LIST OF COUNTRIES WHOSE CITIZENS CAN ENTER CROATIA BY PRESENTING THEIR IDENTITY CARDS

Austria, Belgium, Denmark ,Finland, France, Greece,	Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Hungary, Netherlands, Germany,	Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden,Great, Britain
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### **Visa issuing points**

Entry visas for Croatia are issued by the embassies and consulates of the Republic of Croatia. Only in exceptional cases can visas be obtained at the Croatia's international border crossings. To get the student visa you need to present the letter of acceptance from the University.

When arriving in Croatia please ask the border custom officer to stamp it.  
In case you do not enter Croatia with a student visa (even if you don't need one for Croatia as a tourist) you cannot apply for a residence permit which entitles you to stay in Croatia for a longer period of time.

Children must be registered in the passport of one of their parents or have their own passport. The loss of the passport or any other identification document must be immediately reported to the nearest police office. They will issue an official notification of the loss in order to enable you to obtain a new travel document. Pets are not subject to compulsory quarantine, but they must be properly vaccinated (against rabies) and have confirmation on that.

Listing of Croatian Tourist Offices in different countries

<http://www.visit-croatia.co.uk/addresses/>

At its most basic- the toilets in Croatia are sparkling clean, the streets nearly litter-free and astonishingly safe day or night. English is widely spoken.

There are no official State Department Warnings in place for Croatia, which means that there is no reason whatsoever for a foreign traveler to be deterred from taking advantage of Croatia's world class scenery or cultural and historical offerings. There are as yet some landmines left over from Croatia's war for independence, but they are exclusively located in off-the-beaten-path locations such as swampland areas in the far- eastern section of the country.

#### Examples of prices in Croatia:

<b>product</b>	<b>quantity</b>	<b>price (Kn)</b>
Coffee	100 g	6-9
sunflower oil	1 Lit.	10-12
olive oil	1 Lit.	44-60
Sugar	1 kg	5-7
Domestic beer (Pan, Karlovačko, Kaltenberg...)	0.5 Lit.	3,10-3,60
wine	1 Lit.	6-18
wine- bottled (middle class)	0.75 Lit	18-55
Egg	1 piece	1,10-1,40
Bread	1 kg	2,80-5,40
soft cheese	1 kg	36-70
hard cheese	1 kg	50-120
"Pampers" diapers	44 pieces	63-85
daily papers	1 piece	6
weekly magazine	1 piece	10-12
Juice	1 Lit.	10-20
Coca Cola	2 Lit.	13
pork meat	1 kg	25-50
young beef	1 kg	40-50
Beef	1 kg	23-45
chicken	1 kg	25-35
calf meat	1 kg	40-70
lamb meat	1 kg	50-80
Domestic cigarettes (Ronhill, Walter Wolf...)	1 box	11
licensed cigarettes (Marlboro, Winston...)	1 box	16

mineral water

1.5 Lit.

4,60-6,10

OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES:

[www.hotel.hr](http://www.hotel.hr)

[www.dalmacija.net](http://www.dalmacija.net)

[www.ravnice-youth-hostel.hr](http://www.ravnice-youth-hostel.hr)

[www.kroatientourismus.info](http://www.kroatientourismus.info)

[www.kroatien-online.com/hr](http://www.kroatien-online.com/hr)

[www.kroatien-links.de/transport-verkehr.htm](http://www.kroatien-links.de/transport-verkehr.htm)

[www.euroyachtcro.com/sailprices.htm](http://www.euroyachtcro.com/sailprices.htm)

[www.islands.zesoi.fer.hr](http://www.islands.zesoi.fer.hr)

[www.traveldocs.com/hr](http://www.traveldocs.com/hr)

[www.culturenet.hr](http://www.culturenet.hr)

[www.sic.hr](http://www.sic.hr) (International Education Center)

[www.posluh.hr/uspinjaca](http://www.posluh.hr/uspinjaca) (Employment Agency)

[www.sczg.hr](http://www.sczg.hr) (Student Center Zagreb)

[www.step.hr](http://www.step.hr) (Student Page)

[www.mvp.hr](http://www.mvp.hr) (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

[www.dzs.hr](http://www.dzs.hr) (State Statistics Institute)