

# Directory

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## ACCOMMODATION

In this book, budget accommodation includes camping grounds, hostels and some guest houses, and costs up to 500KN for a double. Midrange accommodation costs 500KN to 900KN a double, while top-end starts from 900KN and can go as high as 4000KN per double. Reviews are listed in budget order.

Along the coast, accommodation is priced according to four seasons, which vary from place to place. November to March are the cheapest months. There may only be one or two hotels open in a coastal resort but you'll get great rates – often no more than 350KN for a double in a good three-star hotel and 250KN in a lesser establishment. Generally, April, May and October are the next cheapest months and June and September are the

shoulder season. In July and August count on paying top price, especially in the peak period, which starts in mid-July and lasts until mid- or late August.

Prices quoted in this book range from the lowest to the highest season. Note that many establishments add a 30% charge for less than three-night stays and include 'residence tax', which is 7.50KN per person per day. Prices in this book do not include the residence tax. Accommodation is generally cheaper in Dalmatia than in Kvarner or Istria, but in July and August you should make arrangements in advance wherever you go.

This book provides the phone numbers of most accommodation facilities. Once you know your itinerary it pays to start calling around to check prices and availability. Most receptionists speak English.

It's becoming difficult to get a confirmed reservation without a deposit, particularly in the high season. Hotels are equipped to reserve accommodation using a credit-card number. Some guest houses might require a SWIFT wire transfer (where your bank wires directly to their bank). Unfortunately, banks charge fees for the transaction, usually in the range of US\$15 to US\$30. The only way around it is to book online through an agency.

## Camping

Nearly 100 camping grounds are scattered along the Croatian coast. Most operate from mid-April to mid-September only, although a few are open March to October. In spring and autumn, it's best to call ahead to make sure that the camping ground is open before beginning the long trek out. Don't go by the opening and closing dates you read in travel brochures

### BOOK YOUR STAY ONLINE

For more accommodation reviews and recommendations by Lonely Planet authors, check out the online booking service at [www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com). You'll find the true, insider lowdown on the best places to stay. Reviews are thorough and independent. Best of all, you can book online.

## PRACTICALITIES

- Widely read newspapers include *Večernji List*, *Jutarnji List*, *Slobodna Dalmacija* and the *Feral Tribune*. The most respected daily is the state-owned *Vjesnik*. The most popular weeklies are *Nacional* and *Globus*. The Croatian edition of *Metro* was launched in 2006.
- The most popular radio station is Narodni radio, which airs only Croatian music. Croatian Radio broadcasts news in English four times daily (8am, 10am, 2pm and 11pm) on FM frequencies 88.9, 91.3 and 99.3 between June and September.
- Bills include a service charge, but it's common to round up the bill.
- Electrical supply is 220V, 50Hz AC. Croatia uses the standard European round-pronged plugs.
- Croatia uses the metric system (see conversion chart on the inside front cover).
- The video system is PAL.

or even this book, as these can change. Even local tourist offices can be wrong.

Many camping grounds in Istria are gigantic 'autocamps' with restaurants, shops and row upon row of caravans, but in Dalmatia the camping grounds are smaller and often family owned. Expect to pay up to 100KN for the site at some of the larger establishments. Most camping grounds charge from 40KN to 60KN per person per night. The tent charge is sometimes included in the price, but occasionally it's an extra 10KN to 15KN. The vehicle charge is sometimes included; it may be an extra 10KN to 50KN. If you bring a caravan you'll pay about 30% more for a site; then there's an electricity charge that may be included or may cost an extra 15KN per night. The residence tax costs about an extra 7KN per person per night, depending on the season and the region. Prices in this book are per adult and site, which includes a tent and car.

Although small, family-owned camping grounds are starting to pop up, most grounds are still autocamps. If you want a more intimate environment, the town tourist office should be able to refer you to smaller camping grounds, but you may have to insist upon it. Naturist camping grounds (marked FKK) are among the best because their secluded locations ensure peace and quiet. However, bear in mind that freelance camping is officially prohibited. A good website for camping information and links is [www.camping.hr](http://www.camping.hr).

The Camping Card International (CCI; formerly the Camping Carnet) is a camping ground ID that can be used instead of a passport when checking into a camping ground; it includes third-party insurance. As

a result, many camping grounds offer a small discount (5% to 10%) if you sign in with one. CCIs are issued by automobile associations and camping federations. In the USA, the AAA issues them for US\$20. In the UK, the AA no longer sells CCIs, but AA members can get one from the Caravan Club by calling ☎ 01342 327 410 and quoting their AA membership number.

## Hostels

The **Croatian YHA** (Mapp74-5; ☎ 01-4847472; [www.hffs.hr](http://www.hffs.hr); Dežmanova 9, Zagreb) operates youth hostels in Rijeka, Dubrovnik, Punat, Zadar, Zagreb and Pula. Nonmembers pay an additional 10KN per person per day for a stamp on a welcome card; six stamps entitle you to membership. Prices given in this book are for the high season in July and August; prices fall the rest of the year. The Croatian YHA can also provide information about private youth hostels in Krk, Zadar, Dubrovnik and Zagreb. Most hostels are now open in winter but may not be staffed all day. It's wise to call in advance.

## Hotels

Tourism really started to take off in Croatia (then part of Yugoslavia) in the 1970s and 1980s, which was when most of the hotels along the coast were built. At the time, the idea was to market the coast to package tourists and then send them to 'tourist settlements', usually far from town and along a stretch of beach. Since they were all state-owned and built at the same time with the same idea, it's unsurprising that they all look alike. There is nothing particularly Istrian or even Croatian in an Istrian hotel complex to distinguish it from a Dalmatian or Spanish hotel complex.